

# Chikungunya on control level in Samoa as it continues to decline



**Director General of Health, Toleafoa Dr. Take Naseri.**

Samoa's Ministry of Health says that the number of Chikungunya virus infections in the country continues to decline each week since it dropped tremendously towards the end of last year.

The Ministry's Director General, Toleafoa Take Naseri says that Samoa is in the control level following the very intense measures and health promotions they've taken, with efforts now going towards maintaining the steady rate of decrease in cases by using a multi-sectoral approach.

"The focus now is sustaining the current rate of decrease in cases." Said the Director General.

He adds that "The government through our Ministry is collectively combining our efforts with other key ministries and corporations including the Samoa Tourism Authority, to continue working effectively together with the wider community."

This is the first time this virus has entered the pacific region, and Toleafoa says that compared to other pacific island countries, Samoa has a much lesser number of cases.

The advice however is still out there for tourists as is for all visitors to the pacific, to provide protection such as mosquito repellent.

The Ministry of health is currently carrying out preventative measures and more information can be found on its website - [www.health.gov.ws](http://www.health.gov.ws).

- Samoa Tourism Authority

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## Hollywood screen legend returns to paradise



**Hollywood stars Roberta Haynes & Gary Cooper at Return to Paradise Beach while filming the movie Return to Paradise.**

After more than 60 years since the movie 'Return to Paradise' brought international recognition to the Treasured Islands of the South Pacific - Samoa, one of its stars Roberta Haynes will return to Samoa for a reunion of the hit movie.

The 61ST anniversary premiere weekend will begin on Friday, 15th May 2015 at the very site where the movie was filmed in 1953, where a 61-room hotel now stands - 'Return to Paradise' - which was launched last year in the village of Lefaga.

Continued Page Over

# Hollywood screen legend returns to paradise continued

The hit movie which also stars Hollywood legend Gary Cooper was a huge international success and consequently, the Lefaga Beach where the movie was filmed was then renamed Return to Paradise Beach. To honour this milestone, Roberta Haynes has graciously accepted an invitation to return to paradise as a guest of honour for what will be a nostalgia weekend to open with a Movie Premiere Red Carpet Samoa style with event sponsor, Fiji Airways to fly Miss Haynes business class from Hollywood.

According to Return to Paradise, Miss Haynes will arrive along the beach in a stretch limousine, and step out onto a red carpet Samoan style – a pathway completely covered in petals from our national flower, the red teuila. She will then meet every living member of the cast who had a speaking part. There are still six living, and all the surviving cast members have expressed their commitment to be part of this grand occasion.

The red carpet path will be lined with Samoan warriors as Roberta is escorted into the Resort's air conditioned conference centre, the Gary Cooper lounge for the re-digitalised showing of the movie, the 61st anniversary premiere.

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>, a charity gala dinner and ball with a charity auction will be held which will also raise funds to assist Marist Trust, which assists people with severe spinal injuries to be able to live and be cared for in their own homes. Miss Haynes will again be guest of honour and will also donate memorabilia for the auction, including the original lavalava that she wore in the movie.

This reunion should be celebrated by movie buffs and human rights groups everywhere. It was an absolute civil rights breakthrough for Hollywood movie in a racist era

before the Civil Rights Activism of Martin Luther King. It was the first movie where significant speaking parts were trusted to native actors. Traditionally, Hollywood flew white actors to Africa, the Caribbean, and at home in the USA for cowboy and Indian movies and darkened their faces. Return to Paradise broke new ground in international race relations as a Hollywood first. This was a very brave move for United Studios at that time and this alone is worthy of worldwide celebration as a significant Human Rights milestone.

The role of the main chief (Tonga) went to local Samoan leader, Mamea Matatumua Ata. Return to Paradise brought international recognition to Samoa and helped build the confidence that would ten years later, lead to Samoa becoming the first Pacific nation to achieve independent statehood. Mamea was one of the framers of Samoa's first constitution, and his daughter Fetauimalemau helped lead the independence movement alongside her husband Mataafa who became Samoa's first Prime Minister. His grand-daughter Fiamē is currently Minister of Justice.

The trust is running out of funds and the funds raised will be used for the on-going care of spinal injuries in Samoa and the other Pacific Islands. This alone has been huge news in New Zealand. Ms Roberta Haynes has offered to donate the traditional lavalava costume she wore in the movie.

Samoa will roll out the welcome mat for Roberta Haynes and her fellow actors. This will be a celebration of international significance, and well worth attending.

