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# INVESTIGATING CORAL REEF ETHNOBIOLOGY IN THE WESTERN SOLOMON ISLANDS FOR ENHANCING LIVELIHOOD RESILIENCE

## SHANKAR ASWANI Rhodes University

Coral reefs are of great socio-economic and cultural importance for many coastal communities across the tropics, yet little is known about the way people classify reefs locally and their close ecological and social relationships with these habitats. In a world in which coral reefs are increasingly threatened (Hughes et al. 2003, McClanahan et al. 2008), understanding how people perceive and use coral reefs is essential for predicting future ecological and social impacts, as well as for understanding human adaptation mechanisms to ecological change in these tropical marine ecosystems. This is particularly true for Oceanic islands, which are vulnerable socially and ecologically to deteriorating coral reefs, rising sea levels, and increasingly unpredictable climatic and geological phenomena (Lazarus 2012, McClanahan and Cinner 2012). Increasing human vulnerability to changing coral reefs, consequently, has resulted in numerous calls for comprehensive management using tools that include fishing regulations and quotas, marine protected areas (MPAs), and ecosystem-based management (EBM) for protecting coral reefs and other marine ecosystems. Other interventions, such as social safety nets, evacuation from vulnerable sites and diversification within fisheries, have been proposed to enhance adaptive capacity, ameliorate social and economic sensitivity, and reduce exposure to changing coral reefs (Cinner et al. 2012).

In the last few decades, authors have recurrently advocated the use of local/ traditional/indigenous knowledge in the management of coastal ecosystems to ameliorate their degradation (Berkes 1999, Drew 2005, Narchi *et al.* 2014, Ruddle and Johannes 1985) and build resilience to human generated environmental and climate change (Alexander, Bynum, Johnson *et al.* 2011; Mercer *et al.* 2010). Research has shown that documenting indigenous ecological knowledge is crucial to understand human decision-making processes in coral reef-human interactions. Human foraging practices are constrained by the flow of information between fishers and the environment, the variability of spatio-temporal events, and the uneven distribution of prey species across coral reef ecosystems (Aswani and Hamilton 2004). Ethnographic research also has shown that for coastal people the sea is not an inert world but a dynamic and ever-changing one—a realm that in addition to providing daily sustenance is historically and spiritually meaningful to those who interact with it (Hviding 1996, Ruddle and Satria 2010). For many coastal peoples, then, coral reefs are more than just resource exploitation areas. They also are geomorphologic features that allow or bar people from navigating, markers that define property rights of the seascape in relation to other coastal and terrestrial habitats, and cultural and historical features that embody tribal identity and ideology (Aswani and Lauer 2006a).

In this article, I describe people's ecological and social relationships with coral reefs in two extensive lagoon ecosystems in the Western Solomon Islands (Fig.1) that while relatively unspoiled are increasingly being degraded by human actions. Building upon more than two decades of unpublished and published research that describe particular aspects of a long-term research programme in human ecology (e.g., Aswani 1998, Aswani and Vaccaro 2008). I combine ecological and ethnographic data to analyse the people's environmental perceptions and the dominant characteristics of coral reef habitats in the region. These include the productive practices carried out in these habitats by local inhabitants, the prevalent climatic and environmental phenomena associated with reefs and their transformation, and the socio-cultural meaning of reefs for lagoon peoples from the standpoint of local ecological knowledge. Documenting people's ecological classification and socio-economic and cultural use of coral reefs is not just a descriptive effort, but rather is relevant for understanding human-environmental interactions and for creating comprehensive base resource maps of people's perceptions and behaviour.

From the perspective of building socio-ecological theory, understanding people's capacity to perceive and classify their coral reefs, as well as their ability to identify environmental changes, has implications for how knowledge systems mediate between marine ecosystems and human communities—a capacity that can affect people's resilience and vulnerability as coral reefs become increasingly threatened by environmental and climate change (Aswani and Lauer 2014). From the perspective of management, this information can be used for designing hybrid marine and terrestrial conservation plans that integrate local forms of knowledge and management with Western approaches to fisheries managements including marine protected areas and ecosystems based management plans (Aswani and Ruddle 2013). Ultimately, building upon local people's knowledge and institutions not only fosters inclusiveness and equity in resource management and conservation, but also can result in greater resource management success and concomitant livelihood resilience to climate and other environmental change.



#### STUDY SITE

The Western Solomon Islands are mostly of volcanic origin and are covered with dense rainforest. Extensive lagoon systems, including the Marovo, Nono, Roviana and Vonavona lagoons (Fig. 1), shelter fish, shells, corals and other marine life, and make this region an important biodiversity hotspot within the Coral Triangle (Allen 2007). The lagoon ecosystems display a gradient of habitats, including mangrove forests, river mouths, mudflats, grassbeds, coral atolls, barrier reefs and marine lakes, and have characteristics of both coastal and coral atoll lagoons. The geomorphology of most Western Solomon lagoons resemble a combination of coastal "restricted" and "leaky" lagoons as they are shore parallel, have a distinctive tidal hydrology, and have more than two entrances connecting the lagoons with the open ocean (Kjerfve 1994). Their passages are wide and deep, permitting the movement of large volumes of water-a characteristic of estuarine and coral atoll ecosystems which permits unimpaired water exchange between the open ocean and the lagoons, thus allowing for the development of coral reef communities of diverse ecological characteristics in the entrances and central zones of the lagoons.

The Roviana Lagoon in New Georgia Island extends from Munda to Kalena Bay near Viru Harbour. The lagoon is protected by a series of offshore, raised coral islands that developed during the Pleistocene from sea-level changes and accretion of coral limestone, organic debris and volcanic detritus (Stanton and Bell 1969). The outer lagoon shoreline is characterised by rugged and notched limestone with numerous inlets, bays, carbonate-sand beaches and moats (Stoddart 1969), while in the inner lagoon there are small islets, coral reefs and intertidal reef flats. The Vonavona Lagoon, adjacent to Roviana, lies northwest of New Georgia between Kohinggo and Parara Islands and has a similar topography to Roviana (Fig. 2), although the movement of large masses of water has favoured the development of more coral reefs in southern Vonavona.

The Roviana and Vonavona region is home to about 15,000 people who share a common ancestry and history and are mostly Roviana speakers. The Roviana Lagoon is divided into the political districts of Saikile and Kalikoqu to the east, each a collection of villages that was ruled until recently by a paramount chief. To the west are the hamlets of Nusa Roviana, Dunde, Kekehe, Lodu Maho and Kindu in the Munda area which either have chiefs or council of elders who independently control each hamlet. Vonavona is similarly divided into small and large chieftainships. Community leaders exercise control over the use of and access to natural resources within their particular customary land and sea territories, although changing demographic and consumption patterns coupled with large-scale resource extraction ventures are increasingly eroding these indigenous management systems.



Figure 2. The Roviana and Vonavona Lagoons, New Georgia, Solomon Islands (MPA sites established under our research and conservation programme in collaboration with local communities shown in dark grey). While people make money by shell diving, marketing of local produce, the selling of handicrafts, copra production and the operation of small stores, among other types of activities, the subsistence economy still plays a central role in the life of Roviana and Vonavona dwellers. Today, several livelihood activities threaten coral reefs. These include the small-scale, non-regulated exploitation of commercial species like holothurians, trochus and various shell species; increasing pressures on the subsistence fishery from small-scale commercial netting of fish, night diving for scarids and for rock lobsters for the growing tourist industry; collection of corals for building structures such as wharfs; the aquarium fish collection trade; and most importantly, sedimentation from poor land-based practices which impact on lagoon nursery areas (Halpern *et al.*, 2013). These, coupled with environmental effects related to climate change, are increasingly degrading coral reefs and their future role in providing ecosystem services (e.g., local food sources).

Roviana and Vonavona fishers have a deep awareness of the biological rhythms of their lagoons and the creatures that inhabit the numerous habitats. They possess ecological knowledge rooted in the maritime experiences of the ancestral coastal peoples who inhabited these lagoons (Vuragare and Koloi tribes), knowledge that is not only an intergenerational transfer of information, but is also one that is transformed within the context of people's practical engagement with, experience of and performance of productive activities in a dynamic and changing marine environment (Ingold 1993). Even so, as suggested by Hviding (1996) for neighbouring Marovo Lagoon, the indigenous epistemology is being challenged as islanders increasingly entangle with the outside world. Indigenous ethnobiology is being transformed by the introduction of new fishing technologies and Western environmental categories. In fact, recent research suggests that Roviana people are increasingly losing the ability to make fine taxonomic distinctions of various marine species (Aswani n.d.). For all this change, local fishers still: (i) have cognitive maps of the seascape and marine organisms therein, which translate into actual resource classification, use and allocation geographically; (ii) recognise local ecological processes and changes, including habitat structure (habitat delineation), species composition and distribution, and spatio-temporal biological events (spawning aggregations) and (iii) possess proxy information to identify sites that incorporate the ecological processes which support biodiversity, including the presence of exploitable species, vulnerable life stages and inter-connectivity among habitats (Olds et al. 2014).

Since 1999 my research team and I have collaborated with local people to establish a series of conservation measures, including temporary and permanent closures to manage coral reefs across many sites in the Western Solomon Islands (32 MPAs) (Fig. 2). The management sites were selected

through a combination of locally-driven assessments and the socio-ecological research of local habitats and associated management needs (as detailed in this paper). Temporal and permanent closures were selected following a perceived decrease in the size distribution and abundance of fish and invertebrates thought to be driven by fishing pressures, site preferences and village proximities. Some temporal closures, and their seasonal harvesting in particular, were established to conform to local social (e.g., death and feasting) and economic (e.g., need for cash for school fees) realities of Solomon Islands communities. As of 2014, various permanent and temporal closures were still operational (approximately seven or eight MPAs including Nusa Hope, Buni and Kozou among others), but a number of projects had been disbanded as a result of an ongoing religious conflict between various local communities.

## METHODS

For over two decades, my team and I have collected multiple data sets using a combination of ecological, geospatial, and anthropological methods to analyse: (i) people's environmental perceptions and the dominant characteristics of coral reef habitats in the region, (ii) the prevalent climatic and environmental phenomena associated with reefs, (iii) the productive practices exerted in these habitats by the Roviana and Vonavona people, (iv) local perceptions and effects of environmental and climatic change on reefs and (v) the socio-cultural meaning of reefs for inhabitants from the standpoint of local ecological knowledge.

#### Documenting Coral Reef Ethnobiology

Indigenous ecological knowledge (IEK) of coral reefs was documented through extensive participation in fishing expeditions and interviews with fishers. Open-ended, semi-structured and structured interviews with several hundred young, middle-aged and elderly men and women from the region were conducted between 1992 and 2014 to elicit IEK. Emic (local perspective) categories for coral reefs and associated species (as well as those of other habitats [see Aswani and Vaccaro 2008]) were documented by inquiring about: (i) the name and ecological composition of recognised reef types, (ii) the associated species of fish, molluscs and crustaceans found in each reef category, (iii) seasonal variations in the availability of different taxa found within each reef type, (iv) the existence of particular seasonal events such as spawning aggregations, (v) varying weather, tidal and lunar conditions and their impacts on coral reef types and fauna and (vi) local uses for each coral reef type and its associated species. Emic environmental categories were matched with corresponding Western ones to designate habitat composition and biotic taxonomies. The Latin binomial nomenclatures for identifying corals follow Vernon (1993); for shells, Cernohorsky (1978) and Hinton (1972); for fish, Masuda *et al.* (1984), Munro (1967) and Randall, Allen, and Steene (1990); for echinoderms and algae, Morton and Challis (1969); and for sea grasses, Waycott *et al.* (2004). All organisms were identified through photographs and specimen collections (particularly shells).

# Mapping Coral Reefs

To map the seascape, we first digitised 91 black-and-white aerial photos using a high-resolution scanner and then georectified the images so that they could be used as base maps. These digitised aerial photos were brought into the GIS and merged to create a mosaic of the lagoons. These large maps were used as visual tools to conduct participatory image interpretation exercises in each of the villages across the lagoons to identify coral reefs and other marine habitat types (Aswani and Lauer 2006a). During these focus-group exercises, fishers were instructed to identify and discriminate particular marine areas (e.g., coral reef types) to establish the spatial foundation for the ensuing analysis. Next, we worked with local fishers to delineate the seascape with GPS receivers and map indigenously defined biophysical areas, fishing grounds and spots, and associated coral reefs and other marine habitats. Local fishermen from each community guided a researcher in a small boat around the perimeter of each named area. During each trip, the locations of spawning, nursery, burrowing and aggregating sites for particular species within each recognised area were recorded and pinpointed with the GPS. The spatial extent of the area (represented as either lines or polygons) and the location of particular biological characteristics (represented usually as points) collected with the GPS receivers were consolidated into a large file and imported into our GIS database as a layer. Eventually, this information was ground-truthed (verified) via in situ habitat mapping and underwater visual census (UVC) surveys (see Aswani and Lauer 2006a for further details).

## Recording Foraging and Productive Practices in Coral Reefs

Productive practices were recorded by extensive participation in fishing expeditions. Participant observation consisted of focal follows, which involved keeping *in situ* time-motion records of over a hundred fishers' behaviours and measuring their catches. In addition, various fishers kept self-reporting foraging (fishing and gleaning) diaries to supplement this data set. This information was used to understand seasonal movements of fishers, to forecast the decisions that fishers make in the types and abundance of fish that they prey on, the use frequency of different coral reefs, and to understand the fluctuating intensification of fishing efforts as fishers respond to environmental transformations related to climate change (see Aswani 1998).

#### Tracking Coral Reefs, Climate and Environmental Change

Indigenous ecological knowledge of environmental change was recorded through two methods: interviewing and participatory image interpretation. For the interviews we used semi-structured interviews and free-listing exercises. Respondents were asked to describe and list the changes they had observed in various coral reef habitats, as well as across other domains (open sea, inner lagoon, land ecology, agriculture and weather) (n = 266). The responses were "free-listed" allowing each respondent to list as many responses as they wanted. The assumption was made that the first response was the most important change recognised by the informant and so forth. For each change, respondents were asked to free-list the causes of change and concurrently they also were asked to explain how they "adapted" to the change. Finally, respondents were asked when they first noticed the change. Changes and causes were each coded into a common set of responses and were reduced to the codes that elicited 95 percent of the responses. The remainders were given the code of "other". Data were examined to determine the most common changes observed for each system. The scores for each change were summed across all data (first listed change = 4, second listed change = 3, third listed change = 2, fourth listed change = 1) (Aswani and Abernethy n.d).

Participatory image interpretation was conducted in two villages (Nusa Hope and Olive) to analyse local perceptions of change in coral reefs over the past 25 years (1986-2011). Knowledgeable informants were selected through a snowball sample to interpret remotely sensed data (identify reef types) and delineate changes in coral reefs (e.g., bleaching) on large-format image printouts. Groups convened upon arrival in each community and meetings were held in each village's town hall. The group was informed that the objective of the exercise was to map collectively observed changes in coral reefs (and other habitats too) across the lagoons. They did this by drawing points, lines and polygons on the satellite images, colour-coded according to the nature of the impact. Afterwards, I photographed the marked-up images with a digital camera for digitising. To enable further analysis, Esri's ArcGIS software was used to digitise the participants' drawings and associated written descriptions. The photographs of each marked-up satellite image were geo-referenced, and each drawing was digitised as a unique point, line or polygon feature representing the location of an impact on coral reefs. The digital features were assigned attributes corresponding to the ancillary written data collected during the mapping exercise. These attributes describe: (i) the village of the participants who created the drawing; (ii) the domain (e.g., coral reef types) associated with the drawing and (iii) a description of the noticed impact (e.g., bleaching, anchor damage, disease, etc.).

## Identifying Cultural Meaning of Coral Reefs/Seascapes

To understand the cultural meaning of coral reefs for Roviana and Vonavona people, I studied customary management systems and their historical context using open and semi-structured interviews with household heads. These interviews explored kinship systems, tribal history, marine territoriality, and people's current perceptions of resource use and access rules. Key informants (mostly elders) were also interviewed about regional oral history and customary practices as they relate to fishing and coral reefs.

#### RESULTS

#### Coral Reef Ethnobiology

Western Solomon Islanders do not conceptually divide terrestrial and marine areas into separate domains. Rather they see their inclusive ancestral property estate, or *pepeso* for Roviana and Vonavona people, as including all terrestrial and marine habitats stretching from the interior of the New Georgia mainland all the way through to the open sea mid-way between the channel which separates New Georgia and other neighbouring islands (Fig. 3). Each pepeso is demarcated by a boundary (voloso) which divides the land and reefs of each respective estate. Boundaries generally follow major rivers flowing from the mountainous interior into the lagoon. At the barrier islands, territorial dissections are usually marked by the passages. In the Vonavona Lagoon area, where there are no major rivers, particularly on Parara Island, boundaries are marked by traditional shrines placed in inner lagoon islands and by certain topographic features. Within each major boundary, hundreds of smaller subdivisions separate individual land holdings, gardens, communal plantations, villages, and even households. A pepeso is divided into four major sections: The mainland (*tutupeka*), the lagoon (*poana* or *koqu*), the outer barrier islands (toba) and the adjacent sea-facing habitats (vuragarena), and the open sea (lamana). The tutupeka includes the interior forests, swamplands, rivers and bordering mangroves. The poana encompasses internal waters, inner lagoon islands, and from the mid-section to the interior shores of the barrier islands. The vuragarena comprises the mid-section of the barrier island (toba) to the outer shore, the adjacent reef drop, and the adjacent open ocean waters. Finally, the open-ocean where fishermen troll for bonito and tuna is considered the lamana. These domains, in turn, are highly diverse mosaic environments consisting of numerous habitat types.

