



KO E FAKAILOAAGA HE FAAHI GAHUA MA E MAGAHALA

1 IULAI 2021 – 30 IUNI 2022

DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 1 JULY 2021 – 30 JUNE 2022



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DEPARTMENT OF NIUE CULTURAL HERITAGE

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"Tumau e tūaga pule tonuhia, malolō ke fakaoohoho ke he atihakeaga tūhokohoko ha Niue

Secured sovereignty, thrive in development and sustainability of Niue"

Aho Tuloto, 18 Novema 2022

Lilifu Sauni T Tongatule
Ikipule Tāoga Niue
Potaaga Faahi Gahua ma e Tau Tagata
Fakatufono Niue

Attn: Mrs. Gaylene M Tasmania
Ulu Fakatonu Lahi, Potaaga Faahi Gahua ma e tau Tagata

Fakaalofa lahi atu.

Kua fiafia lahi au ke tuku atu e fakailoaga lagataha he tau ma e Faahi Gahua Tāoga Niue, magahala 1 Iulai 2021 – 30 Iuni 2022.

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report for the Department of Niue Cultural Heritage, period 1st July 2021 – 30th June 2022.

Fakaaue lahi mo e ki a monuina.

Maira Enetama
Ulu Fakatonu Tāoga Niue
Faahi Gahua Tāoga Niue

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1.0 DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Department is the coordinating, facilitating and monitoring arm of Tāoga Niue and formally established under the Tāoga Niue Act 2012. It is also the Secretariat for Vagahau Niue Commission and the Tāoga Niue Council. The Department is responsible for administering the Archives Act 1992, the Vagahau Niue Act 2012 and Tāoga Niue Act 2012. It also manages the daily operations of the Niue National Archives, the Niue National Museum as well as generating income earning opportunities from the promotion and development of unique Niue cultural products and activities.

Tāoga Niue is an integrated strategy established in 2003 to pro-actively address concerns about the viability and sustainability of Niue as a living community. It is represented by the seven core sectors namely; Vagahau Niue, Customs and Traditions, Arts and Crafts, History, Niue Heritage Assets, the Environment and Cultural Bridging. The mission and working strategies of each sectors are highlighted under the Tāoga Niue Act 2012. Tāoga Niue is also one of the pillars of the Niue National Strategic National Plan, 2016 – 2026.

The Department is the central coordinator on all matters relating to **tāoga Niue** which means – antiquities, objects of national cultural significance to Niue, objects of national historical significance to Niue, traditional knowledge, expressions of culture, customs, traditions and history of Niue, Vagahau Niue and traditional food. The Department is committed to the effective implementation of its core functions as specified under Part 2 of the Tāoga Niue Act 2012 but most importantly to satisfy the purposes of the legislation.

1.1 Achievements

- The digital scanning of 'A Collection' is almost completed (98%) and ready for editing. The Collection is the most fragile of all archival materials currently held under the care of the Department and editing of the digitised collection will provide anyone doing research work have better access to information and without direct contact with the actual records. The work will also pave way forward in the Department's continuing efforts to digitise all archival materials (Closed, General, Compiled Publications, Staff, Talahau Niue, Niue Newsletters, Tohi Tala Niue) or any other information of public interest for on-line publication when time comes.

- Two staff Members graduated at the Niue USP (University of the South Pacific) Campus Ceremony held on 22 October 2021. One staff member graduated with a Professional Certificate in Heritage Management and the only individual studied under the programme and a first for Niue. The other with a Post Graduate Diploma in Pacific Studies and is also accepted to do a Masters Programme. Eleven students also graduated with a Certificate in Vagahau Niue, the very first Cohort under the Programme and since started 2019. Tāoga Niue is one of the subjects of learning under the 3 year Certificate Course coordinated by Education Department and offered under the USP study programme.
- The 2nd USP Niue Graduation Ceremony was hosted at Tāoga Niue Auditorium, Halamahaga, June 2022. This is the first time Department was able to cater for an event of more than 200 people since Covid-19 restrictions, it was also the final one for the Premier of Niue who was also the 37th Chancellor of USP for period July 2021 – to June 2022. The event was a huge success.



Twenty students were graduated at the 2022 Ceremony held at the Fale Tau Tāoga Niue.

Almost 100 students graduated at the 2021 Event held at Niue High School Hall (not all students are pictured here).



- The Department successfully coordinated the 47th Pule Fakamotu and the Niue National Show Day, October 2021. It was another opportunity for the Department to interact directly with the people in the display and promotion of both Niue tangible and intangible heritage and towards the strengthening of Niue values and identity. The event was also acknowledged as the largest display of Niue arts and crafts, crops (including organic produce), entrepreneurial

activities and business promotions and since Department was tasked with the role in 2014.

- Discussions on the digitisation of the Niue Broadcasting Corporation (BCN) salvaged collection was accepted for funding under the Ridge to Reef Project (R2R) and will be carried out by IIC Technologies Ltd located in Auckland, New Zealand. A team of experts will visit Niue sometime in November 2022 to commence the work which will include the finalisation of the Environment Information Management System (EIMS) – Potaaga He Tau Fakailoaaga ma e Levekiaga he Takatakaimotu (PFLT). The latter is also a project funded by R2R and will be an added value to the delivery of some of the Department's core functions.
- The development of Tāoga Niue website (www.taoganiue.nu) was completed and launched December 2021. The Department collaborated with BCN in the designing of the on-line resource and with funds made available under the Department's recurrent for 2021/22.
- The Department acting on instructions from Cabinet successfully coordinated the Galue Fafau (Traditional Feast) and Niue cultural expressions (traditional sacrificial performance, chanting and blessings) to highlight the significance and opening of Fale Fono II, which took place, 29 May 2022. (please see cover of this report of new building, located ten metres away from Fale Tau Tāoga Niue, FTTN).
- The remaining artefacts and other items of significance for the work of the National Museum previously stored inside former classrooms and as last reported are now relocated inside the new building.
- The ongoing maintenance of field and surroundings of Halamahaga land area where both FTTN and Fale Fono II are now located is restored to its former stage. Tāoga Niue Department have not steered away from the task and since occupying Halamahaga in 2018 to the ongoing care and due attention in making sure the property is well looked after for the benefit of all stakeholders and community at large. We can only hope that all outstanding land issues are sorted out soon and in an amicable manner.

- The priceless Niue Hiapo that graced the Niue Assembly Meeting/ Debating Hall at Sialekula for the last 42 years (and since 1978) was finally relocated to FTTN, 21 August 2021. The artwork was gifted by the New Zealand Minister of Pacific Islands, Hon Duncan McIntyre at the opening of the Niue Hanan Airport in 1971 where he kindly requested at the time for the invaluable item to be displayed in the Niue Museum. (Niue's very first National Museum was not established until 1987).



