



## **NOTES ON THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS**

### **AITUTAKI, OCTOBER 2021**

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#### **DAY 1: THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

#### **OPENING OF THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS**

##### **Event 1: Opening Ceremony**

1. Emcees for this event were Sonny Williams and Retire Puapii
2. Band for this event were Rurutaura Tauta and his sons, Aberahama and Junior Tauta
3. A set of VIP Seating were arranged in front of the main stage for the following guests:
  - a. Mayor of Aitutaki, His Worship Mr & Mrs Tekura Bishop
  - b. NZ High Commissioner to the Cook Islands, Her Excellency Tui Dewes
  - c. Religious Advisory Council of Aitutaki, led by Rev. Frank William
  - d. Religious Advisory Council of Rarotonga, led by Bishop Tutai Pere
  - e. Aitutaki CICC Konitara Ekalesia, led by Rev. Ngarangi Tuakana
  - f. Tamatoa Ariki
  - g. President of the House of Ariki, Kaumaiti Nui
  - h. Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, Hon. Mark Brown and Mrs Brown
4. Seven Chiefs of Ariki from Aitutaki were seated on white plastic chairs behind the VIP front row
5. All guests were welcomed by Te Pare o Nga-Ariki Tokoa with a special chant; escorted by Terai Joseph and assisted by staff from the Ministry of Cultural Development. Raising of the National Flag and the Cook Islands National Anthem were led by the Boys Brigade Brass Band of Arorangi CICC.

6. Prayer Service were conducted by the Religious Advisory Council of Aitutaki, by the following denominations:
  - a. Free Church
  - b. Cook Islands Christian Church
  - c. Catholic Church
  - d. Seventh-Day Adventist Church
7. Official speeches: Welcoming speech by Pastor Charlie Taamo, Chairman of the 200 Years Bicentennial Committee, followed by the following:
  - a. Tamatoa Ariki, Teao Tangaroa – Kiikore Mataiapo
  - b. Kaumaiti Nui
  - c. Bishop Tutai Pere, Chairman of the Rarotonga Religious Advisory Council
  - d. His Worship, Tekura Bishop
  - e. Honourable Prime Minister, Mark Brown
8. Performances:
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> placing Bicentennial Song performed by Daniel Tutai, composed by Corina Ngatamariki
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> placing Bicentennial Song performed by Rima Tuakana, composed by Rev. Ngarangi Tuakana
  - c. Bicentennial Theme Song performed by Cook Islands Singers
  - d. Aitutaki Cultural Performing Group
9. Closing Prayer by Rev. Tuakeu Daniel.

### **Event 2: Cultural Entertainment Night**

1. Emcee for this event was Tukumate Riki
2. Order of Appearance:
  - a. Arutanga/Papehia Family: String Band
  - b. Amuri/Atiu/Arorangi Brass Band: Imene Tuki
  - c. Vaipae/Titikaveka: Kapa Rima
  - d. Nikaupara/Mauke: Imene Tuki
  - e. Ureia/Pa Enu Tokerau/Ngatangiia: Kapa Rima
  - f. Rereu/Pamate: String Band
  - g. Tautu/Mangaia: Kapa Rima

### **DAY 2: FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

#### **Event 1: Vainetini Exhibition**

1. Vainetini Exhibition was held at the Orongo Park, emcee was Tukumate Riki
2. Special Guests for the day were our Pa Metua Group and the Honourable Minister, Rose Toki-Brown
3. Tivaevae were on display, created by the different talented women of Aitutaki, judged by some women from Rarotonga
4. Band for this event were our Cook Island Singers:

- a. Teata Hauavaine Moeara
  - b. Tina Koronui
  - c. Emile Rima
  - d. Kutia Tuteru
  - e. Andre Tapena
5. Island groups who came to support were Titikaveka, Atiu, Mauke, Pamati and women from Aitutaki. MP Selina Napa, Tetangi Matapo and Agnus Armstrong were also present.