Within each marine section, inhabitants divide each of the mentioned marine areas into named locations (the name usually preceded by the term *sagauru* 'reef') which are viewed as marine resource exploitation areas, geographical features that permit or restrict people from navigating, and cultural and historical markers that represent territorial boundaries and/or cultural sites



of importance. Next, fishers classify fishing grounds (habuhabuana) that are found within the locally named and delimited geographical areas (Aswani and Vaccaro 2008). Fishing grounds tend to be clearly definable habitats such as isolated reefs (or reefs surrounded by deep water), channels, bays, grassbeds, inland pools, coastal pools, mud flats, and sections of the outer reefs (reef slopes). Fishing grounds are recognised by native informants as productive depending on daily, lunar and seasonal variation. In areas where there are no human settlements, fishing grounds are identified as productive at all times, and other areas are only recognised as productive when certain migratory species pass through them. Fishing grounds themselves are composed of one or more areas or floating spots (alealeana), in which people drop their lines or nets to target particular species or assemblages of species. Underlying this cognitive construction of the seascape (Fig. 4), lagoon dwellers recognise a number of biological events of significance, such as spawning aggregations sites, as well as major and minor ecological assemblages of abiotic and biotic features (Figs 4 and 5). In what follows, I show the ethnobiological or emic conceptualisation of *major* and *minor* reef habitats and associated biotopes. Specifically, I review their correspondence with scientific habitat mapping, the activities that occur across these habitats, how people perceive changes in the marine environment and associated resources, and the place of spiritual beliefs in shaping cultural activities across the seascape.

*Inner Lagoon Shallow Reefs (Major).* The word *sagauru* is generic for 'reef', but it is usually employed locally in reference to inner lagoon shallow reefs ranging between one and four metres in depth. Shallow reefs or *sagaru masa*, are characterised by dead and live *Porites, Acropora, Millepora*, Faviidae,



Figure 4. Roviana perception of the seascape as represented by layers (or themes) in the GIS (Aswani and Lauer 2006a).





Agariciidae and Pocillopora coral colonies, as well as scattered Fungia corals. Other organisms such as branchial crowns (e.g., Spirobranchus giganteus) and sabellids (e.g., Sabellastarte sanctijosephi) inhabit the crevices of Porites coral heads (Womersley and Bailey 1969). Various species of Hydrocharitaceae sea grass (e.g., *Thalassia hemprichii* and *Halophila ovalis*) and *Halimeda* spp. macroalgae are spread over the dominant sand and coral rubble substrate (zalekoro). Shallow reefs are heavily exploited by everyone for fishing and collecting crustaceans and shells, particularly during the day low-tide/night high-tide season from May to September (masa rane/odu *bongi*). This habitat is good for fishing during early mornings and evenings but can also be good at noon on particular reefs. Fishers say that the best time for fishing in this habitat is during low and ebbing tides when reef and pelagic species concentrate in these areas. The best lunar phases are the new moon, first quarter and full moon. Fishing methods employed in shallow reefs include angling, trolling, netting, diving, spearing, and the use of piscicide leaves. The practice of each fishing method varies according to the tidal seasons or time of day. Some of the most important income-generating shells are gathered from these areas, such as cardita clams (Beguina semiorbiculata) and nassarius shells (Nassarius camelus), which are collected by men and women during the day low-tide season. Shells taken for subsistence purposes in shallow reefs include venus (Gafrarium tumidum) and ark shells (Anadara spp.). With the shift in tidal seasons in September, nocturnal low-tide permits divers to access multiple reefs where various species of sea cucumbers (bêche-de-mer) are found. Although sea cucumbers are harvested throughout the year, during this period the bêche-de-mer fishery intensifies. Once processed, bêche-de-mer is sold to Asian traders in Roviana and Honiara for export.

Inner Lagoon Mid-Depth Reefs (Major). Mid-depth reefs or sagauru lamana are inner lagoon reefs found at depths between five and 15 m. Like shallow reefs, mid-depth reefs include Porites, Acropora, Millepora, Faviidae, Agariciidae and Pocillopora coral colonies. Sea grasses and macroalgae are not as abundant as in shallow reefs because of water depth. The substrate is a mix of coral rubble and fine silt combined with sand. Mid-depth reefs occur throughout the lagoons and are prevalent in lagoon pools and channels. Local people recognise these areas as commonly colonised by large coral formations locally called huquru (Porites cylindrica), which in recent years have been severely affected by disease and bleaching. These coral colonies are good fishing spots because various species of fish, such as paddle-tail (Lutjanus gibbus), hussar (Lutjanus adetii) and yellow-margined (Lutjanus fulvus) snappers, aggregate in them during the full moon. While mid-depth reefs are considered good fishing grounds, they are not visited as commonly as shallow reefs. Men do most of the fishing here, as women and children prefer shallower waters. Line fishing is favoured during low-tide as larger fish concentrate in this habitat away from very shallow reefs, grassbeds and sand banks. Mid-depth reefs are visited throughout the year according to the lunar cycle and species targeted, and the preferred fishing times are as with shallow reefs. The most common fishing methods used in this habitat are drop-line, angling, trolling and diving. Diving in mid-depth reefs is more common in the Munda and Vonavona areas, since the waters are clearer than the more turbid Roviana ones.

Cape Reefs (Major). Cape reefs (miho sagauru) are reefs that are differentiated locally from other reef types because they form around capes or peninsulas that extend out from inner lagoon islands or mainland promontories, and present diverse prospects for fishing. These reefs are usually shallow and have similar characteristics to shallow inner lagoon reefs. However, colonies of soft corals such as Sarcophytum and Sinularia and some gorgonians are common in the sloping edges of these reefs. Common fishing techniques used by locals include trolling, angling, day and night spear throwing and spearfishing, netting and diving and gleaning for invertebrates. Various pelagic species, such as great barracudas (Sphyraena barracuda) and bluefin trevally (Caranx melampygus), aggregate in cape reefs, and experienced fishers know that fish forage up and down the fringing drops and wait for them to aggregate at the reef's edge. In the mornings and evenings between September and December, and during the last quarter of the lunar cycle, fishers angle and drop-line in cape reefs for vellowmargin (Pseudobalistes *flavimarginatus*) and titan (*Balistoides viridescens*) triggerfishes, scribbled snapper (Lutjanus rivulatus), and speckled-fin rock cod (Epinephelus ongus), as these species concentrate in the deeper edges of these areas.

*Reef Drops (Major).* The word *teqoteqo* refers to reef drops either in the inner or outer lagoon (smaller drops are known as *barapatu*). Those found in the inner lagoon extend from three to 40 m in depth and are located at the edge of lagoon channels, pools and passages. They are generally comprised of coral rubble and rocky substrates spotted with *Porites, Acropora, Pachyseris* and *Merulina* colonies, among other hermatypic coral families. In larger passages, colonies of soft corals such as *Sarcophytum, Sinularia* and gorgonians are common. Fishing here is good and fishers prefer early morning and late evening, low-tide, and the new and full moons. Drops bordering passages are good for fishing scribbled snapper, triggerfishes, speckled-fin rock cod, and flowery cod (*Epinephelus fuscoguttatus*) during the last quarter and 'no moon' (*koroqana*) lunar phases.

Outer lagoon reef drops, on the other hand, range between three and 200 m in depth and are more diverse than inner lagoon reefs because waters are clearer, thus affecting the distribution and density of coral reef species. Outer lagoon corals can cover up to 100 percent of the limestone substrate and include Pocillopora, Montipora, Acropora, Favia, Porites, Goniopora, Pavona, Echinophyllia, Lobophyllia, Seriatopora and Stylophora, among many others. Fishing in this habitat is good and less influenced by tidal variation of than along the inner lagoon reef drops, though weather conditions govern their ease of access. Currents are also an important consideration when fishing in the outer drops; Roviana fishers say that the best fishing occurs when bait "scent" follows the direction of the current towards the known fish location. For instance, if a fisher is fishing at the edge of a drop and the current is flowing outward to sea, the fisher should position away from the drop in the shallow shelf and cast the line towards the reef drop. Fishing methods in the inner and outer reef drops are similar, the most common being angling, trolling, bottom-lining, spearing and diving. Inner reef drops are used throughout the year, while outer drops are mostly used from August through December when large schools of barracuda (e.g., *Sphyraena iello*, S. putnamiae and S. barracuda) congregate in specific areas.

Outer Lagoon Deep Water Reefs (Major). Sagauru ruata are deep water reefs found in the outer lagoon that are usually not visible from the surface. The depth of these reefs ranges from 15 to over 100 m and dense coral formations including various Acropora, Montipora, Echinophyllia, Leptoseris, Pavona, Sinularia and gorgonians species dominate the rocky substrate (Morton and Challis 1969). Some ruata reefs are near the outer lagoon intertidal zone, while others are hundreds of metres away from the shoreline. Ruata reefs are used by men and are only accessible at specific times because southeast trade and westerly winds prevent access to these sites. Ruata are considered good fishing spots and, unlike inner reefs, they are productive throughout the lunar cycle. Midday and nights are the favoured times to fish here and fishing is optimal on full moon nights as currents are not too strong and certain species like paddletail snappers, big-eye bream (Monotaxis grandoculis) and red bass (Lutjanus bohar) aggregate in these reefs. Traditionally, a local fishing method named kura habili, involving the use of traps to capture humphead Maori wrasse (Cheilinus undulatus), was practiced during the last guarter of the lunar phase from September to December of every year in the shallower areas of this habitat. Today, the most common fishing methods used in *ruata* reefs are drop-lining, verticaltrolling, and regular trolling if schools of fish are spotted on the surface.

*Pede Coral Colony (Minor). Pede* is used as a generic term to refer to coral colonies of the *Turbinaria, Pavona* and *Acropora* families, which are found in mid-depth and shallow areas of the inner lagoon. These infrequent colonies tend to stand apart in sandy bottoms away from coral reefs and, while visited throughout the year, these are more intensively exploited during the day low-tide season. The most commonreef fishing methods used here are angling and diving. All sorts of coral fish species are caught here, the most prevalent being paddletail snappers, various groupers (e.g., *Cephalopholis microprion, C. boenak,* and *C. cyanostigma*) and brown-headed emperor (*Lethrinus hypselopterus*). In recent years anthropogenic processes have led to the demise of many of these coral formations.

Huquru Coral Colony (Minor). Huquru or Porites cylindrica coral colonies, can be found in shallow reefs around islands inside the lagoons and are considered good fishing spots. Local divers note that they are good places to catch smaller green and hawksbill turtles, which often are found resting under these coral formations. Frequent reef fish include hussar snappers, various species of groupers, black-banded seaperch (*Lutjanus semicinctus*), yellow-margined seaperch, and sweetlips (*Plectorhinchus chaetodonoides*, *P. goldmanni*, and *P. obscurum*). Also, *hikama koqu* 'painted rock lobsters' (*Panulirus versicolor*) are found here. The prominent fishing methods practiced in *huquru* are angling and diving with locally-made spear throwers known as *bugiri*. Like *pede*, these formations have been decimated in recent years.

Patu Voa Coral Head (Minor). Patu voa "stones" are Porites corals formations (e.g., P. lobata, P. australiensis and P. lutea) that are the most widespread hermatypic corals in the Roviana and Vonavona lagoons. They are found everywhere, including in mangroves and near river mouths. These corals can be massive and thrive in the sediment-rich water of the lagoons (Vernon 1993). Colonies found in mangroves and grassbeds are small and many are dead, which are then classified locally as *patupatu*. Most reef fish species targeted by humans can be caught near these coral heads, the most prominent being several species of groupers (*Epinephelus ongus, Plectropomus areolatus* and *P. laevis*), titan triggerfish and sabre squirrelfish (*Sargocentron spiniferum*). Groups of surgeonfish and sweetlips aggregate in these coral heads at specific times. The most common fishing activities carried out in these formations include angling, diving and the use of traditional piscicides. Diving for cardita clams (*Beguina semiorbiculata*), which are found embedded in these corals, is also an important activity.

Patu Kakarapihi Coral Head (Minor). Favites and Goniastrea corals are locally referred to as patu kakarapihi and are recognised as being structurally similar to patu voa but much softer and less widespread. Patu kakarapihi are found in well-developed coral reefs near reef slopes and outer lagoon reefs; few are found in the inner shallow reefs of the lagoon. Common reef fish found here include paddletail snappers, yellow-margined seaperch, groupers and angelfish (Pomacanthus spp.). During the day low-tidal season these coral heads are visited by divers looking for fish and for cardita shells.

# Coral Reef Maps

The local categories were compared with scientific habitat mapping and there was a close correspondence between these forms of habitat categorisation. The geospatial analysis of coral reef ethnobiology revealed that out of the 615 indigenously defined foraging areas, more than 400 areas were locally classified as "coral reefs" of some sort, particularly inner and outer lagoon coral reefs (Fig. 6). Notably, this emic map of the coral reef seascape corresponds with scientific habitat mapping conducted by our team (Albert, Grinham, Bythell et al. 2011), and an in-depth analysis of particular sites revealed high correspondence rates between indigenous classifications of coral reefs and scientific surveys. For instance, a point-to-point comparison between quadrat dive field survey results and indigenous aerial photo interpretation of dominant benthic substrates in the Baraulu MPA (Roviana Lagoon) (Fig.7) showed that equivalence rates for a moderately detailed classification scheme of the benthos were on average between 75 percent and 85 percent. For hard corals agreement ranged between 55 percent and 89 percent, depending of the mix of hard corals with other abiotic substrates (e.g., sand, rubble or rock) (Aswani and Lauer 2006a). The habitat mapping exercise, in tandem with the foraging analysis (next section), showed that inner shallow lagoon and outer drop reefs are among the most important habitat types in the lagoons and a large percentage of the total marine resources acquired come from these habitats.

# Productive Practices in Coral Reefs

Roviana and Vonavona people have a close relationship with the illustrated coral reefs and a large proportion of marine protein for sustaining lagoon dwellers comes from these habitats. Lagoon peoples distinguish over 50 major fishing methods with numerous local variants that are adapted to particular environmental conditions and designed to target specific or general species clusters. There are four major interdependent physical forces that structure the times and places where fishers use these methods: (i) daily and seasonal tidal fluctuations, (ii) lunar phase periodicity, (iii) wind patterns and (iv) lagoon



Figure 6. Locally delineated marine habitats with predominance of inner-lagoon and outer-lagoon reefs (Aswani and Lauer 2006b).





hydrology (see Aswani and Vaccaro 2008 for an in-depth discussion). Today, customary fishing methods have either been transformed by the introduction of new technologies or have been abandoned all together. Following the Second World War, less conventional methods such as damming rivers (*tukutuku leana*), or fishing with bow and arrow (*bokala*), were abandoned in favour of nylon fishing lines and iron hooks. Currently, the predominant methods are hook and line fishing, netting, diving, spearing and gleaning. Less frequent techniques include fish drives, piscicides, fish trapping, hand-fishing and dynamite fishing, but since the late 1990s these methods have been gradually abandoned. The use of each method is conditioned by seasonal tidal fluctuations, making some methods appropriate only under specific circumstances. For example, the *kuarao* fish drive method is only conducted from mid-May to the beginning of July when morning ebbing tides are at their optimum level for the successful performance of this method in the expansive Munda area reefs.

Fish in these lagoons, as in most Pacific Island coastal societies, constitutes the most basic form of protein intake, or what is referred to as *baso* by Islanders. Rarely will a meal take place without some kind of *baso*, whether seafood, canned food, or an occasional ration of fresh animal meat. Food consumption patterns vary regionally according to each hamlet's participation in the cash economy. However, the burgeoning influence of the market is eroding the traditional subsistence base of rural Roviana and Vonavona communities. In regional centres like Munda, for example, *baso* is increasingly coming from canned foods. Notwithstanding these changes, local seafood still constitutes a major source of food in the region, and catches are particularly high in the various types of coral reefs discussed in the previous sections (Table 1).

Roviana people can name hundreds of marine species and have an intimate knowledge of the behavioural ecology of the organisms with which they interact regularly. A series of related "species clusters" harvested across many habitats, including coral reefs, have emerged from two decades of measuring fishing excursions (Table 2). The annual variability of species' spatio-temporal distributions offers fishers opportunities to harvest numerous organisms at different times, and seasonal variation in species availability through lunar and tidal cycles. Monthly lunar spawning aggregations, such as those of orange-striped emperor on new moons, and yellow-margined seaperch and paddletail snapper during full moons are spatio-temporally predictable phenomena that potentially increase a fisher's harvestable stock throughout the year. Numerous other species, while not forming aggregations, respond to lunar changes by increasing feeding activities, hence becoming more vulnerable to human predation. Species characterised by spawning periodicity only increase in frequency during certain periods. According to local knowledge, the most

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Habitat	Annual net mean return rate (kcal per hour)				
Outer lagoon islands	3776				
Open ocean	3624				
Grassbeds	3091				
Sand banks	2622				
Outer reef drops	2232				
Passages	2070				
Shallow inner reefs	1896				
Outer shallow reefs	1689				
Deep lagoon	1650				
River mouths	1650				
Mangroves	1272				
Intertidal zones	732				

Table 1. Annual average catch rates expressed as a net mean return rate for lagoon habitats (major areas of coral reefs in bold).

significant aggregations occur between September and December, decreasing in intensity thereafter. Spawning peaks occur during the last quarter and new moon lunar phases (but see Hamilton *et al.* 2012). Species forming spawning aggregations that are targeted by fishers include barracuda, triggerfish, grouper and rock cod, and several snapper species. Figure 8 summarises the major prey species, particularly those occurring in or near coral reefs, and their lunar and seasonal occurrences (using indigenous names).

Seasonal and daily tidal variations have a great impact on how intensively some habitats and species are exploited. During the day high/night lowtidal season from September through late December and early January (*odu rane/masa bongi*) fishers prefer to fish in the passages and nearby reef drops because many fish aggregations occur in these habitats. This is a period when fishers turn into specialists by targeting a limited number of species. In contrast, during the day low/night high-tidal season (*masa rane/ odu bongi*) fishers become *generalists* by reverting to inner lagoon habitats and exploiting all species in shallow reefs, grassbeds and mangrove areas. In-between tidal seasons, such as *vekoa kolo* 'staying water' (which runs from February to mid-April), fishers again switch between different habitats and species clusters, and move between inner reefs and the lagoon passages. This switching behaviour has a probable impact on the lagoon fishery by periodically alleviating pressure on some species and habitats. Aswani and

Major habitats Everywhere Estuarine Everywhere Everywhere Estuarine Mangroves Mangroves Mangroves Mangroves	Inner-outer reefs Shallow reefs, grassbeds Shallow reefs, grassbeds Shallow reefs Shallow reefs, reef drops Shallow reefs, sandbanks Shallow reefs, estuarine Shallow reefs Shallow reefs Shallow reefs Shallow reefs Shallow reefs
Roviana names mara lipa gohi kakaha suliri tetego kapehe riki kosiri deo roza	heheoku osanja ramusi odonjo pazara kalula karapata makoto lio makoto lio pakopako pepata donjopusi hori
Latin binomial names Varied Carangidae Valamugil seheli Sphyraena barracuda Lutjanus argentimaculatus Nematalosa spp. Siganus spp. Scylla serrata Anadara granosa Geloina spp. Ostreidae spp.	Lutjanus gibbus/L. adetii Lethrinus harak Lethrinus obsoletus Lutjanus fulvus Epinephelus ongus Eeinephelus ongus Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus Balistoides viridescens Choerodon anchorago Scolopsis monogramma Pentapodus spp. Sargocentron spiniferum
English names Trevallies Mullet Great barracuda Mangrove jack Biddies Rabbitfish Mud crab Ark shells Mud shells Mangrove oysters	Paddlletail snappers Thumbprint emperor Orange-striped emperor Yellow-mar. seaperch Speckled-fin grouper Emperor Yellowmargin triggerfish Titan triggerfish Anchor tuskfish Monocle bream Butterfish Sabre squirrelfish
Species cluster Estuarine/ mangrove cluster	Inner lagoon reef cluster

Table 2. Roviana and Vonavona prey species clusters.

