

VIIIth PACIFIC MINI GAMES REPORT



Bank of the Cook Islands



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Letters of Introduction

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE COOK ISLANDS



Kia Orana!

In the spirit of a tough sporting challenge, the 2009 Pacific Mini Games presented numerous obstacles for the Cook Islands, its people, and Government. And although the early path to 'victory' was very much an uphill battle I am pleased to say that those faced with the task of producing these Games did not shy away from the jobs at hand. Of course, those jobs were many and everyone from the tireless volunteers to the relentless efforts of the organisers are deserving of high praise.

In the aftermath of such a major event, particularly for a small island nation like ours, the focus often falls on the nature of 'how' and 'why' we struggled with certain difficulties. This is understandable given the extent to which the Cook Islands committed significant resources – financial and human. In fact, our chosen theme of 'sharing the moment' broadly encompassed every possible facet of staging the Games, far beyond the competitiveness of the sports arena.

For this, we can congratulate ourselves. The strengths that the 2009 Pacific Mini Games brought out in each one of us, remind our small community that we are in this together. We face the tough times together. We endure the hardships together. And most important: we celebrate the victory together.

We extend to all those who joined us in 'sharing this moment' the most heartfelt of thanks, and best wishes for a strengthened legacy through sport.

May God bless us all.



Jim Marurai
Honourable Jim Marurai
Prime Minister of the Cook Islands

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES COUNCIL



VIII Pacific Mini Games 2009 - Congratulations Cook Islands

I am honoured to have the opportunity to contribute these words of congratulation on your production of Cook Islands' official Post Games Report of the VIII Pacific Mini Games in 2009.

The Pacific Games Council was pleased with many of the outcomes from the 2009 Pacific Mini Games, and delighted by the warm and generous hospitality shown by the people of Cook Islands to the more than 1,500 athletes and team officials representing 21 Pacific countries and territories.

The 15 sports on the program were organised with efficiency, and the volunteers who supported the Games were extremely friendly and helpful – in the best Cook Islands tradition.

The sports venues were of a superb standard, and in that respect the Government of the Cook Islands deserves special commendation for its foresight and financial commitment, which will, I am sure, leave significant benefits for the youth of the Cook Islands and future generations.

For the 21 participating Pacific Games Associations, the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in the Cook Islands will therefore hold very special memories for many years to come.

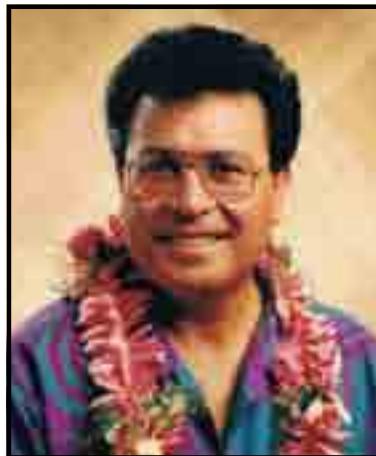
All in all, the delivery of the 2009 Pacific Mini Games augurs well for future editions of the Pacific Mini Games. It has created a substantial legacy for our movement, and I pay tribute to your leadership, and the work of your Organising Committee in creating this important legacy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vidhya Lakhan".

Vidhya Lakhan
President, Pacific Games Council

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS SPORTS AND NATIONAL OLYMPICS COMMITTEE



KIA ORANA!

The Cook Islands Mini Games is over. The Games flag is down, resting and awaiting the day when it will be free to flutter proudly in the breezes of Wallis and Futuna at the 2013 Mini Games. The athletes, officials and supporters have come and gone. Memories of a wonderful event, however, linger with some poignancy.

Many have complimented us on the success of our Adopt the Country Programme as several visiting sports people were touched by the way the school children and their parents took them to their hearts.

There was only one thing that cast a sombre shadow over the whole exciting event - the tsunami tragedy that tragically devastated parts of Tonga and the Samoas. It was evident that the athletes from those parts of our region were emotionally affected by the suffering, the deprivation and the deaths of their loved ones back home but, possibly because of it, they took to the field of competition with undiminished commitment.

The 2009 Mini Games was a special event for Government, for the people of the Cook Islands for CISNOC and our enthusiastic sporting community.

This major event led Government to commit to the upgrading to international standards of the BCI Stadium, the construction of the multi-purpose indoor Telecom Sports Arena and the Cook Islands Tennis Centre. All these facilities, together with other venues, lend themselves well to the lifting of standards and achievements, the establishment of our Sports Academy and the promotion of Sports Tourism.

At no other time in the history of the Games has the Cook Islands been so successful. Our total medal tally was 45, 15 gold (one for each star on our flag), 13 silver (one for each inhabited island) and 17 bronze (the number of degrees from the northernmost to the southernmost island in the Cook Islands). This is a truly remarkable achievement for a nation with a comparatively small sporting population.

For the Cook Islands as a whole, the event was a powerful challenge to our well renowned reputation as

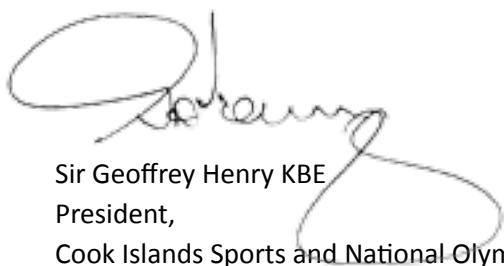
a host country. Every sector of the community stood up to the challenge – the Traditional Leaders, the Churches, the Government, the private sector, the public sector, the schools and the Mamas and the Papas – and delivered.

As we look back, deep in our hearts we know that we did extremely well. On behalf of the Executive Board and staff of CISNOC I wish to thank our fellow PGAs and colleagues for honouring us with the privilege of hosting the 2009 Mini Games and, of course, hosting the amazing athletes from your countries. To you all I extend a heartfelt merci beaucoup.

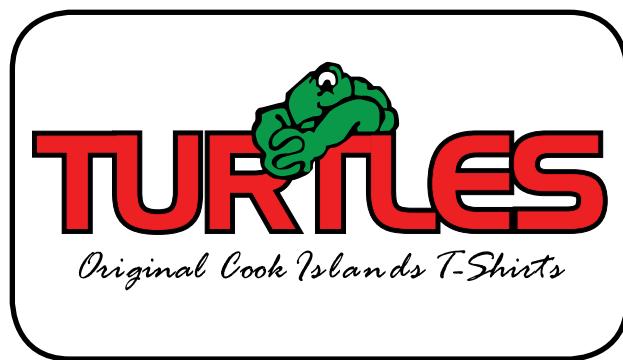
I have always described my country as “Heaven on Earth” and I tell others that they do not have to die to go to heaven – just come to the Cook Islands! I still believe this no matter we do not have the best of everything. I hope that those of you who were here for the Games and on leaving gave this personal view some thought and found it in your heart to say – “How about that, the old blighter is right.”

Kia Manua and God Bless.

Yours in the wonderful world of sports,



Sir Geoffrey Henry KBE
President,
Cook Islands Sports and National Olympic Committee



Executive Summary

Now that the excitement has settled down from the staging of the 8th Pacific Mini Games, the host country has been able to review the highlights and expectations from an independent perspective.

The country's Organising Committee set the goal of the 2009 Pacific Mini Games as:

"To stage and manage a successful sporting event, ensure that social and economic benefits are realised, improve the level of sports management capabilities and, therefore, create long term benefits for the Cook Islands."

In terms of the achievements that follow in this report to the Pacific Games Council it would appear that the goals mentioned above have been realised.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE HOST COUNTRY

- The host country made history coming fifth in the medal tally with 45 medals.
- The Cook Islands comfortably hosted 1,456 sports athletes and officials during the two weeks of the Games.

In working to achieve the mission the 2009 Pacific Mini Games Organising Committee pursued the following guiding principles:

- * Sensitivity to the needs of sport in the Cook Islands beyond 2009.
- * An understanding of the community needs throughout the Cook Islands.
- * A respect for Cook Islands culture
- * A respect for Pacific Islands Culture
- * The Sovereignty of National Sports Federations and their parent body, the Cook Islands Sports and National Olympic Committee
- * Government policy for Sport and Recreation

Today the country owns new and upgraded sporting facilities that are testimony to the commitment the country's leaders have to fostering sports development among the current and future population of the country. The Games has left a legacy for Cook Islands athletics in the way of an all weather running track. Cook Islands Athletics will work to ensure that the track and the facilities are available to our school children, and village and sporting federation interests. There are also a large indoor multi-sports complex and a tennis centre both of which are compliant with international standards

Government and donor partners provided over 75% of the funding support to prepare facilities and to organise and host the Games. Over 16% of funding support came from sponsorships and merchandising and attests to the commitment of the business and community sectors of the Cook Islands to fostering regionalism through sports.

In individual sporting codes highlights included:

- Team Cook Islands collected 7 medals for lawn bowls;
- Table Tennis Cook Islands hosted its first regional Table Tennis competition.
- Island communities' participation through the cultural programmes was successful in showcasing our cultural heritage to the Games participants and spectators.
- Tennis Cook Islands triumphing in the women's division with gold medals in the singles and doubles and mixed pairs of the tournament.
- Golf Cook Islands sweeping the gold medal stakes.

The tragic events of 29th September 2009, when Samoa, and to a lesser extent Tonga were struck by a devastating tsunami were etched into the memory of these games, as sporting comrades dropped competitive rivalry to comfort Team Samoa and Tonga. Special prayer and church services were organised and attended by Cook Islanders and Pacific Islands teams, consoling in solidarity.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE REGION

Other small island states that made an impact at the games included: Kiribati with 22 medals, Nauru with 12, and Niue with 11.

ATHLETICS

Fiji athletes excelled in the medal counts with their relay teams taking out the men's and women's 4x100m and 4x400m relay events. The use of state of the art equipment supported many of the technical decisions made by the Competition Jury in relation to appeals and concerns raised by participating island managers.

BOXING

During the 4 day competition, the support from the public was very encouraging. The highlight of the event was the presentation of the medals with the Cook Islands boxers picking up a silver and bronze medal for the team.

LAWN BOWLS

The Cook Islands Ladies team dominated in all events except the singles. Niue claimed the single women's gold medal.

Prior to the convening of the Games, the Cook Islands Bowling Association was fortunate to receive facility upgrading support from Government which assisted the Association with hosting the various teams from around the region.

SAILING

Logistics involved in preparing for the arrival of teams, confirming accommodation, meals and sailing competition site have been challenging, but at the end of the competition Rarotonga and Aitutaki Sailing Clubs were able to wrap up a very successful and historical competition, staged on one of the most picturesque lagoons in the Pacific.

SQUASH

The support from Oceania Squash Federation was first class and having quality input assisted in the delivery of the Squash competition format during the Games.

On the whole the tournament went very well with all countries enjoying the competition.

TABLE TENNIS

The table tennis venue proved a challenge for Table Tennis Cook Islands. Normally competition venues are

set up with a minimum of 6 tables to ensure the competition flows within a timeframe of a week. However no mishaps to competitors occurred during the competition.

Transporting competitors and officials proved an important challenge during the competition and for future reference the locating of the competition outside the main centres of the Pacific Mini Games focus must be taken into account.

The Vanuatu young team dominated in all the individual events

TENNIS

Although New Caledonia triumphed with gold medals collected in the men's and women's teams, men's doubles and singles and mixed events, our small island nation was able to upset their winning streak in the women's doubles and singles events. The success of the tournament was a team effort led by Tennis Cook Islands officials and volunteers and supported by the Oceania Tennis Federation officials.

TOUCH

All games were played at the Cook Islands Football Association grounds in Matavera, and despite some hitches in transportation, all teams were fielded on time and within the confines of the programme.

TRIATHLON

11 men and 14 women competed in this event.

It was a warm moment for the Cook Islands team to scrape in before Fiji to claim the bronze medal in the Team Event, with star performances from Geoff Stoddart, Thomas Henderson and Jennie George.

VA'A / CANOEING

All teams were winners in the eyes of the Competition Committee. In the long distance marathon races, 7 countries participated. The final races for the competition were the V6 men and women's 20 kilometre marathon. Tahiti once again dominated in these races, although the Cook Islands women's team managed to slip in past New Caledonia to claim the silver medal.

In the men's 30 kilometre marathon race, New Caledonia proved too good for the Cook Islands team to receive the silver medal after Tahiti with a good time of 2 hours, 16 minutes and 27 seconds.

