



## COCO NEWS NUTS

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

think a brief introduction to this newsletter is in order. By way of background, a letter similar to this was published faithfully each year (sometimes more than once a year) from 1990 until December 2008 – the last year that it was published. So, this has been a tradition for a lot of years, but there was this hiatus between 2009 and now. Why you ask? The short answer is that in October of 2009 Samoa was struck by a tsunami of major proportions that totally destroyed our part of the world, with a significant loss of life and resulted in Coconuts being totally demolished. Since then I have been concentrating on rebuilding Coconuts and attending to loved ones, with little time to spare for the newsletter – which is frankly a very pleasurable endeavor for me. But, time, tides and cyclones move on and I find that I now have both the time and the inclination to resume this happy pastime. I must say that I have also been receiving many inquiries from our extended family, asking when I would resume the newsletter, which has spurred me on. Well, for better or worse – now is the time. OK, so much for history and time for the latest news. It is certainly a strange and different world from 2008. The “real world” is full of one terrorist story after another and the impending financial collapse of one country or another. In other words, not a lot of fun and upbeat stuff going on. In contrast, 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 in the past often got me in trouble, so I will TRY to tread very careful this time) One of the really big news stories that we last covered 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? Construction never did start, so end of story... OK, here is some continuing news that I still find hard to believe. As announced, the government did implement their plan to switch driving from the right to the left side of the road in 2009, and despite dire predications, there really wasn't much chaos and confusion. Probably not much benefit either, but hey, do you really expect all government actions to result in a benefit to the people? You do? No, the way that it works is that there is always some benefit to someone from government actions, but the name of the game is to figure out who benefited – and this is one that has still never been solved... There are however, two notable events worth discussing, and they are related. The big news is that Samoa now has a Sheraton Resort. What was Aggie Grey's at the airport is now the Sheraton Aggie Grey. And, as a part of the resort there is a real, live gambling casino. So, what do you think – A Sheraton Resort and a Gambling Casino in Samoa - is that progress or not?

**NEWS FOR OUR COCONUTS** Staying in touch with us has never been easier. In addition to our website - bcbsamoa.com - we are now active on all of the social media pages. I hope that you will check-in from time to time to see our latest updates, especially our drone shots. And, be sure to check our special deals for Returning Nuts on our site. Now to the BIG NEWS. As I write this newsletter we are in the final stages of opening our newest addition - our over the water disco. I know that it might seem strange to be opening a disco at this stage of our existence, but back when Sieni and I conceived of Coconuts Beach Club we always intended to build an outdoor disco so we could relive a great moment in time when we were wandering through the Greek Islands and came upon a funky outdoor disco that thrilled and delighted us. Of course, it probably made more sense in the 70's when we came upon it than it does now, but once we get an idea in our head it is tough to forget about it. Obviously, it wasn't the highest priority that we had since we are now getting to it some 25 years after we first started this project. But, last night we fired it up for a test and with a dance floor that lights up - just like in Saturday Night Fever - it is really fun. The fact that we also have the music from Saturday Night Fever doesn't hurt. And, the name of the disco is Disco Duck. Yes, it is a silly idea - but did you really expect anything different from us? HOW RUDE!!

**COCONUTS"STAYSFAMOUS:** Right after the tsunami of 2009 we did get famous, but not in a good way. CNN set up their camera crew right in front of our entrance and proceeded to showcase the extent of the tsunami's destruction. So, we were the poster child for destruction - HOW RUDE! On the other hand CNN did a telephone interview with me that aired in December of 2011, with anchor Pauline Chiou in Hong Kong - the subject being Samoa's arbitrary decision to change the International Dateline and the impact upon the tourism industry in Samoa. Are you impressed? Probably not. Perhaps a bit more importantly, CNNGO recently honored us as being ranked in the top 10 of the World's Best Wedding Venues. Now, that should impress you! I guess we had a CNN trifecta.

**RESTAURANTNEWS:** Once again, I am happy to report that Mika is still going strong - despite having celebrated his 80th birthday last August. For those of you who did not know, Mika did suffer a mild stroke in 2010, but it has never stopped him from attending to the restaurant and coming up with new dishes for our enjoyment. However, instead of swimming against the tide every morning for an hour you will usually find him doing his laps in the swimming pool. And, we now have a delightful new dining experience for lunch - The Gecko Café, right next to the swim-up bar at the pool. It is a great place for lunch or afternoon snacks and it has it's own menu. Lastly, I am very proud of our thin crust pizzas that are available every day in the restaurant.

**HOTELNEWS** Well, the tsunami of 2009 inflicted a lot of damage on the resort, but perhaps the greatest damage occurred to the two Over The Water Fales. The tsunami simply took all vestiges of those fales away, never to be seen again although it was rumored that the roof of one of them was found floating in front of one of the villages up the coast from us and is now a part of the village. I am delighted to say that in their place we have built six new Over The Water fales that are terrific. If you visit our website there are lot's of pictures of Robert Ross's latest creation. They really are spectacular - and very large. In fact, the interior space is twice the size of the old ones, and the outdoor space about four times the size of the old ones. Naturally, like the old ones, there is a glass panel in the floor of the living area to view the turtles swimming below. But, wait - there's more. There is also a glass panel in the floor of the bathroom too, so no need to worry about how to pass the time in the bathroom, and no need for magazines. HOW RUDE! If you are keeping count, with the new Over water Fales we now have a total of 26 rooms. Lastly, all of you fans of The Treehouse will be happy to learn that the entrance area has been changed dramatically and it is now more like a

Treehouse than ever before, while keeping the downstairs rooms accessible to handicapped guests.

**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@cbcsamoa.com](mailto:reservations@cbcsamoa.com)) your email address so you will continue to receive notice of these riveting newsletters.

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