For further information, contact [ramona@returntoparadiseresort.com](mailto:ramona@returntoparadiseresort.com) Ph (685) 35055 Samoa.

- Return to Paradise Resort/ Samoa Tourism Authority



## Ultimate Rugby Celebration Event Schedule



Samoa Tourism Authority is currently in the process of putting together a schedule of events for the upcoming Manu Samoa and All Blacks game from the 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> July which has been named the **'Ultimate Rugby Celebration'**.

If your business is planning any special events during this time, we'd like to include you in our event schedule.

For further information, please contact STA Events Coordinator, Kristian Scanlan on email [kristian@samoa.travel](mailto:kristian@samoa.travel) or ph 63509.



# Return to Paradise Resort Receives Coveted International Honour just five months after opening



***A PARADISE: A look at Return to Paradise Resort in Lefaga.***

Just five months after opening, Return to Paradise is already getting international recognition that backs up what locals already knew – this is a very special resort in a very special location.

International recognition has come with the Resort being selected as one of the World's Best to Celebrate New Year's Eve. Return to Paradise was chosen as the premiere resort in our time zone in which to spend New Year's Eve (11.59pm) 2015 by Booking.com.

From their worldwide listing of over 560,000 properties, Booking.com has searched its extensive list of accommodations around the globe to find one property that stands out in each of the 24 time zones of the world.

And Samoa's new Return to Paradise Resort was chosen to represent this time zone.

"As one of just 24 properties chosen worldwide out of over 560,000 hotels and resorts, this is a huge honour," says Board Chairman, Hinauri Petana. "This selection vindicates the hard work everyone has put in, to make Return to Paradise a very special place."

Return to Paradise Resort is now ranked alongside 23 other selected prestigious properties including the Parkroyal (Sydney), Ritz Carlton (Moscow + Shanghai), MGM Grand (Las Vegas), Hilton (Niagara Falls), Belmond Copacabana

(Rio de Janeiro), and the Waldorf Astoria (Edinburgh).

"For a property that has been opened just a few months, to receive this honour is very exciting," says Petana; "We knew that Return to Paradise Resort is a very special place, but to be receiving this level of international recognition already is just fantastic and vindicates what we have created here."

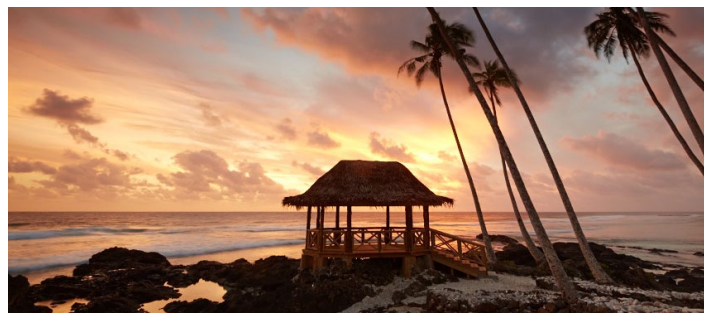
Christine Poplimont, Booking.com's Pacific Marketing Manager is proud of its vast wealth of accommodation partners. Return to Paradise was chosen after she had made a personal visit to the Resort.

"This selection is huge not just for Return to Paradise, but also for Samoa," says General Manager, Melanie Toailoa. "Return to Paradise has been selected above well-known properties in Fiji, Cook Islands, New Caledonia, and Tahiti. In fact we are the only Pacific resort selected outside of Hawaii. We invite the travelling public to come and enjoy our beautiful resort on a spectacular beach with all the best of authentic Samoan hospitality to look after you. Return to Paradise is Samoa at its best."

For more information contact [gm@returntoparadiseresort.com](mailto:gm@returntoparadiseresort.com) Ph (685)35055, or 7648573

For a 90 second overview of the Resort, view <http://vimeo.com/115030612>

*- Return to Paradise Resort*



# Visitors cruise Samoa on Sunday



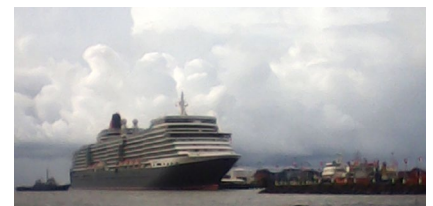
**Visitors at St Anthony's Church, Moamoa.**



**Nina & Robert Thompson from Nottingham, UK inside St Anthony's Church, Moamoa.**



**Lynn & David Bear from Perth, Australia enjoying a fresh coconut at the Fugalei Market.**



**Queen Elizabeth at Matautu Wharf.**

Visitors of the Queen Elizabeth cruise ship, who visited Samoa in the beginning of the week, were impressed with a very important element of life in Samoa where everything stops on a Sunday, which is a day of worship and rest.