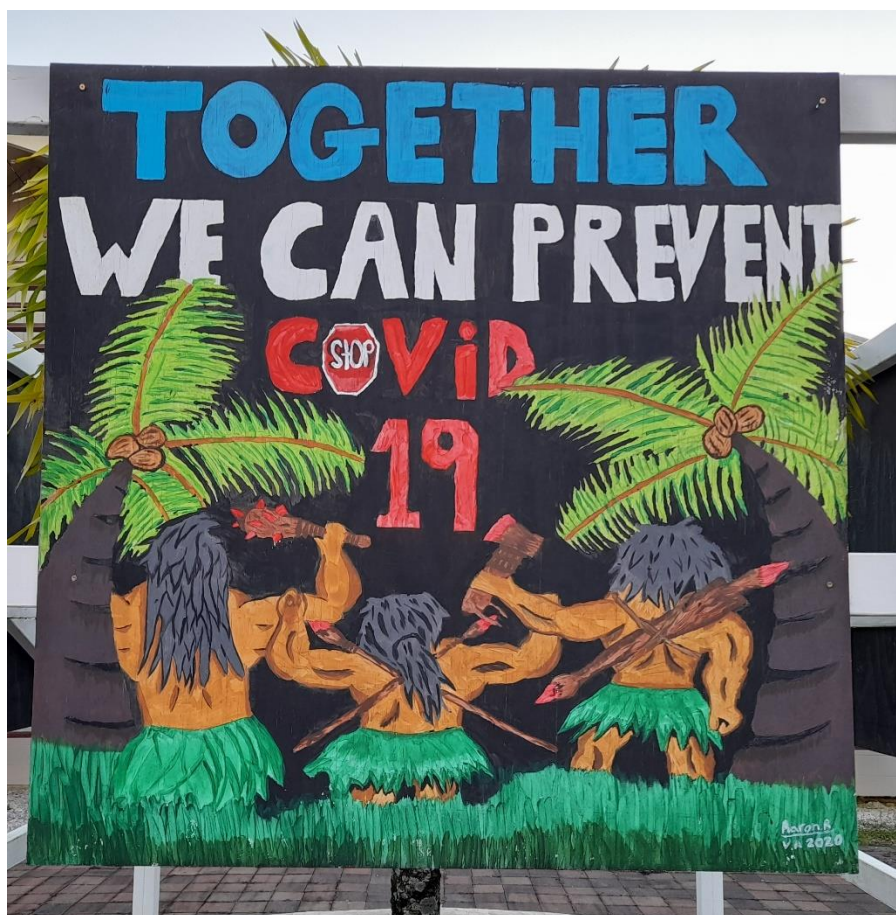
The Department engaged the articulate hands of Bourne Services for the removal of the invaluable and fragile tāoga. The last handling was back in 2001 for preservation work, the devastation caused by Cyclone Heta in 2004 did not show any damage to the item.



1.2 Challenges and Risks

- Our main challenge for the period is maintaining work flow affected by staff absences who were unfortunately away on leave – either local or overseas and for health reasons. If not a staff member, absence from work is unavoidable when someone in the family is unwell and needing care. We can only hope for a safe and healthier journey ahead of us all as we continue to deliver our core functions.
- With Covid-19 restrictions for most of the period, a lot of meetings (initiated from outside sources and partners) were convened and carried out on-line. The Department was unable to participate in many of these consultations due to our other commitments and we also have other key discussions to attend to locally. Some of these sessions were training opportunities which we missed out due to time zones.
- We are still not adapting fast enough to the use of Vagahau Niue in the Public Service or the Government as a whole. Whilst we always tend to focus our attention on the younger population for not using our vagahau (speak, write and read), we are also at the core of the issue and most probably the culprits ourselves as parents for allowing it to happen in our homes. The preferred language in the Heads of Department (HOD) Meetings is our second language, English and only a few numbers use vagahau. The same attitude is observed at many consultations where people in attendance (and those in leadership positions) have some understanding of our vulnerable situation but choose not to pay attention or make an effort to use Vagahau Niue.
- The storage of the remaining archival materials in shipping containers is still a risk including all other official records held under the care of Government Agencies. These items are stored in conditions that are susceptible to pests and the longer they are exposed to that kind of environment, the higher the risk of loss to our history and in particular with our development efforts. It should be noted, the FTTN space can only accommodate the Museum and its work and not the Archives. The Department had previously made views known on the subject matter and would like to re-emphasise that without any immediate attention to the safekeeping of our records would result in the rapid loss of our tāoga, identity and values.
- It is important also to note under this reporting period, the Department is going through the same challenges as a result of on-going movement of heavy

machineries and construction work at the Fale Fono II site and since it began in 2019. Access to the Department, the Museum and Archives is still a challenge and although the opening of the new building in May 2022 rectify some of these shortfalls, we still need to test the safety of our operations and activities, especially those carried out after hours.



Secondary school students reflected on traditional border control measures to prevent Niue from Covid-19, the boards were displayed at Niue Health Department and throughout the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme.

- It is no doubt the wider public service is affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic and we also have on-going challenges relating to the 4 day work policy that needs reviewing and contribute towards national recovery efforts. It is noted that Thursdays are observed as Fridays and Mondays as recovery from the long weekend. Whilst the Department is trying its very best to keep staff from falling into bad habits, the onus is up to the staff member that at the end of the day, what we do makes a difference and contributes to the ongoing development of Niue.
- The subject of Climate Change is becoming more common in current discussions and at all levels. This is welcomed by the Department who is not new to the many activities promoted by respective key stakeholders in previous years and in relation to national adaption strategies and especially in the context of

recognising the importance of tāoga Niue matters. The cultural sector is very mindful of changes in the environment we live in, unpredictable weather patterns can also have detrimental effects to our Niue values affecting also our future livelihoods. We applaud the work driven by the Niue Meteorology Department including on-going support from our key stakeholders, the Niue Environment and Education Department in recognising Tāoga Niue in these discussions and activities. We can only achieve these strategies successfully by continuing to work collaboratively together and acknowledge culture as a contributor and not an inhibitor, to development.

- The Government for some time have had several discussions on the issue of young and permanent recruits to the Niue Public Service not being given an opportunity to contribute to a superannuation fund and for their future well-being when retired from the service. We have three permanent staff under this category, one staff have completed 8 years continuous service and the other two under two years. The Government social protection system does not provide a pension until a person is sixty years old and if an employee decides to take early retirement at fifty or before they turn sixty (and for many reasons) , they would need their superannuation to maintain the livelihood of their families and their own well-being.

1.3 Workforce Movements

- Ms. Liline Morrissey, the Business and Promotions Officer returned from maternity leave and took up duties, July 2022.
- The Director was again appointed Acting Director General for the Ministry of Social Services from September to early October 2021.
- On the closure of R2R Project, the Department welcomed two staff members in May 2022 and are placed on contracts for a period of 12 months. The two staff members will provide the much needed assistance to the compilation and establishment of Niue heritage sites database and in the context of cultural, national and historical significance; provide technical support and assistance towards the compilation and establishment of Niue intangible cultural heritage database and assist with the implementation and monitoring of the EIMS including the digitisation of Tāoga Niue Audio Visual Collection.

1.4 Workforce Development

- Two staff members undertook training with the India-Niue Centre of Excellence in Information Technology and completed Certificates in Office Automation and Certificate in Information Technology.
- One staff member commenced Masters Degree in Pacific Studies Programme with Niue USP, Semester 2, 2021.
- The Department continues to encourage staff to take advantage of on-line learning opportunities currently offered by Niue USP Campus or other learning institutions overseas, including workshops and meetings offered in the context of culture, intellectual property matters leadership and governance.

