



## COCO NEWS NUTS

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### **Talofa from PARADISE** A Special Talofa Lava to all Nuts, and would-be Nuts! Here

we are and another year has flown by and, once again - ready or not - it's time for your annual news from Paradise. For a number of reasons, none of them particularly compelling, this issue is actually about 3 months "late" and although it says December of 2008, I have to confess that it is actually January of 2009. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE send me ([reservations@coconuts.ws](mailto:reservations@coconuts.ws)) your email address, since this is the final print copy of our newsletters and all future editions will be sent via email only. So, what is the news of the "real world" these days? Are things terrific where you live? Probably not! Unfortunately, this seems to be one of those situations where pretty much everybody is affected by the world-wide financial crisis - and you don't need me to tell you that. We truly hope that you and your loved ones have been spared from the extremes of this situation and that the impact has been minimal for you. Yes, this situation has affected Samoa too, but not to any great extent so far. Samoa is still basically a subsistence economy and despite the financial meltdown around the world, the fish are still in the ocean for the villagers to catch and the plantations still yield a bountiful crop. So, for the most part, I'm happy to say that Samoa continues to be the same, peaceful, idyllic place that it has always been. If you find that you need a respite from the "real world", we are waiting to say Talofa ma Afio Mai - which is Hello and Welcome . . . .Your Samoan chief, *Tautaimatapalapala*

### **PROGRESSIN 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 one of the really big news stories that we have been following for the past three years was the imminent (2006) start of construction of a HUGE new resort in Vavau, down the coast from us, by The Warwick Group from Fiji. Well, guess what? It hasn't started yet and now they are saying it will definitely start in 2009! Now, where have I heard that before? ... OK, here is some continuing news that I still find hard to believe. Last year, 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, despite a tremendous amount of opposition from the business community and from the general population at large. Well, despite any articulated good reasons for such a move, and despite the adverse economic implications for the government - not to mention the people - to implement this change over, and despite the downturn in the global economy it seems like the government is moving forward with the plan and intends to make it effective in September of this year. To smooth the transition the government has announced that there will be a two day public holiday on the switch-over date to allow the people to stay home from work, get in their cars and go out on the highways and create mayhem - and there is no admission charge. HOW RUDE!!

**NEWS FOR OUR COCONUTS** Returning to visit us has never been easier. We do appreciate your phone calls and emails, but you can also take advantage of our on-line booking window when you visit our website - [www.coconutsbeachclub.com](http://www.coconutsbeachclub.com). Just be sure to let us know that you are a Returning Nut and we will make sure that you receive your 20% discount for Returning Nuts. While you are at it please have a look at the beautiful web pages that Lisette has created for us - including the new menus... I am happy to say that we have finally repaired all of the leaks in our lakes and so the waterfalls in front of the Treehouse rooms are once again operating beautifully. In our continuing effort to keep Coconuts beautiful, we have all new furniture for the Treehouse rooms and for the patios of the Beach Fales.

**COCONUTS "STAYS FAMOUS":** Well, for the first time since I started writing this section, I have to let you know that I am not aware of any articles that have been written about Coconuts Beach Club. I'm pretty sure that they are out there, but I haven't been made aware of them. So, if any of you have read about us in any publication, please let me know. Hey, if this keeps up for another year I may have to eliminate this section altogether - HOW RUDE!

**RESTAURANT NEWS:** I am happy to report that Mika is still going strong - despite having celebrated his 74<sup>th</sup> birthday last August. How strong you ask? Well, he is still swimming against the tide every morning for an hour and still coming up with new and delicious dishes for us. In fact, last night Sieni had one of his newer creations that he calls Creole Crab - WOW, was that good! The Dining Room now has its own distinctive table cloths and place settings so that the Palm Terrace dining is truly a different dining experience from the Dining Room. What else you ask? Well, Mika is now creating his famous Caesar Salad - the one that he did in his French Restaurant in Honolulu for so many years - table-side for guests in the Dining Room. So, all of you Returning Nuts who come back year after year for Mika's food won't be disappointed when you come back again!

**HOTEL NEWS** The BIG News here is that our two original Beach Fales - Fale A and fale B - are now just a distant memory. This past year we reduced them to rubble and in their place we created two beautiful new Beach Fales which we now call Fale A and Fale B. These new fales are considerably larger than the old ones, with our new style front verandah that is large enough to accommodate a small army. What's more, in order to better accommodate the needs of our guests, both of them feature two separate bedrooms. Now that we have rebuilt these two fales I am happy to say that all of the accommodations, as well as all of our public facilities at Coconuts have been remodeled recently and upgraded to a new level of beauty and comfort. So, you ask, what's next? Well, to be honest, I am running out of projects. I certainly don't want to add more rooms, since Coconuts Beach Club is just about the perfect size at 22 rooms. About the only project that I can think of for the immediate future is to maybe enlarge the front verandah on our beach Fales so that they are of the latest designs - like the ones that we have for the Royal Villas and Fale A & B. STAY TUNED!

**TOFA SOIFUA:** Wow! I'm exhausted! This is hard work! Time to see Mika for a Catapult - maybe two. We are very blessed, here in Paradise. We have almost everything. The only thing missing is YOU. Love from all of us, to all of you! And, please remember to send us ([reservations@coconuts.ws](mailto:reservations@coconuts.ws)) your email address so you will continue to receive these riveting newsletters.

Tautaimatapalapala (Barry), Faletua Sieni (Jennifer), Mika (Mike), Onolina (Lina)