Congratulations is due to all paddlers from around the Pacific for an excellent Pacific Games with special congratulations to Tahiti for winning all the Gold Medals for the Code of Va'a at these Games.

WEIGHTLIFTING

The three day program was the first ever International Weightlifting competition to be hosted by Cook Islands Weightlifting Federation.

Brothers Sam and Sirla Pera were able to win 3 silver medals and 2 bronze medals respectively for the Cook Islands.

Top refereeing was witnessed and a professional competition format with well equipped weight equipment, electronic refereeing system and competition management software was greatly appreciated.

The new Telecom Sports Arena and the newly acquired weightlifting equipment will offer great opportunity for the CIWF to host future international competitions, in particular the annual Oceania and Commonwealth competitions.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PMG 2009

The Sports/Technical Services Division has been primarily responsible for delivering the sports component of the Games program and providing the technical framework from which all other operational matters have run off.

On the basis of submissions from each sport competition, a sports equipment list was prepared, and essential equipment for each sport was ordered and delivered to Rarotonga in time for the Games.

In total there were over 227 volunteers that were assigned to the various sports competitions to assist the daily sporting programs and events. Regional and international technical officials were complemented by national technical officials and various training and grading activities were held ahead of the Games to upskill more national technical officials.

MARKETING

Although falling short of a targeted sponsorship package, this division worked extremely hard to secure funding and support in kind outside of Government and Pacific Games Council jurisdiction.

Given the state of the global economic climate, the efforts achieved are to be commended.

INFRASTRUCTURE/LOGISTICS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

To successfully host the Games the Cook Islands Government invested in a new purpose built indoor sports stadium and improved community sporting facilities around the island.

Agreements with each school on Rarotonga that was involved in hosting PMG sports teams were concluded cordially and executed with pride.

In terms of transporting contingents from village to venue besides the allocated vehicles even Cooks Buses assisted the through flow of spectators and athletes from venue to venue.

On a daily basis, the Division managed the installation, stocking, and operation of competition venues stationed around the island and ensured sound, medical, VIP, and sporting support facilities constantly.

OPERATIONS

This Division took charge of ensuring the smooth running of the opening and closing ceremonies, organising the protocols involved in receiving each island team as they arrived into their villages with the Games Mayor and the flag raising team, overseeing cultural performances and medal award ceremonies throughout the Games, and linking Pacific Games attachés with their VIP counterparts from the region.

OUTER ISLANDS

This team had the task of ensuring the resources required to ensure outer islands participation at the Games was allocated and accounted for. An important task was to liaise and maintain good lines of communications and operations with Sailing Cook Islands, the key organiser and host of the Sailing competition in Aitutaki.

CLOSING THE BOOKS

Considering the many changes in senior personnel and management structures over the period 2004 to 2009, the global economic downturn that affected funding targets and budgets and the impact this had not just on the host country but on all countries in the region as well, what will stand out for the Government and the people of the Cook Islands in hosting this memorable Pacific Mini Games event, is the wonderful and exuberant spirit of being Pacific people.

This spirit was ever present during the lead up to the Games and seen on the faces of our people young and old each day as we prepared ourselves to host our brothers and sisters from the region.

This spirit was seen in the teams that were formed to work together to deliver the right services and support to visiting sports teams sometimes rising beyond the call of duty to ensure everything had been attended to.

This spirit was seen in the villages and communities that supported the Organising Committee's efforts each day with their own unique contributions to activities and events.

Kia Orana e Kia Manua.



Reflections: Pacific Mini Games 1985, Cook Islands

History of the Pacific Mini Games

The genesis of the Pacific Mini Games was born from the request of Small Island States who wanted to do more than merely participate in The Games but could only afford to host a reduced version of the Games. The Mini Games are governed by the Pacific Games Charter. The only difference is that the main Games can host up to 28 sports. The Mini Games is limited to 15 sports.

Since the first Pacific Mini Games held in Honiara in 1981, the smaller island nations have hosted 8 games to date.

- 1st Pacific Mini Games, Honiara, Solomon Islands, 1981;
- 2nd Pacific Mini Games, Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 1985;
- 3rd Pacific Mini Games, Kingdom of Tonga, 1989;
- 4th Pacific Mini Games, Port Vila, Vanuatu, 1993;
- 5th Pacific Mini Games, Pago Pago, American Samoa, 1997;
- 6th Pacific Mini Games, Norfolk Island, 2001;
- 7th Pacific Mini Games, Palau, 2005;
- 8th Pacific Mini Games, Rarotonga/Aitutaki, Cook Islands, 2009.



Reflections: Pacific Mini Games 1985, Cook Islands

Participating Nations:

	TEAM SIZE	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL	
	AMERICAN SAMOA	16	1	0	1	2
	COOK ISLANDS	227	15	13	17	45
	FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA	6	3	0	0	3
	FIJI	167	32	26	20	78
	FRENCH POLYNESIA (TAHITI)	174	21	22	16	59
	GUAM	17	0	0	0	0
	KIRIBATI	41	9	5	8	22
	MARSHALL ISLANDS	0	0	0	0	0
	NAURU	17	8	4	0	12
	NEW CALEDONIA	106	23	21	22	66
	NIUE	104	1	6	4	11
	NORFOLK ISLAND	8	0	0	1	1
	NORTHERN MARIANAS	3	0	0	0	0
	PALAU	5	0	3	0	3
	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	123	3	3	3	9

Team Size & Final Medal Tally

	TEAM SIZE	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
 SAMOA	160	16	15	24	55
 SOLOMON ISLANDS	87	3	7	1	11
 TOKELAU	31	0	2	0	2
 TONGA	104	4	9	6	19
 TUVALU	4				4
 VANUATU	14				12
 WALLIS AND FUTUNA	42				1
	1456	144	140	131	415

Fiji led the medal tally with a total of 78 medals (32 Gold, 26 Silver, 20 Bronze), followed by New Caledonia with 66 medals, Tahiti following with 59 medals and Samoa coming fourth in the medal tallies with 55 medals.

The host country made history coming fifth in the medal tally with 45 medals.

Other small island states that made an impact at the games included: Kiribati with 22 medals, Nauru with 12, and Niue with 11.

The Cook Islands hosted 1,456 sports athletes and officials during the two weeks of the Games.



Daily Sports Programme & Games Venues

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

EVENT	Day 1 Monday 21 Sept.	Day 2 Tuesday 22 Sept.	Day 3 Wednesday 23 Sept.	Day 4 Thursday 24 Sept.	Day 5 Friday 25 Sept.	Day 6 Saturday 26 Sept.	Day 7 Sunday 27 Sept.	Day 8 Monday 28 Sept.	Day 9 Tuesday 29 Sept.	Day 10 Wednesday 30 Sept.	Day 11 Thursday 1 Oct.	Day 12 Friday 2 Oct.
Opening Ceremony												
Closing Ceremony												
Athletics												
Track & Field												
Marathon												
Boxing												
Golf												
Lawn Bowls												
League 7s												
Netball												
Rugby 7s												
Sailing												
Hobies												
Lasers												
Squash												
Table Tennis												
Tennis												
Touch Rugby												
Triathlon												
Va'a												
Weightlifting												



Structure of Governance & Organisation

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

At the 2004 meeting of the South Pacific Games Council, held in Koror, Palau, the Cook Islands, won the confidence of the island nations of the Pacific Region by being given the right to host the 2009 Pacific Mini Games.

This Bid was won with the full backing of the Government of the Cook Islands, who shared a vision with the Cook Islands Sports National & Olympics Committee, that these Games would present a historical opportunity to establish a sustainable sporting industry and provide a platform for our people to host and enjoy the sporting comradeship of Pacific neighbours on our shores.

VISION

"To stage and manage a successful sporting event, ensure that social and economic benefits are realised, improve the level of sports management capabilities and, therefore, create long term benefits to the Cook Islands"

MISSION

The mission of the 2009 PMG Ltd is to deliver a successful VIII Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands in a cost effective manner and in partnership with all stakeholders.

The Games are owned by the Pacific Games Council (PGC) and as is the current practice, an extensive host country contract was signed between the PGC, CISNOC (as host Pacific Games Association), the Pacific Mini Games 2009 Ltd Organising Committee and the Government of the Cook Islands to ensure the smooth hosting of the 2009 Games.

A 2009 Pacific Mini Games Limited was created by the Government of the Cook Islands in 2005, to oversee the organisation of the Games. It reported to a Board of Directors the composition of which changed from time to time. The last Board of Directors that saw the Mini Games to their conclusion comprised:

Chairman	Sir Terepai Maoate, KBE	CIGOV
	Hon. Jim Marurai	CIGOV
	Hon. Ngamau Munokoa	CIGOV
	Hon. Tangata Vavia	CIGOV
	Terepai Maoate, MP	CIGOV
	John Tangi, MP	CIGOV
	Sir Geoffrey Henry KBE	CISNOC
	Rosie Blake, BEM	CISNOC
	George Paniani	CISNOC
	George Hosking	CISNOC

The Board responsibilities included:

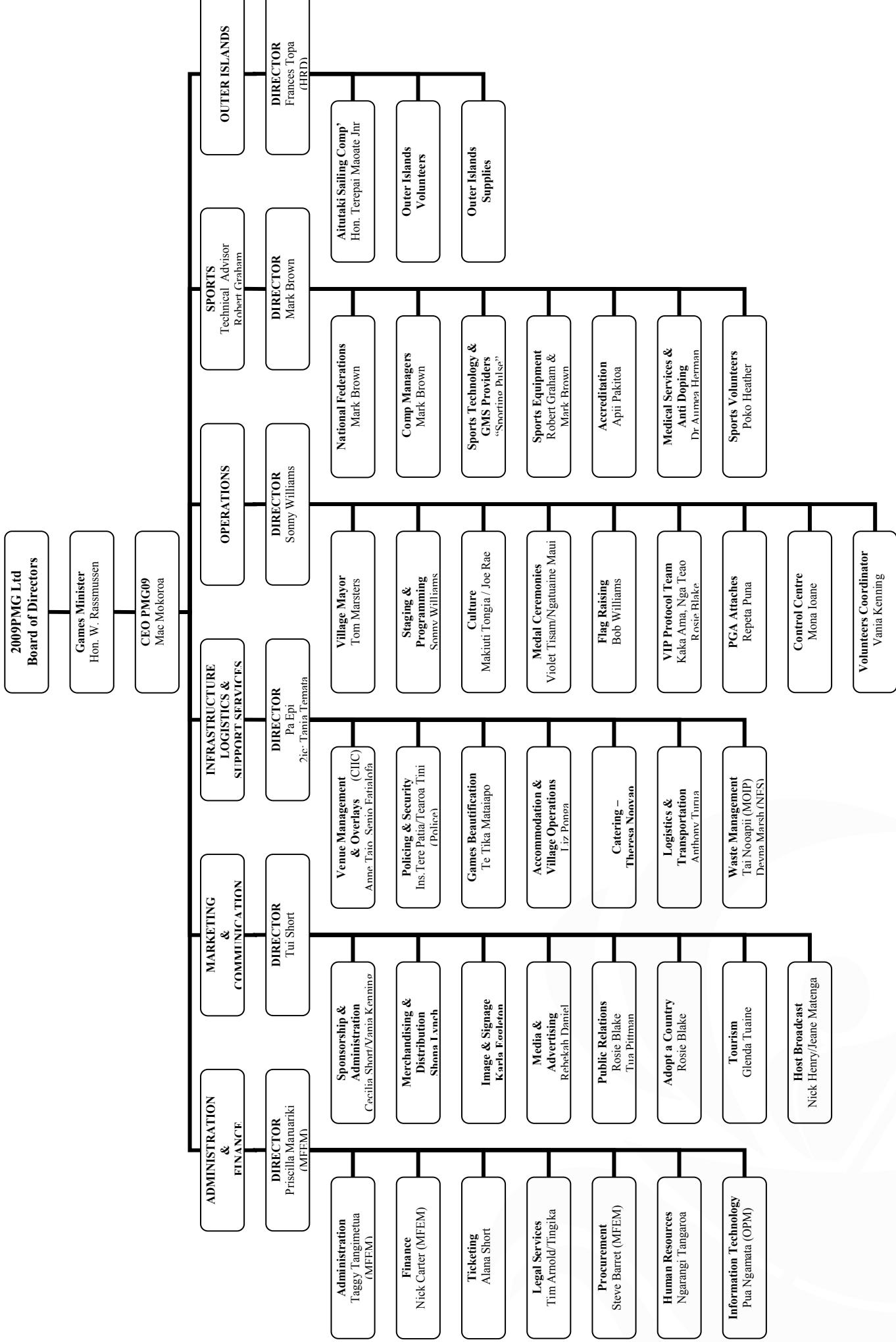
- Overseeing the smooth organisation and management of the Games
- Ensuring adequate infrastructure, resources and funding support
- Fostering the spirit of competition
- Ensuring the participation of all sectors of Cook Islands society

In working to achieve the mission the 2009 Pacific Mini Games Organising Committee pursued the following guiding principles:

- * Recognise the minimum standards of facilities and services required, as stipulated under the Charter of the Pacific Games Council and the requirements as recommended by the International Sports Federations.
- * Sensitivity to the needs of sport in Cook Islands beyond 2009.
- * An understanding of the community needs throughout the Cook Islands.
- * A commitment to deliver value for financial investment that will bring returns beyond the 2009 Games.
- * A respect for Cook Islands culture
- * A respect for Pacific Islands Culture
- * The Sovereignty of National Sports Federations and their parent body, the Cook Islands Sports and National Olympics Committee
- * Government policy for Sport and Recreation
- * The fundamental right of every human being to take part safely and without malice in sport and recreation.