"This is great," said Robert Thompson from Nottingham, UK.

"It really shows how devoted and united the Samoan people are in their faith as Christians." He added.

Mr Thompson who was accompanied by wife Nina, both took a cruise around the township of Apia and its outskirts, where they also visited the historic St Anthony's Church building at the village of Moamoa which was built more than 100 years ago.

The couple, among many other visitors from America, Canada, Australia and also the UK, were taken back by

the beautiful original stained glass windows of the church building which were sent all the way from Rome at the time it was built in the early 1900's.

"The windows are not only amazing and so clear, but they all tell a story.

"So beautiful and bright." Said Mrs Thompson.

Other visitors cruised further out from Apia to the coasts on opposite sides of the island Upolu spending the day on the beach.

The massive cruise ship which docked the Matautu wharf carried more than 2,000 passengers and close to 1,000 crew members. It was in Apia for the day.

- Samoa Tourism Authority

## Quote of the week

*"Start by doing what's necessary, then do what's possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible."*

*- Francis of Assisi*



# John Marsh accepts VSA Position in Samoa



***Palolo Deep, a marine reserve/snorkelling spot, and one of the identified attraction sites in Apia that John is working on.***

NZ volunteer John Marsh who has started work with the Samoa Tourism Authority, has been featured on the (NZILA) New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects website regarding his services in Samoa.

Samoa Tourism Authority have identified and prioritised a number of tourist attraction sites to enhance so they can provide a more enticing experience for overseas and local visitors. These are generally in the ownership of local villages on the islands of Upolu and Savai'i. These owners have minimal funds to carry out the improvements and the NZ government has allocated funding to be used for this work. Below is a Q&A between Mr Marsh and NZILA.

## **Q & A with John Marsh**

1) What enticed you to apply for the volunteer position in Samoa?

It was time for me to get out of my Canterbury niche.... you've got to get on and do these things...should have done it when I was 25. We live in the Pacific and it's a way of learning more about Polynesia and our neighbour's here..... extending one's experience of landscape's and planting..... learning a lot in the process and maybe assisting a small developing nation.....generally adding to the richness of life's broad tapestry.

2) Had you visited Samoa prior to taking on this role?

No, but have spent time in Rarotonga doing a short volunteer project and Vanuatu....just holidaying.

3) What part of Samoa are you based in and do you stay in a local village?

Based in the capital Apia for work and living in Tulaele a fairly rural village on the outskirts.

4) What does your role involve?

My role through VSA is to visit and survey the sites, then work with the village and STA staff to plan and carry out the improvements, once costs have been approved. This may involve a new look at site planning, new facilities such as changing room/ toilet facilities, new site furniture, signage, safety rails, plantings or simply removing unsightly elements. Some of the sites still have significant damage from the cyclone event in 2012 to be remedied. Tsunami escape routes and site planning to avoid sea level rise issues are also part of the brief.

It's really all about capacity building and involving local people as much as possible to ensure when I leave they have people with some training to carry on the work at other sites.

The attached photo is of Palolo Deep, a marine reserve/ snorkelling spot, and one of the identified attraction sites in Apia that we are working on. Other sites include waterfalls and lava fields.

5) How long will this project take and what are the key objectives of the Samoa Tourism Authority?

My assignment is for 12 months, but it is expected that the actual work involved will go on for some time after this, being driven by local people.....does landscape work ever get finished?

The STA's aim is to lift the standard of the Samoa tourism experience, assisting villages to develop their own economy and improve Samoa's position in the Pacific as a sustainable, safe, competitive and interesting destination for tourist's.

6) Is there an event or a reason that the Samoa Tourist Authority is embarking on this work?

Not this particular assignment. It is more of a long term thing to build a sustainable tourism product.

There is a major project afoot on the Apia Waterfront that is being assisted by Auckland and Wellington T.A.'s but this is not part of my brief, though I have been asked to sit in on their meetings.

7) If any NZILA members were to visit Samoa would you be happy to show them the projects you are working on?