- continued over page

Species cluster	English names	Latin binomial names	Roviana names	Major habitats
Inner lagoon reef cluster – <i>continued</i>	Grouper Ark shell Cardita clam	Varied Epinephelinae Anadara antiquata. Beguina semiorbiculata	pazara riki repi nohara belanavi	Shallow reefs, reef drops Sandbanks, grassbeds Shallow reef
Outer reef flat cluster	Striped surgeonfish Blackstreak surgeonfish Convict surgeonfish Unicornfish Parrotfishes Steephead parrotfish Bumphead parrotfish Humphead maori wrasse Long-faced emperor Yellowlip emperor Yellowlip emperor Trochus shells Borrowing giant clam Horsehoof giant clam Spider shells Stromb shells	Acanthurus lineatus Acanthurus nigricauda Acanthurus spp. Naso spp. Scarus microrhinos Bolbometopon muricatum Cheilinus undulatus Lethrinus vanthochilus Trochus niloticus Trochus niloticus Hippopus hippopus Lambis spp. Strombus spp.	berabera valiri tarasi (generic) isulino sinoku (generic) vele topa habili mihu suru bikoho gulumu hohobulu riqasa ununusu	Barrier reef, reef drops Barrier reef, sandbanks Barrier, shallow reefs Barrier, shallow reefs Coral rubble Coral rubble
Outer reef drop- passage cluster	Barracudas Spanish mackerel Bigeye trevally Giant trevally	Varied Sphyraena spp. Scomberomorus commerson Caranx sexfasciatus Caranx ignobilis	pipo tanjiri moturu batubatu	Reef drops, passages Reef drops, passages Reef drops, passages Everywhere

Major habitats	Everywhere Reef drops, passages Reef drops, passages Reef drops, passages Reef drops, passages Everywhere Barrier intertidal zone Barrier intertidal zone	Open Sea Open Sea Open Sea Open Sea
Roviana names	mara balibaligutu sina riŋo kaburubaŋa pazara veata matalava tatadu popu sise	makasi reka tataliŋi gomo
Latin binomial names	Caranx melampygus Lutjanus rivulatus Lutjanus bohar Lethrinus erythracanthus Epinephelus fuscoguttatus Monotaxis grandoculis Acanthozostera gemmata Turbinidae spp. Nerites spp.	Katsuwonus pelamis Rastrelliger kanagurta Thunnus albacares Thunnus obesus
English names	Bluefin trevally Maori seaperch Red bass Yellow-spotted emperor Flowery cod Big-eye bream Chitons Turban shells Nerites shells	Skipjack tuna Island bonito Yellowfin tuna Big eye tuna
Species cluster	Outer reef drop- passage cluster – continued	Open sea cluster



Figure 8. Lunar and seasonal periodicity of important prey species (emperor fish: ramusi and mihu) (snappers: sina, heheoku and odongo), (trevallies: mara and batubatu), (parrotfish: topa and vele), (wrasses: habili), (groupers: kalula and veata), (mullet: lipa), (triggerfish: makoto), (barracuda: pipo), (tuna: makasi), (crustaceans: hikama and kapehe), (molluscs: riki and deo). Also see Table 2.

Vaccaro (2008) provide an in-depth review of these environmental processes, major fishing methods practiced, fishing seasonality and species targeted.

In terms of division of labour and fishing it is commonly held by government fishery officers that artisanal fisheries are distinctly divided into two labour groups "man the fisher" and "woman the gleaner". Undoubtedly there is some truth to this generalisation in the Solomons as men are responsible for big game fishing, while women conduct most collecting activities. Upon a closer look, however, a distinct picture emerges from the activities of each gender (Table 3). In the lagoons of New Georgia, women are among the most avid anglers and are reputed for their fishing skills, so much so that many men blame women for the ongoing decline of inner lagoon reef fish, maintaining that women's use of small hooks affects the subsistence fishery by targeting immature fish. Jokingly, experienced fishermen refer to women's fishing as *habu malivi* 'fishing of the giant', because according to folk stories, when a race of giant men living in the interior of New Georgia descended into the lagoons they trampled over all coral reefs and living things. While the maritime activities of both sexes merge at the inner lagoon, angling fishery, they diverge when conducted in either the barrier islands/ outer lagoon (vuragarena) reefs and in the mainland mangrove forests (petupetuana). The former is the domain of men, where big game fishing is carried out, while the latter is where the most significant women's gleaning activities take place. Note that these are only generalisations as women

Seaweed diving	Angling	Angling	
Collecting deo clams	Sink-line	Trolling	
Collecting riki shells	Trolling	Gleaning shells	
ng Barrier reef gleaning	Collecting crabs	Collecting crabs	
-	Crab diving	Fish drives	
	Shell diving	Netting	
50	Net drives		
	Fish drives		
	Piscicides		
Collecting deo c Collecting riki sl Barrier reef glea	lams hells ning	lams Sink-line hells Trolling Collecting crabs Crab diving Shell diving Net drives Fish drives Piscicides	lams Sink-line Trolling hells Trolling Gleaning shells ning Collecting crabs Gleaning shells Crab diving Fish drives Shell diving Netting Net drives Fish drives Piscicides

5 years	Females	7.5	9.8	8.1	I	6.2	6.9	5.8	7.0	7.3
46-7	Males	13.5	11.7	14.5	Ι	8.6	7.9	6.4	7.1	6.6
) years	Females	6.6	8.9	9.5	8.9	7.5	5.2	5.8	5.2	7.2
27-45	Males	12.8	8.7	11.6	10.9	9.6	8.4	7.6	10.8	10.1
years	remales	6.6	6.1	8.2	I	4.9	4.5	2.9	2.8	5.1
17-26	Males	6.9	7.1	3.8	3.1	3.5	3.8	3.6	5.8	4.7
years	remales	4.8	5.6	4.3	3.9	4.7	4.3	4.2	5.3	4.6
7-16	Males	5.2	4.5	6.0	5.2	4.7	5.4	4.5	3.7	4.9
Area/Village		Baraulu	Nusa Hope	Olive	Ha'apai	Sasavele	Nusa Roviana	Munda area	Vonavona area	Mean hours

Table 3. Division of labour in fishing and gleaning.

frequent barrier intertidal zones for gleaning and angling and men visit mainland mangrove habitats for spearing, netting and line fishing.

In terms of livelihood significance, Western Solomon Islands rural communities depend on marine resources for the bulk of their animal protein intake. National per capita consumption of seafood is among the highest in the world with an average of 33 kg/person/year (Bell et al. 2009). In New Georgia, rural communities are highly dependent on marine resources for subsistence and commercial purposes. Fishing and gleaning for shells and crabs are ordinarily carried out by everyone. Weekly mean time allocation to fishing and gleaning grouped by age and sex suggest that people are more active fishers after the age of around 30 (mostly married) and that men, notably mature men, allocate more per-capita time to marine foraging activities than women do (Table 4). The reasons for this are multiple, ranging from the absence of young women, who prefer working in town or at the Noro cannery, to seasonal preferences in foraging. Women tend to concentrate their gleaning and fishing efforts during the masa rane tidal season from May to September, while men tend to fish year-round. Weekly fishing and gleaning activities are partially structured around the church's recommended activity schedule, particularly in Christian Fellowship Church villages. Mondays and Fridays are assigned to working on gardens, while Saturdays are designated for fishing for meals after Sunday Mass. The remaining days are reserved for community work and for personal affairs. During the week, fishers tend to go out in the early mornings and/or evenings after working in their gardens, while on Saturdays they go on day-long gleaning and fishing excursions. Sunday is considered the Sabbath and no fishing, gardening or community work is conducted, albeit these patterns may vary from village to village.

#### Coral Reefs, Climate and Environmental Change

The analysis of local perceptions of environmental and climate-related change revealed that people are relatively aware of ongoing changes in coral reefs. Respondents were able to identify changes in the lagoon reefs as well as those in the outer lagoon. For the inner lagoon reefs, informants identified and ranked a number of changes (Fig. 9), the three most important being in order of importance as: (i) no change, (ii) turbid/dirty water and (iii) less fish. For the outer lagoon reefs, respondents also recognised and ranked a number of changes (Fig. 10), including the top three as: (i) no change, (ii) less fish and (iii) coral reef damage (Fig. 10). The identified causes for change in coral reefs were various, but the three most important (in order of importance) were: (i) logging operations and siltation, (ii) the effects of the 2007 earthquake/ tsunami and (iii) sea changes/don't know were equal in ranking importance (Fig. 11). The vast majority of informants saw these changes as affecting their livelihoods negatively, particularly the notions of "less fish" and "coral



Figure 9. Changes identified for inner lagoon marine environments (predominantly shallow coral reefs).



Figure 10. Changes identified for outer lagoon coral reefs.


Figure 11. Causes of coral reef damage.

damage". In terms of when these changes began, most respondents agreed that while many changes started in the 1980s, the worst symptoms were noticed in the late 1990s and even more acutely after the 2007 earthquake/ tsunami. In fact, results for the mapping exercise revealed that informants recognised changes in areas of coral damage via bleaching and disease (which cannot be differentiated locally) over the last two decades. They also acknowledged that since 1986 there has been an increase in dead coral in the outer lagoon reefs (Fig. 12) rather than in the inner lagoon ones. These results correspond with a recent scientific survey which found that bleaching and diseases (white syndrome [WS]) induced coral mortality, mainly affecting *Acropora* and *Pocillopora* species, was higher in offshore drop-off areas than the inner lagoon (Albert *et al.* 2011) in the Olive and Nusa Hope areas and the lagoons more generally.

### Cultural Meanings of Coral Reef/Seascapes

Fishing decisions are not only influenced by the flow of information between fishers and the physical environment, but also by that between fishers and a cultural land- and seascape. The seascape conveys multiple cultural meanings, such as the presence of benevolent or evil ancestral spirits, which can influence who may access an area, the fishing methods conducted there



Figure 12. Locally recognised distribution of coral reef damage (disease and bleaching) prevalence in the Olive and Nusa Hope areas, comparing 1986 and 2011.

and the species collected. Even today, when the discourse of Christianity, modernisation and economic development pervades throughout the Solomon Islands, ancestral customary beliefs firmly persist, particularly those regarding physical space. New Georgia Islanders believe that magical powers to control natural phenomena emanate either from an individual's innate disposition or through acquired means. Those individuals conferred with powers flowing from their ancestral links can unilaterally employ magic to improve their fishing efforts or those of others. Conversely, they also can bestow 'unluckiness in fishing' (dula-ia sa tie) through the use of particular charms. Fishers are not defenseless against attempts to blemish their reputation or fishing capacity, and can use the essence of certain customary leaves, such as zipolo (species of Cordvine and Dracaena), to shield themselves against assailing spells. Prowess or failure in fishing also can originate from one's social behaviour and that of one's relatives, particularly female kin. Fortune in fishing is not so much attributed to one's good behaviour, as to misfortune from wrongdoing. The following account summarises the ripple effect of a woman's "mischievous" action on the daily activities of fishers:

When a Baraulu man was bitten by a crocodile in March of 1995, fishing activities at Baraulu were significantly reduced. During a canoe trip to bring rice and other goods to Beulah Secondary School, the man and his wife were attacked by a crocodile. The man's leg was severely bitten, but fortunately, he was able to save it. Apparently the man, whose family totem is the crocodile, told the animal that it had no reason to bite him and so the animal released him. In Roviana nothing happens by accident. If a man is attacked by a shark or a crocodile, it is because he or someone in his lineage, usually a female, has committed some kind of misdeed. That same day it was known that the man's second cousin had been impregnated out of wedlock by the married nephew of an important religious personality. In New Georgia, as in the rest of the Solomon Islands, this is a serious customary breach that can only be solved by appeasement of ancestral spirits, or as it is done today, through the culprit's confession in church and compensation payment. After the man was bitten, the large crocodile was seen frequenting the village and trying to kill pigs. These events made people at Baraulu, especially women, very apprehensive and in consequence, very few women dared to go fishing for a whole month (Pastor Buka pers. comm. December 1994).

The cultural meaning of reefs and the seascape more generally also emanates from the spiritual significance of place. As mentioned, coral reefs are not only resource extraction areas but are also physical features that permit or hinder people from navigating, signs that define property rights of the seascape in relation to other coastal and terrestrial habitats, and cultural and historical features that embody tribal identity and ideology. For instance, the Rereghana Passage in Baraulu Village, Roviana Lagoon, a passage with shallow and sloping reefs, is of extreme economic and spiritual significance to the people of Baraulu. At the subsistence level, the passage is referred to as *mami epata* 'our food basket', as this area is a major fishing area for Baraulu people. Custodian rights to the passage have been passed to these people by their Koloi coastal ancestor who dwelt on the barrier islands of Roviana. On a spiritual plane, the passage is affectionately referred to as *Kaleqe Rereghana* 'old women from Rereghana', because many large manta rays, or incarnated ancestors, seasonally pass through it.

The passage is also guarded by the Tetepare Island customary sharks Bugotu and Bilosi which, in the past, were seasonally fed by hiama 'priests', with the first fruits of *Canarium* trees. Because of its spiritual significance, many customary restrictions exist in the area. For instance, women were barred from fishing here in pre-Christian times and even today, when no such customary restrictions are institutionalised, only women with direct kin relations to the original owners of the passage come here to fish. A contemporary interdiction forbids selling fish from Rereghana Passage, as this area was given in trust to Baraulu people for their subsistence needs. Villagers believe that ancestral spirits punish those who sell fish from the passage by lessening their catches. If fishers break this taboo, which they often do, they pay compensation (here) to their ancestral spirits by tossing a coin into the passage in the hope of regaining their fishing fortune. The flow of cultural and ecological information conditions and constrains the daily decisions made by fishers in their interaction with the marine ecosystem and, therefore, play an integral role in the use of coral reefs.

Do New Georgia fishers have an environmental ethic for managing and conserving their marine resources and coral reefs? The "original" indigenous views of nature and resource conservation have, after more than 100 years of colonial and postcolonial history, been entirely transformed. Keeping this in mind, a description of local environmental beliefs has to encompass the differentiated ancestral views of coastal and bush peoples, Christian doctrine, capitalist principles and, in recent years, Western environmental discourse. This ideological puzzle makes elusive any attempt to discern an autochthonous conservation ethic, and ecological research in the region suggests that such a view as understood by Westerners is not present (Aswani 1998). Roviana and Vonavona peoples' understanding of ecological processes and the environmental impact of human action vary, from those who believe that God will regenerate all human ravages inflected on nature to those who foresee the cataclysmic ruin of the local ecological systems. For some individuals, particularly those with higher education, the need to establish guidelines for sustainable resource use and conservation are paramount. Many educated Islanders have been exposed to Western anti-logging environmental campaigns, notably from New Zealand and Australia, which encourage Islanders to resist the assault of Asian logging companies. People are not oblivious to the steady decline of many marine species. For instance, recent surveys suggest that 68 percent of Roviana respondents feel that marine resources are susceptible to over-exploitation, while 24 percent think that marine resources cannot be depleted. In relation to exogenous development pressures, 74 percent of all respondents acknowledge that present logging activities are endangering the Roviana Lagoon (Aswani, n.d.).

New Georgians, as with Melanesian societies, do not customarily dichotomise nature from nurture as some Westerners do; humans are an integral part of a holistic environment. Roviana and Vonavona people have a deep sense of their interconnectedness with all things and are physically and spiritually bonded to their land and reefs. Hviding (1996: 28) suggests that Marovo people's interaction with the environment transcends a mere linear relation between consumers and natural resource exploitation, and includes material and spiritual "affordances" provided by nature. He defines the concept of kino in Marovo, with its equivalent kinopu in Roviana, as 'guardianship' and maintains that it is the basic tenet for an indigenous "holistic view of sustainability", or equivalent to a conservation ethic (1996: 366). In Roviana and Vonavona, the kinopu concept denotes "control of" and "stewardship of" traditional estates, but it does not explicitly suggest sustainable use of resources. In fact, chiefs and prominent men responsible for the "stewardship" of land and sea estates have monopolised or, rather, capitalised on their role as "guardians" by allowing Asian logging companies and Japanese bait-fishers to exploit their natural resources. Perhaps the concept of kinopu has been affected by the influences of economic development or maybe, instead of an autochthonous view of sustainability, kinopu embodies political contest and subsequent control of land and sea estates. In sum, there are numerous indigenous concepts, such as kinopu, that can be identified as approximating a conservation ethic, while there are others, such as the notion of habu malivi 'fishing of the giants', which denote the contrary. In a general sense, however, lagoon dwellers' relation to their environment is based on an intimate sense of place which potentially precludes Islanders from desecrating their land, albeit this sentiment is rapidly eroding as a result of modernisation forces.

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This article has described people's ecological and social relationships with coral reefs in two extensive lagoon ecosystems in the Western Solomon Islands using a combination of ecological, geospatial and ethnographic data. Ethnobiological knowledge informs Roviana and Vonavona inhabitants on how to exploit their environment most efficiently. Annual fluctuations in species' spatial and temporal distributions allow fishers to harvest numerous organisms at different times and places—this variability being determined by

lunar and tidal phases. Recurrent lunar aggregations are spatio-temporally predictable occurrences that can increase a fisher's catches across various periods of the year. Sometimes fishers become specialists by targeting a limited number of species, while at others times they act as generalists and exploit a wide range of species in various marine habitats. Roviana and Vonavona fishers, therefore, do not fall into the simple specialist versus generalist dichotomy, but rather move between these two types of strategies in response to environmental variability and thus ostensibly increase their resilience to stochastic resource variability. Understanding these knowledge systems and behavioral processes is crucial. As discussed below, this involves: (i) considering how ethnobiological understandings can affect a people's livelihood resilience or vulnerability, (ii) understanding the cultural and socio-economic importance of reefs to people and (iii) using this information to design comprehensive and participatory fishery management plans.