The original overall budget produced in 2005 for the 2009 Games was planned at \$9 million. This sum featured the provision of new sporting infrastructure, state of the art equipment and venue upgrades, and the hosting and operational activities that occur at the start, during and at the wrap up of the games festivities. This budget was revised over the period, and in 2008/2009 was revised again to reflect the direct capital input from China to assist Government establish a multi-sports complex.





Pacific Mini Games Operations

SPORTS AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

The Sports/Technical Services Division was primarily responsible for delivering the sports component of the Games program and providing the technical framework from which all other operational matters have run off. The Division adheres to administering the games organization structure, and all the functional areas required to ensure the smooth delivery of the sports arm of the Games.

Mark Brown and Robert Graham were selected to ensure this smooth delivery. During the period they delivered a programme that was:

- Supported by a strong and focused management team;
- Working well with national federation foundations;
- Connected with support from regional and international federations in terms of technical officials and supporting resources;
- Assisted by a well established website and Games Management system (GMS);
- One that enabled the Cook Islands team to access coaching expertise from China and other sources.

Sports and
Technical
Mark Brown
/Robert Graham

- National Federations
- Competition Managers
- Sports Tech/GMS Providers
- Sports Equipment
- Accreditation
- Medical Services & Anti-doping
- Sports Volunteers

On the basis of submissions from each sport competition, a sports equipment list was prepared, and essential equipment for each sport was ordered and delivered to Rarotonga in time for the Games. Although there were some low moments such as a ship destined for Rarotonga being stuck on a reef and the frustrating logistical concerns of storage and transporting hobie cats to the island of Aitutaki, the team, nevertheless, pulled through to ensure that all sporting disciplines received the best equipment and materials to mount their sports activities.

Information on the sports program, medical services and anti-doping protocols including general knowledge for athletes were provided ahead of time to each Chef de Mission. In general accreditation of all athletes also progressed fairly smoothly albeit with a handful of minor problems. In total there were over 227 volunteers that were assigned to the various sports competitions to assist the daily sporting programs and events. Regional and international technical officials were complemented by national technical officials and various training and grading activities were held ahead of the games to upskill more national technical officials.



PMG 2009 Ltd Budget & Financial Report

The budget of the company PMG 2009 Ltd changed from time to time as the composition of the Board of Directors changed, as the CEO of the company changed and as the decision by government regarding venues and the upgrading of existing sports facilities changed. Impacting this was the extent and the nature of the involvement of international partners and what government needed to appropriate through Parliament.

As this Report is being printed the finances of the company – a financial statement, a profit and loss statement and the Balance Sheet – are still undergoing processing and reconciliation. The CEO of the company, the President of CISNOC, government and all stakeholders are evenly anxious for this process to be completed as soon as possible. This is an important and fundamental step towards concluding a financial report that provides a comprehensive overview of the performance of the company. This report then requires to be audited. Pursuant to a decision of the Board of Directors, the Cook Islands Department of Audit, a government agency, was appointed as the Auditor of the company.

When the audited accounts of the company are ready this will then be presented to Cabinet and the Board of Directors of PMG 2009 Ltd as a prerequisite leading towards the winding up of the company. Until this is done it is inappropriate to present now anything that pretends to be the finances of the company.

A separate report on this matter will be prepared and issued at a later date.

Adopt a Country Programme

Programme Manager Rosie Blake BEM

Programme Co-ordinator Tatari Mitchell

Programme Team Members Kathy George, Chris Mii Story, Daniella Cerkain, Dick Ratawake, Rosa Henry

CONCEPT

Fundamentally the concept is for a school of the host country to adopt a participating country in a staged competition, become knowledgeable about that country's culture, history and geography as part of the School's curriculum, learn about Olympic values, form enduring friendships and lasting post competition relationships through for example twinning programmes.

The basic idea is that the school becomes involved in the following:

- Collecting information about that country
- Exchanging language, traditions and cultures with the country team and/or school from that country
- Hosting the visiting team through traditional hospitality programmes
- Allow students, teachers and their families to become an informed and interested market audience about sporting and associated events pertaining to the competition
- Create an aware and informed community that will be more receptive to Event and Theme based marketing conducted by Sponsors

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives to be achieved from this programme are:

- To enhance the cultural awareness of Cook Islands youth by them better understanding the culture of their neighbouring Pacific Islands countries
- To recognise the bilateral links between the country and the school through regional co-operation
- To establish ongoing links, for mutual benefit, after the Pacific Mini Games 2009



BENEFITS TO SCHOOLS

The schools will benefit directly from their involvement in the following ways:

- Broadening their understanding of the Pacific region
- Personal involvement in preparation and beautification of Rarotonga and Aitutaki prior to the Games
- Direct involvement in the Games relay
- Making the games real to the children through personal contact with the team of the competing country, cheering and supporting them and exchanging gifts
- Be supplied with tickets to events to support their adopted country team as cheer squads

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Schools become involved in all or most of the following activities:

- Fly the flag of the adopted country
- Learn about the adopted country – language, customs, history, geography, sporting prowess National Anthem, etc.
- Decorate a bus stop or approved site close to the school in the colours of their adopted country
- Host the adopted country from arrival through to departure
- Be the cheering squad for the team of the adopted country at the Games
- Develop an environmental mural to be mounted at an appropriate allocated site
- Develop gardens within the school precincts

When first mooted the programme received a cool reception from the Games Organising Committee, some schools and the community at large. They had little understanding as to the funding of the project and the benefits that would accrue to the schools and the Games as a whole. Nevertheless, the Secretary General of CISNOC, Rosie Blake, hand picked a team of enthusiastic teachers who, as the working committee, met several times to sort out programmes, activities for schools, transportation logistics, T-shirts, publicity and a host of other matters. In due course the Principals, the teachers and the parents and the community as a whole, including the business sector, warmed to the project. From that point on there was no turning back.

The programme was first adopted during the World Youth Netball Championships. It was a great success. Each visiting team was given a warm and enthusiastic reception – drumming, dancing, singing, garlands of flowers, hugs and kisses. The farewells were equally boisterous but noticeably tearful. All schools, teachers and parents and families alike, took their adopted country teams to their heart and in return the visiting team management and members warmed towards and bonded well with the school children. As the President of CISNOC, Sir Geoffrey Henry, said during his welcome address to Team Australia (hosted by St.Joseph's Primary School) – "Cook Islanders love their children very much. Children are greatly treasured. To know our children is to know the heart of the Cook Islands".

Approximately a month later the programme kicked into action again for the Pacific Mini Games. Once again, it was a great success. Business houses matched the enthusiasm of schools with generous sponsorships in kind. Each visiting team received a boisterous welcome at the airport no matter the arrival time – daytime or early morning. Schools supported and cheered along their adopted teams right throughout the Games even against those from the Cook Islands! Schools even hosted them for days after the Games as teams awaited their flights. Departures, on every occasion, were very emotional with exchanging of hugs, kisses and gifts eloquently bespeaking the great success of a programme that was, at first, so coolly received.

This programme, without question, apart from the competitions themselves, was the most successful associated programme of both the World Youth Netball Championships and the Pacific Mini Games 2009. All thanks are due to the enthusiasm, management and people skills of Rosie Blake, Tatari Mitchell and their team of skilful and keen volunteer teachers.

BCI Oe Baton Relay



Programme Director

Rosie Blake. BEM

Assistant Programme Director

Akaiti Puna

Relay Co-ordinator (Rarotonga)

Elizabeth Tou

Relay Co-ordinator (New Zealand)

Vincent Peters, Taime Pareanga

Relay Co-ordinator (Aitutaki)

Tere Mataiti, Kuraongo Henry

HIGHLIGHTS

After some investigation and discussions with the Games Marketing Committee, it became evident that there was a strong desire for Cook Islands in both Australia and New Zealand to be involved in the relay. It was also a wonderful way of allowing Cook Islanders living overseas to participate in a major event back home. A seeding fund of \$50,000 dollars was considered sufficient to kick start the programme with an estimated return of \$250,000. The Games Organising Committee declined the proposal. This part of the programme was cancelled.

However, Vincent Peters and Mrs. Taime Pareanga (President of the Cook Islands Cultural and Sports Association, NZ), went ahead and held a relay programme throughout Tokoroa. They needed an Oe (Paddle) and seeding funds. Both were dispatched to NZ from the limited resources of CISNOC. The event apparently was very emotional and successful. Mrs. Pareanga, flew to Rarotonga with a small team, brought their Oe with them, donated \$5,000 to CISNOC and was able to connect with the relay around Rarotonga and be CISNOC's guests at the Games.

A relay programme was also undertaken on Aitutaki in association with the Games sailing competition that was to be held on the breathtaking lagoon of Aitutaki. The plan was for the New Zealand relay Oe to arrive in Rarotonga ahead of the function for the arrival of the BCI Oe Baton from Aitutaki. This function was held at the Golf Club on September 19, 2009 at the Welcome Ceremony of the President of CISNOC for Pacific Games Council officials and guests, Ministers of Sport attending the inaugural Ministers of Sport's Conference, dignitaries and teams that had already arrived.

On Monday 21 September, 2009, in order to give traditional significance to the event, with the approval of the Makea Nui family, the relay began with a short but dignified ceremony at Taputapuatea, a long and well respected sacred site. The Oe Baton then traversed Rarotonga recognising traditional boundaries, traditional leaders, government departments, religious organisations, business houses, communities of the Outer Islands on Rarotonga and, of course, the sporting community of the Cook Islands. It entered the BCI Stadium exactly as planned for the official Opening of the Pacific Mini Games 2009, 6.30pm, Monday, 21 September 2009.

SPECIAL FEATURES

This relay was held in a manner different from that held in the 1985 Mini Games in the following significant ways:

- It gave full recognition to the relevance of traditional leaders, customs and practices
- It gave recognition to long revered traditional sacred sites
- It involved all sectors of the community, not just the private sector
- It dispensed with the torch and replaced it with the Oe (Paddle), a necessary equipment our ancestors used in traversing the Moana- Nui- O- Kiva (Pacific Ocean)
- It used the traditional fire lighting process to light the torch of the Oe Baton
- It recognised sports greats of the Cook Islands
- It recognised the promise of sports for the future by using the Junior Sports Woman and Junior Sports Man of 2008 to light the Games cauldron.



The Bank of the Cook Islands was a major sponsor of the Mini Games. It was also the major sponsor of the Oe Baton Relay. The Oe Baton now rests in the public area of the Bank of the Cook Islands.



