



# Newsletter

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## Word from the Editor



*Asuao K. Pouono*  
Assistant Chief Executive Officer - Quarantine

### A deadline for quarantine non-compliance – June 2004.

*The level of quarantine non-compliance is still very high and not acceptable to quarantine. Items are being imported without import permits and/or health certification. In addition, goods are being smuggled into the country.*

*In its May meeting, the quarantine and export advisory committee (QEAC) decided to have the non-compliance problem under control by June 2004.*

*In the mean time, quarantine hopes to raise public awareness to achieve such a move. Quarantine has used TV, magazines, radio, posters, leaflets, consultations etc., in its public education campaign.*

**QUARANTINE'S STRATEGIC APPROACH TO PESTS IS TO KEEP THE RISK OFFSHORE, AND THIS APPLIES TO BOTH IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.**

*O loo i ai lava le mamalu o le atunuu latou te le o usitaia aiaiga faakuarenitini, poo auala e pui puia ai oloa feaveai mai faamai ma iniseti faalafua. Ua atofaina Iuni 2004 e fai ma taimi e faatapulaa ai faaiuga tuuavanao ua leva ona fai, i le va o le ofisa ma le mamalu o le atunuu. E tausaga atoa ua fai ai galuega faalauiloa, ina ia silafia e le mamalu o le atunuu le mea e ao ona fai. IA SAOGALEMU OLOA AUMAI, FAAPEA FOI OLOA FAATAU ATU I FAFO.*

## Sustainability of existing markets

*By Asuao K. Pouono*

Quarantine has a role to look for new market access. This is not to forgo our existing markets. In a report from staff members, there was no certification for banana export to New Zealand for May. While we are looking for new markets, it is equally important for us to improve and sustain our existing markets. Examples are taro, banana, cooked breadfruit and fish.

O le isi matafaioi a le kuarenitini, le sueina o maketi fou mo faaeleeleaga a le mamalu o le aufaifaatoaga. Ae ao foi ona tatou tausia lelei a tatou maketi ua i ai. E taua foi lo tatou taumafai ina ia faaleleia atili i taimi uma a tatou oloa o loo auina atu i fafo. Tatau ona fufulu mama talo ma fai, vela lelei ma aua ne i pisipisia ulu, ma ia faamama lelei i'a.

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# Revised Import Health Standard (IHS) for Green Bananas

By Asuaa. K. Pouono

Exporters have complained that their banana consignments are destroyed when they arrive ripe in New Zealand. The matter was investigated, and the pathway was reviewed, resulting in the revised pathway for green bananas entering New Zealand. Samoa quarantine now has the authority to certify green banana on inspection and packing in a pest proof box in Samoa. Ripening while being transported is no longer an issue. To clarify further, green bananas are not affected by fruit flies.

Quarantine consulted the exporters but they were not ready to implement the change owing to the requirement for the pest proof box. As a result, the previous IHS is still operational. The options are there for consideration, and the underlying risk is the destroying of produce in NZ.

Sa fai lava ma faafitauli le fai e taunuu i Niu Sila ua pula, ona e faaleaogaina. Sa toe soalaupule le mataupu ma Niu Sila, ma ua aumai ai le suiga fou. Ua mafai nei ona siakiina i Samoa fai, ma faamaonia ai e leai se fai pula, i le taimi e faapusa ai mo le aveina i fafo. Ua le popole foi la Niu Sila i le taunuu atu o fai pula i Niu Sila.

Sa feutagai ma i latou o loo faatauina atu le fai i Niu Sila, ma e sa latou faaalua le lei sauni ona o le tulaga manaomia o le pusa. O loo tatou alu lava la i le mea tuai. E avanoa le mataupu mo ni manatu faaalua.

*Green Bananas available for sale at the local market at Fugalei*

## Trade - But Trade Carefully

By Tofa E. Siitia

Free trade is the current trend for Samoa. It has a lot of benefits, but can be risky in respect to pests and diseases. Quarantine plays an important role in regulating this import, to ensure that trade is facilitated, and Samoa is well protected from pests and diseases. The same principle applies to the certification of exports.

Hence, it is important to consult with quarantine for a PERMIT to import, and PROPER CERTIFICATION for exports. QUARANTINE ANA-

LYSES AND MANAGES A PEST RISK FOR YOU, WHILE ENTERTAINING FREE TRADE.

E taua mo Samoa fefaatauaiga ma isi atunuu. E manuia ai tagata, ae i ai foi ona faaeteetega, i faamai ma iniseti faalafua. E vaavaai totoa i ai le kuarenitini, ina ia faagaioi fefaatauaiga, ae tumau le saogalemu o Samoa mai na faafitauli. O se fuafuaga taua mo oloa aumai, poo oloa auina atu i fafo.

Faafesootai le kuarenitini mo se pemitā mo oloa aumai i totonu o le atunuu, poo le siakiina ma le saunia o pepa mo oloa avatu i fafo. TATOU PUIPUI I FAAFITAULI E ONO AFAINA AI OLOA FEAVEAI.

## QEAC to be proactive

By Asuaa. K. Pouono

At QEAC's last meeting in May, members were urged to be more active in directing quarantine. It brought to mind a trip to Australia, where I learned of industry representatives being very influential on QEAC matters. Your contribution to quarantine is important.

Taua tele le sao o le komiti faufautua a le kuarenitini. Fai sou sao pe a e auai mai i a tatou fonotaga. i sau asiasiga i Ausetalia, e malosi tele le finau a le au fai pisinisi i le QEAC a Ausetalia. E alualu ai i luma le saogalemu ma le siitia o isi tulaga tau fefaatauaiga.