First, ethnobiological knowledge (biological, ichthyologic, climatic, etc.) of reefs not only aids people in understanding and taking advantage of a complex and variable marine environment, but also in understanding its transformation and adapting to such changes over time. Ethnobiological knowledge is not only the generational transfer of knowledge but also observations and ideas that are generated within the context of people's practical engagement with a dynamic and changing local marine environment (Ingold 1993). It also can be useful for mapping changes in the environment. This is particularly relevant because the ongoing transformation of marine and terrestrial habitats and associated biological communities as a result of anthropogenically-driven forces, such as climate change, is making coastal people more vulnerable nutritionally and economically. People's observation and perception of environmental changes, or lack thereof, plays a fundamental role in how they perceive the risks associated with change. In fact, anticipatory and autonomous adaptation to environmental change at the community level is shaped by the perceived changes and causes of change by people locally (Aswani *et al.* under review.) Thus, building resilience in coastal socio-ecological systems (traditional or otherwise) requires enabling coastal communities to learn quickly and enhance their adaptive responses and capacity to increasingly swift ecological transformations. As individuals detect and respond to change (or not), the acquired information feeds back into the socio-ecological system, which in turn affects people's livelihoods and their managerial responses to new environmental circumstances. Alternatively, people's incapacity to detect, comprehend and/or respond to ecological changes undermines resilience and exacerbates vulnerability. Current trends in the Solomons indicate that there is gradual abandonment of diversity of traditional capture technologies, as well as people's recognition of taxonomic distinctions of marine organisms over time. Processes of this kind are likely to make people's livelihoods more vulnerable to environmental variability and generalised environmental degradation in the near future (Albert *et al.* n.d.).

Second, this paper also has shown that reefs are not just resource exploitation areas, but also are signifiers of sea tenure property rights, and sites of deep cultural and historical significance, embodying tribal distinctiveness and an indigenous world view. Property rights over reefs and associated ethnobiological knowledge and beliefs encompass a cultural bundle or "customary management" (CM) system (Cinner and Aswani 2007). Beyond the basic design principles of authority, rights, rules, monitoring and enforcement, CM systems function to manage coastal communities, not just natural ecosystems, and also to ensure community harmony and continuity, which commonly emphasises the importance of ancestors, identity and place. Because "place" is so fundamental to people's subsistence and identity, any form of local alteration of a community's territory (e.g., through the introduction of development enterprises) can result in widespread local conflict and confrontations (Aswani and Ruddle 2013). This presents a considerable challenge for development in the region. Customary tenure and management over land and sea is at the core of Roviana and Vonavona socio-economic, political, and cultural life yet today, it is also at the roots of local conflicts and disputes, particularly in the context of capital extraction enterprises such as the logging of lowland rainforests. Further, as tourism development increases in the region, local disputes over reefs and associated habitats by multiple customary groups and their associated leaders (big men) are likely to increase. Thus, understanding the cultural and social meanings of the seascape is paramount.

Finally, ethnobiological knowledge can be utilised for managing and conserving marine resources. Results show that there is considerable congruence in local understandings of ecology and habitat with those of science which, in turn, can aid conservation efforts. In the Roviana and Vonavona case, our study of coral reef ethnobiology has allowed us to analyse the relationship between ecological complexities, indigenous knowledge and the ways in which this knowledge is used for productive purposes, as well as to understand rapid and protracted ecological change. By more fully understanding the characteristics of human-marine interactions, our programme has been able to design and implement management regimes (MPAs and watershed management) that move towards ecosystem-based resource management. A systematic articulation of local cultural knowledge and ecological values through anthropology and marine science can better promote local participation in the design and developments of community-based marine protected areas and produce a more inclusive approach to conservation. The documentation of coral reef and marine ethnobiology, in fact, has set the stage for the development of hybrid marine and terrestrial conservation plans. Integrated hybrid management schemes that combine local perceptions and beliefs with modern management systems are likely to be more successful than government driven top-down management plans. This is because hybrid approaches consider the social, political, economic and cultural contexts of Oceanic communities and can, to some extent, address fundamental concerns of local peoples, including coastal degradation, climate change, sea level rise, weak governance, corruption, increasing poverty, and limited resources and staff to manage and monitor marine resources, among others. The rapid degradation of coral reefs calls for urgent solutions. The research approaches outlined in this paper, in tandem with the work of other researchers (e.g., Cinner *et al.* 2005, Johannes 2002, Kittinger 2013, Ruddle 1993), provide examples of how to study reef ethnobiology and move towards more inclusive management regimes. This is key given the lack of resources for monitoring and policing in most of the tropics. There really are no other viable alternatives for holistic and successful management of watershed and marine ecosystems, which are needed to sustain the resilience of local livelihoods into the future.

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#### ABSTRACT

Coral reefs are of great socio-economic and cultural importance for many coastal communities across the tropics, yet little is known about people's local classifications and their social and ecological relationships with these habitats. In the case of island peoples, coral reefs are more than just resource exploitation areas; they are also geomorphologic features that allow or bar people from navigating, markers that define property rights of the seascape in relation to other coastal and terrestrial habitats, and cultural and historical features that embody tribal identity and ideology. Building upon over two decades of research, this paper uses published and unpublished data to describe people's ecological and socio-economic relationships with coral reefs in two extensive lagoon ecosystems in the Western Solomon Islands. It combines ecological, geospatial and ethnographic data to analyse the dominant characteristics of coral reef habitats in the region, the prevalent environmental phenomena associated with reefs and their transformation, the productive practices exerted in these habitats by the local inhabitants, and the socio-cultural meaning of coral reefs for lagoon peoples from the standpoint of local ecological knowledge. Understanding people's classification and socio-economic and cultural use of coral reefs is not just a descriptive effort. Rather, it is an essential step toward understanding human-environmental relationships theoretically and creating comprehensive base resource maps for planning marine and terrestrial conservation, including marine protected areas (MPAs) and ecosystems-based management (EBM) plans that potentially can enhance people's livelihood resilience.

*Keywords*: Coral reefs, ethnobiology, conservation, livelihoods, marine fisheries, resilience, Solomon Islands

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# FEATHERWORK AND DIVINE CHIEFTAINSHIP IN TONGA

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In 2011 a fanned feathered headdress, whose materials and construction are commensurate with 18th century Tongan objects, was uncovered in storage at Madrid's Museo de América (Fig. 1).<sup>1</sup> Such headdresses, known as *palā tavake*, receive scant attention in the academic accounts of Tonga, despite being described by anthropologist Adrienne Kaeppler as "the most spectacular of all objects of indigenous Tongan manufacture" (Kaeppler 1978: 213).

There are only three mentions of *palā tavake* in the 18th century European explorer literature on Tonga, Members of the Cook (1777), Bruni d'Entrecasteaux (1793) and Malaspina (1793) Expeditions all saw and obtained *palā tavake* during their stays in the Tongan archipelago. The exact present day locations of these acquired headdresses are unknown. For many years researchers pondered whether a fanned, feather headdress in Vienna's Weltmuseum (formerly Museum für Völkerkunde) might be a *palā tavake*. However, recent research suggests that it is not Tongan, but instead comes from Eastern Polynesia (Lythberg 2014). Sacred regalia incorporating feathers were common throughout Polynesia (Coote and Uden 2013: 235; Hooper 2006; Kaeppler, Kaufmann and Newton 1993: 83-86). Nonetheless, it is probable that the headdress located in Spain, whose own provenance is not entirely certain, is the only surviving *palā tavake*. Its discovery initiated discussion and debate surrounding its origins, its journey to Madrid and its significance for an understanding of Tonga's past. In this article we describe the feather headdress found in Madrid and consider its probable historical context and connections-both Tongan and Spanish. In addition we discuss the association of *palā tavake* with the Tu'i Tonga, the sacred ruler of Tonga, and the changing nature of the title in the late 18th century.

Tongans stopped manufacturing *palā tavake* sometime during the late 18th or early 19th century. The headdresses were part of the regalia of the Tu'i Tonga—the traditional sacred ruler of Tonga—and became redundant by the early 19th century with the rise of the Tupou Dynasty and the decline and eventual elimination of the Tu'i Tonga title. Conversations with non-chiefly people in Tonga in the late 20th century revealed that many did not recognise images of the headdresses as Tongan. More recently, however, *palā tavake* have been embraced by Tongans as a symbol of their pre-monarchical past and have been incorporated into Tongan art (Fig. 2). The discovery of the headdress in Spain adds another element of interest and excitement to the



Figure 1. Feather Headdress, front view, Museo de América, Madrid.



Figure 2. 'Palā Tavake Flag', by Benjamin Work, Auckland, 2013.

revitalisation of this element of Tonga's past. This article considers the feather headdress located in Madrid and its likely provenance, as well as examining the place of *palā tavake* in Tongan history and the political transformation of Tonga in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

## THE FEATHERED HEADDRESS IN SPAIN

The headdress in Madrid is a fan of 33 feather-covered and barkcloth-wrapped bundles of reeds or sticks attached to a broad band with wide ties or drapes at either side. The ties are made of black barkcloth with a subtle stripe. The fan is dark at the bottom and pale at the top. Its top edge contains remnants of long white vestiges of a fan of tail feathers presumed to be from the white-tailed tropic bird (*Phaethon lepturus*) which was known in Tonga as the *tavake* and for whom the headdress is named. Fragments of short red feathers likely to be from the red-breasted musk parrot or *koki* (*Prosopeia tabuensis*) remain in the dark barkcloth bindings. The bindings of the headdress are intricate and the regularity of the bundles of sticks speaks of exacting rigour. The fan is further supported by a barkcloth-covered structure at the back of the headdress wrapped in strings of small shell discs (Fig. 3). Six small appendages adorn the rear of the headdress. They are regularly spaced on every fourth bundle of sticks; there would have originally been seven altogether, but one is missing.



Figure 3. Feather Headdress, rear view, Museo de América, Madrid.

Each contains four beads, one white, one black, then two white. One includes a single European glass trade bead, anchored in place with indigenous resin suggesting, perhaps, that an association with a previous European visitor was desired by its maker or owner.

The remains of the headdress in Madrid match the one described by Cook and portrayed by Webber while at Tongatapu in 1777:

These Caps or rather bonnets are made of the tail feathers of the Tropic Bird with the red feathers of the Paroquets worked upon them or in along with them, they are made so to tie upon the forehead without any Crown, and they have the form of a Simicircle [*sic*] whose radis is 18 or 20 inches; But a painting which Mr Webber has made of Fattafee Polaho [*sic*] [Fatafehi Paulaho or Pau] dressed in one of these bonnets will convey the best idea of them. (Beaglehole 1967 [III]: 117)

John Webber's portrait of the Tu'i Tonga Pau or Paulaho<sup>2</sup> wearing a headdress (Fig. 4) is still the best surviving image of a *palā tavake*. It fans out above the Tu'i Tonga's head, in clear bands of at least two different coloured feathers.



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POULAHO, KING of the FRIENDLY ISLANDS.

Figure 4. John Webber & John Hall, 1784, 'Poulaho, King of the Friendly Islands', engraving on paper, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, Auckland.

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The materials are commensurate with other 18th century Tongan chiefly objects and the headdress itself is comprised of high value and high status items. The hundreds of shell beads were time-consuming to prepare, especially in the quantities used in the headdress, required to completely wrap the supporting structure at the back of the fan. The black barkcloth is of a variety of barkcloth known as *ngatu* '*uli*. *Ngatu* '*uli* is decorated with fine candlenut soot which is difficult and time-consuming to make and is reserved for chiefly usage. Black barkcloth has particular efficacy in Tongan events that occur at the threshold between the world of the spirits and the living, such as funerals, where it is are placed closest to the body of the deceased. In addition, the headdress required many feathers from the red-breasted musk parrot and tail feathers of the white-tailed tropic bird. Each tropic bird has only two of the long feathers which were used en masse to crown the headdress. Many birds of both species would have been needed to decorate the *palā tavake*.

The *palā tavake* in Madrid is an exquisitely crafted item. It is clear that considerable time and skill were invested in creating it. There is a precision to the preparation of materials and their assembly that speaks not only of the extraordinary expertise of its maker but also of a desire or need to make the headdress a beautiful object to be worn by an individual of illustrious rank. This is understandable considering the intended wearer was the Tu'i Tonga, the sacred ruler of Tonga who was a direct descendant of a god. In Tonga the head is regarded as *tapu* to someone of lower rank. *Palā tavake*, placed on the head of the Tu'i Tonga, would, therefore, have been regarded as an immensely sacred item.

#### DIVINE CHIEFTAINSHIP IN TONGA

*Palā tavake* were closely associated with the highest ranking of Tonga's elite. By the late 18th century Tonga was one of the most highly stratified polities in Polynesia based around chiefly rank, titular authority and tribute. At that time there were three great titles in Tonga—the Tu'i Tonga, the Tu'i Ha'atakalaua and the Tu'i Kanokupolu. The Tu'i Tonga was the highest ranking of the three paramount titles, as the first Tu'i Tonga was thought to be the son of the god Tangaloa 'Eitumatupu'a. 'Eitumatupu'a was said to have descended from the heavens to Tongatapu and impregnated a local woman. Their son was 'Aho'eitu. When 'Aho'eitu came of age, he sought out his father and was given the title Tu'i Tonga and the authority to rule the islands. This descent from divine ancestors promulgated honour and authority to the titleholder and his close relatives. It is, by far, the oldest of the three titles. The Tu'i Tonga.<sup>3</sup> Although junior in chiefly rank to

the Tu'i Tonga, the Tu'i Ha'atakalua and Tu'i Kanokupolu were vested with executive authority and were, essentially, the political rulers of the Tongan archipelago in the late 18th and throughout the 19th centuries.

It was, however, the Tu'i Tonga who was the embodiment of divinity and society due to his direct and senior lineal descent from the gods. This divinity was marked in several ways, including the wearing of the *palā tavake*. To emphasise the difference in their essence, status and power, the Ha'atakalaua and Kanokupolu titles and chiefs were known as *Kauhalalalo* 'from the sea side of the road' while the Tu'i Tonga was said to be *Kauhalauta* 'from the bush side of the road'. This distinction was not just locational but also marked the inherent difference in the rank of the Tu'i Tonga. The very body of the Tu'i Tonga and his close relatives (*fale 'alo*) were regarded as corporally different from the *Kauhalalalo* due to their senior divine ancestry. This difference further emphasised by the exclusive designation of *sino 'eiki* 'body of the chief' for the Tu'i Tonga and the *fale 'alo*. In addition, the body of the Tu'i Tonga was distinguished from his male subordinates by not being circumcised or tattooed, both customary practices for Tongan men at that time (Martin 1817 [II]: 78-79).

The Tu'i Tonga commanded ritual seniority and was the "Significant One", to borrow Sahlins's phrase (1983: 523-24), in early Tongan society. He was the one that mattered, the central structuring figure of society and its wellbeing. Offerings, known as the *'inasi*, were made twice year to the god/ goddess Hikule'o and his/her embodiment, the Tu'i Tonga, in recognition that their participation was essential to the prosperity of the land. The seedlings of the *kahokaho* yam, a special variety of *Dioscorea alata* reserved for chiefs, were presented to the Tu'i Tonga on behalf of the Hikule'o at the time of planting and at the time of harvest.<sup>4</sup> They were brought to him in a ceremony which was performed at the tomb of the father of the incumbent Tu'i Tonga and thus emphasised the Tu'i Tonga's lineal descent from divinity (Farmer 1855: 129-30; Gifford 1929: 76, 103, 217).

The tombs of the Tu'i Tonga were known as *langi*, which also means 'sky' in Tongan. *Langi* could also denote the person of the Tu'i Tonga and he was often thus referred to in narratives, poems, songs and chants (Collocott 1928: 79, Malupo 1870, Thomas n.d.: 25). The multiple meanings of *langi* reference the divine origin of the Tu'i Tonga and his title and also alludes to Tangaloa 'Eitumatapu'a's descent from the sky. This divine lineal descent of the Tu'i Tonga also was reflected in the special *tapu* state ('sacred', but also 'prohibited') which surrounded the Tu'i Tonga and his immediate family (*fale 'alo*) and their ability to make things *tapu*. This sanctity set them apart from the rest of Tongan society and, as elsewhere in Polynesia, sacred regalia, including the *palā tavake*, were part of that distinction. The *palā tavake*, with its multitude of red and white feathers,

is yet another reference to the sky, with birds being creatures (like the Tu'i Tonga) who move between earth and the heavens. It is not known if the females and other males of the *fale 'alo* were traditionally vested in regalia, but the Tu'i Tonga wore the *palā tavake*—the large headdress composed of red and white feathers which fanned out like a sunburst from ear to ear. In Tonga, they were associated with Tangaloa 'Eitumatupu'a, the god who lived in the sky and from whom the Tu'i Tonga descends. The spiralling barkcloth-covered sticks adorned with red and white feathers reach upwards to Tangaloa reinforcing this bond and the Tu'i Tonga's own personal efficacy as earthly representative of divinity. The honour bestowed upon the title and its holder also is evident in the skill and beauty of the objects made for them, including the *palā tavake*.

*Palā tavake* were not the only feathered ornaments in Tonga worn by chiefly individuals. Gifford (1929: 127) recorded that "a headdress of feathers (*fae* or *faefae*) was worn by chiefs during times of festival or ceremony or at the outset of a war expedition". Kaeppler suggests that *palā tavake* were not worn exclusively by the Tu'i Tonga although they were reserved for very high ranking chiefs (Kaeppler 1999: 47). However, *palā tavake* do seem to be associated with the title or, as will be argued below, those aspiring to it.