Athletics

Competition Manager: Ina Marsters
Assistant Competition Manager: Sharon Marsters
IF Technical Delegate Janelle Eldridge



ATHLETICS MEDAL TALLY TABLE

Position	PGA	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Fiji	18	9	7	34
2	New Caledonia	11	6	4	21
3	Tahiti	5	13	10	28
4	Tonga	4	6	3	13
5	Solomon Islands	3	1	1	5
6	Samoa	0	3	1	4
7	Vanuatu	0	2	0	2
8	Cook Islands	0	0	3	3
9	Niue	0	0	2	2
10	Norfolk	0	0	1	1
11	Tuvalu	0	0	1	1
12	Wallis and Futuna	0	0	1	1
13	Federated States of Micronesia	0	0	0	0
14	Guam	0	0	0	0
15	Kiribati	0	0	0	0
16	Nauru	0	0	0	0
17	Palau	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		41	40	34	115

HIGHLIGHTS

Fiji athletes excelled in the medal counts with their relay teams taking out the men's and women's 4x100m and 4x400m relay events. Led by the regions top sprinters Niko Verekauta and Makelesi Bulikiobo, the Fijians were in devastating form winning both relay events.

The daily briefing sessions and technical meetings served well to iron out anomalies in the program, to avoid clashes with other races or events on each day.

Other than Day 2 of the competition, the weather was generally cooperative with the main events being held on the open weather track and fields.

The use of state of the art equipment supported many of the technical decisions made by the Competition Jury in relation to appeals and concerns raised by participating island managers.

From time to time the rules and procedures of the Games Council were challenged but at the end the situation was resolved after clear decision making by the panel of competition jury. The issue of age level allowed to represent a country was raised, but the Games Charter, the IAAF minimum age requirements, and Technical Notes assisted the panel's decision making.

The brand new all weather track constructed especially for the Games proved to be a success. The six lane track was adequate for the Games and is a legacy for Cook Islands Athletics.

Technical hitches in the hammer/discuss circle were resolved speedily before the next day's competitions.

Damage to the cage door sustained during one of the competitor's hammer throw event was quickly repaired by local contractors who removed the section, had it re-welded and fixed in time for the discus event the following day.

The regional, international and Cook Islands technical officials did an excellent job in conducting a very professional competition. All major roles (Referees) were filled by overseas experienced officials with the Cook Islands officials filling many of the chief of field events. A pre-Games training event provided our officials the opportunity to build up their expertise on the outline of the new rules for 2010 Track events, for referees starting races, and for field referees, and for the officials involved in the photo finish training sequence. As a result many of our officials sat in these training events to be able to gain their IAAF TOECS Level 1. As the Games progressed the enthusiasm and enjoyment that this team of officials carried out their work was felt throughout the chain of command and even into the Call Room where events were being finalised and results checked and posted to the Sporting Pulse website.

Generally medics were always in reach and available to service minor aches and injuries. Support from the international medics (physio's and doctors) sometimes made up for the absence of Cook Islands medics.

In terms of the post event control, the medal ceremonies worked around the events each day and became pleasant respite during shifts and changes in events and heats and final events.

In general all our island athletes were extremely well behaved apart from a mishap with an athlete from Team Cook Islands.

As with many important events, some of the downside related to athletes being inappropriately accredited due to lost information or wrong spelling of names, but the majority of these issues were fixed prior to the athletes' competitions commencing.

Meals were brought to the track each day of competition as required and most officials had the chance to eat at one of the centres established to cater for athletes, team management and officials.

Food and water was of good quality and plentiful for the athletes.

Athletes and officials alike advised that their place of stay was very reasonable and the transporting of athletes to their events was on time.

Doping control officers were kept busy administering the test according to correct procedures, with most chaperones following procedures to wait in post event time where the officials had the athletes accreditation.

The Host Broadcast team worked very well with the athletics program ensuring their camera received maximum coverage and conducting on the field interviews that were transmitted live to the region. Camera and media crew from other islands had to be reminded from time to time of the Host Broadcasters priority, but generally all were cooperative.

The following are some of the feedback received from the community:

- "Best event in athletics ever seen on the Island" – Member of the local community.
- "This is great fun (referring to the Half Marathon)" – PMG organizer.
- "You have shown us how to run a quality event" – Team Manager

The Games has left a legacy for Cook Islands athletics in the way of a beautiful new track and equipment. It will be important in the years ahead to seriously encourage our children and young adults to join athletics. Cook Islands Athletics must work to ensure that the track and the facilities are available to our school children and village interests all the time.

Special thanks to the team of Janelle Eldridge, Ina Marsters, OAA Council , Local Organising Committee and Cook Islands personnel responsible for many areas of the games. Also a special thanks to Barry Mullins (Competition Director), Sharon Marsters (Assistant Competition Manager), Robert Graham (PMG Organising Committee), David Lobb (Out-of-Stadium) and to Yvonne Mullins (Executive Director OAA), and all the Technical Officials for their assistance in ensuring that the Athletics segment of the Games ran smoothly.



Boxing

Competition Manager: Tupou Faireka
Assistant Competition Manager: Trish Barton
Assistant Competition Manager: David Bridge
IF Technical Delegate: Keith Walker



BOXING MEDAL TALLY TABLE

Position	PGA	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Tahiti	4	3	2	9
2	Nauru	2	1	0	3
3	Samoa	1	2	3	6
4	New Caledonia	1	0	3	4
5	American Samoa	1	0	0	1
6	Kiribati	0	2	2	4
7	Cook Islands	0	1	0	1
8	Fiji	0	0	3	3
9	Guam	0	0	0	0
10	Niue	0	0	0	0
11	Tonga	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	9	9	13	31

HIGHLIGHTS

The IF Technical official organized all the competition draws, boxing equipment and the allocation of the executives, members and volunteers to their particular tasks or line of responsibilities.

The boxing ring caused a major concern to both the Cook Islands Amateur Boxing Association (CIABA) and the PMG Organising Committee due to the delay in its arrival. In fact, towards the last 2 weeks before the PMG was due to start, the boxing ring was stranded in Samoa and this was due to the container ship carrying it running aground on the reef in Samoa. Panic set in and the PMG Organising Committee was instrumental in obtaining an alternative boxing ring from a subsidiary of the original company, a company in New Zealand. The PMG committee requested that the company forward a new aluminum ring and this was airlifted to Rarotonga on Saturday the 19th September. The ring was assembled on Sunday 20 September by 2 technicians from the company with the help of members of the CIABA. That and other processes such as clearing, delivering the cartons to the boxing venue and setting up took a whole day.

There were 9 judges/referees, 2 jury members, 2 bell ringers, 2 announcers 2 computer operators, 3 doctors, security officers, cleaners, glove-boys and over 20 volunteers. Weigh-ins were carried out on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. Friday was a rest day because of the reduced number of boxers who attended the Games. Technical Officials and Boxing Team Managers were the members of the technical committee who advised the country teams the draws for each day and the rules and procedures on how the competition was to be held.

The Boxing competition was held at the National Auditorium during the period 22 to 26 September 2009. On Tuesday 22 September at 8am, a general weigh-in was done and the first match was drawn for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening. All matches were held in the evening because of the reduced number of boxers. After Thursday evening's fight, a meeting was convened for the Technical Committee to finalize the draw for the final night, Saturday 26 September and the notices were distributed to the country representatives and also placed on notice boards at all the accommodation compounds.

The competition was well organized and it was run on a computer scoring system which was beamed on to the auditorium wall so everyone could see the results. This made the competition more exciting because the patrons became privy to the points scoring and other technical issues that a Referee must consider.

During the 4 day competition, the support from the public was very encouraging. During all 4 nights the auditorium was packed. The ring area was secured and kept clean all the time.

The CIABA would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped in the running of the tournament and most particularly, Government and the PMG Organising Committee for their endless and tireless support.

CIABA believes that the tournament has been an eye opener and a learning experience for all its members but without the support of all concerned, such boxing tournament would not have been a successful one. It has been a pleasure for CIABA to work together with the PMG, CISNOC, Officials, Technical Officials and all codes. The highlight of the event was the presentation of the medals with the Cook Islands boxers picking up a silver and bronze medal for the team.



Venue: Rarotonga Golf Club (22-25 September, 2009)

Tournament: 72 holes stroke play

IF Technical Delegate: David Mangan (NZ Golf)

Competition Manager: Criss Foster

Assistant Competition Manager: Darryl Brown

Referees: Antony Willis, Mike Attridge, Jacque (NC)

Scorers: Steve Simpson, Phillip Urlich

Starter: Bruce Graham



GOLF MEDAL TALLY TABLE

Position	PGA	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Cook Islands	4	0	1	5
2	Samoa	0	3	1	4
3	New Caledonia	0	1	0	1
4	Fiji	0	0	1	1
5	Tahiti	0	0	1	1
6	American Samoa	0	0	0	0
7	Niue	0	0	0	0
8	Norfolk Island	0	0	0	0
9	Morthern Marianas	0	0	0	0
10	Solomon Islands	0	0	0	0
11	Wallis and Futuna	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	4	4	4	12

HIGHLIGHTS

The tournament began under magnificent weather conditions – a bright sunny day lightly fanned by the Trade Winds. The 9 hole course was in excellent condition which spoke eloquently of the proficiency of the Green Keeper and his small team of workers as well as the considerable effort given and the expenses engaged by the Rarotonga Golf Club.

The tournament was planned to be played over 4 days but due to unexpected bad weather conditions on day two the number of playing days, by agreement, was reduced to 3 with 36 holes on the second playing day. The competition was played in very good spirits with teams, at the end of each playing day, sharing the good and the bad times.

In the Men's individual event, the lead changed hands a few times but Kirk Tuaiti picked up the lead on playing day 3 to go on and wind gold for the Cook Islands. Patrick Fepuluai won the silver for Samoa after a play off with Sonny Karati (COK) who finished with the bronze.

In the Ladies' individual event, Charlotte Navarro (NC) led most of the way to a play off with Elmay Viking (COK). Elmay won the gold, Charlotte the silver and Leleanga Meredith took the bronze medal.

In the teams' event:

Men:

Cook Islands	849
Samoa	853
Fiji	866

Ladies:

Cook Islands	928
Samoa	940
Tahiti	953

The Cook Islands made history in this discipline coming out tops by sweeping all four gold medals with a winning team in Elmay Viking, Alice Pilkington, Tuaine Marsters, Kirk Tuaiti, Sonny Karati, Danny Webb and James Herman.

Of interest was the performance of those who had experienced overseas training and tournaments. Fiji had two players who played regularly in the NZ development championships and Niue had one of the same. Elmay Viking and Kirk Tuaiti of the Cook Islands showed what they had learned from their experiences in Australia.

Dave Mangan was an excellent IF delegate whose experience as an events co-ordinator for New Zealand Golf ensured the smooth running of the tournament and within the Rules of Golf. Simon Muckley, a Pro from the Miramar Golf Club, Wellington, generously shared his technical knowledge of golf with Team Cook Islands.

The Management of Team Cook Islands (Golf) and the players wish to extend deep gratitude to all who, in one way or another, contributed to a very exciting and highly successful tournament





Lawn Bowls

Competition Manager: Phillip Tangi

Assistant Competition Managers: Kairua Takai, Henrica Wilson

IF Technical Delegate: Kerry Clake



LAWN BOWLS MEDAL TALLY TABLE

Position	PGA	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Cook Islands	4	1	2	7
2	Fiji	3	3	1	7
3	Niue	1	0	0	1
4	Tokelau	0	2	0	2
5	Samoa	0	1	3	4
6	PNG	0	1	2	3
7	Norfolk	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		8	8	8	24

HIGHLIGHTS

Six countries competed in all disciplines (Singles, Pairs, Triples & Fours) in competition for both men and women and in the Women's Singles Norfolk Island also competed. The competition was a credit to the Organising Committee led by the President of the Cook Islands Lawn Bowling Association, Mr. George Paniani, along with a small team of dedicated volunteers from the host club.

The Tournament Management Group comprised hard workers and their friendly disposition and a "can do" attitude ensured what was always going to be a successful event. The weather tested Management on only one day but with the co-operation of all teams time lost was made up over the following two days and the tournament continued without further delay.

The team of helpers at the Rarotonga Bowling Club, led by President Veia Mani, worked hard to prepare the green to competition standards and they also ensured that the Clubhouse functioned well, both in terms of catering and hospitality.

The tournament was conducted under Sets of Play for the Commonwealth Games. Applied also was a time limit on a green running between 12 – 14 seconds on most days. The time limit of 3 hours was fine for Singles, Pairs and triples but was a struggle in the fours competition.