1.5 Financial

	2020/2021	2021/ 2022	Difference
Recurrent	\$343, 500 <i>(Actual \$280,232)</i>	\$377,000 <i>(Actual \$304,993)</i>	\$33,500 <i>(Increase to allocation)</i>
Revenue	\$2,681 <i>(voted \$20,000)</i>	\$4,460 <i>(voted \$20,000)</i>	\$15,540 <i>(the amount of revenue unable to collect for 2021/22)</i>

Note:

- In trying to understand the actual financial position of Department at 30th June 2021, the amount of \$399,400 appeared to be the actual but not \$280,232 as highlighted above and as reported previously. On taking a closer look, the difference of both figures is \$119,168 which is also the total value under Depreciation and Amortisation. The Department would like a clearer explanation on the matter and to note there was never any over-expenditure occurred during the period concerned.
- The increase to the 2021/2022 allocation catered for the maintenance of sites and FTTN, procurement of materials (minor assets), support for events and on-going costs relating to power usage. It is noted the power consumption for the period increased to \$51,329 in comparison to the previous year, which was \$42,818.

2021/ 2022 Recurrent (Itemised Vote Items):

	Items for Resale	Personnel	Subs and Welfare Payments	Maintenance & Materials	Travel & Transport	Other Expenses	TOTAL
Voted	10,000	230,000	40,000	44,000	2,500	50,500	377,000
Actual	4,059	166,485	43,868	27,781	2,227	60,573	304,993

Note:

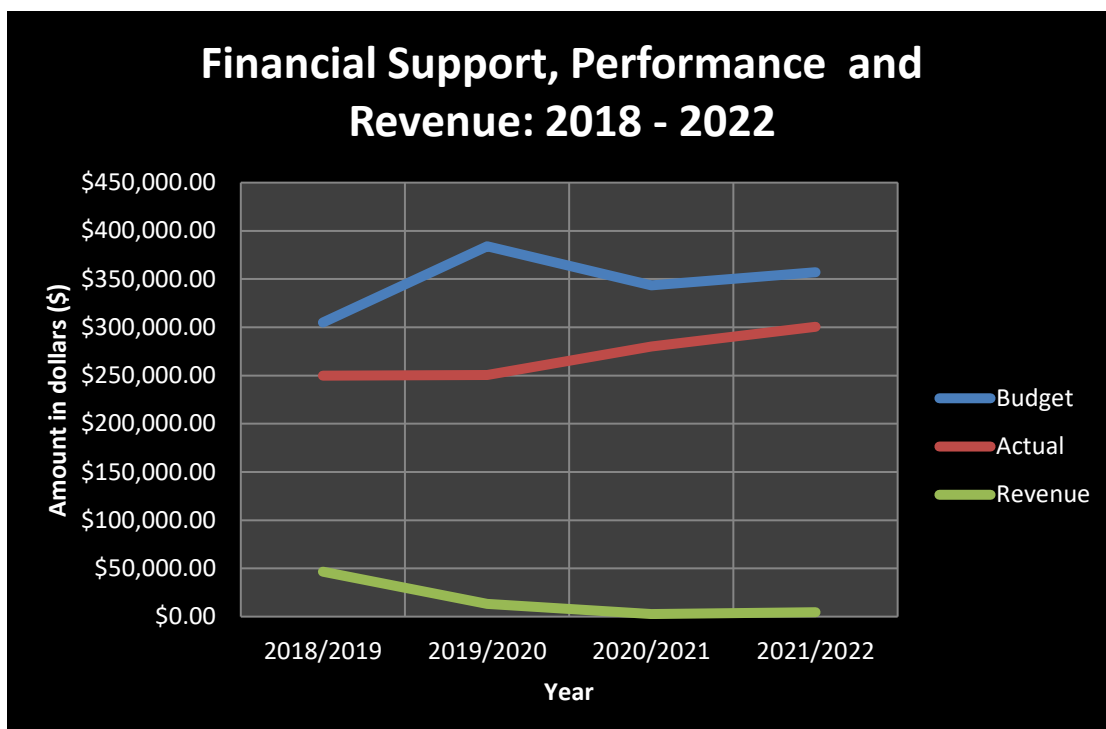
- **Items for Resale:** The procurement of cultural products had not materialised to the level as expected due to the unavailability of artists and crafts people. The other issue is that the Department can only purchase individual items up to \$1,000 and any item above that amount requires Cabinet approval.
- **Personnel:** Staff on leave of absence and unfilled vacancies.
- **Subsidies and Welfare Payments:** Title to this vote item is still misleading as funds were for the purpose of supporting and facilitating national and historical events. The Department was again unable to facilitate promotions and awareness activities relating to international cultural conventions the Government of Niue is party to; for example - the 1972 World Heritage Convention Niue ratified in 2001, the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and the 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural and Natural Heritage Niue became a signatory to at UNESCO's 40th General Conference in Paris, November 2019. It should be noted Tāoga Niue Department is named as the key focal point of contact for all three international conventions.
- **Maintenance & Materials:** Expenditure was restricted due to unpredictable power consumption costs. The monthly costs for power varies from \$3,000 to \$4,000 per month but the last two months of the reporting period, it recorded costs between \$5,000 - \$6,000. The Department can only relate the exorbitant increase to two main events taken place in May and June 2022 – the opening of Fale Fono II and the 2nd Niue USP Graduation.
- **Other Expenses:** As reported in the previous page, the main expenditure under the category are for power consumption costs.

Details of 2021/2022 Revenue:

Product Sales	Museum Fees	Others	Total
\$2,783.90	\$828	\$848.50	\$4,460

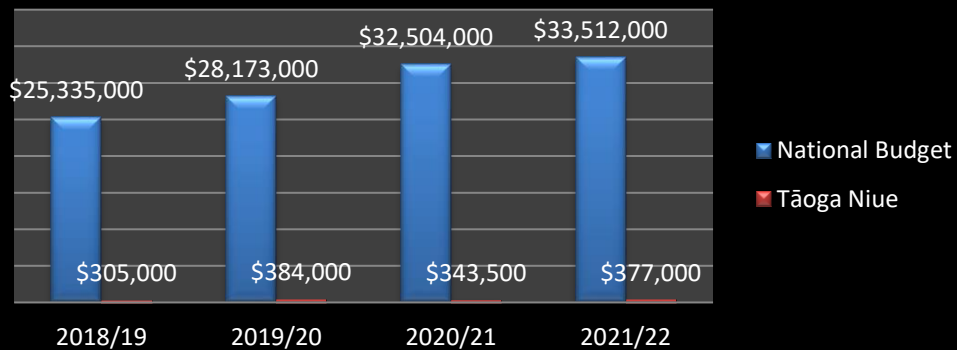
Note:

- A slight increase in all three areas, in the last period (2020/2021) product sales were : \$1,755 Museum fees \$828 and Others \$675.

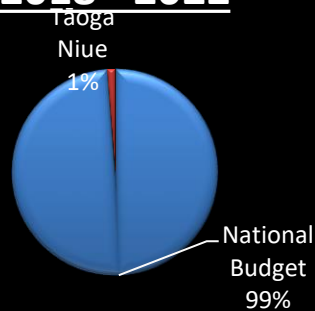


The variety of cultural products displayed on Show Days are frequently sourced by visitors, unfortunately not all items are available throughout the year or to sustain the demand from time to time.