**Event 2:     **Volleyball Competition****

1. Today was a fun day, every team from every village representing the different villages of Aitutaki and the different islands of the Cook Islands were competing against each for Volleyball
2. Prize giving - Cash prizes of \$300.00 were allocated to every team who had participated
3. Closing Prayer by Rev. Travel Makara

**Event 3:     **Seventh Day Adventist Combined Church Service****

1. Service was held at Orongo Stage, started at 7.00pm
2. Opening Message was led by Pastor Eric Toleafoa
3. Special items were performed by the Amuri Boys, Vaireka Tribe, SDA Youth Choir, Aitu Youth and the Arorangi Brass Band
4. Closing Prayer by Pastor Charlie Taamo

**Event 4:     **Darts Competition****

1. This event was held at the Fishing Club, 7.00pm onwards
2. Each island of eight had four teams each, comprising of 16 players in total per team. Each team must have two females and two males
3. Winning teams:
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> Placing: Mangaia
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Placing: Mitiaro
  - c. 3<sup>rd</sup> Placing: Pamati

**DAY 3:         SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

**Seventh Day Adventist Combined Church Service**

1. Service was held at the Orongo Stage, with school session commencing from 9.30am onwards
2. Sermon was by Pastor Sarah Aratai
3. All islands were all represented at this Service, including all denominations
4. A combined lunch was prepared following the Service.

## **DAY 4: SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

### **Church Services:**

1. 9.00am Free Church Service, Ureia
2. 10.00am Cook Islands Christian Church, Vaipae
3. 10.00am Cook Islands Christian Church, Tautu
4. 10.00am Cook Islands Christian Church, Arutanga
  - a. Arutanga CICC had a Uapou after the afternoon service, led by two Takamoa Theological College Students, Hati Joe and James Jessie. This was held inside the CICC Church of Arutanga.
  - b. Collections made for this Uapou were given for the two Students by Rev. Frank Williams
5. 10.00am Apostolic Church, Arutanga
6. 10.00am Catholic Church, Arutanga
7. 10.00am The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, Arutanga

### **Event 2: Gospel Concert**

1. Hosted by the Apostolic Church, held at the Orongo Stage

## **DAY 5: MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

### **Cultural Performance Night**

1. Emcee for this event was Tukumate Riki, held at the Orongo Stage
2. Order of Appearance:
  - a. Vaipeka/Mitiaro: Imene Tuki
  - b. Vaipae/Titikaveka: String Band
  - c. Arutanga/Papeiha Family: Ute
  - d. Tautu/Mangaia: Drum Dance
  - e. Reureu/Pamati: Imene Tuki
  - f. Amuri/Atiu/Arorangi Brass Band: String Band
  - g. Nikaupara/Mauke: Kapa Rima
  - h. Ureia/Pa Enu Tokerau/Ngatangia: String Band
  - i. Vaipeka/Mitiaro: Kapa Rima

## **DAY 6: TUESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021 – GOSPEL DAY**

### **Event 1: Awakening to a New Dawn**

1. Emcee were Sonny Williams and Retire Puapii
2. Opening Prayer by Pastor Charlie Taamo

3. Speech by His Worship, Tekura Bishop
4. Truck with drummers left Orongo Park to drive around the island for the awakening of the island

**Event 2: Tama Tiki Tama Rangī**

1. From Arutanga Wharf, a group of boys carried a PĀ'ATA with a Bible on it to signify the arrival of Christianity onto the shores of Aitutaki, which headed towards Orongo Park, led by Tamatoa Ariki, Vaeruarangi Ariki, Rev. Frank Williams, Teariki Solomona and Teina Bishop
2. People stood on both side of the road allowing access for the procession to pass, with chants and drum beats played as everybody proceeded to the Commemorative Plaque