It's early days to have much to display at present, though happy to have visitors and show them the task at hand. Later in the year I am hoping there should be more to look at. Things move at a gentle pace here. I can be contacted at [j.marsh@samoa.travel](mailto:j.marsh@samoa.travel)

"Visit [www.vsa.org.nz](http://www.vsa.org.nz) to find out about other volunteer vacancies."



# Extreme Tides in Samoa 2015

## 10 lowest tides for 2015



| Date   | Time   | Height |
|--------|--------|--------|
| 20 Feb | 20 Feb | 0.11m  |
| 21 Mar | 21 Mar | 0.13m  |
| 19 Mar | 19 Mar | 0.13m  |
| 20 Mar | 20 Mar | 0.13m  |
| 19 Feb | 19 Feb | 0.13m  |
| 22 Jan | 22 Jan | 0.14m  |
| 29 Sep | 29 Sep | 0.14m  |
| 28 Oct | 28 Oct | 0.14m  |
| 28 Sep | 28 Sep | 0.14m  |
| 21 Feb | 21 Feb | 0.14m  |



## 10 highest tides for 2015

| Date   | Time  | Height |
|--------|-------|--------|
| 19 Feb | 18:37 | 1.53m  |
| 20 Mar | 18:18 | 1.51m  |
| 30 Aug | 06:10 | 1.51m  |
| 27 Oct | 17:57 | 1.51m  |
| 28 Sep | 05:49 | 1.51m  |
| 18 Feb | 17:46 | 1.51m  |
| 20 Feb | 19:28 | 1.51m  |
| 21 Jan | 18:55 | 1.50m  |
| 19 Mar | 17:28 | 1.50m  |
| 31 Aug | 07:00 | 1.50m  |

Tide predictions are based on the effects of the gravitational forces exerted by the moon, the sun, the rotation of the earth and averaged seasonal changes

The actual tide height will be a combination of these effects and the weather conditions at the time. The effects of the weather are not included in these tide predictions

## What are tides?

Tides are the daily rise and fall of sea levels, caused mainly by the gravitational pull of the moon as it revolves around the earth.

Tides are also affected by the earth's rotational and the gravitational pull of the sun.

## What are spring and neap tides?

Spring and neap tides are part of the normal tidal cycle and occur regularly, usually twice per month.

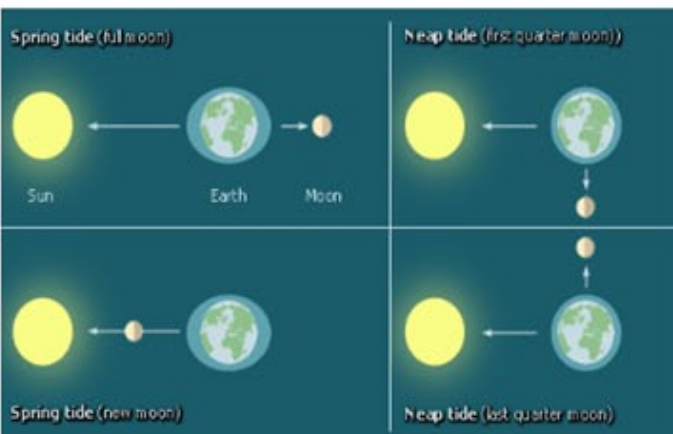
Spring tides are very high tides and very low tides that occur during full and new moon phases, when the gravitational forces of the sun and moon combine to exert a stronger pull on the oceans.

## What are king tides?

The term king tide is commonly used to describe an especially high spring tide. King tides occur a few times every year, when the gravitational pull of the sun and moon upon earth is strongest.

This happens when the moon is closest to the earth in its monthly orbit. When this coincides with a spring tide, it will produce an especially high tide, or king tide.

In the Pacific, the highest king tides are likely to occur during the months from November to March, when the earth is also closest to the sun in its annual orbit.



During the moon's quarter phases each month, the sun and moon are at right angles, and the gravitational forces cancel each other out, resulting in lower high tides and higher low tides called neap tides.