Changes in Budget allocated to Tāoga Niue from 2018 - 2022



Percentage of Total Country Annual Budget 2018 - 2022



The fifth Pacific Ministers of Culture Meeting in April 2022 urged countries to prioritise culture through increasing annual national budgetary allocation to the culture sector in recognition of the value of culture to the people of the Pacific.

2.0 SERVICES SUMMARY – Corporate Services

2.1 General Overview

This section of the Department is responsible for the overall management of human resources, finance, business and promotions, marketing, secretariat for the Vagahau Niue Commission and Tāoga Niue Council as well as providing advice to the Government of Niue on all matters relating to tāoga Niue.

2.2 Objectives

- Core values and key delivery areas of Tāoga Niue fully embraced in strengthening and sustaining Niue cultural heritage, Vagahau Niue, identity and values as per Tāoga Niue Act 2012.
- Activities contribute to the maintenance of tāoga Niue aspects, revenue earning opportunities of the Department and towards the Niue Ke Monuina – Prosperous Niue vision, 2016 – 2026.
- Department assets and properties continuously maintained, validated and operable at all times.
- Oversee the operations of the National Museum and National Archives including events of cultural and national significance coordinated by the Department.

2.3 Activities

- Monthly monitoring, control and evaluation of the 2021/2022 Budget for the Department.
- Collection of revenue (monthly target of \$1,666 or more) from the sale of products, Museum entry fees and other activities.
- Coordinated the 47th Pule Fakamotu Programme and the 2021 National Show Day.
- Continuing consultations and dialogue with R2R Project on matters relating to culture and heritage. The building of In-situ Learning Centre (ISLC) Project as reported in 2020/21 did not go ahead due to issues relating to land (although location of project is to be implemented on crown land) and will be replaced with the Digitisation and Restoration of Audio Visual Collection as reported under page 5 of this Report.
- Provided daily housekeeping for FTTN, the Archives, Museum display areas, storage space, rest rooms and Auditorium. (Note this is carried out by staff as FTTN is without a proper security system).
- Coordinated the full relocation of Museum artefacts from the Auditorium to FTTN (items were previously relocated from the former classrooms at Halamahaga more than 12 months ago).
- Provided assistance with student researches and enquiries including members from the general public. Completed two Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) with – Mr. Seone Lolesio of S P Jain School of Global Management (PhD Research on Factors Critical to the Success of Micro and Small Enterprises [MSEs] in Niue) and the Institute of Education [IOE] at USP (Design of the Interventions to Improve Inclusive

Education in Niue - Building Teaching Capacity for Inclusive Education). The other MOU still in discussion is with USP and the University of Highlands, Scotland on Documenting Niue heritage sites.

- Monitoring and evaluation of Business Plan every quarter.
- Facilitated and coordinated all Museum visits.
- Provided secretarial duties to the Komisina Niue Commission (and Tāoga Niue Council beginning 2022).
- Provided professional advice on cultural matters (both tangible and intangible), Vagahau Niue translations and interpretations.
- Harvesting of relevant information on significant national, regional and international happenings that is of interest to Niue and contribute to the library and archives collection.



The Department engaged local Artists to conceptualise and install artworks for Fale Fono II. Pictured here is Ira Merrifield putting together her three dimensional sculpture, 'Tagata Fakamatala' inside the brand new debating hall.

- Coordinated artworks and in line with the concept of 'Mauokafua mo e Fakatūleva' (Stabled and Sustainable) for Fale Fono II. This Project is still on going and artworks will not be fully completed until the new year.
- Submitted three Concept Notes for funding under the ACP-EU Programme (Pacific) on Enhancing Capacity of Cultural and Creative Industries. The three concept notes were selected for Phase 2 of Project but due to other pressing matters of the Department, was not able to submit full Project Proposals. (Concepts were for the Digitisation of Audio Visual Collection, construction of a National Archives Building and Publication of Vagahau Niue resources).
- Sourced unique Niue cultural products to support income generating opportunities.

- Facilitated the replacement of artworks at Niue Foou Hospital (work yet to be fully completed and still on hold since last discussed with former Manager Niue Health Department).
- Sat in as Member of the Niue USP Council including the 2021 and 2022 Graduation Committees.
- Completed Niue's Periodic Report (3rd Cycle 2018 -2024) on UNESCO World Heritage.
- Presented research proposal (Why tāoga Niue aspects are important in the development and sustainability of Niue) as 'food for thought' at the 2nd National Summit held at Scenic Matavai 24 – 25 November 2021. Tāoga Niue is one of the pillars of the Niue Strategic Plan, 2016 -2026 and all key partners should continue to collaborate and find alternatives and solutions to the many challenges and prioritise Niue knowledge systems in sustaining our development initiatives. The Post Summit session took place December 2021 and matters relating to the delay of filing reports including communications issues were identified as some of the key concerns.
- Participated in the 35th Council of Pacific Arts (12th – 13th April 2022) and 5th Meeting of Pacific Ministers of Culture (26 – 27/4/2022) Virtual Meetings. Key points of discussion covered the Pacific Regional Cultural Strategy 2022 – 2032, Review of the Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture (FestPAC), June 2024. Niue in its Country Report (2018 – 2021) recommended for the consideration of Ministers of Culture the following:
 - (i) the immediate evaluation and strengthening of Pacific Studies and Cultural Heritage study programmes offered at the University of the South Pacific;
 - (ii) technical assistance to the drafting of IP Strategies including Copyright Laws in enhancing the protection of our pacific intellectual heritage;
 - (iii) as a priority, strengthen the support provided by UNESCO to the implementation of state party obligations on cultural conventions pacific member states are party to.



The Niue Council of Women is a key stakeholder of the National Show Day the Department coordinated.

2.4 General Overview

This sector administers the Niue Archives Act 1992 and is responsible for ensuring all Departments and government agencies follow Government Recordkeeping Code of Best Practices and Retentions Schedule in the safekeeping and maintenance of all official records.

2.5 Objectives

- Effectively maintain a pest free archives collection for the use of researchers, students and general public.
- Establish and develop a collection of Niue resources for the use of the general public.
- Provide custody, preservation, conservation and storage of all archival materials held in the National Archives.
- Provide thorough budgetary requirements for the running and maintenance of the National Archives.

2.6 Activities

- Weekly checks and maintenance of the Archives Storage and Collection under the care of the Department – both in the FTTN and inside the former classrooms. (note achievement under page 3 on the scanning of A Collection under this Report).
- Listing, Boxing, Re-editing and Cataloguing of new deposits and publications.
- Restoration and Preservation of damaged files and new deposits (this is necessary before all items are scanned).
- Assisted with researches and enquires to the use of the archives collection.
- Provide assistance to the up keeping of the Museum, artefacts restoration, storage, display areas and facilitation of museum visits.
- Commenced the listing of Niue resources and towards the establishment of Tāoga Niue Reference Library.
- Commenced discussions with the New Zealand High Commission on the possible repatriation of a 1914 Niue Bible and Photo Album belonging to the Rev. Frank Lawes Family in England. (Rev. Lawes was Resident Missionary from 1868 to 1910 and retired to London and died in 1918).



Younger generations have very little knowledge (or none at all) of a thriving passion fruit industry, Niue used to have. These are some of the digital collection the Department looks after that would benefit future researches. (Tāoga Niue – Flavell Collection, 1968 - 1972).