### PALĀ TAVAKE AND EARLY EUROPEAN VISITORS TO TONGA

There are few European accounts of *palā tavake* that might inform an understanding of the splendid specimen in Madrid. Of the various European voyagers who stopped at the Tongan Islands in the 18th and early 19th centuries only three described having seen *palā tavake*. British expeditions under the command of Captain James Cook stopped at Tonga three times during their second and third Pacific voyages. They made two short calls of seven and four days in 1773-74 and a more significant ten week visit in 1777. Cook and his men obtained three *palā tavake* during their last visit to Tonga (Beaglehole 1967 [III]: 117). Of the three headdresses, two were traded to Tahitians or Marguesans and presumably dismantled by them (Gathercole 2004). The third is not among any identified in the known Cook collections. Sixteen years later in 1793 Tonga was visited by two European expeditions within a month of each other who both saw and received *palā tavake*. A French expedition, under the command of Joseph Antoine Bruni d'Entrecasteaux, visited Tongatapu in April and early May and received one (Labillardière 1800: 375). Research (Douglas, Lythberg and Veys n.d.) is underway to identify the Bruni d'Entrecasteaux collections dispersed in museums in France, Norway and the Netherlands, but to date no feather headdress has been identified. A Spanish expedition, under the command of Alejandro Malaspina, stopped at the northern archipelago of Vava'u in May 1793. Arcadio Pineada, a member

of the Malaspina Expedition, saw two headresses and acquired one during the Spanish expedition's stay in Vava'u in May of 1793 (Pineada n.d.). Although there is no accompanying documentation which identifies the headdress in the Museo de América as having been collected by members of the Malaspina Expedition, the Museo does contain other Tongan artefacts attributed to the voyage and it seems highly likely that the recently discovered *palā tavake* returned to Spain with the Expedition.

To more fully assess the origins of the headdress in Madrid, we also consider specific individuals who were engaged with Tongans in the late 18th century. Identifying in existing genealogies and traditions the individual Tongans met by the various Europeans who came to Tonga is not easy even when names are provided. The visitors rendered the names as they heard them which was, understandably, more often than not, imperfectly. In addition, Tongans were often known by several different names during their lifetime and this compounds the challenge of accurate identification. However, to appreciate the political transformations surrounding divine chieftainship in Tonga, it is important to distinguish the central individuals associated with the feather headdresses who were met by the European chroniclers.

When Cook and his men visited Tonga in 1777, Pau was Tu'i Tonga, Maealiuaki appeared to be Tu'i Ha'atakalaua and Tupoulahi was Tu'i Kanokupolu although, because he was elderly and almost blind, his son, Tu'ihalafatai, exercised the practicalities of actual rule (Afuha'amango n.d.: 5, Beaglehole 1967 [III]: 892-93, Erskine 1853: 128, Thomas 1879: 153). Cook seems to have known Tu'ihalafatai by the name "Finau" (Beaglehole 1967 [III]: 177, Bott 1982: 19-20).

In 1793 Bruni d'Entrecasteaux and his men met Tu'i Kanokupolu Mumui whom they knew as Tubou [Tupou], as well as a clearly high ranking and influential woman whom they called "Queen Tiné" or "Tineh" on Tongatapu (Labillardière 1800: 351). The French understood that Queen Tiné was performing the duties of the male Tu'i Tonga until Pau's son was of age (Labillardière 1800: 376). All genealogies point to Queen Tiné being Tu'i Tonga Pau. Bott believes that the Tongans called her "*ta 'ahine*", the term for a chiefly woman, but that the French thought that this was her name, which they rendered as "Tiné" or "Tineh" (Bott 1982: 61, see also Thomas n.d.: 29). Her explanation is probable. At the time of the French visit there was no reigning Tu'i Tonga because Ma'ulupekotofa had died some time previously. Nanasipau'u was Ma'ulupekotofa's elder full sister; she was also Tu'i Tonga Fefine.

One month after the French visited Tongatapu, a Spanish expedition under the command of Alejandro Malaspina called at the northern Tongan archipelago of Vava'u. Of all the people they met, "Vuna" appears to be the central figure. He is described as a man of about 45 years of age and as "King of Vavao" [Vava'u]. The Spaniards recorded that he had more than four wives, at least two of whom were the daughters of the late Tu'i Tonga "Paulajo" [Paulaho/Pau] and his wife "Dubou" [Tupoumoheofo]. The second in command of the expedition recorded the women's names as "Fatafegi" [Fatafehi] and "Taufa" [Taufa]; Malaspina referred to them as the "two Fatafegis". The son of the one known as "Taufa" was a boy of about eight to ten years old named "Feileua" (also spelled as Feyloe-hua).

Bott believed that the man known to Malaspina as Vuna was, in fact, Tu'iha'ateiho Fā'otusia Fakahikuo'uiha whose personal or nickname may have been Vuna (Bott 1982: 34-36). Gifford's work also tends to support this claim (Gifford 1929: 81, 137). Fā'otusia is recorded as the son of Tu'iha'ateiho Haveatunga and the Tu'i Tonga Fefine Nanasipau'u, the woman known by Bruni d'Entrecasteaux as "Queen Tiné".

Bott bases her supposition of Vuna's identity as Fā'otusia on the Tongan genealogies (hohoko) which list the two daughters of Tu'i Tonga Paulaho and Tupoumoheofo (Sinaitakala and Fatafehi Lapaha) as being married to Tu'iha'ateiho Fā'otusia (see Fig. 5). One daughter, Fatafehi Ha'apai, is remembered as marrying only Fā'otusia and having one daughter by him named "Fana" (Bott 1982: 34). Collocott recorded a poem about a man who wished to marry the Fatafehi Ha'apai, but was bitterly disappointed to find that she had gone to Vava'u to marry a man named Vuna (Collocott 1928: 86-87). The other daughter of Tu'i Tonga Paulaho and Tupoumoheofo recorded as marrying Fā'otusia was Fatafehi Lapaha. Her son by Fā'otusia was Makamālohi who was the Tama Tauhala 'Extraordinary Child' (Spillius [Bott] 1958-1959). Gifford was told (1929: 81) that there was only one individual in history who held this title. In many ways he was treated as a Tu'i Tonga. He is buried near Lapaha in a tomb known as a langi and Queen Sālote stated that Makamālohi was sent a *moheofo*—a practice usually reserved for only the Tu'i Tonga (Bott 1982: 36). The moheofo was the highest ranking and principal wife of the Tu'i Tonga and also the mother of the subsequent titleholder. Undoubtedly Makamālohi was of extraordinarily high chiefly rank, greater than that of the Tu'i Tonga of the time. His association with a *palā tavake* is intriguing and may indicate a shift in Tongan politics in the late 18th century.

### EXCHANGES WITH THE VISITORS

When Europeans visited Tonga, Tongans made available to them things of great value in both the archipelago and wider Polynesia. Chief among these were items decorated with feathers, especially red feathers. Red was a colour associated with rank and chiefliness throughout Polynesia and it proved to be persuasive inducement in trade all over the region. In fact,





it has been suggested that the richness of the collections associated with Cook's second voyage, in particular, was made possible through obtaining and redistributing these red featherwork items from Tonga (Gathercole 2004). Cook had on board with him Mahine, a man from Borabora in the Society Islands, who correctly advised of their high value to Tahitians. They would prove as desirable to Marguesans. To Forster it was indicated "a bit of two inches square, covered with feathers, would at any time, be eagerly purchased with a hog" (Forster 1778: 367). This was a considerable incentive for Cook and his men given their need in the course of their expeditions for fresh food to keep both health and morale high. Significantly, red feathers sourced in Tonga were also traded for other high status objects from other Polynesian islands including at least ten of the now famous "Chief Mourners' Costumes" acquired from Tahiti (Coote and Uden 2013: 235, Gathercole 2004). In Tonga in 1793 the Bruni d'Entrecaseaux Expedition presented Tu'i Kanokupolu Mumui with red cloth, having realised that red was a very desirable colour for Tongans:

The king expressed much thankfulness for them; but, of all that was offered him, nothing so much excited the admiration of this numerous assembly, as a piece of crimson damask, the lively colour of which produced from all sides an exclamation, of eho! eho! which they continued repeating a long time, with an appearance of the greatest surprise. They uttered the same exclamation, when we unrolled a few pieces of ribbon, in which red was the prominent colour. (Labillardière 1800: 357)

They also presented Fuanunuiava, who would later be Tu'i Tonga, with a "scarlet suit of clothes", reserving a blue suit for a lower ranking chief (Labillardière 1800: 340).

Cook's men traded eagerly for collections of red feathers attached to portions of banana leaf and sections of woven coconut fibre or *kafa*. The highest-ranking feathered items were, undoubtedly, the fanned feather headdresses associated with the rule of the Tu'i Tonga and the feathered waist garments worn by chiefs for "ceremonial dress or dancing" (Kaeppler 1971: 211-13). Their acquisition was not easy, yet during their visits to Tonga Cook and his men gathered at least 20 feathered waist garments known as *sisi fale*. These were made from finely plaited coconut fibre and adorned with red feathers and fine shell beads (Kaeppler 1971: 211-13). Although greatly desired, the red and white *palā tavake* proved more difficult to obtain and were not acquired until Cook's third voyage. Cook wrote that:

though very large prices were offered not one was ever brought for sale, which shewed [*sic*] they were no less valuable to the people here, nor was there a person

in either Ship that got one but my self [*sic*] Capt Clerke and Omai', and only from the incumbent Tu'i Tonga Paulaho himself. (Beaglehole 1967 [III]: 117)

Part of the issue may have been the notion of bartering or selling. Tu'i Tonga Fefine Nanasipau'u made this distinction very clear to members of the Bruni d'Entrecasteaux expedition in 1793:

She was very careful to let us know that she did not give them by way of barter; affecting to repeat with an air of dignity ikai fokatau, and to inform us by the word doupe, that she made us a present of them. Indeed the chiefs never offered to barter their articles for ours; they made us presents, and received whatever we thought proper to give. (Labillardière 1800: 354)

Labillardière also reported (1800: 375) that Bruni d'Entrecasteaux was given "as a present a diadem, made with the beautiful red feathers of the tropic-bird, with some other very small feathers of a brilliant red colour". One month later Arcadio Pineada, a member of the Malaspina Epedition, recorded that the "Monarch", whose name was "Vuna" (Tu'iha'ateiho Fā'otusia), "was distinguished [from the populace] by a hat or diadem of red feathers, like that which Cook described when he spoke of Paulajo" (Pineada n.d.). Pineada also noted that Vuna's younger brother (Veasi'i) also wore a diadem that was "a different make" than his brother's and contained both red and white feathers. He also recorded that they were given one of the diadems. It seems likely that the specimen in Madrid came from the Malaspina Expedition. It is odd that the commander of the expedition did not record the acquisition of such a magnificent headdress. However, while compiling the official record of the voyage after their return to Spain, Malaspina was arrested. Upon his release he returned to his native Italy in poor health and soon passed away. Meanwhile, the expedition's manuscript material was seized and placed in the Museo Naval under a one hundred year publication ban. As the preparation for publication was not finished, it is not possible to know whether the final official publication would have mentioned the *palā tavake* received in Vava'u.

### POLITICS AND THE REIGN OF THE TU'I TONGA IN THE LATE 18TH CENTURY

The sole surviving *palā tavake* described here takes on added historical significance given that it is emblematic of crucial social and political changes of late 18th century Tonga. It was a *palā tavake* that distinguished Tu'i Tonga Pau as Tonga's senior ranked elite upon Cook's arrival and it was a gift he specifically made to members of the expedition. Cook's arrival and this transaction coincided with a watershed in Tongan history in several ways. Among the significant events while he was Tu'i Tonga was the said visit of

James Cook and his expedition to the islands. The mark Cook left on Tonga was not one of introduced transformation, for his direct influence on Tongan politics and social life was negligible, although he did introduce a few agricultural crops, some livestock and probably dogs, not to mention venereal disease, to the islands. Cook's greatest impact on Tonga was an historical one. Overall Cook found provisions easy to obtain in Tonga owing to the economic control exercised by the chiefly hierarchy with whom he associated. He visited the islands three times during his Pacific voyages (1773, 1774, 1777) with his final stay in Tonga lasting eleven weeks. With such prolonged contact, Cook and some of his men came to know the Tongans as individuals and, while they did not understand the intricacies of Tongan custom and ideology, they described the situations they saw with the Tongan actors named and, for the most part, identifiable in the Tongan genealogies. In addition to providing a cameo, albeit foreign, of 18th-century life in Tonga, the large amount of accessible manuscript and published material of Cook and his crew provided a framework within which later European visitors observed and wrote about Tonga. Literature from the Cook voyages became essential for libraries of individuals heading to the Pacific, just as they are now indispensable for those interested in Tonga's past. In effect, the Cook Expedition observations, whether right or wrong, became the stereotype for traditional Tongan culture.

In the late 1770s Pau was Tu'i Tonga, Maealiuaki appeared to be Tu'i Ha'atakalaua and Tupoulahi was Tu'i Kanokupolu although, because he was elderly and almost blind, his son, Tu'ihalafatai, exercised the practicalities of actual rule (Afuha'amango n.d.: 5, Beaglehole 1967 [III]: 892-93, Erskine 1853: 128, Thomas 1879: 153). Conflict between the two titular lineages of the Tu'i Tonga and Tu'i Kanokupolu was perhaps inevitable, especially as the authority of the Tu'i Ha'atkalaua title waned with the establishment of the Tu'i Kanokupolu title. This eclipse can be seen in the shift of the natal lineage of the principal wife (*moheofo*) of the Tu'i Tonga from the Ha'atakalaua to the Kanokupolu line at the time of the 4th Tu'i Kanokupolu Mataeleha'amea. The relationships of the individuals re-inscribed the relative rank, power and authority of the titles in each generation through this marriage and succession of rule (see Bott 1982: 59-60). These tensions were further aggravated by the ambitions of Tu'i Tonga Pau who desired more secular authority (Erskine 1853: 129, Gunson 1979: 40, Thomas 1879: 172).

This desire may have been prompted by the questionable foundation upon which his own succession was based. Pau was neither his father's eldest son nor his son by the acknowledged *moheofo*. Pau's father had many wives among whom were some very high ranking women, however, Pau was the son of a lower ranking, although still chiefly, wife (see Fig. 5). The first of Pau's father's illustrious marriages produced only one child, a son, who was said to have died young (Bott 1982: 100). His second wife also was called *moheofo* (Hala'api'api n.d.: 201). She had five children with the Tu'i Tonga: three daughters (Nanasipau'u, Fatafehi and Fakaolakifanga) and two sons (Manumata'ongo and Ma'ulupekotofa). Pau's mother was not considered a *moheofo*; however, when the Tu'i Tonga died it was Pau who succeeded him as Tu'i Tonga. Some believe that it was the rank of Pau's grandmother and great grandmother which saw him succeed or that it was the choice of his father's sister the Tu'i Tonga Fefine. Others argue that it was because Pau was an able leader and had distinguished himself as a warrior and may even have been called *hau*, a term which signified a challengeable position of secular authority and considerable power (Erskine 1853: 129; Gunson 1979: 29, 39, 2005: 324; Tu'i'āfitu 1970; Ma'afu Tupou pers. comm.,). For whatever reason, Pau became Tu'i Tonga instead of arguably more senior candidates.

An indication of the strain surrounding Pau's succession to the title appeared during the 'inasi ceremony which occurred while the Cook Expedition was in Tonga in 1777. There is little doubt that ceremony was the 'inasi 'ufimui when the seedlings of the chiefly vam kahokaho were presented to the Tu'i Tonga to ensure the success of the growth of the yams in the coming season. The Europeans were told that the yams presented "were a portion consecrated to the O'tooa [o'tua] or divinity" and that the ceremony was called "natche" or "anache" (Beaglehole 1967 [III]: 916-17, 1308, 1363). However, there also was a suggestion that this was not a conventional 'inasi. Cook and his men were told that the second day of the ceremony was designed to allow Fuanunuiava, the son of Pau, to eat with his father but "as it was only ceremonial... he would just eat a single mouthful [*sic*] of vam and his father the same" (Beaglehole 1967 [III]: 916; see also 913). The prestations of the 'inasi normally occupied only one day and the tapu of not eating in the presence of one's superior was strongly held in Tonga. To break it in relation to the sacred ruler was no small deed. Even the Europeans, with their limited understanding of Tongan custom, sensed the gravity of this action: "His father... either from an ancient custom or perhaps to insure the succession wishes to see it done whilst alive" (Beaglehole 1967 [III]: 916). John Thomas, a Weslevan missionary who lived in Tonga for many years during the 19th century, described it thus:

Bau [Pau] the King and his son were present on the occasion and it seems it was during the ceremony of the Inaji [*'inasi*] that the Prince was named to honor equal to his father and from that time was to sit at meals with his father. It was quite a new thing, a violation of Tongan custom and usage. (Thomas n.d.: 11-12)

Although the ritual breaking of the eating *tapu* between father and son was most unusual, the presentation of textile and agricultural items to the Tu'i Tonga was a common ceremony known as *fakataumafa* 'to provide for',

in which the people demonstrated their obeisance and fidelity to him with a pledge of continuing sustenance (Spillius [Bott] 1958-1959 [II]: 241-42, Ve'ehala pers. comm.). In a sense, the *fakataumafa* marked the succession to the honour and title, as there was no specific installation ceremony for the Tu'i Tonga. This was yet another instance of recognising and distinguishing the Tu'i Tonga from other chiefly individuals. On the one hand, all the rest of male titles in Tonga were bestowed at a kava ceremony attended by the new titleholder and other chiefs who had significant relationships to the title. On the other hand, the Tu'i Tonga, by right of his ancestry, automatically succeeded his father. The succession came at the time of the Tu'i Tonga's death. While there is nothing unusual in a *fakataumafa* for a new Tu'i Tonga, it was a radical break with Tongan tradition for the ceremony to occur while the incumbent Tu'i Tonga was not only alive, but presiding over the ritual. Many sources assume that Tupoumoheofo, the principal wife (moheofo) of Tu'i Tonga Pau, was the instigator of this unusual event to secure her son's succession (fua 'ai hau) (Bott 1982: 39-40, Cummins 1977: 66-67, Gunson 1979: 39-40, Lātūkefu 1974: 13). However, as has been argued elsewhere (Herda 1987), it appears more likely that it was Pau, not Tupoumoheofo, who was interested in securing his son's succession lest it be challenged in his absence.