The Cook Islands Ladies team dominated in all events except the singles. Niue claimed the single women's gold medal. In the men's division, the Fijian team dominated in all discipline except in the singles. Our single player David Akaruru won our first ever gold medal for the men in Lawn Bowls.

In total the Cook Islands team collected 7 medals (4 Gold, 1 Silver, and 2 Bronze).

Although the bowls games were played through some challenging weather the comradeship and high levels of play was maintained right throughout the competition.

Prior to the convening of the Games, the Cook Islands Bowling Association was fortunate to receive facility upgrading support from Government which assisted the Association with hosting the various teams from around the region.

The local volunteers and technical officials that also gave a hand made the competition an amazing experience for all the visiting bowlers who, during speeches and conversations, commented on the extraordinarily friendly sporting atmosphere displayed by all during the whole tournament.



League 7's

Competition Manager: Sisi Short

Assistant Competition Manager: Tekao Herrman

IF Technical Delegate: David Lakisa



RUGBY LEAGUE 7S MEDAL TALLY TABLE

Position	PGA	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Fiji	1	0	0	1
2	Cook Islands	0	1	0	1
3	Samoa	0	0	1	1
4	Tonga	0	0	0	0
	Total	1	1	1	3

HIGHLIGHTS

Overall the League 7s tournament went well. The competition was keen with no team giving quarters and during the two days of the competition the supporting crowd was very enthusiastic which showed that they enjoyed some well played League.

Three Technical Officials from Australia attended the tournament – David Lakisa (IF Technical Delegate), Jayson Elkin, Robert Bowen – together with three referees. David Lakisa was professional in every respect and was there at the BCI Stadium from early morning until the games ended with suggestions and reminders on what was needed for both the competition and the players.

Areas of concern were the inadequate level of communication and understanding between the Venues Manager of the Cook Islands Investment Corporation and the tournament managers as well as the inadequate provision of ice and cold water drinking stations.

Notably positive, however, were the cordial, informative and well structured meetings of the Team Managers which ensured a smooth running competition; the usefulness of walkie talkies; the enthusiastic contribution of volunteers and the excellent job of the National Environment Services in clearing the re-cycling stations.

The Final results were:

Fiji	Gold
Cook Islands	Silver
Samoa	Bronze



Cook Islands NEWS
AS SOLID AS THE ISLANDS WE STAND FOR



Netball

Competition Manager: Pasty Hockin

Assistant Competition Manager: Elizabeth Tou

IF Technical Delegate: Tina Browne



NETBALL MEDAL TALLY TABLE

Position	PGA	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Fiji	1	0	0	1
2	PNG	0	1	0	1
3	Cook Islands	0	0	1	1
4	Niue	0	0	0	0
5	Tokelau	0	0	0	0
6	Tonga	0	0	0	0
	Total	1	1	1	3

HIGHLIGHTS

The PMG Netball competition started with the pool games on Tuesday, September 22 closing with the finals on Saturday, September 26. The Mini Games were held approximately a month after the World Youth Netball Championships which allowed a beneficial transfer of management and technical knowledge and experience. Come the beginning of the PMG Netball Competition, the volunteers were well aware of procedures and it being on a much smaller scale and, therefore, less demanding from the operational and management point of view, the Competition proceeded smoothly from beginning to end.

Due to the late withdrawal of Samoa and the Solomon Islands the draw was reconstructed into two pools of three: Pool A – Cook Islands, PNG, Niue; Pool B – Fiji, Tokelau, Tonga.

Qualified and neutral umpires were required to officiate the competition and the requisite numbers had to be flown in from overseas. They were originally planned to be accommodated at the CIFA Academy but accommodation was subsequently arranged at the Edgewater and paid for by Oceania Netball.

The entire competition was held in the new Telecom Sports Arena which was completed in time for the World Youth Netball Championships 2009. It is a magnificent facility, built to world class standards with the latest technology used in the flooring.

Competition Results:

Day 1: Fiji 58 – Tonga 32; Cook Islands 65 – Niue 28.

Day 2: Tokelau 42 – Tonga 36; PNG 67 – Niue 27.

Day 3: Fiji 57 – Tokelau 27; Cook Islands 63 – PNG 67.

Day 4: Tonga 52 – Niue 44; Fiji 52 – Cook Islands 50; PNG 58 – Tokelau 35

Day 5: (FINALS). Cook Islands 64 – Tokelau 31; Fiji 58 – PNG 51

GOLD – FIJI; SILVER - Papua New Guinea; BRONZE – Cook Islands.

After 3 days of competition it became noticeably clear that the girls from Fiji and Papua New Guinea were both very fit and highly competitive. The first surprise of the competition came on day 3 when PNG defeated the host Cook Islands team by 4 goals. Fitness spelled the difference in the last quarter. To have a chance at the GOLD Medal the host team had to defeat Fiji on day 4. Both teams, arch rivals, knew the importance of the match and had much respect for each other. It was a stirring tussle to the last goal. Fiji won by two goals in the last quarter by virtue of its superior fitness. Of statistical interest in respect of the medal winners regarding total goals scored, PNG topped with 243, followed by the Cook Islands with 242 and Fiji with 225.



Rugby 7's

Competition Manager: Ben Koteka

Assistant Competition Manager: Atatoa Herrman

IRB Delegate (FORU): Michael Groom

Referee's Manager: Fraser Nooroa

Overseas Referees: Eva Mafi (Tonga), James Bolambiu (Fiji),
Petelo Petelo (Samoa)

Games Coordinator: Teina Tearii

Venue Manager:

James Haurua

Volunteers Manager: William Tuivaga

Media Manager:

Maureen Hillyard

IT Manager : Teariki Peyroux

Judicial Chairman:

Henry Puna



RUGBY 7S MEDAL TALLY TABLE

Position	PGA	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Samoa	1	0	0	1
2	Fiji	0	1	0	1
3	Tonga	0	0	1	1
4	Cook Islands	0	0	0	0
5	New Caledonia	0	0	0	0
6	Niue	0	0	0	0
7	Papua New Guinea	0	0	0	0
8	Solomon Islands	0	0	0	0
9	Tahiti	0	0	0	0
10	Wallis & Futuna	0	0	0	0
Total		1	1	1	3

HIGHLIGHTS

The two-day tournament, the last two days of the Pacific Mini Games, was blessed with glorious weather thereby eliminating any problems which may have arisen had there been rain.

In this tournament of 10 participating countries, it was great to see regular world class IRB Sevens circuit teams from Samoa, Fiji and Tonga and the standard of their performances were noticeable better than that of the other teams and was reflected in the medal winnings.

To ensure a well organised tournament, regional and local resources were tapped and the standard IRB Sevens template was applied. Much pre-planning and paperwork was required and over 50 people were directly involved in the management of the tournament. As a legacy this allowed a great opportunity to develop local event-management capacity for regional or international events attended by world-class teams and officials.

Because there were only two changing rooms available, both situated underneath the grandstand, 10 pop-up tents (6x3) were set up on the nearby double-court tennis area with basic chairs, tables and portaloo facilities nearby. For warming up most teams used the Nikao sports field which was just a safe and short walk from the tournament field.

From the point of view of the Cook Islands' team some important lessons were learnt. It was clear the team lacked in size, physicality and rugby 7's classy tournament experience. Moreover preparation plans were severely hampered by player availability, passport issues, inability of the team to train together sufficiently and financial constraints for in-country and overseas players' travel. A mere month before the Games four top players were ruled ineligible due to changes to the Charter rules following the Samoa Games. In the end two players were recruited from other codes to make up the final 12-man squad. However, under the circumstances, the Cook Islands team did very well under the care of Vase Samania as Coach and Oki Apera as Manager.

It is of significance for the future of rugby 7s in the Cook Islands that the PMG team members were mostly below 20 years.

The Cook Islands Rugby Union is deeply grateful to all those who were directly involved in the management of the tournament, the volunteers, the supporters and government for the facilities for, together, this made for a very successful 7s tournament.



Sailing

Competition Manager: Rick Hickling

Assistant Competition Manager: Peter Hayes

IF Technical Delegate: David Brooks



SAILING MEDAL TALLY TABLE

Position	PGA	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Cook Islands	3	1	3	7
2	New Caledonia	2	1	1	4
3	Tahiti	1	0	0	1
4	Fiji	0	2	2	4
5	Samoa	0	2	0	2
6	American Samoa	0	0	0	0
7	Papua New Guinea	0	0	0	0
8	Wallis & Futuna	0	0	0	0
	Total	6	6	6	18

HIGHLIGHTS

The perfect sailing conditions on Aitutaki lagoon added colour to the great performance given by our young Cook Islands sailors.

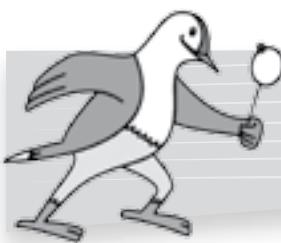
To top the sailing competition, pioneering the Aitutaki lagoon was a feat in itself.

Logistics involved in preparing for the arrival of teams, confirming accommodation, meals and sailing competition site were always accepted as being very challenging. But these challenges were made light by the help of a very committed team of officials and local volunteers whose passion for sailing surpassed all petty distractions and mishaps which Team Cook Islands Sailors took in their strides each day as they prepared to sail.

Special mention of the volunteer technical officers from the Rarotonga and Aitutaki sailing clubs, who contributed immensely to the success of the event. Special thanks to the P.R.O. Ian Clouston for making it 'happen'. For his professionalism, firmness and calmness at all times was testimony to his credit must be made.

The thirteen power craft were the perfect number required but whether the "drivers" were a necessity or not is debatable. For future events, it might suffice to equip a limited number of these boats with proper lengthy tow ropes to get competitors out and back in light airs.

Last but not least, the people of Aitutaki, with their enthusiastic backing, were a credit to themselves, especially the magnificent catering. And last but not least, the fantastic venue, and special mention of the Marsters family who gave generously their motu (islet used during the sailing competition as the starting and ending point for races) without thought to being compensated fully.



Squash

Competition Manager: Robert Skews

Assistant Competition Manager: Heimata Karika

IF Technical Delegate: Col Clapper

SQUASH MEDAL TALLY TABLE

Position	PGA	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Papua New Guinea	3	1	0	4
2	New Caledonia	1	2	2	5
3	Samoa	0	1	2	3
4	Cook Islands	0	0	0	0
5	Fiji	0	0	0	0
Total		4	4	4	12

HIGHLIGHTS

The support from Oceania Squash Federation was first class and having quality input assisted in the delivery of the Squash competition format during the Games.

There were some hiccups working with the Sporting Pulse page. A little more training on a one on one basis would have increased the usage and timely inputs to the page from the results of the day. More familiarity with the page prior to the competitions would have increased the comfort levels of officials in their allocated tasks.

Tournament director – Heimata Karika conducted a fantastic tournament, ensuring referees and players and games flowed. Her work was well supported by the court management/cleaning team lead by Marie Priest and her team.

The new court facilities housed in the Telecom Multi-Sports Complex are world class. Some teething issues with scorers decisions on cut balls because they were located on top of the squash courts could be corrected in future by locating them on raised podiums downstairs. As the scorers were located upstairs there was some issue with those in the downstairs gallery not hearing the scoring progress, but this issue can be rectified with loudspeakers in the lower gallery.

On the whole the tournament went very well with all countries enjoying the competition.

Although one or two hiccups at the awards ceremony, these remained minor to the overall atmosphere of accomplishment that everyone enjoyed.



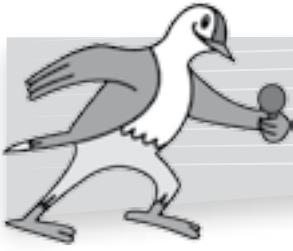


Table Tennis

Competition Manager: Tearoa Irorangi

Assistant Competition Manager Tony Kimiora

IF Technical Delegate Graeme Ireland

TABLE TENNIS MEDAL TALLY TABLE

Position	PGA	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Vanuatu	5	1	3	9
2	Fiji	1	4	0	5
3	Tahiti	1	2	3	6
4	New Caledonia	0	0	1	1
5	American Samoa	0	0	0	0
6	Cook Islands	0	0	0	0
7	Kiribati	0	0	0	0
8	Samoa	0	0	0	0
9	Solomon Islands	0	0	0	0
10	Tonga	0	0	0	0
	Total	7	7	7	21

HIGHLIGHTS

The table tennis venue proved a challenge for the Table Tennis Cook Islands. Normally competition venues are set up with a minimum of 6 tables to ensure the competition flows within a timeframe of a week. However with the use of Aro'a Nui Centre, the competition had to be spread over two weeks. Fortunately the IF technical delegate approved the changes.