# Yachts!!

By Suzanne Brangwin

During May, six yachts sailed into the Apia harbour. This number showed an increase from April, probably due to the end of the cyclone season in the Pacific region. These yachts came from as far away as Finland and Portugal in Europe, Canada and New Zealand. Throughout the year, yachts arrive in Samoa from destinations all around the world.

On arrival in a new country, yachts must raise a yellow flag. This yellow flag is the international quarantine flag, which indicates that the vessel is healthy and requires clearance. Yachts need to be cleared by Customs, Immigration, Health and Quarantine on arrival.

Yachts arriving in Apia may be carrying a range of items that could present risk to Samoa. Examples of these risks are:

- Fresh fruit and vegetables which may be infested with live insects;
- Drinking water collected from other ports which may be carrying mosquito larvae;
- Live animals on board as pets that could be carrying exotic diseases;
- Live plants carried on board for decoration that may be hosting plant viruses.

Quarantine carries out routine inspections on all of these yachts. The authorities audit the amount of vegetables, meat and live plants on board; seize any fruit that is a fruit fly host; carry out visual inspections of ballast and drinking water for live mosquito larvae and examine the vessel for any



*A visiting yacht at the Apia Harbour*

other quarantine risk.

A veterinary check is carried out on any animal on board the vessel. In addition to this, any garbage to be disposed of from the vessel is delivered to the quarantine office for incineration. This form of destruction ensures that all risks are removed.

Next time you look out over Apia harbour and see a fleet of yachts, you

can be sure that quarantine has been on board in order to **'Protect Samoa's Natural Heritage'**.

E ono vaa faila sa taunuu mai i Apia i le masina o Me. Tele atunuu e o mai ai nei vaa, e faaeteete tele i ai ona o faafitauli ua lipotia mai ai. E siaki uma nei vaa e le Kuarenitini, ina ia mautinoa lo latou saogalemu ao i ai i Samoa.

## Look at what we've been saddled with!

By John Burton

Quarantine Officers at Faleolo Airport were concerned when they discovered two used and slightly dirty saddles, a pair of dirty jeans, and a pair of dirty gumboots, when they examined the case of a New Zealand jockey recently.

One would have thought that a New Zealander, who is well exposed to quarantine messages, and the heavy fines imposed in New Zealand, would have been particularly careful over the cleanliness of what is packed when travelling.

The items were confiscated on arrival

and the advice is to clean such items thoroughly by such travellers. The same principle applies to rugby boots, soccer boots, hiking shoes etc.. Transportable used items must be kept clean.

Sa maua i le malae vaalele i Faleolo ni laei ma seevae palapala, ma e o se auala e faigofie lava ona feaveai ai faamai ma meaola faalafua. E fautuaina lava le mama o ia mea, aua e masani lava ona feaveai e le au taaalo.

*Quarantine Officer inspecting dirty saddles at Faleolo Airport.*



# Visit from EPA, American Samoa

*By Tofa E. Siitia*

A team of two senior officers from the Environment Protection Agency in American Samoa visited in May to raise awareness on pesticides and other EPA related issues, in relation to trade between the two Samoas. Quarantine organised the programme with government agencies, local stores and wholesalers. The delegation was very pleased with the positive response and support from the local authorities.

TV Samoa interviewed the visiting team to get the message across to the public. Our pesticide registrar was signalled as a potential resource person at workshops for the territory.

Sa asiasi mai le susuga Lilomaiava Ikenasio ma le alii pule mai le ofisa e puipuia le siosiomaga a Amerika Samoa i le atunuu, e vaavaai i vailaau ma isi mataupu tau siosiomaga, ma ni aafiaga ia Samoa e lua. Sa fai se faatalatalanoaga i le TV, ona e i ai mataupu e tataua ona silafia e le mamalu o le atunuu. Faataitaiga- e sa ona ave se vailaau i Tutuila, pe afai e le i lesitalaina i le EPA a Amerika. E lavea i lenei lisi le vailaau fana vao (Paraquat).

*Three New Manuals of Instruction developed by the Samoa Quarantine Improvement Project*

## We are almost Ready!!

*By John Burton*

Staff in MAFFM can still remember what it is like trying to control the Taro Leaf Blight in the 1990's, and how difficult it was to organize everyone to best effect. Well, all that has now changed.

The Samoa Quarantine Improvement Project (SQIP) team has developed manuals of instructions, to assist in controlling and eradicating exotic pests and diseases before they get firmly established in Samoa. The manuals are oriented towards animal and plant pests and diseases, and they are flexible enough to provide information and assistance in controlling other kinds of unwanted introductions.

The manuals give guidelines and instructions on management, technical, and field operations on a wide range of probable pests and diseases, thus eliminating any repetition of the uncertainties of the past.

The next step is to train staff to be familiar with the manuals, and to carry out desktop and field training exercises to test MAFFM's readiness to act immediately, efficiently and effectively.

E manatua pea le pisi ma le le mautonu sa i ai le ofisa o faatoaga ina ua lavea le talo i le lega. Ua tapena se galuega sauniuni mo faalavelave faafuasei faapea. "Aua ne i aveina se avanoa e toe maua ai se isi faafitauli faapea i Samoa".

### *Coffee from where?*

*Did you know that Sri Lanka (previously known as Ceylon) was once one of the world's largest producers of coffee? So, what happened to change this situation?*

*The introduction of a fungus disease, coffee rust, virtually eradicated all Arabica coffee trees in Ceylon in the 1880s. This led to massive hardship for the country as exports declined to virtually nothing. It was not until they discovered that Ceylon was ideally suited to the growth of tea plants, Camellia thea, that the country was able to once again assume a position as a major world commodity exporter.*