SERVICES SUMMARY - Museum

The sector is responsible for the preservation and conservation of all museum artifacts and collections held under the care of the Department in the promotion of Niue culture through displays, exhibitions, discussions, researches and in conjunction with the seven core sectors of Tāoga Niue.

2.7 Objectives

- To provide an informative and effective display and promotion of artefacts, Niue identity, values and Vagahau Niue in the FTTN.
- Digitise and publish all museum artefacts for on-going discussions, researches, restoration work, preservation and future exhibitions.
- Provide thorough annual budgetary requirements for the running and maintenance of the National Museum.
- Generate cultural events and activities to promote, strengthen and sustain Niue cultural heritage, values, identity, language.

2.8 Activities

(Note: there was still no full time staff for period October 2010 onwards, most of the activities were carried out by the Director, the Business and Promotions Officer, the Archives Assistant and Staff hired in February 2021).

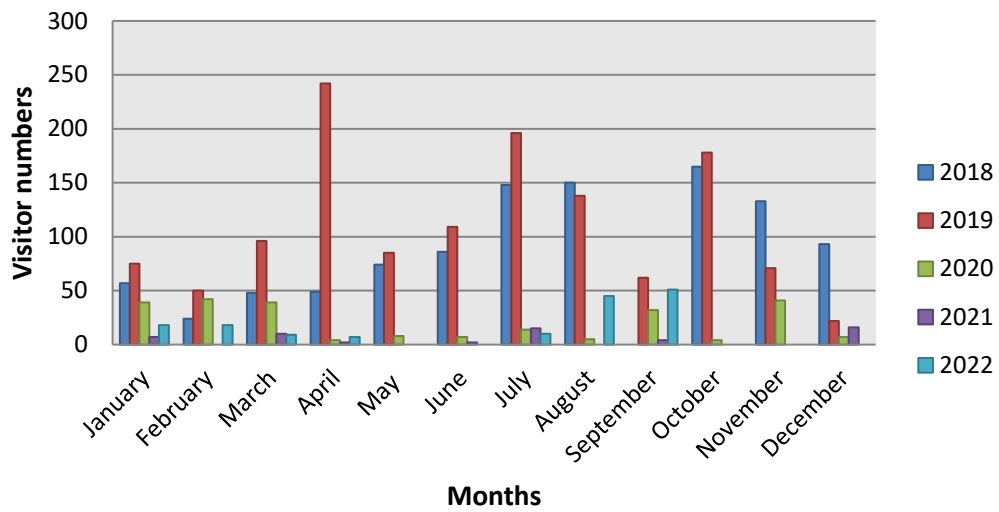
- Weekly checks, preservation and conservation of all museum artefacts and displays under the care of the Department.
- Provided much needed restoration work to museum artefacts and in particular to the transportation and ongoing care of Niue hiapo relocated from Fale Fono (Sialekula) in August 2021.
- Assisted with researches towards exhibitions and displays.
- Clear and clean display units inside Museum in anticipation of new exhibitions
- Assisted with the procurement of cultural products for resale
- Coordinated the restoration of Niue vaka (inside Museum display area) with Master Canoe Maker, Mr Taumafai Fuhiniu. (The vaka was constructed by Mr. Fuhiniu more than a decade ago but stored inside unfavourable conditions until FTTN was opened, 2018. Staff skilful in Niue crafts produced tiers out of dried coconut husk fibres to replace nylon tiers and to highlight the cultural value of artefact.



Left: Staff transferring canoe to Mr. Fuhiniu's residence and the Master Carver himself (below) carrying out restoration work.

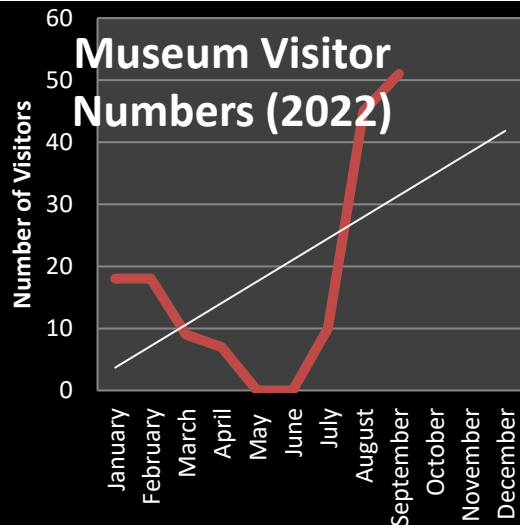
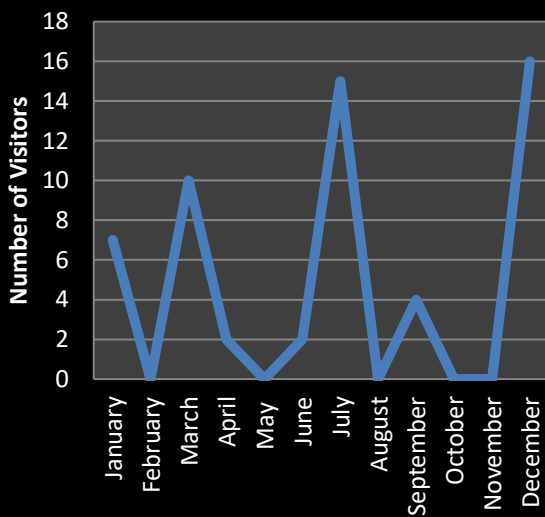


Museum Visitor Numbers per month (2018 - 2022)



Note: Figures for October – December 2022 are not included in this data and months without data, means no visitor.

Museum Visitor Numbers (2021)



The majority of visitors in 2021 year were students. Numbers started to pick up when border restrictions were lifted as reflected under the 2022 data above and they are mostly retired couples from New Zealand.



Staff commenced the restoration of '100 Years Lili' since transferred from Fale Fono (Sialekula) 2020. The work is on-going as item is severely damaged from the infestation of pests.