Daily technical volunteers would sweep, mop and clean the venue floor to ensure no slippage to players. Because the doors had to be closed at times the heat was a consideration. However no mishaps to competitors occurred during the competition.

There were some issues with the location of the table tennis venue as all countries and officials were late on some occasions causing delays in the program. Where there were long delays waiting for teams, the competing country showed true sportsmanship by being patient. On occasions delay occurred in the competition due to efforts to locate technical officials accommodated on the other side of the island. Transporting competitors and officials proved an important challenge during the competition and for future reference the locating of the competition outside the main centres of the Pacific Mini Games focus must be taken into account.

Hiccups in the information technology department included very late set up of internet connections and computers and printers to be able to post results as soon as they were confirmed.

The fact that no prescribed competition table tennis balls were received was noted by all competing countries.

Table Tennis Cook Islands also experienced its share of the confusions and delays that surrounded the awarding of medal ceremony. In regards to the Medal awarding ceremony and all that was required for it, the PMG Organising Committee needed a more effective liaison with the management of the Table Tennis competition. Official guest/sponsor presenters did not arrive in the first week and so the competition manager took the initiative to identify presenters from among the few dignitaries that were present to watch the competition.

Inspite of low public spectator levels, the competition enjoyed some historical highlights:

- o This competition saw a lot of very young players taking to the court
- o The Vanuatu young team dominated in all the individual events
- o Three young officials from Aitutaki qualifying as ITTF Basic Certified Umpires & officiating at these Games
- o Table Tennis Cook Islands hosting its first regional Table Tennis competition.



Tennis

Competition Manager: Lynn Samuel

Assistant Competition Manager: Louisa Tukaroa

IF Technical Delegate: Dan O'Conner

TENNIS MEDAL TALLY TABLE

POSITION	PGA	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	New Caledonia	5	2	0	7
2	Cook Islands	2	1	1	4
3	Tahiti	0	2	0	2
4	Samoa	0	1	6	7
5	Vanuatu	0	1	0	1
6	American Samoa	0	0	0	0
7	Fiji	0	0	0	0
8	Kiribati	0	0	0	0
9	Norfolk Island	0	0	0	0
10	Solomon Islands	0	0	0	0
11	Tonga	0	0	0	0
	Total	7	7	7	21

HIGHLIGHTS

The new National Tennis Complex at Nikao has been tipped as one of the best sporting facilities for tennis in the region to date. On these courts, the Pacific saw some outstanding tennis matches and at the end of the day, the Cook Islands golden girl – Kairangi Vano stepped up to collect her gold!

Although New Caledonia triumphed with gold medals collected in the men's and women's teams, men's doubles and singles and mixed events, our Team Cook Islands was able to upset their winning streak in the women's doubles and singles events. Kairangi Vano took out the Gold medal in the women's singles for the Cook Islands, and went on with Brittany Teei to claim the Gold medal in the women's doubles.

Top tennis like never before seen in the country was experienced over the 9 days of the tennis tournament. The success of the tournament was a team effort led by Tennis Cook Islands officials and volunteers and supported by the Oceania Tennis Federation officials. Special mention of the volunteer ball boys and girls who tirelessly ensured balls, property and courts were immaculate throughout the tournament was noticed and appreciated by all those who participated at these Games.





Touch Rugby

Competition Manager: Ronnie Siulepa
 Assistant Competition Manager: Pareina Tangata
 IF Technical Delegate: John Howard



TOUCH MEDAL TALLY TABLE

Position	PGA	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Cook Islands	2	1	0	3
2	Samoa	1	0	1	2
3	Fiji	0	2	0	2
4	Niue	0	0	1	1
5	Papua New Guinea	0	0	1	1
6	Tahiti	0	0	0	0
Total		3	3	3	9

Six countries competed in this discipline. Four of them are several times larger in area and population than the Cook Islands. Team Cook Islands, therefore, did well to win two Gold Medals for the men's and mixed touch events of the competition, while the women's team settled for Silver against Samoa in their finals play off.

All games were played at the Cook Islands Football Association's grounds in Matavera and, despite some hitches in transportation, all teams were fielded on time and within the confines of the programme.



Triathlon

Competition Manager: Kevin Henderson
 IF Technical Delegate: Juliet Fahey
 Assistant IF TD / Race Referee: Terry Sheldrake



TRIATHLON MEDAL TALLY TABLE

Position	PGA	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	New Caledonia	3	1	2	6
2	Tahiti	0	2	0	2
3	Cook Islands	0	0	1	1
4	Fiji	0	0	0	0
5	Guam	0	0	0	0
6	Niue	0	0	0	0
7	Northern Marianas	0	0	0	0
8	Solomon Islands	0	0	0	0
9	Tonga	0	0	0	0
Total		3	3	3	9

Our Bronze Medal Team: Thomas Henderson, Jen-nie George, Geoff Stoddart

HIGHLIGHTS

Twenty five athletes from 9 island countries took to the triathlon field on a beautiful Wednesday morning with perfect conditions for swimming, cycling and running. There were 11 men and 14 women who competed in this event.

The course included a 1500m swim, a 40 kilometre bike ride circuiting the Hospital Road and back to Avatiu Wharf, and a 10 kilometre run within the vicinity of the Avatiu wharf area.

The all-star studded teams of New Caledonia and Tahiti were expected to feature prominently in the first and second place line ups. It was a warm moment for the Cook Islands team to scrape in before Fiji to claim the bronze medal in the Team Event, with star performances from Geoff Stoddart, Thomas Henderson and Jennie George.

The Avatiu Wharf provided a compact setting for spectators to witness each transition of the race and to endlessly cheer on their competitors as they whizzed, jogged, or swam past.

Road management under the watchful eye of Len Edwards and his team was top performance and other than a competitor pulling out of the race during the cycle section, no major mishaps on the roads were experienced.



Va'a/Canoeing



Competition Manager: Emma Williams

Assistant Competition Manager: Tania Wichman

IF Technical Delegate: Charles Villierme (President of IVF)

VAA / CANOEING MEDAL TALLY TABLE

Position	PGA	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Tahiti	10	0	0	10
2	New Caledonia	0	5	4	9
3	Cook Islands	0	4	2	6
4	Fiji	0	1	3	4
5	Niue	0	0	1	1
6	Guam	0	0	0	0
7	Northern Marianas	0	0	0	0
8	Palau	0	0	0	0
9	Papua New Guinea	0	0	0	0
10	Samoa	0	0	0	0
11	Wallis & Futuna	0	0	0	0
	Total	10	10	10	30

HIGHLIGHTS

The Va'a Competition began on Wednesday 21st October 2009 with a blessing ceremony for all 14 V6 and 16 V1 canoes. Two representatives from each country were nominated by their team to help with the blessing of the canoes.

Spread over four days the program format was as follows:

- o 500 & 1500m sprints men and women (heats, semi, and finals) – Muri Lagoon

- o 10km, 15km, 20km, & 30km distance races (finals) – Avarua Wharf

The two days sprint races belonged to the paddlers. All teams were winners in the eyes of the Competition Committee. Despite the rain, the wind and the waves, the sprint days were great days for the paddlers, not so much the Officials.

The V1 Woman's Final (500m) was won by Hinatea Bernadino (Tahiti), with Natalie Evans(Fiji), and Elsa Pauga (New Caledonia) coming second and third, respectively.

Manatea Bopp Dupont (Tahiti) led the men's V1 500m final, with Christophe Tuluari (New Caledonia), and Mario Mausio (Fiji) taking second and third places.

Tahiti dominated in the V6 500 and 1500m sprints, taking out 4 Gold medals for both the men's and women's events in these finals.

In the long distance marathon races, 7 countries participated. The results follow:

Woman V1 10km

Lane	Paddler	Country	Heat Time	Place
6	Hinatea Bernadino	Tahiti	1.01.28	1
3	Rosemelle Terii	New Caledonia	1.03.30	2
2	Natalie Evans	Fiji	1.06.51	3
7	Paiao Short	Cook Islands	1.08.12	4
9	Diana Tauvale	Samoa	1.08.58	5
5	Karen Misipeka	Niue	1.14.35	6
4	Sue Schlub	Guam	1.20.29	7

Mens V1 15km

Lane	Paddler	Country	Heat Time	Place
6	Teva Rete Ebb	Tahiti	1.19.50	1
7	Reuben Dearlove	Cook Islands	1.20.58	2
3	Noel Kevin	New Caledonia	1.22.30	3
2	Mario Mausio	Fiji	1.28.00	4
5	Femeli Poimafiti	Niue	1.28.05	5
9	Mark M Williams	Samoa	1.29.59	6
8	Penisio Talalua	Wallis & Futuna	1.34.52	7
1	Maba Vakona	Papua New Guinea	1.50.02	8

The final races for the competition were the V6 men and women's 20 kilometre marathon. This is an event that all paddlers have been training for over the last two years. Tahiti once again dominated in these races, although the Cook Islands women's team managed to slip in past New Caledonia to claim the silver medal.

Woman V6 20KM Marathon

Lane	Country	Heat Time	Place
6	Tahiti	1.43.28	1
7	Cook Islands	1.45.31	2
3	New Caledonia	1.47.28	3
2	Fiji	1.54.29	4
9	Samoa	1.56.29	5
1	Papua New Guinea	1.59.05	6
4	Guam	2.07.50	7

In the men's 30 kilometre marathon race, New Caledonia proved too good for the Cook Islands team to receive the silver medal after Tahiti with a good time of 2 hours, 16 minutes and 27 seconds.

Men V6 30KM Marathon

Lane	Country	Heat Time	Place
6	Tahiti	2.12.06	1
3	New Caledonia	2.16.27	2
7	Cook Islands	2.18.53	3

2	Fiji	2.26.42	4
8	Wallis & Futuna	2.30.31	5
9	Samoa	2.31.48	6
1	Papua New Guinea	2.33.11	7
4	Guam	2.39.12	8

The competition organising team extends sincere congratulations to all paddlers from around the Pacific for an excellent feast of committed competition, with special congratulations to Tahiti for winning all the Gold Medals for the code of Va'a at these Games.

The Va'a competition would not have been successful without the support of the many volunteers who relentlessly served the officials, spectators, and especially competitors during the busy days. A special word of thanks also goes out to the international technical officials from New Zealand and Tahiti. Some of these people came at their own costs to help run the competition.

Support from Government (Marine Resources) was magnificent. This support saw world class lanes pegged for the sprint course, and support to the ocean races as well. There were other unnamed businesses and individuals whose contributions in kind, person and finance lifted the profile and performance of the organising team at these games. And although there were some long waits in between catering and restocking of our competitors energy levels, Cook Islands PMG Organising Committee pulled it off and the code of Va'a are so grateful.



Weightlifting

Competition Manager: Unakea Kauvai
 Assistant Competition Manager: Joseph Kauvai
 IF Technical Delegate: Paul Coffa (OWF President)

HIGHLIGHTS

Competitions were held from Tuesday 29th September to Thursday 1st October, 2009 at the newly built Telecom Sports Arena, Nikao, Rarotonga. The three day program was the first ever International Weightlifting competition to be hosted by Cook Islands Weightlifting Federation. Despite the small number of people involved in this code in the Cook Islands the preparation for, and running of the competition did not experience any major problems. The facilities in terms of venues and equipments were rated as of high international standards.

A total of 14 female and 51 male athletes competed in the various weight categories during the 3 days competitions.

A total of 39 gold, 36 silver, and 31 bronze medals were up for grabs. The medal tally per country follows:

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Fiji	8	3	7	18
Samoa	13	4	5	22
Nauru	6	3	0	9
Kiribati	9	3	6	18
FSM	3	0	0	3

Niue	0	6	0	6
Solomon Islands	0	6	0	6
Palau	0	3	0	3
Cook Islands	0	3	2	5
Tonga	0	2	3	5
New Caledonia	0	3	4	7
American Samoa	0	0	1	1
Tuvalu	0	0	3	3
Totals	39	36	31	106

- The sole female weightlifter from the Cook Islands, Louisa Peters, just missed out on the medals, down by only 2 kgs in the snatch and 1 kg in the clean & jerk, but a commendable effort considering that she was the youngest in the group and her first ever competition.
- Brothers Sam and Sirla Pera were able to win 3 silver medals and 2 bronze medals respectively for the Cook Islands. It was unfortunate that Sam was not able to remain and continue his training at the Oceania Weightlifting Academy in Noumea having returned to the Cook Islands for personal reasons earlier in the year. According to the Director of the Academy, Mr Paul Coffa, Sam would have won gold medals had he remained in New Caledonia to continue his training.