His fears appear well-grounded as fighting broke out between the *Kauhala'uta* (Tu'i Tonga) and the *Kauhalalo* (Tu'i Kanokupolu), reportedly over the ambitions of Tu'i Tonga Pau who attempted to increase his secular authority (Erskine 1853: 129, Gunson 1979: 83, Thomas 1879: 172). The conflict escalated over time and ended with violent unrest and the death of Pau around 1784 (Novo y Colson 1885: 382, Thomas 1879: 172, Thomson 1894: 321). Members of the Malaspina Expedition were told:

Paulajo... was dethroned and murdered by a conspiracy hatched between Vuna, Monmuy [Mumui], and Tubou [Tupoumoheofo], wife of the same Paulajo. The conspirators set out from Tonga with some 20 large canoes; putting into the ports of the Islands of Annamoka [Nomuka] and Happai [Ha'apai]. They passed to Vavao [Vava'u] where Paulajo, as the head of his people, received them. There was a clash which ended with the death of the latter at the hands of Vuna, after these two leaders had fought hand to hand. (Novo y Colson 1885: 382)

The consequences of the death of Tu'i Tonga Pau were far-reaching. Initially there was no successor to Pau appointed, ostensibly because the Kanokupolu people, most likely Mumui and his son Tuku'aho, would not allow Fuanunuiava to assume the sacred duties of the office despite Pau's attempt to elevate his son to the Tu'i Tonga title during his lifetime. It was said that the more recent holders, presumably a derogatory reference to Pau, were not descended from a *moheofo* as dignity and custom required (West 1865: 55). As a further insult and indictment of his low birth, Pau was buried in Vava'u "not as a Tu'i Tonga, but as an ordinary chief" (Novo y Colson 1885: 382). A successor was eventually named to the title. He was Mau'ulupekotofa, Pau's older and senior half-brother. His appointment would have appealed to the Kanokupolu people as he was said to be an amiable fellow with little or no political interests or ambition (Thomas 1879: 174). Mau'ulupekotofa was Tu'i Tonga for only a few years before he died. During this time, however, he seemed content to perform his sacred duties and not interfere with the secular rule of Tonga by the Kanokupolu chiefs. After his death no Tu'i Tonga was appointed. The sacred duties of the office were thought to have been performed by Nanasipau'u (Labillardière 1800: 376). Nanasipau'u was Ma'ulupekotofa's elder full sister; she was also Tu'i Tonga Fefine. She reported that Pau's son, the eligible successor to the title, was too young to succeed (Labillardière 1800: 376).

It is not clear why Nanasipau'u claimed that Pau's son, presumably Fuanunuiava, was not of age. Cook and his men witnessed the unusual fakataumafa conducted by Pau to insure his son's succession when he was estimated to be between 12 and 15 years old some 15 years earlier, so the boy would have been an adult in 1793. Members of the Bruni d'Entrecasteaux expedition met Fuanunuiava in 1793 and described him as an adult (Labillardière 1800: 336). Mariner (Martin 1817 [I]: 133) estimated him to be about 40 years old around 1806. It may be that he was unable to succeed while his father's sister, the Tu'i Tonga Fefine Nanasipau'u, was alive. Oueen Salote indicated that strict protocol would not usually allow this to happen (Spillius [Bott] 1958-1959). However, as previously mentioned, much that occurred at this time was not according to Tongan custom and it seems more likely the political ambitions of the Kanokupolu and the Tu'iha'ateiho people that prevented Fuanunuiava from being called Tu'i Tonga at this time. The French and Spanish expeditions that visited Tonga in April and May of 1793 indicated that Fuanunuiava was not an eligible successor. The Bruni d'Entrecasteux Expedition recorded a slighting remark that a chief of the Kanokupolu people made about Fuanunuiava that "everybody passed themselves off for chiefs (egui ['eiki])" (Labillardière 1800: 340). Malaspina's men were told in Vava'u that Fuanunuiava had "either been assassinated or was living confused with the lowest common people in Tongatabu" (Novo y Colson 1885: 382). Despite these incongruities, Fuanunuiava was eventually named Tu'i Tonga in 1795. Tu'i Kanokupolu Mumui directed his succession in an attempt to restore political order in Tonga (Spillius [Bott] 1958-1959).

#### POLITICS AND FEATHERWORK IN TONGA

The details of the three references to *palā tavake* in the European explorer literature help to explain the connection between the feathered diadems and the sacred Tu'i Tonga title, as well as the social and political transformations surrounding the title in the late 18th century. *Palā tavake*, as previously mentioned, were acquired by the Cook Expedition in Tongatapu in 1777, the Bruni d'Entrecasteaux Expedition in Tongatapu in 1793 and the Malaspina Expedition in Vava'u in 1793. Items of wealth index the realm of status, authority and power in Tonga and the individuals associated with *palā tavake* suggest a time of dynastic rivalries and political transformation in the archipelago in the late 18th century. The gifting of *palā tavake* to visiting Europeans can be seen both as a means of cementing a relationship between elites as well as a way of positioning the political ascendancy of the giver to the wider world.

Tu'i Tonga Pau gifted three *palā tavake* to Cook and his men on his third visit to Tonga; two of these three were later traded within Polynesia. Pau's title and status fit with what is known about *palā tavake* and their standing as sacred feathered regalia in Tonga. It was said that Pau's *palā tavake* was made at a time when the knowledge of how to create them was in danger of being forgotten. Pau, reportedly, offered a *matapule* 'chiefly attendant' title to anyone able to make one (Kaeppler 1971: 214, Ko e Makasina ko e Lo'au 1970). The title he established was "Helu" which means 'comb' in Tongan. A man from Foa created an authentic *palā tavake* and received the title which was passed to his descendants. The gravestone of a later Helu who died in 1884 commemorates this honour: "Helu who made the comb (helu) called PALATAVAKE" (Helu 2014).

The suggestion that the creation of *palā tavake* in the 1770s may have been a revival of an earlier practice is intriguing. It may be that Tu'i Tonga Pau in an effort to secure his own line's succession, and to increase his power and the secular authority of the title, sought the re-creation of sacred feathered regalia to evoke the sole rule of the Tu'i Tonga in times long past. Pau's association with the *palā tavake* is also commemorated in the carving on a war club given to Cook and his men which depicts the Tu'i Tonga wearing a feathered headdress (Kaeppler 2010: 169, 252; Mills 2009). This harkening back to a time of exclusive and pre-eminent rule, as well as the commemoration of Pau's prowess as a warrior, makes sense considering his tenuous genealogical right to the title.

Members of the Bruni d'Entrecasteux Expedition were given a *palā tavake* during their visit to Tongatapu in April and May of 1793. The headdress was presented by "Feenou" [Fīnau] whom the French identified as "chief of the warriors" and "whose body was covered with scars in

various places... received by spears in different battles against the people of Feejee" (Labillardière 1800: 334). The French spent a large amount of time with "Feenou". He was most probably Fīnau 'Ulukālala-'i-Ma'ofanga. Fīnau was a renowned warrior who travelled to Fiji and fought alongside the Tui Nayau earning himself an envious reputation both in Fiji and Tonga. (Hocart n.d: 242, Spillius [Bott] 1958-1959, Deryck Scarr pers. comm., Fergus Clunie pers. comm.).

Why Fīnau 'Ulukālala-'i-Ma'ofanga had the *palā tavake* is a mystery. He was not Kauhala'uta (the Tu'i Tonga's people) nor did the French record that he wore the headdress. There is no record of him taking part in the battles between the Tu'i Kanokupolu's people and Tu'i Tonga Pau, but it is entirely possible that he was involved. He was politically ambitious and, as mentioned, had a reputation as a fierce warrior. If he was in Tonga at the time of the battles, it is not hard to imagine that he would have participated. If he was directly involved with Pau's death this may explain why he was in possession of the *palā tavake* and why he chose to gift it to the French. He certainly called himself *hau*, indicating that he ruled because of his success in battle, and he may have acquired the feather diadem as a battle trophy. Gifting such an item would have enhanced his status.

The third European description and acquisition was from Vuna to members of the Malaspina Expedition in 1793. If Malaspina's "Vuna" was, in fact, Tu'iha'ateiho Fā'otusia Fakahikuo'uiha, it is not out of the question that he wore a *palā tavake*. As mentioned, Fā'otusia was of exceedingly high rank. In addition the Tu'iha'ateiho title originated with a Tu'i Tonga Fefine and, therefore, was regarded as being Kauhala'uta or on the same 'side of the road' as (i.e., intimately related to) the Tu'i Tonga. It may be that Fā'otusia was attempting to raise himself or his son, Makamālohi, to the Tu'i Tonga title. Pau's less than illustrious genealogy would have emphasised the stellar rank of Makamālohi, as previously mentioned, the very highest ranking individual in all of Tongan history. It may be that some felt him a more worthy holder of the title or it may be that Fā'otusia sought to supplant the title with the Tu'iha'ateiho title. Vuna [Fā'otusia] was said to have been part of the conspiracy against Tu'i Tonga Pau:

The chiefs Eyguis Buna ['Eiki Vuna] and Mumui, gathered their forces in Vabau [Vava'u], home of the queen [Tupoumoheofo] who was a Tubou [Tupou]. Paulajo [Paulaho] with all his authority, accompanied by his son Fatafegui [Fatafehi Fuanunuiava] (the same one that Captain Cook saw crowned) marched against Hapay (Ha'apai), attacked and held it. He defeated Anamuka [Nomuka]; but was unhappy in Vabau [Vava'u]. The conspirators repelled the landing and, in particular, the combat between Paulajo [Paulaho] and Buna [Vuna] left Paulajo [Paulaho] defeated. (Pineada n.d.)

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If Pau had been acknowledged as *hau* then his defeat in combat by Tu'iha'ateiho Fā'otusia would entitle the latter to be Pau's successor. Indications based on records from the 1793 European visits to the archipelago suggest that the aim may have been to supplant the Tu'i Tonga. Fā'otusia's mother, Nanasipau'u, was performing the duties of the Tu'i Tonga on Tongatapu at the same time the Spaniards heard about the "revolution" in the islands. They were told that Vuna's [Fā'otusia's] son, Feileua [Makamālohi], was "heir Prince to Vavao [Vava'u], Happai [Ha'apai], and Annamoka [Nomuka]...[eventually at age] the rights of Feileua would be extended to Tongatabu [Tongatapu]" (Novo y Colson 1885: 383). The denigration of Pau's son, Fuanunuiava, in Tongatapu intimate that those in league against Pau and his son were, at least in part, successful. This suggestion is further supported by the evidence that Makamālohi [Feileua] was treated like a Tu'i Tonga with the presentation of a moheofo. The absence of a palā tavake being worn by Fuanunuiava, a clear successor to the Tu'i Tonga title, in Tongatapu, at the same time that Vuna [Tu'iha'ateiho Fā'otusia] and his younger brother [Veasi'i] are wearing them in Vava'u, suggest the usurpation of ritual authority if not political power of the Tu'i Tonga. The rank of Fā'otusia was exceedingly high; that of his son was unmatched in Tongan history. That they would position themselves and their title as more suitable and viable sacred rulers of Tonga is not out of the question. It also seems probable that the splendid headdress in the Museo de América was most likely the one worn by Vuna [Fā'otusia] or his younger brother [Veasi'i] in Vava'u in 1793 and brought back to Madrid by members of the Malaspina Expedition. Palā tavake were magnificent adornments, beautifully created and regally worn. Undoubtedly, they were designed to impress.

\* \* \*

While the accepted accounts of Tonga's past have, by and large, been portrayed as absolute and unchanging, it is increasingly clear that power relations within Tonga were more fluid and competitive than received traditions suggest and the late 18th century proved to be a time of intense dynastic rivalries in the archipelago. The possible revival of the feather headdress known as *palā tavake* by Tu'i Tonga Pau signalled a shift in the history of Tongan politics, as the sacred ruler may have attempted to extend the authority of his title to political as well as sacred power. His goal was only temporarily realised, ending with his death and the denigration of the title by dynastic rivals which included Tu'iha'ateiho Fā'otusia. It appears that Fā'otusia attempted to name himself or his son as the new sacred ruler of Tonga adopting the *palā tavake* as a symbol of this conquest.

They may have been the last to wear the feather headdress in Tonga. By the turn of the 19th century, the dynastic rivalries would explode into 20 years of civil war in Tonga. The archipelago would not be fully united again until after 1845 which saw the installation of Tāufa'āhau as Tu'i Kanokupolu. Significantly at this time Tāufa'āhau was also crowned King Tupou I: the first monarch and the beginning of the modern Tongan royal line. The new rule favoured the new Christian religion so the old ways of the gods in Tonga and their association with divine chieftainship, including its sacred regalia, were replaced. The rule of the Tupou Dnasty was further strengthened when Tu'i Tonga Laufilitonga died in 1865 and Tāufa'āhau ordered the sacred title to be abolished. The establishment of the modern Kingdom of Tonga heralded an era of political centralisation and unification that still exists today.

Today the *palā tavake* is regarded as a symbol of ancient chieftainship in Tonga. The discovery of a surviving example in Madrid will be welcomed by Tongans as a link with that distant past. It is recalled in contemporary Tongan poetry, textile design and visual art (see Fig. 2) where it is inextricably linked with the sacred ruler of Tonga who held the title Tu'i Tonga. These works proclaim and reclaim the sacred chiefly regalia as part of an ancient, enduring and unified political past. However, rather than embodying a peaceful time of political unification the appearance, possible revival and subsequent disappearance of the *palā tavake* reveal a history of intense dynastic rivalries with the transformation and eventual end of the scared Tu'i Tonga title in Tonga.

#### NOTES

- 1. The headdress in Madrid was uncovered by Maia Nuku, University of Cambridge, with Beatriz Robledo, Museo de América, Madrid in November 2011. It was conserved by Mercedes Ramos Amezaga, also of the Museo de América (Amézaga Ramos and Cerezo Ponte 2013).
- 2. Paulaho roughly translates as 'large scrotum or testicles' and is somewhat offensive to modern Tongans who prefer the nomenclature Pau.
- 3. See Campbell (1982) and Herda (1995: 43-45) for a discussion of establishment of the Tu'i Ha'atakalaua title.
- 4. The ceremony at the time of planting was known as the '*inasi* 'ufimui. It acknowledged the part of the goddess Hikule'o and the Tu'i Tonga in the fertility of the land and invoked the continuation of that fertility. At the time of the harvest the first portion was likewise consecrated to Hikule'o through the Tu'i Tonga. This first fruits ceremony was known as '*inasi* 'ufimotu 'a. Clunie (2013: 187) contends that the '*inasi* offerings were presented to Kaloafutonga rather than Hikule'o.

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#### ABSTRACT

*Palā tavake* were sacred regalia, feather headdresses, reserved for the traditional sacred ruler of Tonga, the Tu'i Tonga. Recently a fanned feathered headdress whose materials and construction are commensurate with 18th-century Tongan objects was uncovered at Madrid's Museo de América. This paper considers the feather headdress located in Madrid, its probable historical context and connections—both Tongan and Spanish. In addition we discuss the association of *palā tavake* with the Tu'i Tonga, the sacred ruler of Tonga, and the changing nature of the title in the late 18th century.

*Keywords: palā tavake*, feather headdress, sacred regalia, Tongan political history, Tu'i Tonga, Western contact

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# SOURCING RAPA NUI *MATA* 'A FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF BISHOP MUSEUM USING NON-DESTRUCTIVE pXRF

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Obsidian and volcanic glass provided useful material for the manufacture of cutting implements throughout the Pacific during the period before European contact. Obsidian artefacts including flakes, cores and a variety of cutting tools are commonly encountered in archaeological deposits situated in both Near and Remote Oceania (e.g., Ambrose 1996; Kirch and Yen 1982; Sheppard et al. 2011; Torrence, Kelloway and White 2013; Vargas, Cristino and Izaurieta 2006). Advances in provenance methods since the early 1970s have resulted in a proliferation of studies that utilise techniques such as X-ray fluorescence (XRF) and instrumental neutron activation analysis (INAA) to accurately characterise the chemical properties of obsidian and other lithic materials (see Shackley 2005). Studies of obsidian characterisation in Oceania (e.g., Bird et al. 1978; Reepmeyer and Clark 2010; Sand and Sheppard 2000; Smith, Ward and Ambrose 1977; Specht 2002; Spriggs, Bird and Ambrose 2010; Torrence et al. 2013; Weisler 2012; Weisler and Clague 1998; White and Harris 1997) and more specifically in New Zealand (e.g., Green 1962, 1964; Green et al. 1967; Leach and Anderson 1978; McCov et al. 2010; Mosley and McCoy 2010; Sheppard et al. 2011) and on Rapa Nui (e.g., Beardsley, Ayres and Goles 1991; Beardsley and Goles 1998, 2001; Bird 1988; Stevenson et al. 2013) have been widespread. These studies have been fundamental in providing insights into the dynamics of local and regional interaction spheres in a variety of contexts throughout the region.

Rapa Nui contains four sources of obsidian in the southwestern portion of the island (Fig. 1) that have been identified through intensive archaeological survey (McCoy 1976; Stevenson, Shaw and Cristino 1984; Vargas *et al.* 2006).


Figure 1. Obsidian source locations on Rapa Nui.

As the only large source of true obsidian outside of New Zealand in East Polynesia, this material would have been both a novel and valuable resource for the production of portable artefacts. Artefacts that were manufactured using obsidian are common across the island, and the assignment of geographical provenances using geochemical sourcing methods has provided insights into the exploitation of these source locations and social dynamics relating to access and exchange (e.g., Beardsley, Goles and Ayres 1996; Cristino *et al.* 1999; Stevenson *et al.* 2013).

The obsidian artefacts encountered on Rapa Nui are the product of a coreflake reduction technology (Stevenson *et al.* 1984) and include unretouched flakes, scrapers, small adzes and *mata* 'a (tanged obsidian tools). *Mata* 'a are reported to have "proliferated widely on Rapa Nui in late archaeological and surface contexts" (Van Tilburg 1994: 109) although chronometric data to substantiate this are lacking. Although typically described as spear points (e.g., Flenley and Bahn 2002: 152-53, Métraux 1940: 166-67), use-wear analyses carried out during the 1990s identified wear patterns and edge damage associated with the cutting of fibrous plants and wood, suggesting that *mata 'a* were more likely used for crop harvesting and/or light woodworking (Church 1994, 1998; Church and Ellis 1996; Church and Rigney 1994). More recent analyses have identified the remains of sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*) on the cutting edges of these artefacts (Stevenson pers. comm. 2013), further suggesting that they were involved in food preparation. This empirical archaeological evidence is supported by the early observation of Bouman, a mariner onboard the first recorded European ship to visit the island in 1722 under the command of Jacob Roggeveen. Bouman observed that the Rapanui "cut their bananas with a sharp little black stone" (von Saher 1990: 52), but this observation may pertain to flakes rather than *mata 'a*.