SERVICES SUMMARY – Research and Cultural Affairs

2.9 Overview

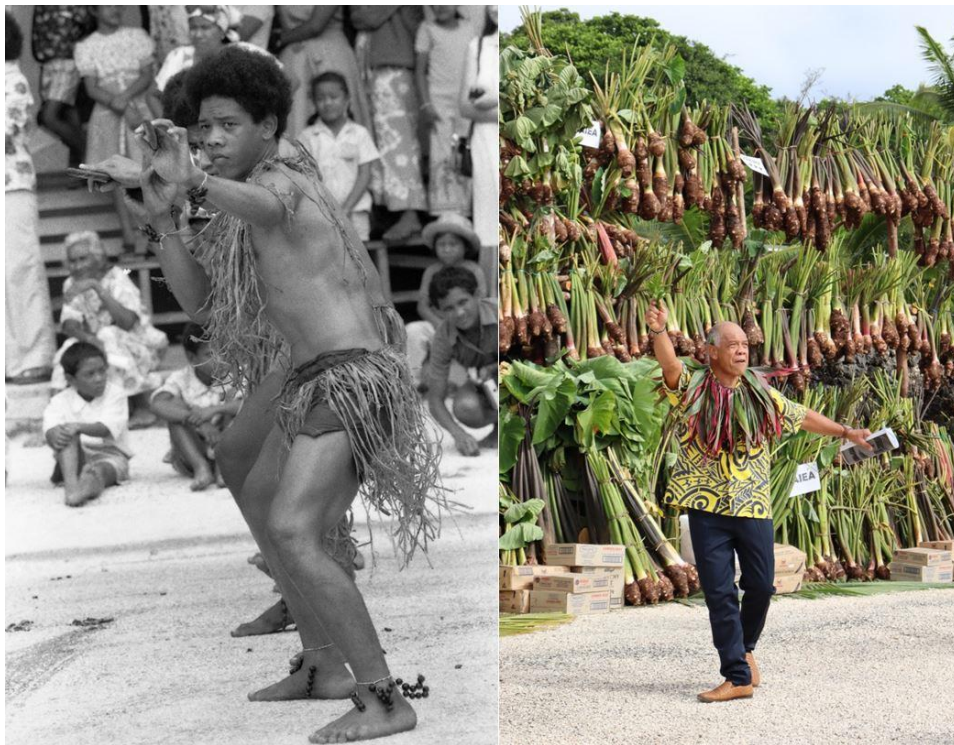
The sector is central in providing on-going support towards museum and archives exhibitions and displays as well as carrying out research work on subjects to strengthen the core functions of the Tāoga Niue Council and Vagahau Niue Commission.

2.10 Objectives

- Provide factual and well documented research in support of museum and archive exhibitions, displays and to strengthen Niue cultural heritage, values, identity and language.
- Provide professional advice to support and strengthen key delivery areas of the Department as per Tāoga Niue Act 2012, Vagahau Niue Act 2012 and Archives Act 1992.

2.11 Activities (Note: there was no fulltime staff for most of the period as Research Officer was away on Maternity Leave. The two new staff transferred from R2R Project in April 2022 were engaged under this Unit).

- Continued with the Niue General Elections research and to publish findings at the opening of new exhibition later in the year. This will still require a lot of editing work before it is published.
- Presented Draft Registry of Niue Objects of national, historical and cultural significance to Tāoga Niue Council.
- Provided research for BCN Documentary on Measles Outbreak in Niue, 1948.
- Provided secretarial duties to TNC Meetings, second half 2021.
- Provided research on Fale Fono (Sialekula) and for the Commemorative Issue on the Opening of Fale Fono II, Halamahaga. (This work was carried out by the Business and Promotions Officer).
- Listing of Niue heritage sites – historical, cultural and natural significance.
- Compilation of data collected from R2R village consultations and towards the conservation of national protected areas.
- 2022 Niue Calendar of Significant Events developed and published on Department's website www.taoganiue.nu



Research work is very important to the Department who is tasked to compile the history of the Fale Fono Building at Sialekula. Pictured here is Mr. Benjamin Pitasoni Tanaki who was one the few students selected to perform at its opening, September 1978. More than four decades later, he had the privilege to deliver a traditional blessing of the Galue Fafau (Niue Traditional Feast) put together by the people of Niue to mark the Opening of Fale Fono II, Halamahaga on 27 May 2022.

3.0 KOMISINA VAGAHAU NIUE (Niue Language Commission)

3.1 Overview

The Komisina Vagahau Niue is established under the Vagahau Niue Act 2012. The Commission consists of seven members; three selected and appointed by Cabinet, the Chairperson of the Niue Council of Women, the Chairperson of the Niue Youth Council and both the Director of Education and Director Tāoga Niue as non-voting members. The Director General also attended meetings in her role as Head of the Ministry of Social Services.

3.2 Objectives

- Exercise statutory powers conferred in the Vagahau Niue Act 2012.
- Exercise powers necessary to enable it to perform its functions.

3.3 Activities

- The Komisina convened three meetings during the reporting period, the third held together with Tāoga Niue Council on 9 February 2022 and to update both entities of the Department's plans and key tasks for 2022. Significant issues covered from all meetings -
- New recruits to the Niue Public Service are to complete (will also be a pre-requisite) the Conversational Vagahau Niue Course (Tūtala Niue) including an orientation programme of Niue customs and protocols. The intention here is to strengthen the use of Vagahau Niue in all spaces and if possible, public servants are also urged to take up Certificate in Vagahau Niue studies currently offered by USP. The Komisina Vagahau Niue further met with the Niue Public Service Commission outlining the importance of the subject matter to the maintenance of Niue values.
- Provided orientation sessions with teachers of the three schools (Early Childhood Education, Niue Primary School and Niue High School) on Vagahau Niue Conventions. Most of the teaching staff are non-Niuean and the Commission hopes to carry out similar orientation sessions with all government departments.



Session with Niue Primary School and Early Childhood Staff, February 2022

- Reviewed and analysed further additions to the Niue Health Medical Terminologies in Vagahau Niue and ready for publishing. The work had been with the Komisina for some time and there is already some interest from our Vagahau Niue teachers and speakers from abroad.
- Submitted suggestions to Niue Immigration to include under the criterias in determining Niue Permanent Residence status of person to acquire a good understanding and sound knowledge of both Vagahau Niue and Niue culture.
- Submitted to the Niue Constitution Review Committee the need to amend the word 'Niuean language' under Article 23 of the Niue Constitution and replace with the term 'Vagahau Niue'. The new term should be used in both the English and Vagahau Niue texts of the Niue Constitution. The Komisina further requested Committee to freely maintain the use of Vagahau Niue in the Niue Assembly to sustain a high standard and offer critical views to the translation of Bills before they are signed off as laws of Niue.
- Noted the insufficient number of teachers qualified in Vagahau Niue to teach the curriculum and would like to see a programme where youth can be actively engaged in and pursue linguistics as a preferred subject of study. The foundation is now set with the Vagahau Niue Certificate course offered under USP.
- The inconsistencies on the use of Vagahau Niue by different sectors of the community is noted by the Komisina Vagahau Niue and especially on newsletters, brochures and printed media. The Commission is required to inform and advise the public on the appropriate form of Vagahau Niue as per Vagahau Niue Act 2012 but whenever the Commission acted on this, the public is always defensive.

- Facilitated a Tik Tok Competition in collaboration with Niue Youth and for young people to produce a 60 seconds video around the 2022 International Mother Language Day theme, *“Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities”*, (Fakaaoga e Tekenolo ma e Tau Iloaaga Loga: Tau Paleko mo e Pūhala ki Mua). The competition attracted eight entries with Early Childhood Teachers as winners with their jingle, “Valu e Loli Uli – Eight Black Sea Cucumbers”.

4.0 MATAKAU GAHUA TĀOGA NIUE (Tāoga Niue Council)

4.1 Overview

The Tāoga Niue Council including its core functions is established under the Tāoga Niue Act 2012. The Council consists of ten members; three selected and appointed by Cabinet, the Chairperson of the Niue Council of Women, the Chairperson of the Niue Youth Council, a representative of Vagahau Niue Commission, a representative from Niue Environment Department, a representative of the Education Department, a senior employee of National Archives, National Museum and Cultural Centre, National Library or the Justice, Lands and Survey Department and the Director Tāoga Niue as a non-voting member. The Director General also attended meetings in her role as Head of the Ministry of Social Services.

4.2 Objectives

- Exercise statutory powers conferred in the Tāoga Niue Act 2012 and any other Act.
- Exercise powers necessary to enable it to perform its functions.