Samoa's female weightlifter, Ele Opeloge, smashed three records during these Games in the Commonwealth Senior Record Snatch (125 kg), the Oceania Senior Record Snatch (125 kg), and the Pacific Senior Record Snatch (125 kg).

In the men's section, Itte Detenamo of Nauru, broke the Pacific Senior Record Snatch (176 kg).

The training venue at Avatea School Hall assisted competitors build up to their lifting day and the closeness to the competition venue was greatly appreciated.

There was some discussion on the high cost involved in the construction of a specially designed stage and warm up platform for the competition. In hindsight this was not an important requirement of the competition. The cost to the host Government could have been minimised if the competition had been held at another suitable venue such as Aro'a Nui Hall or Avatea School Hall.

Top refereeing was witnessed and appreciation to Paul Coffa and Mathew Curtain for staging a professional competition format well equipped with weight equipment, electronic refereeing system and competition management software. It is a credit to Mr Curtain that he has recently been appointed Competition Manager for weightlifting at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

CIWF is also grateful for the generous support received from the various quarters, in particular from the Sports Director, Mark Brown, Sports Manager & Technical Advisor, Robert Graham, MFEM Officer Steven Barrett, CIIC Officer and Manager of the Telecom Sports Arena, Mr John Strickland for their tremendous assistance.

CIWF is particularly thankful that both Steve and John were present to give a hand not only during the setting up of the competition venue but also during the competitions.

The new Telecom Sports Arena and the newly acquired weightlifting equipment offers great opportunity for the CIWF to host future international competitions, in particular the annual Oceania and Commonwealth competitions. To this end CIWF has submitted "Expressions of Interest" to host both the 2012 Oceania and Commonwealth Weightlifting Competitions.

CIWF also extends its appreciation to everyone else involved in the successful hosting of the 2009 Pacific Mini Games including all sports officials involved in the games, the caterers, cooks, security people, liaison officials, drivers, etc. Congratulations for jobs well done.

Finance / Administration

Priscilla Maruariki took Directorship of this Division over 8 months out from the start of the Games. She led a team of over 35 professional officers and management staff to ensure the smooth running of the payments of goods and services related to the organising and running of the Games. Her managers sorted through ticketing, legal, procurement, human resource requirements, and information technology and supply services.

Responsible for the disbursement of payment for goods and services purchased for the Games within the guidelines of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management processes, her team has worked hard to ensure the essentials required by each sporting code, island team, and competitor has been covered.

Although ticketing packages proved a success on launch days, attendance and promotion of tickets for sale proved a challenge.

- Admin
- Finance
- Ticketing
- Legal Services
- Procurement
- Human Resources
- Information Technology

The information technology unit was responsible for setting up at each competition venue access to internet, computer equipment and resources that would facilitate networking locally and internationally. In the early months before the Games a suggestion to explore the development of our own Sporting website for the Games was discussed, but in the end developing a working relationship with Sporting Pulse took precedence.

The Human Resources arm of the Division was kept busy, recruiting volunteers and skilled workers for the multitude of tasks required to ensure the Games functioned seamlessly. Training of kitchen hands and servers, induction courses for liaison and protocol responsibilities, and all the while ensuring all the volunteers were duly registered and accredited took up the bulk of the Human Resource Manager's time.

Marketing / Communications

This Division was headed by Tui Short, a seasoned manager from the first Pacific Mini Games hosted by the country in 1985. His division worked hard to secure sponsorships, and promote the Games through marketing, merchandising, and branding campaigns. In addition, an innovative host broadcasting agreement was signed with a local joint venture company for the first time in a Pacific Mini Games event.

Tui was brought onboard to progress a lot of the planned marketing activities from 2008. During his short time in the position he was able to consolidate and confirm almost \$2 million worth of sponsorship deals, in cash, kind and service. This feat was made possible with the help of a dedicated team of managers and professionals that would back up his negotiations and discussions with contracts, information, and forward plans.

- Sponsorship/ Admin
- Merchandise & Distribution
- Image & Signage
- Media/ Advertising
- Public Relations
- Adopt a Country
- Tourism
- Host Broadcast

Coming into the position fairly late, Tui had to begin by sorting through some of the logistical errors in sponsorship and marketing deals progressed by an earlier marketing team. This did not faze his enthusiasm and by the eve of the Games, he was able to deliver to the CEO and the Board of Directors a fairly robust marketing and sponsorship program.

With support from professional marketers, he was also able to ensure maximum signage and public relations for sponsors, competitors, and the PMG organising committee. The launching of the Games mascot was a success and Kuki, the Kukupa has become the image of the Games and the Cook Islands over the Games period.

Tui's team were able to consolidate an impressive listing of sponsors who were confirmed in three tier levels as follows:

- o Tier 1 sponsors served cash injections of \$200,000 and up to \$500,000.
- o Tier 2 sponsors provide cash or in-kind support up to the value of \$200,000.
- o Tier 3 provided funding or in kind or service support ranging from \$10,000 to a maximum of \$50,000.

TIER 1	TIER 2	TIER 3
BANK OF THE COOK ISLANDS TELECOM COOK ISLANDS	TURTLES COOK ISLANDS TRADING CORPORATION (CITC) TE APONGA UIRA (TAU)	EDGEWATER RESORT COOK'S ISLAND BUS FRANGI/VITAL WATER THE COMPUTERMAN COOK ISLANDS NEWS PITT MEDIA GROUP RADIO 88 FM ORIGIN GAS TRIAD AIR RAROTONGA COOK ISLANDS TOURISM

Infrastructure /Logistics & Support Services

This Division headed by Pa Epi, and Tania Temata (second in charge), had the task of ensuring the living, competing, catering, transportation, and comfort levels of all competitors and technical officials to the Games had been considered and catered for.

To successfully host the Games the Cook Islands Government has had to invest in:

- ✓ a new purpose built indoor sports stadium,
- ✓ upgraded Tereora National stadium including the installation of a synthetic athletics track,
- ✓ upgraded facilities for Lawn Bowls,
- ✓ improved community sporting facilities and,
- ✓ upgrade of the schools & hostels for accommodation purposes.

The Division finalised agreements with each school on Rarotonga that was involved in hosting PMG sports teams. Shower and laundry support was installed in accordance with agreements as were phones and amenities that would ensure the comfort of the athletes while in the converted villages. Pick up and drop off of linen change at each village was confirmed with the contracted laundry service.

Prior to the arrival of athletes each school was stocked with the necessary beds, bedding, cleaning equipment, portable showers and amenities. Desludging and meter reading checks were conducted ahead of team arrivals also. Working alongside school parents/teachers associations, security and support services were identified, trained and stationed on a 24 hour basis at each school.

The designated dining halls around the island were equipped with state of the art serving equipment, hygienic supplies, and waste management systems, and the catering/serving volunteers were all trained up well before the first team arrived. Games menus were planned and confirmed well before the arrival of participants, and commercial ovens and electrical requirements were installed to support the catering contractor's requirements.

Fleets of vehicles were hired for the duration of the Games to assist in the movement of athletes, technical officials and VIPs to venues and appointments. Despite the normal hitches, and minor oversights the Division worked long hours to ensure that teams and their management were connected within the PMG program. Cooks Buses also assisted the throughflow of spectators and athletes from venue to venue. Capable drivers were seconded from the public and private sector.

On a daily basis, the Division managed the installation, stocking, and operation of competition venues stationed around the island and ensured reliable, medical, VIP, and sporting support facilities constantly.

The task of beautification involved a six month lead up to the Games, village planting program around the island, well organised rubbish collection and disposal systems during the Games, and an island-wide campaign that extended into all homes on Rarotonga and Aitutaki to take pride in our environment and hosting of the Games.

Operations

Headed by Sonny Williams and supported by Mona Ioane, the Division took charge of ensuring the smooth running of the opening and closing ceremonies, organising the protocols involved in receiving each island team as they arrived into their villages with the Games Mayor and the flag raising team, overseeing cultural performances and medal award ceremonies throughout the Games, and linking Pacific Games attaches with their VIP counterparts from the region.

The team was also responsible for the organisation of outer island cultural teams that stayed behind after the annual Constitution Celebrations to lend a hand to the PMG Organising Committee in human resources and cultural performances. Outer island communities took part in the historical opening and closing ceremonies and were able to witness and be involved in many of the key events of the Games.

- Venue Management/Overlays
- Policing/Security
- Beautification
- Accommodation/Villages
- Catering
- Transport

- Village Mayor
- Stage/Programs
- Culture
- Medal Ceremonies
- Flag Raising
- VIP Protocol
- PGA Attaches
- Control Centre
- Relay

The Division was able to rope in many community and non-government agencies that were able to supply essential services and goods relating to the medal awarding ceremony. For instance, over 1,000 head eis were prepared for all medal awarding ceremonies during the Games. In addition neck and head eis for dignitaries and VIPs were also served by women's and youth groups throughout the country. The Cook Islands Girl Guides and Boys Brigade Associations took charge of coordinating this activity.

The tragic events of 29th September, when Samoa, and to a lesser extent Tonga were struck by a devastating tsunami were etched into the memory of these Games, as sporting comrades dropped competitive rivalry to comfort Team Samoa and Tonga. Special prayer and church services were organised and attended by Cook Islanders and island teams attending the Games.

Outer Islands

Headed by Ms Frances Topa-Apera, this Division was responsible for: ensuring the equitable participation of the Sister Islands in the hosting of the Games and organising and coordinating with the Aitutaki Island Authorities the successful hosting of the Sailing Competition.

Frances had her tasks set out for her in terms of ensuring the flow of information from the outer islands to the PMG organising committee, and ensuring that all outer islands were aware of the Games programs and their input into the program.

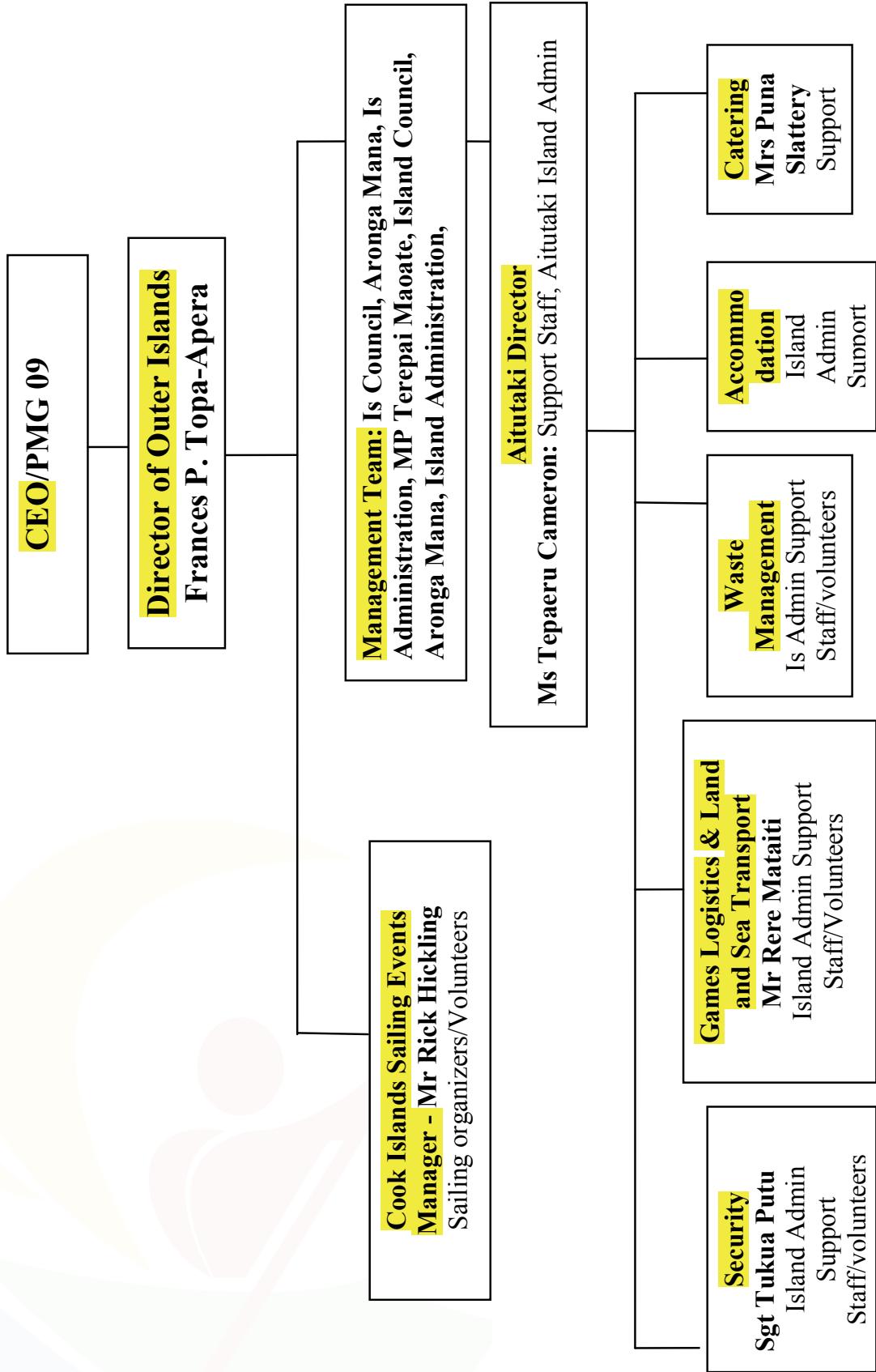
- Aitutaki Sailing Competition
- Outer Islands Volunteers
- Outer islands Supplies