If *mata* 'a did have an agricultural function, they would have been an important production tool for the chiefly economy, which was reliant on dryland agricultural practices which developed throughout the Rapa Nui cultural sequence (see Ladefoged *et al.* 2010, Stevenson 2002, Stevenson and Haoa 2008). However, the fact that hundreds of *mata* 'a were surface-collected from ceremonial contexts, including 355 from the Vinapu area on the southwest coast and 287 from the Ahu Akivi-Ahu Vai Teka inland ceremonial complex (Mulloy 1961, Mulloy and Figueroa 1978) may suggest that they were not solely agricultural tools.

In the present study, we analyse a total of 332 artefacts, including 302 complete *mata* 'a and 30 broken *mata* 'a, from the Ethnology Collections of the Bishop Museum using pXRF (portable X-ray fluorescence) to assign geological provenances. This builds on the recent research of Stevenson et al. (2013), who used Discriminant Function Analysis (DFA) of laboratorybased EDXRF (energy dispersive X-ray fluorescence) data to source 331 obsidian flakes from various archaeological contexts across the island in an effort to explore regional exchange and use patterns. Stevenson et al. (2013) assigned the artefacts to the four geological sources that were exploited during Rapa Nui prehistory, and their findings suggested that quarries were differentially represented in ceremonial versus domestic contexts. Here, we apply a similar approach and utilise pXRF to non-destructively source the complete and incomplete *mata* 'a from the collections at the Bishop Museum. Discriminant Function Analysis (DFA) and Support Vector Machines (SVM) source attribution studies were carried out to explore obsidian procurement activities and the results of these analyses are used to address the reasons for differential obsidian source exploitation and how elite personnel may have played a role in this process.

### BACKGROUND

#### Mata'a in the Collections of Bishop Museum

In general, the *mata* 'a curated by the Bishop Museum are ethnographic collections that lack specific provenance information. Along with a number of other cultural objects from Rapa Nui, a total of 232 complete and incomplete mata 'a were purchased in 1920 from the private collector, J.L. Young. Young was a merchant who lived in French Polynesia and often travelled to Rapa Nui during the 1880s. Many of the mata'a from Young's collection have twine around the neck of the artefact, which suggests that they were likely purchased from the CEDIP (Compania Explotadora de Isla de Pascua) store on the island (historic photos of the company store show artefacts displayed on the wall using twine). Bishop Museum anthropologist Kenneth P. Emory collected 81 mata 'a during a research expedition in 1929-1931, and these were accessioned in 1931. The remaining 20 artefacts were gifts to the museum: six mata'a from the Hawaiian National Museum in 1891, seven from J.L. Young in 1902, two from the Societe d'Etudes Oceaniennes in 1928, another two from ethnographer Alfred Métraux in 1936 and three from ethnobotanist Douglas Yen in 1964. Those donated by Yen are the only artefacts for which any provenance details are given. Yen indicated that these artefacts were collected near an *ahu* (ceremonial platform) in the northeastern area of the island. Aside from this very general description, there is no specific provenance information for any of the *mata* 'a in the Bishop Museum collections. The argument made here is that despite limited provenance information, these artefacts can be used to explore general features of obsidian procurement.

## Mata'a Classifications

*Mata 'a* exhibit a wide range of morphological variation. Numerous classifications have been put forth, but they have generally been based on an intuitive or *ad hoc* selection of attributes. Ethnographic accounts from the late 19th and early 20th century (Routledge 1919, Thomson 1891) described these tools as weapons, and Thomson and Routledge both attempted to classify them based on overall shape. Thomson divided a collection of *mata 'a*, which he purchased in 1886 from A.A. Salmon, an entrepreneur resident on Rapa Nui, into nine types and assigned each one a Rapanui name. Similarly, Routledge (1919: 223) was given 14 different descriptive names for *mata 'a* by Rapanui informants, such as "tail of a fish", "backbone of a rat" and "leaf of a banana". It is, however, not certain if these names were used traditionally or relate to different functional types.

Since the early 20th century, a number of more formal classification schemes have been presented for *mata* 'a. During the early 1920s, H.D. Skinner classified 194 artefacts from the collections of the Bishop Museum (as cited in Métraux

1940: 166-67). His classification was based on overall shape and consisted of six types (Fig. 2). In 1951, Bórmida studied 500 specimens from a museum collection in Chile and presented a classification consisting of four types, three of which had two subdivisions. He concluded that particular edge morphologies might have been employed for different woodworking functions. Bórmida's (1951) classification and Skinner's earlier one were built upon by Mulloy (1961), who analysed 355 surface-collected mata 'a from the Vinapu area during the Norwegian Expedition to Rapa Nui in 1955-1956. A total of 219 of these were placed into Skinner's categories and "Type 2" specimens (distinguished by having a straight cutting edge) were more prevalent than the other types, with the most variation occurring in the blades of the artefacts, which were "almost infinitely varied" (Mulloy 1961: 152). Heyerdahl (1961: 399) added that "about two hundred additional surface specimens collected from most other sections on the island evince the same general characteristics..." and he thus concluded that Mulloy's study reflected island-wide variation in the morphology of these tools. In 1978, Mulloy and Figueroa expanded upon



Figure 2. Examples of *mata* 'a from the Bishop Museum collections showing Skinner's classification (drawings by H. D. Skinner; reproduced from Métraux 1940: 166, Fig. 3).

Mulloy's previous analysis and compared the *mata* 'a assemblages from Vinapu and Ahu Akivi. Most recently, Lipo, Hunt and Hundtoft's (2010) stylistic seriation of 447 artefacts from various areas of the island suggested localised patterns in *mata* 'a stylistic attributes. Overall, previous studies suggest that there is a wide range of variation, and that there is potential for the identification of some regional stylistic attributes in at least some areas of the island. In the present study, however, a stylistic seriation analysis was not undertaken due to a lack of geographic and temporal provenance for the artefacts under study.

## Rapa Nui Geology and Obsidian Sourcing Studies

Rapa Nui's four major obsidian sources are all associated with the final eruptive phase of the Rano Kau volcanic series (Vezzoli and Acocella 2009). These include: (i) the Motu Iti source, consisting of a massive dyke of obsidian located on the small (1.6 ha) offshore islet of Motu Iti, which is associated with a dense accumulation of flaking debris; (ii) the Orito source, situated on the vitrophyric dome of Maunga Orito, which contains expansive north and south flanking exposures of blocky material ~10-30 cm in length, which was extracted through open pit mining; (iii) the Rano Kau I source, located at the perlitic dome of Te Manavai, consisting of a light surface distribution of fragmentary obsidian on the northeast slopes of Rano Kau and (iv) the Rano Kau II source, which consists of small obsidian shards contained within a 20 m thick breccia along the northern edge of the Rano Kau caldera (see Fig. 1; see also McCoy 1976, Vezzoli and Acocella 2009: 874).

The material attributes of the Rapa Nui obsidian sources may have imposed some constraints on the production of *mata* 'a. The small and irregular shards of the Rano Kau II source preclude the production of large flakes and we would not expect any *mata* 'a to be made from this glass. Larger cobbles or fragments of obsidian are present at the Rano Kau I source, but they frequently contain perlite inclusions which likely made the material difficult to work (McCoy 1976: 329) and may have been visually undesirable. The Motu It source has a very suitable material for the production of large flakes, but with the practical drawback that it is located offshore. The Orito source contains large, easily acquired blocks of obsidian that are tabular in shape and are well-suited for the creation of large flakes from which *mata* 'a could be fashioned. We therefore predict that most of the *mata* 'a in the collections of Bishop Museum will be from the Orito source with significantly fewer *mata* 'a from Motu Iti and Rano Kau II.

Previous sourcing studies have had variable success in distinguishing between the four sources of obsidian on Rapa Nui. In 1974, Baker, Buckley and Holland utilised major, minor and trace element analysis on single samples to geochemically characterise the Orito, Motu Iti and Rano Kau I sources. Their analysis showed that the sources were broadly similar, and they were unable to distinguish among any of the sources completely. Bird (1988) performed a composition analysis using the PIXE/PIGME technique and, based on an analysis of 13 elements, found that the Te Manavai (Rano Kau I) source's geochemistry overlapped with the Orito and Rano Kau II sources.

In 1996, Beardsley et al. analysed 39 flakes from archaeological contexts and carried out a trace element analysis; they concluded that 82 percent of the samples (n = 32) came from the Orito source and 18 percent of the samples (n = 7) likely came from the Motu Iti source. They also assessed five obsidian samples from a site on the crater rim of Rano Kau (Site 1-193) and all five were assigned to the Orito source. As with Bird's previous study, their analysis could not distinguish between the Orito, Rano Kau I and Rano Kau II sources. Shortly thereafter, Cristino et al. (1999) utilised INAA and EDXRF to analyse 567 samples of source material in carrying out an extensive elemental characterisation of the four obsidian sources. Using DFA, which included 23 elements determined by INAA and seven major and minor oxides determined using EDXRF, they assessed 120 samples from Rano Kau II (identified simply as Rano Kau by Cristino et al.), 118 samples from Rano Kau I (identified as Te Manavai), 118 samples from Motu Iti and 211 samples from Orito. Their analysis was unable to fully partition the sources, with the Orito and Rano Kau I sources showing considerable overlap.

In 2007, Thomas, Neff and Lipo carried out an analysis of *mata* 'a from nine parcels in the interior Te Miro O'one and Te Kahurea areas of the island and also analysed source material using TOF-LA-ICP-MS (Time of Flight-Laser Ablation-Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry). They used DFA to separate out the Rano Kau I (Te Manavai) and Orito sources and concluded that the vast majority of the *mata* 'a under study came from the Orito source and a small number came from Motu Iti.

Most recently, Stevenson *et al.* (2013) processed 331 obsidian flakes from nine archaeological deposits and utilised a reference collection of 126 source material samples to assign provenance to the artefacts. They carried out a DFA of EDXRF data on seven elements and were able to accurately classify 89.6 percent of the 126 samples of source material analysed. They then compared archaeological samples to the geological sample distribution and showed that the sources were differentially represented in domestic versus ritual contexts (domestic: 47 percent Orito, 45 percent Rano Kau I, 2 percent Motu Iti, 5 percent Rano Kau II; ritual: 70 percent Orito, 16 percent Rano Kau I, 14 percent Motu Iti, 0 percent Rano Kau II). They also showed that the Rano Kau II source was rarely used. Here, we build on these previous sourcing analyses and use two methods (DFA and SVM) to assign geographic provenance to *mata'a* from the collections of Bishop Museum.

### METHODS

The 332 mata 'a, as well as a reference collection of 115 geological samples (Table 1), were analysed using a Bruker Tracer III SD pXRF instrument; the same reference collection was utilised by Stevenson et al. (2013). In the present study, these reference samples were re-analysed using the same pXRF instrument that was used to analyse the mata 'a. Of the 115 geological samples, 31 came from the Maunga Orito source. Samples from the Orito pit mines on the northwest flanks were collected by Stevenson (Stevenson et al. 1984) and samples from across the site were collected by Beardsley during the course of a systematic survey of the entire dome (Beardsley and Goles 2001). Twenty-nine geologic samples came from the Rano Kau I and Rano Kau II sources. The former were collected by Stevenson from the Te Manavai exposure and the latter came from a road-cut adjacent to the road leading to the summit of Rano Kau. From Motu Iti, Stevenson collected 20 geologic surface samples and also obtained samples from an underwater area of cultural debris. Six additional geologic samples from Motu Iti were provided by Sonia Haoa.

All samples were processed in the Bishop Museum's Conservation Laboratory. Samples were placed on the instrument with a base covering mylar film and were exposed to 200 seconds of live counting time. Values for iron (Fe), gallium (Ga), manganese (Mn), niobium (Nb), rubidium (Rb), strontium (Sr), thorium (Th), yttrium (Y), zinc (Zn) and zirconium (Zr) were calculated as parts-per-million (ppm) concentrations using the S1CalProcess software provided with the Bruker instrument. The instrument was calibrated for analysing obsidian by the manufacturer before it was loaned to Bishop Museum and a supplied reference sample was run daily to check for analytical stability.

The resulting dataset was analysed using two techniques: Discriminant Function Analysis (DFA) and Support Vector Machines (SVM) classification. Discriminant Function Analysis is commonly used in archaeological studies (e.g., Sheppard *et al.* 2011) but SVM classification is a recently-developed technique (see Cortes and Vapnik 1995). The method is conceptually similar to DFA, in that it assigns unknown specimens to groups based on a reference set. However, it operates on non-parametric principles; instead of maximising the distance between group *means*, as is the case with DFA, this method maximises the distance between group *boundaries*, potentially making it less sensitive to departures from the assumptions of parametric techniques, such as normal group distributions and equality of group variance. Employing two methodologically different techniques provides a useful means of ensuring robust results.

Table 1. Means and standard deviations for the four Rapa Nui obsidian sources; all values are in parts-per-million (ppm).

(00 <sup></sup> )1.	u 1 (11=29) S.D.	66.7	931.6	15.4	4.6	2	5.7	65.7	4.5	2.9	2.5
Dono Vo		622	24,156	240	91	28	154	880	130	31	12
(	(10=II) S.D.	54.2	1094.6	16.8	5.1	2.2	7.6	114	5.4	2.6	1.9
Quit 0	и п	555	22,367	214	84	26	143	837	124	28	12
ti (m_76)	u (11=20) S.D.	88.3	1508.5	17.3	5.6	2.5	7.5	110.7	5.3	4.2	2
Maturi	μ	644	23,950	220	81	46	139	751	122	29	11
(UC) II .	си S.D.	55.3	1468.9	17.8	6.1	1.8	8.3	45.3	5.3	3.2	2.5
Dano Van	nalio nau µ	440	20,732	236	96	6	160	837	132	31	13
Elomont	Diemen	Mn	Fe	Zn	Rb	Sr	Υ	Zr	Nb	Ga	Th

# RESULTS

# Discriminant Function Analysis

A DFA was carried out using the IBM SPSS statistics program (Version 20). Various combinations of elements were examined using standardised and logtransformed data, most of which gave similar results. It was found that using the same seven (untransformed) elements as in Stevenson *et al.*'s (2013) previous study (i.e., Mn, Fe, Zn, Rb, Sr, Y and Zr) produced results with the fewest misclassifications among the geological sample material. This DFA analysis placed the four sources into separate clusters, two of which overlapped slightly

Table 2. Predicted group assignments for obsidian source samples and artefacts as determined by Discriminant Function Analysis (DFA). The upper table shows the original results and the lower shows the results of Leave Out One Cross Validation (LOOCV).

Original		Predictea	l Group		
Actual Group	Rano Kau II	Motu Iti	Orito	Rano Kau I	Correctly Classified
Rano Kau II	29				1.000
Motu Iti		26			1.000
Orito			27	4	0.871
Rano Kau I			2	27	0.931
Artefacts		7	316	9	
Overall Corre	ect Classification	Rate			0.948

Original		Predicted	l Group		
Actual Group	Rano Kau II	Motu Iti	Orito	Rano Kau I	Correctly Classified
Rano Kau II	29				1.000
Motu Iti		26			1.000
Orito			26	5	0.839
Rano Kau I			4	25	0.862
Overall Corre	ect Classification	Rate			0.922

(Fig. 3). Overall, 94.8 percent of the source material samples were accurately classified, a figure which dropped slightly to 92.2 percent under Leave Out One Cross Validation (LOOCV) (Table 2). All misclassifications involved specimens from the Orito and Rano Kau I sources. The resulting discriminant functions were used to provide a geological provenance to the *mata* 'a (n = 332). The vast majority of the artefacts (95.2 percent) were assigned to the Orito source (n = 317). Nine artefacts (2.7 percent) were assigned to the Rano Kau I (Te Manavai) source and seven (2.1 percent) to the Motu Iti source (see Appendix). No *mata* 'a were assigned to the Rano Kau II source.

Table 3. Predicted group assignments for obsidian source samples and artefacts as determined by Support Vector Machines (SVM) classification. The upper table shows the original results and the lower shows the results of Leave Out One Cross Validation (LOOCV).

		Predicted	l Group		
Actual Group	Rano Kau II	Motu Iti	Orito	Rano Kau I	Correctly Classified
Rano Kau II	29				1.000
Motu Iti		26			1.000
Orito			26	5	0.839
Rano Kau I			2	27	0.931
Artefacts		8	319	5	n/a
Overall Corre	ect Classification	Rate			0.948

LOOCV		Predicted	l Group		
Actual Group	Rano Kau II	Motu Iti	Orito	Rano Kau I	Correctly Classified
Rano Kau II	29				1.000
Motu Iti		26			1.000
Orito			25	6	0.806
Rano Kau I			2	27	0.931
Overall Corre	ct Classification	Rate			0.930



Figure 3. Plot of the first two Discriminant Functions of *mata* 'a (n = 332) from the Bishop Museum collections and reference samples (n = 115). The upper plot shows the separation of the reference samples. The lower plot shows the assignment of *mata* 'a. Dashed lines indicate the Discriminant Function group boundaries. Sample C8353 (labelled) was assigned to the Orito source by the DFA and to the Motu Iti source by the SVM classification.



Figure 4. Stage 1 of the Support Vector Machines classification. The upper plot shows the separation of the Motu Iti and Rano Kau II reference samples from the other two sources. The lower plot shows the assignment of *mata 'a.* Data are the same as in Figure 3. Sample C8353 (labelled) was assigned to Orito by the DFA and to Motu Iti sources by the SVM classification.

## Support Vector Machine (SVM) Classification

The SVM analysis was carried out using the *ksvm* implementation in the Kernlab package for R (Karatzoglou, Smola and Hornik 2013: 54-61). The *vanilladot* kernel was selected to produce a linear classification function and all other settings were left at their default values. An initial assessment of the reference data suggested that different combinations of elements would be required to separate the four sources. Accordingly, a nested approach was used for the analysis; first, a pair of mid-Z element ratios (Sr/Y against Nb/Y) was used to discriminate the two most distinct sources, Motu Iti and Rano Kau II (Fig. 4). This combination produced a clear separation for these sources but resulted in considerable overlap among the Orito and Rano Kau I samples.