4.3 Activities

- The Tāoga Niue Council convened two meetings during the reporting period, the second held together with the Komisina Vagahau Niue on 9 February 2022 and to update both entities of the Department’s plans and key tasks for 2022. Significant issues covered from both meetings –



Members of the Tāoga Niue Council, the Niue Language Commission and Staff of the Department met with the Minister for Social Services, Hon. Sauni Tongatule and Director General for the Ministry of Social Services, Mrs. Gaylene Tasmania in February 2022.

- Registry of Protected Objects – critical discussions around the meaning and context of the words ‘objects’ (tau tāoga) and ‘antiquity’ (tau tāoga tokiofa) and towards the adoption of a Registry. Council agreed to categorise the periods when items were produced to further our understanding on the term ‘antiquity’.
- Historical sites – Council noted that most sites are on Niue land and there are still on-going challenges in declaring them as such without consultations with the magafaoa. Past consultations had not materialised to the level as expected and support of the magafaoa and community is very important. Council further emphasised on the importance of having in place narratives of all sites and researches is a must to substantiate any future discussions. Perhaps as a way forward and to overcome some of the challenges is to provide the magafaoa with some assistance and work in close collaboration with the Department and the magafaoa to turn asset as a business venture. The Council also under the same subject questioned as to when did our society agreed to receive ‘money’ as a form of acknowledgement for the work carried out to enhance the livelihoods of the people, there are indeed changes taking place in the Niue society nowadays and the ‘togetherness – kaufakalataha’ in what we do to sustain Niue is no longer felt like we used to. Issues pertaining the spread of invasive species (taro vine in particular) on historical sites is a major concern and this is also affecting arable lands and coastal areas. The continuing use of heavy machineries to clear land for planting including unethical disposal of rubbish on historical sites also needs urgent attention.

- The Council have for some time discussed the need for a Niue Fono on tāoga Niue matters and have been postponing it due to timing but the outbreak of Covid 19 is the main reason. The objective of the fono is to highlight and discuss what is authentically Niuean and how we can maintain for our future generations. There are more Niue peoples residing outside of Niue than in Niue and with the availability of technology and on-line platforms to record and promote events of cultural significance, there are always issues as to how people interpret Niue values and what they do sometimes do disrespect Niue beliefs and knowledge systems. It is also noted from our own experiences of affiliation, a Niue person's confidence in our own people have dwindled (or none at all), particularly with those residing outside of Niue. We urgently need space to dialogue on these matters as we take Tāoga Niue 'on a new shape in a new world'.
- The Council further endorsed discussions provided by the Vagahau Niue Commission with Niue Immigration on criterias in determining Niue Permanent Residence status and further added that there is evidence of non-residence exploiting Niue resources and residential term should be increased from ten to twenty years.
- Niue Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture – some progress is needed in this area and as stipulated under the Tāoga Niue Act 2012, most importantly to commence the registration of songs and expressions (composed and choreographed by many Niue artists). This will also call for a firm decision on the Draft Niue Intellectual Property Strategy still in discussion.
- The Council strongly emphasised of the need of Department to strengthen its Research and Cultural Affairs unit as it plays an important role in providing substantial evidence and to support decisions made by both the Council and Vagahau Niue Commission.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Museum

- To recruit a qualified Museum Officer or someone with vast knowledge and experience in museum operations, conservation, restoration and preservation work. Department needs to identify working space for the new recruit as current work area is very limited.
- In collaboration with Tāoga Niue Council, Department to explore the engagement of a Display Technician and a Conservator or revisit discussions on the possibility of engaging museum experts from overseas to assist with the on-going care of the Museum Collection and Exhibitions.
- To review and finalise inventory of the Museum Collection.
- Establish a Vagahau Niue reading programme including family activities during school holidays.
- Source museum shelvings and display units for the proper storage of museum artefacts.

5.2 Archives

- The Government of Niue to invest in a new facility to house the Niue National Archives and provide space for the National Library. Both are specialised areas and requires technical advice to the type of facility and its suitability to the needs of Niue peoples.
- Re-emphasise and collaborate with IT Services and Commission Secretariat the importance of Good Recordkeeping, implementation of the Code of Best Practices, Retention and Disposal of Official Information in all Government Agencies.
- In collaboration with Tāoga Niue Council, explore the engagement of an Archives expert from overseas to provide advice and training of staff on modern practices in the care and maintenance of the National Archives Collection.

5.3 Research and Cultural Affairs

- Develop and implement Tāoga Niue Research Procedures and Human Ethics Protocols.
- Compile and publish Niue intangible cultural heritage – the work links directly to the documentation of Niue Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture.
- Recruit two extra permanent staff to strengthen research work of the Department and to support the Archives and Museum displays as well as towards the effective delivery of core functions of both the Vagahau Niue Commission and Tāoga Niue Council.
- Complete the compilation of Niue sites of cultural, national and historical and significance.

5.4 Corporate Services

- Review and finalise the FTTN Asset Maintenance Plan.
- In collaboration with Taoga Niue Council and Komisina Vagahau Niue, convene a Tāoga Niue Fono to discuss ‘What is authentically Niuean’ and as lead up to the 2024 Pule Fakamotu 50th Anniversary.
- Provide detailed budgetary requirements and up to 2% or more of the total national budget to support the core functions of both the Komisina Vagahau Niue and Tāoga Niue Council but most importantly key delivery areas of the Department and specifically to cultural activities, marketing and promotions, procurement of cultural products and Niue’s participation at the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts, June 2024.
- Re-visit plans for the professional development of staff with overseas Museums and Archives in conservation and restoration work.
- Ratify 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage and as reflected under the Tāoga Niue Act 2012.
- Discuss with relevant authorities the introduction of a superannuation scheme for any new and permanent recruit of the Department.

5.5 Komisina Vagahau Niue

- Provide orientation workshop on translation and interpretation skills with interested applicants before certified as Official Translators and Interpreters and in accordance to the Vagahau Niue Regulations 2016.
- Provide orientation sessions on Vagahau Niue conventions with all government agencies.
- Publish the Niue Health (Vagahau Niue) Medical Terminologies and progress discussions on the Judiciary glossary.
- Conduct a regular survey of community language attitudes and language use.
- Promote and support research on Vagahau Niue including the delivery of Certificate Vagahau Niue studies offered by USP.

5.6 Tāoga Niue Council

- Approve and implement the Registry of Niue Protected Objects.
- Collaborate with Niue Environment and actively engage the involvement of Village Councils and Magafaoa to the protection of Niue sites of cultural, national and historical significance.
- Actively support Tāoga Niue Department in the implementation of the Niue Intellectual Property Strategy and to advance the documentation and protection of Niue Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture.
- Explore avenues to the establishment of a Research Grant to support researches on all tāoga Niue matters including a funding programme to which young people with talent and proven/active interest in creative arts may apply for assistance.
- Re-engage the cultural bridging strategy as a matter of priority in fostering our way forward and beyond 2024.

6. CONCLUSION

The national investment in tāoga Niue matters and leading up to the establishment of Tāoga Niue in the past has been very modest with the main focus being on economic development and social initiatives and demands. It is fair to say, the entity had progressed well over the years and will thrive as the driving force in the development and sustainability of Niue.