CONTACT US

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Web: [www.samet.gov.ws](http://www.samet.gov.ws)  
Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Samoa-MeteorologicalServices>

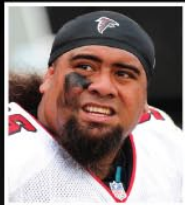
A product of the Samoa's Climate Early Warning System




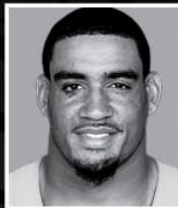


THE U.S. EMBASSY SAMOA AND  
SAMOA'S MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS, AND CULTURE PRESENTS





# NFL PLAYERS TOUR SAMOA 2015


 **FEATURING  
PAUL SOLIAI**  
ATLANTA FALCONS

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <br><b>ISAAKO AAITUI</b><br>WASHINGTON<br>REDSKINS | <br><b>KOA MISI</b><br>MIAMI<br>DOLPHINS | <br><b>SAMSON SATELE</b><br>MIAMI<br>DOLPHINS | <br><b>OLIVER VERNON</b><br>MIAMI<br>DOLPHINS |
|---|---|---|--|

**MARCH 2-7, 2015**  
CLINICS MARCH 2-4, 2015 PESEGA COLLEGE • ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE • AVELE COLLEGE

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FOUNDATION**  
www.paulsoliaifoundation.org

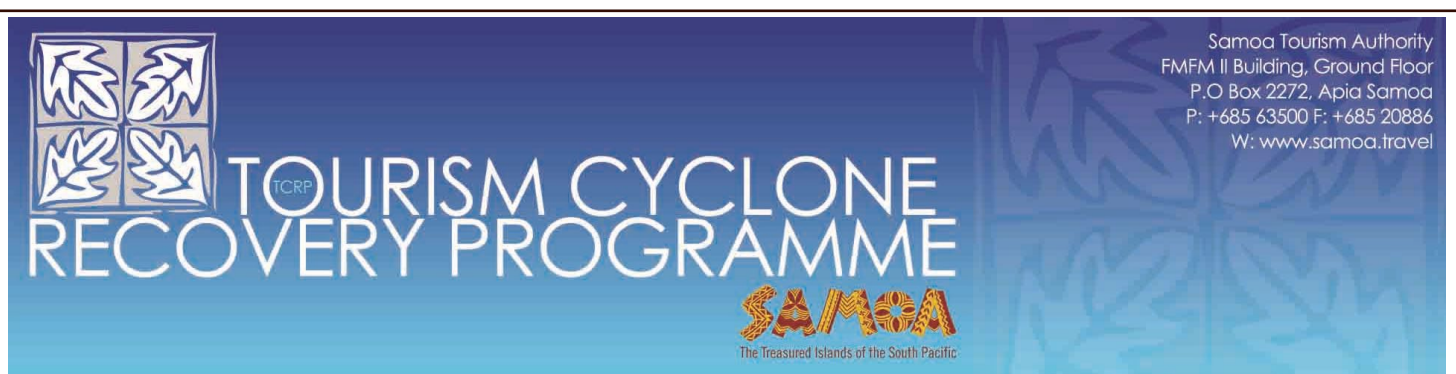
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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND CULTURE

COUNTDOWN to Samoa Commonwealth Youth Games 2015

**189 DAYS** September 5, 2015



## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Samoa Tourism Authority wishes to remind all tourism businesses and operators that the 3 year TCRP funding scheme closes 30th JUNE 2015. Cyclone Evan affected businesses are advised to submit applications for recovery assistance at their earliest convenience.

The Authority on behalf of the TCRP Facilitating Group remind all tourism businesses and operators that funding under the TCRP is still available and is set under the following conditions;

- Tourism Businesses directly affected by tropical cyclone Evan are entitled to a Reconstruction Grant of up to SAT \$100,000. (Conditions Apply)
- Registered Tourism Businesses (including those eligible to the above mentioned grant) are entitled to a Marketing Grant of up to SAT \$20,000. (Conditions Apply)

Interested business proprietors are required to contact Marita Ah Sam on [marita@samoa.travel](mailto:marita@samoa.travel) / Tel 63507, Tupai Robert on [robert@samoa.travel](mailto:robert@samoa.travel) / Tel 63508 or Salamasina Finau on [salamasina@samoa-hotels.ws](mailto:salamasina@samoa-hotels.ws) / Tel 30160 for further enquiries or assistance with application forms.

Ma le faaaloalo lava,

**The Secretariat**

**Tourism Cyclone Recovery Programme**



## For 2015 Calender of Events

The Samoa Tourism Authority (STA) has put together its Calendar of Events 2015 for its website [www.samoa.travel](http://www.samoa.travel).

Please send through any of your events you wish to include on the calender for this year, to Kristian Scanlan on [kristian@samoa.travel](mailto:kristian@samoa.travel) at your earliest convinience. Faafetai.



For more infomation or to share your story, please contact:

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