**Event 3: Unveiling of Commemorative Plaque**

1. Chant and welcome speech were delivered by Teina Bishop
2. Unveiling of plaque:
  - a. Queen's Representative, His Excellency Sir Tom Marsters
  - b. Tamatoa Ariki
  - c. Honourable Prime Minister, Mark Brown
  - d. His Worship, Tekura Bishop
  - e. Bishop Tutai Pere, RAC of Rarotonga
  - f. Rev. Frank Williams, RAC of Aitutaki
3. Blessing of the plaque was completed by RAC of Aitutaki, followed by Closing Prayer

**Event 4: Official Program for the 200 Years Bicentennial of Aitutaki**

1. Emcee were Sonny Williams and Retire Puapii
2. Special Guests were welcomed by His Worship, Tekura Bishop and escorted by MOCD staff members to their allocated seats
3. A program was followed for the Prayer Service in commemorating the arrival of Christianity to Aitutaki:
  - a. Bible reading was done by Rev. Ngarangi Tuakana
  - b. Prayer by Rev. Tuakeu Daniel
  - c. Bishop Tutai Pere delivered a special message
  - d. Traditional Hymn by Aitutaki
  - e. Sermon delivered by the President of CICC, Rev. Tuaine Ngametua
  - f. Hymn by the Aitutaki Choir
  - g. Closing Prayer by Rev. Ngarangi Tuakana
4. Two minutes ringing of bells around the Cook Islands were given before the 10 o'clock service started, signifying the 200 years
5. President of CICC commented about how people honoured the Queen's Representative and the Prime Minister by rising when arrived, but were all seated when the President of CICC arrived

6. Boys Brigade Brass Band of Arorangi CICC led everybody to Ziona Tapu, Arutanga CICC Church for the unveiling of the Commemorative Plaque

**Event 5: Unveiling of Commemorative Plaque at Ziona Tapu, Arutanga CICC Church**

1. A background on the plaque were given by the Director of the CICC Bicentennial Celebrations Committee, Mr Tangata Vainerere
2. The first sets of tivaivai were unveiled by the following guests:
  - a. Queen's Representative, His Excellency Sir Tom Marsters
  - b. Kaumaiti Nui
  - c. His Worship, Tekura Bishop
  - d. Representatives from the family of John Williams, Papeiha and Vahapata
3. The second sets of tivaivai were unveiled by the following guests:
  - a. Tamatoa Ariki
  - b. Rev. Tuaine Ngametua
  - c. Honourable Prime Minsiter, Mark Brown
  - d. Representative from Ngati Tepaki
4. His Excellency Sir Tom Marsters and Lady Tuaine Marsters presented some gifts after the unveiling
5. Closing Prayer by Rev. Ngarangi Tuakana
6. Everybody proceeded to the Orongo field for lunch

**Event 6: Lunch**

1. Each villages had tents up for lunch
2. Ureia did a PATAI of presenting food for this occasion

**Event 7: Nuku**

1. The Nuku was based on the arrival of Christianity to Aitutaki
2. Traditional Hymn, "Kia akameitaki ia te Atua, te Atua o te rangi" was sung at the closing of the Nuku
3. Closing Prayer by Rev. Frank Williams

**DAY 7: WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

1. This was Day 7 of the Celebration period in Aitutaki
2. Concert tonight showcased the following guest artists:
  - a. Andre Tapena
  - b. Tina Koronui
  - c. Emile Rima
  - d. Teata Nga
  - e. Tuaine Unuia
  - f. Kutia Tuteru