There are certainly still areas needing attention and we can only achieve all that with the support of all key stakeholders of Tāoga Niue, the people. It is important that we view Tāoga Niue as an initiative put in place to relieve the hardship and pressures of our journeys from the past to the future. We must always reflect on the determination of our ancestors and past generations and our own knowledge systems are important in understanding our own dialogic, relational and processual methods to support our aspirations.

The number of Vagahau Niue speakers is declining and Taoga Niue's mission is to ensure that the level of proficiency (speak, read and write) is above 86% in the resident population of 4 years and over in the next 5 years. We must always bear in mind of a saying 'when a language die, ecosystems often die with them'.

As we journey towards the 50th anniversary of our self-determination status, may we all continue to support the work of the Department and elevate Niue culture, our vagahau, our identity and values as our vision for a sustainable and healthy Niue.

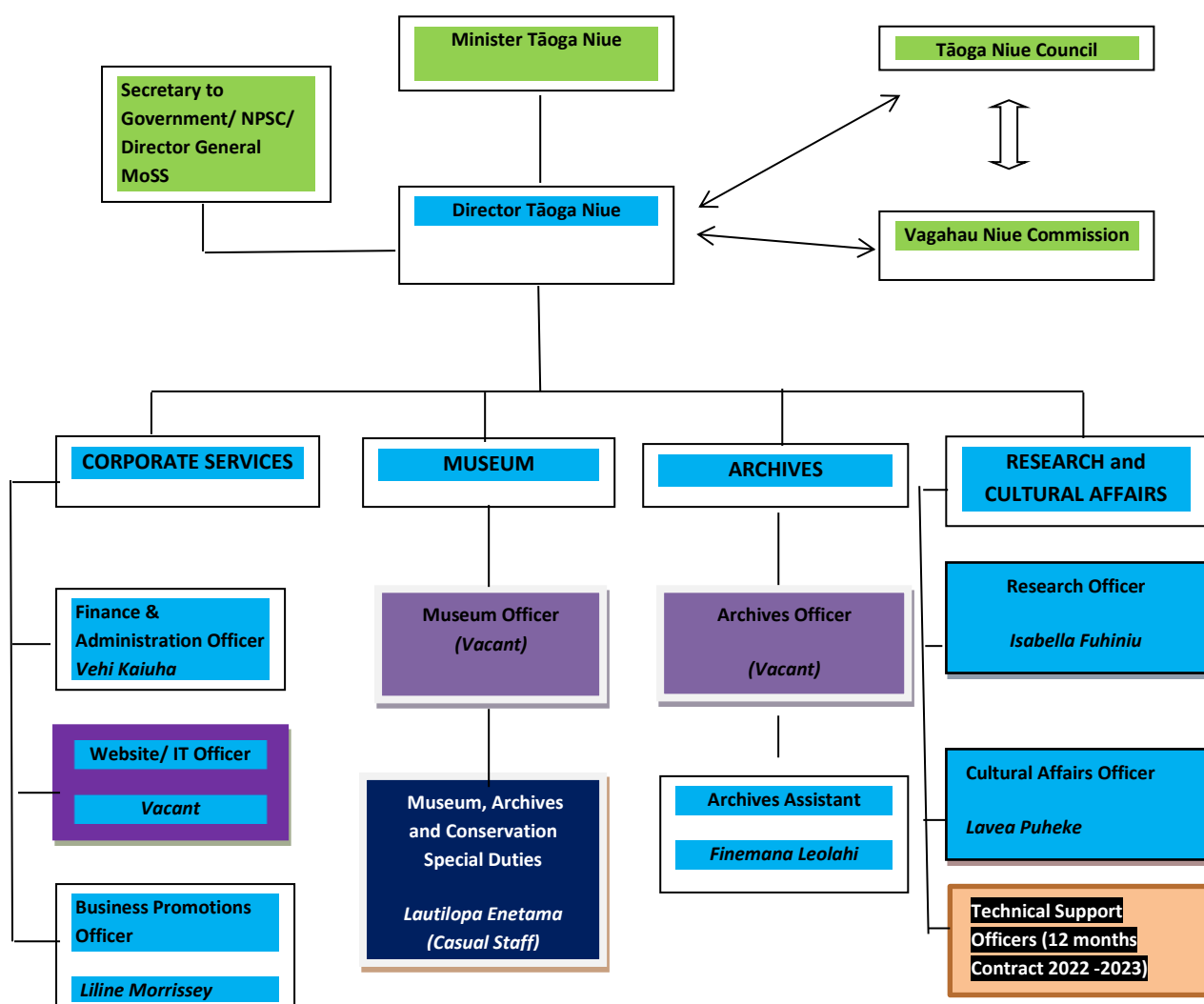
7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are thankful for the on-going support from all our key stakeholders, the people. The Director General of the Ministry of Social Services and our sister Departments of the Ministry (Education, Niue Health, Justice, Lands and Community Affairs), Niue Environment, Komisina Vagahau Niue and Tāoga Niue Council strengthened that on-going support in the delivery of our core functions through out the period. We look forward to the implementation of the recommendations of this Report as we all take Tāoga Niue on a 'new shape in a new world'.



L to R: Vehi kaiuha, Isabella Fuhiniu, Finemana Leolahi, Lavea Puheke, Moira Enetama, Liline Morrissey, Lautilopa Enetama. (Two other staff members not in this photo are Thomas Talagi and Georgina Tukiuha who joined the Team as Technical Support Officers in April 2022 after the closure of R2R Project).

TĀOGA NIUE DEPARTMENT ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE @ 30th JUNE 2022



Members of the Vagahau Niue Commission:

Ms. Tifaole Ioane (Chairperson); Mrs. Moka Tano Puleoti, Rev. Navy Salatielu; Mrs. Minemaligi Pulu (Niue Council of Women); Miss Rhonda Tiakia (Niue Youth Council); Director of Education and Director Tāoga Niue.

Secretary: Mrs. Vehi Kaiuha

Members of Tāoga Niue Council:

Mr. Ben P Tanaki (Chairperson); Hon. Billy G Talagi, Mrs. Nicola Puheke; Mrs. Minemaligi Pulu (Niue Council of Women); Miss Rhonda Tiakia (Niue Youth Council); Ms Emeline Laufoli (Niue Environment Department); Ms Tifaole Ioane (Vagahau Niue Commission); Mr. Lavea Puheke, Director of Education and Director Tāoga Niue.

Acting Secretary - Ms. Isabella Fuhiniu

Tāoga Niue Integrated Structure



We remember the continuous support and kind assistance of Niue Health Administrator, Mrs. Colleen Misa Figo Kulatea Ioane towards the Tāoga Niue and the Niue Health annual activity, the Walk for Life. The activity is one of the key events during Niue Pule Fakamotu Celebrations since 2014 to promote Healthy Lifestyles for Niue Peoples. We also remember her enthusiasm and tireless efforts towards the Niue Covid-19 Vaccination Programme of which three of our staff members were privileged to be part of.

Figo was also born in the year Niue became a self-governed nation and in free association with New Zealand. As we plan for the 50th Anniversary in 2024, we acknowledge her invaluable contribution including those before her to the development of Niue.

Fakaaue lahi ke he tau gahua Figo.



1974 – 2021

“Fano mo e Monuina”