Her team also had the task of ensuring the resources required to confirm outer islands participation at the Games was allocated and accounted for. The Ministry of Culture supported her efforts particularly in the mounting of cultural performances, drum and singing segments and cultural displays during special breaks in the sporting program.

An important task was to liaise and maintain good lines of communications and operations with Sailing Cook Islands, the key organiser and host of the Sailing competition in Aitutaki. This relationship involved ensuring that logistical arrangements for hosting the sailing competition were delivered and available to the organisation in a timely and efficient manner.

Some of the highlights of the island communities participating included:

- Island communities participation through their cultural programmes was successful in showcasing cultural heritage to the Games;
- The supplies of maire (leafed lei's) for both the opening and closing ceremonies was successfully achieved and put traditional significance on both occasions;
- All logistical arrangements in Aitutaki were successfully achieved;
- All contractual arrangements dealing with the catering, fuel supply, accommodation, rentals and hobie cat hireage were satisfactorily achieved;
- The sports equipment and overlay requirements were in place before the start of the Games;
- All, air, land and sea transport arrangements were achieved effectively prior and during the games;
- The Aitutaki Island Administration focal point and her team were fantastic and did an absolutely amazing job in supporting the successful hosting of the sailing competition;
- Team Cook Islands achieved 3 gold medals from sailing competition;
- The Aitutaki/Akaiami venue for the sailing competition is a unique experience for the competitors and for the history of the Pacific Mini Games.



Appendices

PREPARING FOR THE PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2009

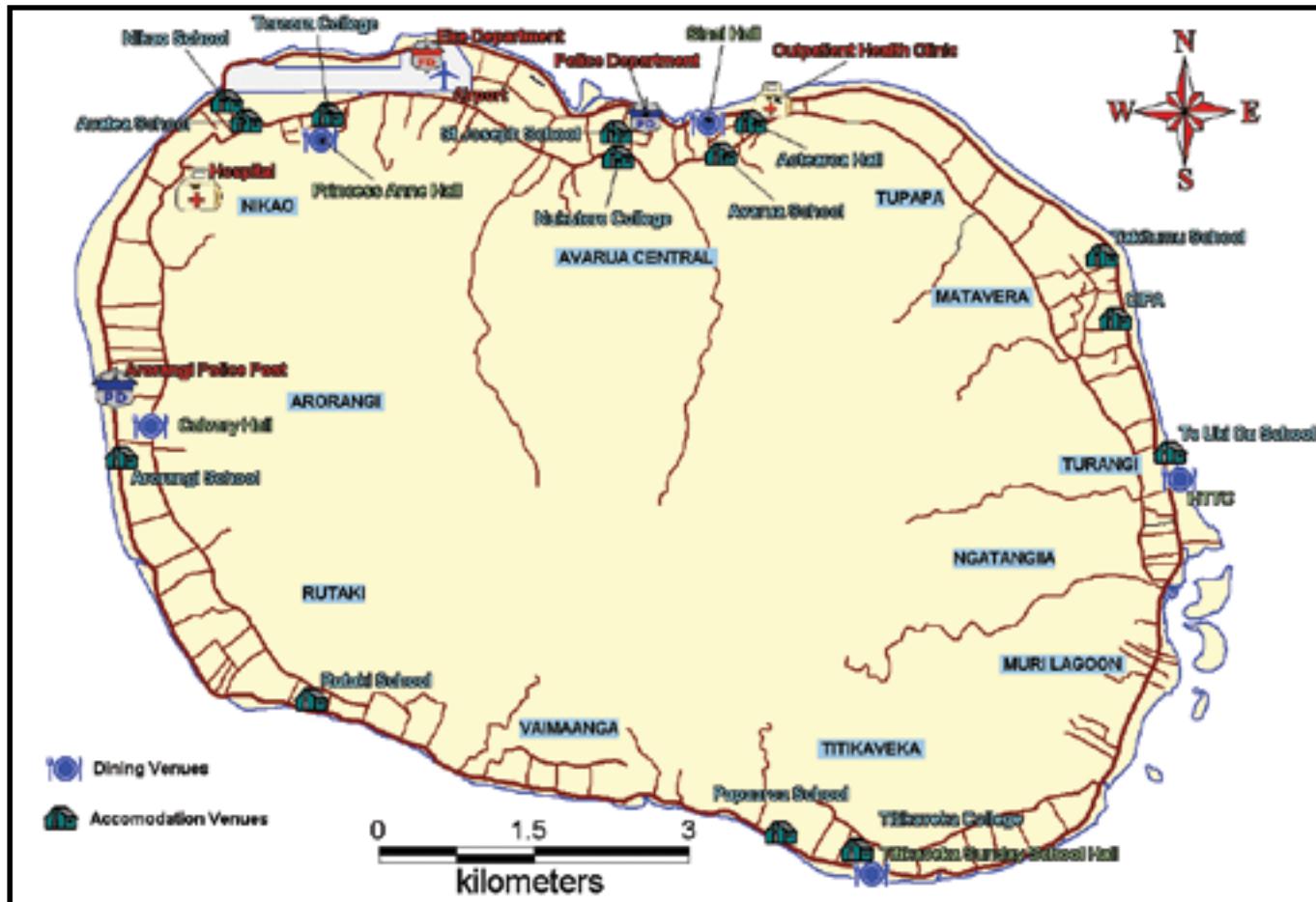
CISNOC in partnership with Government has worked hard and efficiently to prepare our country to deliver these games. The Government of the People's Republic of China have been exceptional in supporting Government/CISNOC efforts.

A loan from China has built our Multipurpose Sports Centre, currently known as the Telecom Sports Arena(TSA). Further assistance from Government has seen the Tereora Athletic Stadium upgraded to world class standard for our athletes to use at these Games. The Bank of the Cook Islands has naming rights on this facility for a limited number of years. Also around the island, sporting facilities and schools to be used as accommodation villages and training facilities for the athletes have received major upgrading and renovation work.



Accommodation & Dining Venues

(INCLUDING AITUTAKI ISLAND)



ACCOMMODATION VENUES	COUNTRIES	DINING HALLS
1. AVARUA SCHOOL	1. Tokelau 2. Niue 3. Vanuatu 4. Northern Marianas	Sinai Hall
2. AOTEAROA CENTRE	5. Guam	Sinai Hall
3. ST JOSEPH SCHOOL	6. New Caledonia	Sinai Hall
4. NUKUTERE COLLEGE	7. Samoa	Sinai Hall
5. TEREORA COLLEGE	8. Tuvalu 9. Kiribati 10. Nauru 11. FSM	Princess Anne Hall
6. AVATEA SCHOOL	12. Tahiti 13. American Samoa	Princess Anne Hall
7. NIKAO MAORI SCHOOL	14. Papua New Guinea	Princess Anne Hall
8. ARORANGI SCHOOL	15. Fiji	Calvary Hall
9. RUTAKI SCHOOL	16. Wallis & Futuna 17. Palau	Calvary Hall

ACCOMMODATION VENUES	COUNTRIES	DINING HALLS
10. TITIKAVEKA COLLEGE	18. Cook Islands	Titikaveka Sunday School Hall
11. PAPAAROA SCHOOL	19. Tonga	Titikaveka Sunday School Hall
12. COOK ISLANDS FOOTBALL ACADEMY	Technical Officials	HTTC
13. TE UKI OU SCHOOL	Technical Officials	HTTC
14. TAKITUMU PRIMARY SCHOOL	Solomon Is	HTTC
15. AITUTAKI - HOTELS	All Countries Sailors	Hotels Aitutaki
Private Accommodation	Norfolk Is	Aquarius Hotel
<i>In addition, church halls and school facilities around the island have been converted into spacious dining halls to host the island teams.</i>		

In addition, church halls and school facilities around the island have been converted into spacious dining halls to host the island teams.



The Telecom Sports Arena is located in close vicinity to the Bank of the Cook Islands Stadium in the village of Nikao, inland from the Rarotonga International Airport.

OTHER VENUES INCLUDE:

- The National Auditorium situated in the village of Tupapa;
- The Rarotonga Golf Club in the village of Nikao ;
- The Rarotonga Bowling Club located inland in the heart of Avarua;
- The National Tennis Centre also in the village of Nikao, next door to the Golf Club;
- The Cook Islands Football Academy in the village of Matavera;
- Te Aroa Nui Hall in the village of Arorangi;
- The Sailing Club at Muri Beach in the village of Ngatangiia;
- Aitutaki Lagoon, Island of Aitutaki;
- Avarua Wharf in Avarua township;
- And the Avatiu Wharf also in the Avarua township.



Acknowledgements



During the closing event, when the Cook Islands dedicated delegation of Sports and Olympic Officials handed over the Pacific Games flag to Wallis and Futuna, the country felt a lightness of the load, and sadness in the air. The Games was officially over.

Through this report we have been able to relive again our country's contributions and our people's sacrifices in order to ensure that our brothers and sisters from the Pacific would enjoy our island homeland.

It's over, the days of sporting comradeship and glory. In its wake, we have inherited world class facilities, and fostered sporting excellence in our future generations. We have shared this moment in time with you all, and in closing I have been proud to have led a group of dedicated women and men through the build up to, and now the wrapping up of these Games.

I have no doubt that the sporting community of the Cook Islands will readily and gratefully acknowledge that the Cook Islands Government demonstrated its commitment to the development of sports as an integral element in its National Development and Strategic Plan through the construction of new and the enhancement of venues and facilities which equal high international standards. In this regard the significant contribution of the Government of China is gratefully acknowledged.

The Cook Islands Sports and National Olympic Committee through its Board members and staff made a significant contribution to the brick and mortar staging and the management of both the World Youth Netball Championships and the Pacific Mini Games 2009 as well as the promotion of the Olympic values of respect, friendship and excellence.

The private sector of our small nation, especially the business sector, comparatively small as it is in regional terms, willingly lent its strength and aura to the national effort to the staging of an event that all Cook Islanders can thump their chests with pride. They gave back to the community in a notably generous manner.

Who could possibly forget the heartfelt contribution of the volunteers and the people of this nation who gave of their time, skills and effort with marked generosity and without thought of financial reward. I cannot imagine how the Games could have succeeded in the manner it did without this wonderful army of volunteers.

Na te Atua mana tatou pouroa e akakoukou mai, I raro I te tamaru o Tona aro'a e te au.
May our powerful God bind us together, under the cover of His love and peace.

As the CEO of 2009 PMG Ltd I, Mac Mokoroa, am honoured to have been involved in this significant chapter in the history of my beloved country.





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