## **DAY 8: THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

### **Event 1: Unveiling of Plaque at site of first Tautu Church**

1. Unveiling of Plaque was held at Tautu Wharf, also known as Mata Poe o Te Ra. This is where the first CICC Church of Tautu was built, called Silo 1
2. Led by Numangatini Ariki, the Ui Ariki of the Cook Islands, Church Ministers and Members of Public were welcomed by Taiava Mose with a welcoming chant
3. Welcome address by Rere Mataiti
4. Opening Prayer Service led by Rev. Tuakeu Daniel and a Traditional Hymn by Tautu CICC
5. Address by spokesperson of Tautu, Papa Victor Ioane and Mona Ioane
6. The Plaque was unveiled by His Worship, Tekura Bishop and Mama Ruau Rongo, who is one of the landowners of this area, a Deacon of Tautu CICC
7. The Plaque detailed the History of the Gospel to Tautu and the construction of the first Church built in both languages, English and Cook Island Maori
8. Two trees were planted on site, first tree planted by Rev. Frank Williams, Rev. Tuakeu Daniel and Rev. Ngarangi Tuakana. Second tree was planted by Rev Arerau Maa, Numangatini Ariki and the Mayor of Mangaia, His Worship, Makitua Makitua
9. Traditional Hymn by Tautu CICC
10. Closing Prayer by Rev. Tuakeu Daniel
11. Everybody was invited to the Plaque Unveiling of Silo 3, the current Church of Tautu CICC

### **Event 2: Unveiling of Plaque at Tautu CICC, for Silo 3**

1. Welcome address by Rere Mataiti and Papa Victor Ioane
2. Unveiling of Plaque by Orometua Vaine Akangāroi, Mamatira Patia and Mama Orometua Marian Daniel
3. Blessing of the Plaque by Rev. Araveikore William
4. Closing Prayer Service by Rev. Araveikore William with a Traditional Hymn by Tautu CICC
5. All guests were invited for Lunch

### **Event 3: Ui Ariki Meeting at Tamanu Beach Resort**

### **Event 4: Muumuu Pageant**

1. Emcee for this event was Tukumate Riki
2. There were about 32 women who had competed for this Pageant
3. Aitutaki Band led by Nga Turi was the band for the night
4. Category Winners as follows:
  - a. New Fashion Category:
    - i. 1<sup>st</sup> Placing: Mama Orometua Marian Daniel

- b. Original Fashion Category:
  - i. 1<sup>st</sup> Placing: Selina Napa

**DAY 9: FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

**Event 1:** Touch Competition was held today at the Orongo field, which started at 9.00am.

**Event 2:** Darts Competition at the Fishing Club with six pairs from each of the eight villages.

**Event 3:** Seventh-Day Adventist Combined Prayer Service, started at 7.00pm.

**DAY 10: SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

**Event 1:** Seventh-Day Adventist Combined Church Service, started at 11.00am.

1. School session started at 9.30am.
2. Service was led by Pastor Charlie Taamo.

**Event 2:** **String Band Competition** at the Orongo Stage.

**DAY 11: SUNDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

1. Attended Church Service at Arutanga CICC, 10.00am service.
2. Interview sessions were carried out by the Director of the Bicentennial with each of the CICC Orometua from Arutanga, Vaipae and Tautu. Numangatini Ariki participated in this interview recording from Tautu.

**DAY 12: MONDAY 01<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

**CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS IN AITUTAKI**

1. Emcee for this event were Sonny Williams and Retire Puapii.
2. The actual program started at 5.00pm with Guests arriving shortly after 5.00p.m.
3. All guests were met by His Worship, Tekura Bishop, escorted to their allocated seats by the Ministry of Cultural Development.
4. Invited Guests included:
  - a. Rev. Frank Williams, Chairman for the Religious Advisory Council of Aitutaki
  - b. Bishop Tutai Pere, Chairman for the Religious Advisory Council of Rarotonga
  - c. Ui Ariki of Aitutaki



- d. Ui Ariki of the Cook Islands
- e. Honourable Minister George Angene
- 5. Closing Prayer Service was led by the Religious Advisory Council of Aitutaki
- 6. Thank you message delivered by Pastor Charlie Taamo, Rev. Frank Williams and Mr Tekura Bishop
- 7. Closing of this Ceremony was addressed by the Honourable Minister, George Angene

In 2023, our Christian nation will celebrate the Bicentennial in Atiu, Mitiaro, Mauke and Rarotonga.