For the second stage of the analysis, all paired combinations of elements and element ratios were examined and the pair that best visually separated Orito from Rano Kau I (Y against Zn) was used to generate an SVM classification function (Fig. 5). This resulted in seven misclassifications for the reference samples; five samples from the Orito source were assigned to Rano Kau I, while two Rano Kau I samples were assigned to Orito. Overall, 93.9 percent of the geological reference samples were classified correctly using SVM and 93.0 percent under LOOCV (Table 3), a result almost identical to the DFA. The SVM classification functions were then applied to the artefacts. Eight were assigned to the Motu Iti source and the remainder (n = 324) were assigned to either the Orito or Rano Kau I sources (Fig. 4). No artefacts were assigned to the Rano Kau II source. For the second stage of the SVM classification, five artefacts were assigned to Rano Kau I, and the remaining 319 to Orito (Fig. 5).

## Comparison of Results

Overall, both methods gave very similar results; the Motu Iti and Rano Kau II sources each possess distinct chemical compositions and were completely separated using either method. The same seven *mata'a* (2.4 percent) were assigned to the Motu Iti source by both methods, but the SVM assigned one additional artefact (Accession Number C8353) to Motu Iti, which was assigned to Orito in the DFA. The scatterplot of the DFA classification shows that this specimen plots close to the junctions of three DFA grouping boundaries (Orito, Rano Kau II and Motu Iti) and appears to be more closely associated with the cluster of artefacts assigned to the Motu Iti source than to the Orito artefact cluster (Fig. 3). This artefact (Accession Number C8353) also plotted close to group boundaries when log-transformed data were used in a DFA. In contrast, the SVM analysis shows the specimen to be clearly associated with the Motu Iti reference samples and artefacts assigned to that



Figure 5. Stage 2 of the Support Vector Machines classification. The upper plot shows the separation of the Orito and Rano Kau I reference samples. The lower plot shows the assignment of *mata* 'a assigned to those two sources in Figure 4.



Figure 6. Plot of the second and third functions from the DFA, showing the separation of the Orito and Rano Kau I sources. The Motu Iti and Rano Kau II source materials and associated artefacts are omitted for clarity. The upper plot shows the separation of the reference samples. The lower plot shows the assignment of *mata* 'a. The dashed line indicates the Discriminant Function group boundary.

source (Fig. 6). On balance, these results suggest that the artefact is more likely derived from the Motu Iti source. It is noteworthy that Sample C8353 has the lowest values for Zr (523 ppm) and Nb (86 ppm) of all of the artefacts, so it may represent the extreme range of the Motu Iti source.

The other two sources, Rano Kau I and Orito, could not be completely separated using either method. Six reference samples were misclassified by DFA and seven by the SVM analysis. Our results concur with previous analyses (e.g., Stevenson *et al.* 2013) and indicate that the Rano Kau I and Orito sources are too similar to be completely separated by geochemical means alone. However, with the exception of two specimens (B3481c and B3481bbbb), which appear to be clearly associated with the Rano Kau I source, the remainder of these artefacts form a single homogenous cluster that is more closely associated with the Orito reference samples than those from Rano Kau I. The virtually identical results obtained using two methodologically different (i.e., parametric and non-parametric) techniques (see Figs 5 and 6) suggests that Orito is the most likely source for this cluster.

## Comparison of Mata'a Metric Data by Obsidian Source

Upon completion of the source discrimination, we measured *mata* 'a length, width and calculated length/width ratio metrics. The primary aim was to determine if material source might have limited or constrained *mata* 'a shape or dimensions. Consequently, if significant metric differences exist between *mata* 'a items sourced to various quarry locales, future hypotheses linking tool function, raw material quality and ultimately resource extraction and procurement may be addressed. However, these results should be viewed with some caution due to the small sample size for *mata* 'a from sources outside Orito.

In carrying out this analysis, the maximum length and width of each *mata* 'a was measured and each artefact was weighed. Length was measured from the base of the stem to the top of the tool, and maximum width measurements were taken perpendicular to the stem. Incomplete *mata* 'a were not included in the analysis. A total of 302 *mata* 'a were measured. This included 288 that were assigned to the Orito source by both DFA and SVM, seven assigned to the Motu Iti source by DFA and SVM and seven that were assigned to the Rano Kau source by DFA.

Comparison of the width for *mata* 'a from the three obsidian sources suggests that the mean width of *mata* 'a from each source group is similar (Table 4, Fig. 7). Although samples sizes for the Rano Kau source (n = 7) and the Motu Iti source (n = 7) are relatively small when compared to Orito (n = 288), a Kruskal-Wallis non-parametric comparison of mean width returned a value of  $X^2 = 2.168$  (sig. = 0.338) which indicates that the mean

Source	Ν	Min	Max	Mean	S.D
Orito	288	29.5	169.2	85.84	24.39
Motu Iti	7	63.2	122.8	92.71	23.86
Rano Kau I	7	54.0	126.5	98.17	28.36

Table 4. Descriptive statistics for width for mata 'a from Orito, Motu Iti and RanoKau I.

Table 5. Descriptive statistics for length for mata 'a from Orito, Motu Iti and RanoKau I.

Source	Ν	Min	Max	Mean	S.D
Orito	288	43.8	202.4	94.52	22.66
Motu Iti	7	90.1	151.8	113.27	21.68
Rano Kau I	7	14.5	308.8	118.29	97.33

Table 6.Descriptive statistics for length/ratio for mata 'a from Orito, Motu Iti and<br/>Rano Kau I.

Source	Ν	Min	Max	Mean	S.D
Orito	288	0.47	2.72	1.15	0.3012
Motu Iti	7	0.96	1.58	1.26	0.2386
Rano Kau I	7	0.27	2.5	1.11	0.7486

width differences between sources is not statistically significant at a 90 percent confidence level.

*Mata* 'a length was also compared between the obsidian source groups (Table 5, Fig. 8). The Kruskal-Wallis non-parametric comparison of group means indicates that *mata* 'a made from different source material are significantly different in mean length at a 90 percent confidence level ( $X^2 = 5.1773$ , sig. = 0.075). To determine if there were significant differences between the three quarry groups, we ran a set of Mann-Whitney U t-tests comparing the groups pairwise. The results indicate that the only difference



Figure 7. Box-plots of *mata* 'a width values by obsidian source: 1.00 =Orito, 2.00 =Motu Iti and 3.00 =Rano Kau I.



Figure 8. Box-plots of *mata* 'a length values by obsidian source: 1.00 =Orito, 2.00 =Motu Iti and 3.00 =Rano Kau I.

between *mata* 'a mean length is found when comparing Orito *mata* 'a to the Motu Iti samples (z = -2.26, sig. = 0.02). Inspection of the group mean values and the sign of the z score indicate that the Orito source was associated with smaller mean length *mata* 'a in comparison to *mata* 'a from the Motu Iti source. Additional Mann-Whitney U t-tests did not identify any differences between Orito and Rano Kau assemblages (z = -0.130, sig. = 0.0897) or Motu Iti and Rano Kau assemblages (z = -0.575, sig. = 0.620).

The length/width ratio of *mata* '*a* from the three different sources was also compared using the Kruskal-Wallis non-parametric test (Fig. 9). The results demonstrate that *mata* '*a* from different sources are not significantly different in mean length/width ratios ( $X^2 = 2.120$ , sig. = 0.346). Descriptive statistics for the length/width ratios for three quarry sources are presented in Table 6.

Overall, the mean dimensions of artefacts from all three identified sources were similar. The only significant difference identified was that of *mata'a* from Orito, which were on average 21 mm shorter than those from the other sources. This may be due to differences in raw material form or, given the non-significant differences in width, more intense resharpening of *mata'a* from Orito. However, the dimensional ranges of *mata'a* from all three sources overlap, suggesting functional similarities across all sources. Additionally, we note more variability in the lengths of the artefacts sourced to Rano Kau I (see Table 5), which might reflect difficulties in flaking due to perlite inclusions.



Figure 9. Box-plots of *mata* 'a length/width values by obsidian source: 1.00 =Orito, 2.00 =Motu Iti and 3.00 =Rano Kau I.

### DISCUSSION

With the exception of very recent analyses (e.g., Stevenson *et al.* 2013), most previous provenance studies on Rapa Nui have relied on destructive methods of analysis. As shown by this study, which employed two separate analytical methods, the use of non-destructive pXRF analysis results in source discrimination with levels of accuracy similar to those obtained using destructive techniques. Museum collections, like the one examined herein, sometimes lack well controlled artefact provenances when compared with assemblages from excavated contexts. However, because museum collections are often from a variety of contexts, they might provide a useful space and time-averaged overview of "typical" resource exploitation for a region. This can provide a baseline for comparing to individual site assemblages, associations which may have had different functions (i.e., domestic vs. ritual) or status.

Another advantage of the present study was analysis of complete tools as opposed to flakes. This may provide better quantitative insights into obsidian tool production, because several dozen flakes could potentially represent the manufacturing process involved in making a single tool. Therefore, even though this collection is not from secure archaeological contexts, it does provide general insights into resource exploitation on Rapa Nui.

Both of the sourcing methods used here indicate that a very low proportion of artefacts were manufactured using obsidian from the Motu Iti (n = 7) and Rano Kau I (n = 7) sources, and no artefacts in our sample were fashioned using obsidian from the Rano Kau II source. The absence of obsidian from Rano Kau II in this study (which contains artefacts that may represent variable time periods and/or geographical areas) suggests that this source was never intensively exploited. We suggest that this past use pattern may stem from the fact that the Orito and Motu Iti obsidians are of a better quality than the Rano Kau II material, which has unfavourable fracture properties (Baker *et al.* 1974, McCoy 1976, Thomas *et al.* 2007).

The results of the present analysis also are in general agreement with the findings of Stevenson *et al.* (2013) in relation to the extraction of obsidian from the Motu Iti source, especially in the case of the assemblages they analysed from inland habitation contexts. In those contexts, Stevenson *et al.*'s study suggested that only two percent of flakes were sourced to Motu Iti (versus coastal ritual contexts, where 14 percent of flakes are from the Motu Iti source). Both of the analytical methods employed in the present study suggest that approximately two percent of the Museum's collections were made using obsidian from the Motu Iti source.

With respect to the Rano Kau I source, the number of *mata* 'a made from this material constitute two to three percent of the Museum assemblage (in

six out of ten cases, the DFA and SVM were not in agreement in assigning tools to either the Rano Kau I or Orito sources). This is considerably lower than the 45 percent reported by Stevenson *et al.* (2013) for the occurrence of Rano Kau I obsidian in their flake assemblage. This may suggest that the material size, or quality, of this obsidian was not desirable for the production of *mata* 'a, or that some of the tools in the present study that were assigned to the Orito source could have come from a portion of the Rano Kau I source that overlaps considerably with Orito. However, the high proportion of Rano Kau I obsidian identified by Stevenson *et al.* might also indicate that this material was commonly used for informal flake tools.

The vast majority of the *mata*'a analysed in this study were quarried from Orito, the largest source on Rapa Nui, suggesting that the ancient Rapanui may have chosen geographical ease of access and abundance of raw materials, as well as performance characteristics of the raw material, when manufacturing these tools. The very low proportion of artefacts manufactured using the less accessible offshore Motu Iti source, coupled with the possibility that more controlled distribution may have been enforced by elites, as has been suggested by Stevenson et al. (2013:119), may indicate that Orito became the preferred option. However, an elite presence in the immediate vicinity of Orito in the form of a chiefly dwelling (hare paenga), as noted by Stevenson *et al.* (2013), raises the possibility that access to the quarry may also have been controlled. Instead of restriction, as appears to have been the case for Motu Iti, chiefly control at Orito may instead have involved encouraging access to this source of high-quality obsidian as a means of building and maintaining prestige. Indeed, the ubiquity of *mata* 'a on Rapa Nui raises the question as to whether or not they were used exclusively in subsistence activities. The possibility of elite intervention in their production hints at an ideological component for this object which is reinforced by the prolific occurrence of these items at ceremonial centres.

\* \* \*

In the current study, a Discriminant Function Analysis and Support Vector Machines classification produced almost identical results. However, neither method could completely separate the Orito and Rano Kau I sources. In this respect, our analyses agree with previous research, suggesting that the compositions of the sources are too similar to allow complete separation using the suite of major and trace elements commonly quantified with XRF instruments. While it is likely that more precise analytical techniques, such as radiogenic isotope analysis (Woodhead and Weisler 1997), could provide

better source discrimination, these methods tend to be at least partially destructive, which might preclude their use on artefacts, especially those from museum collections.

Overall, each of the methods outlined here appears to be effective in assigning geographical provenances to source materials and artefacts, as indicated by the fact that each method correctly assigned geologic sample materials to source over 90 percent of the time. Even when we take into account the small amount of overlap between the Orito and Rano Kau I sources, the results of both analyses suggest the ancient Rapanui preferentially accessed the Orito source in manufacturing these tools. These findings are in line with previous studies of both *mata* 'a tools (Thomas *et al.* 2007) and simple obsidian flakes (Stevenson *et al.* 2013). The discovery that the overwhelming majority of these island *mata* 'a were manufactured at the Orito quarry adds another indication of possible chiefly involvement in the activities at the quarry, as initially identified on the basis of residential architecture. Future sourcing studies on securely-provenanced *mata* 'a may lend further insights into lithic extraction and exchange patterns across the island and the elite management entailed therein.

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## APPENDIX

The following table shows pXRF data and source determinations for *mata* 'a in the Bishop Museum collections by Support Vector Machines (SVM) classification and Discriminant Function Analysis (DFA).

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	omplete omplete mplete	nplete
ription	a (inc. a (contraction) a (con	a (con
Desci	mata' mata' mata' mata' mata' mata' mata' mata' mata' mata' mata' mata' mata' mata'	mata'
Source (DFA)	Orito Orito	Orito
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GaKa	28 27 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28	30
NbKa1	116 114 116 119 119 119 110 111 110 1110 1112 1112	104
ZrKal	988 759 759 865 700 866 662 770 866 866 866 800 901 771 737 737 737 737 733 739 779 883 883 7665 771 779 779 779 883 775 775 776 801 776 865 865 865 865 865 770 865 770 865 770 865 770 865 770 865 770 865 865 770 865 770 870 870 770 870 870 770 870 770 870 8	650
Y Kal	141     141     135     136     137     138     139     139     131     132     133     134     135     135     136     137     138     139     130     131     132     133     134     135	117
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RbKal S	84 84 79 83 84 79 83 84 77 70 85 88 83 83 83 83 83 83 83 83 83 84 83 84 84 75 86 86 86 87 76 87 76 87 77 86 87 77 86 87 77 86 87 77 86 87 77 86 77 96 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77	73
ZnKal	236 215 215 215 215 203 203 195 195 203 209 209 200 200 200 201 187 195 201 201 195 201 201 195 201 201 195 201 195 203 203 203 203 203 203 203 203 203 203	195
Xa1	255 255 634 668 668 668 668 933 3322 938 933 955 97 835 740 835 835 835 432 2290 835 432 432 432 432 432 432 432 432 432 432	110
FeF	10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1	19
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mple <b>&gt;</b>	113.057 13.057 13.057 13.057 13.057 13.057 13.057 13.057 13.057 13.057 13.057 13.057 13.057 14.48 13.057 14.48 13.17 14.48 13.18 14.48 13.14 14.48 13.14 14.48 13.14 14.48 13.14 14.48 13.14 14.48 13.14 14.48 14.	481b_
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NbKal	110	011	115	100	66	118	114	100	113	113	120	119	118	119	116	114	113	122	119	114	116	118	118	115	117	114	112	119	
ZrKal	906	000	765	739	634	836	792	620	718	984	720	770	725	809	767	693	726	797	747	711	734	778	726	801	731	735	681	729	
Y Kal	125	CCI	133	117	112	142	137	112	129	138	126	133	131	137	141	134	133	135	130	125	136	135	134	126	137	126	129	143	
SrKal	36	70	24	24	20	28	27	20	24	27	24	24	29	25	24	23	24	27	24	24	23	27	26	24	27	23	41	26	1
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ZnKal	300	700	227	197	197	257	203	171	214	209	207	197	243	218	225	217	198	215	212	224	198	196	229	211	212	261	204	225	•
FeKa1	77102	C0177	21438	18991	18926	22704	20854	18064	21209	20672	21519	21864	21508	21825	21193	20294	20958	21909	21066	20655	20745	21525	21152	21054	20974	20974	22339	21634	
MnKa1	657	700	542	469	559	599	574	429	597	592	613	545	623	565	499	591	566	608	644	521	495	645	600	544	571	625	633	674	
Sample No.	D3401f 6	0_110+Cd	$B3481f_7$	B3481f_8	B3481f_9	B3481ff	B3481fff	B3481ffff	B3481fffff	B3481g	B3481g_6	B3481g_7	B3481g_8	B3481g_9	B3481gg	B3481ggg	B3481gggg	B3481ggggg	B3481h	B3481h_6	$B3481h_{-}7$	$B3481h_8$	$B3481h_9$	B3481hh	B3481hhh	B3481hhhh	B3481hhhhh	B3481i	

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B3481i_8	420	21601	205	78	27	143	1139	118	27	17	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B3481i_9	604	23562	214	84	25	133	758	118	28	10	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B3481ii	444	21182	219	79	23	143	1234	120	22	15	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B3481iii	650	21097	209	78	26	125	715	119	25	12	Orito	Orito	mata'a (incomplete)
B3481iiii	480	19867	197	73	24	120	645	102	26	11	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B3481iiiii	507	18892	193	71	23	124	658	100	28	10	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B3481j	625	21780	215	74	26	130	858	113	26	11	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B3481j_6	549	20146	206	76	22	132	750	110	22	6	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B3481j_7	609	20700	210	LL	23	128	729	106	25	10	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B3481j_8	606	20579	196	72	27	132	726	112	20	10	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B3481j_9	559	20819	216	82	25	133	952	118	24	13	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B3481jj	514	20690	195	78	23	130	727	110	26	11	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B3481jjj	563	21355	224	79	23	139	771	116	28	11	Orito	Orito	mata'a (broken stem)
B3481jjjj	550	20737	214	75	26	134	865	115	27	13	Orito	Orito	mata'a (broken stem)
B3481jjjjj	530	19631	201	73	23	123	697	110	25	13	Orito	Orito	mata'a (broken stem)
B3481k	702	21510	235	76	28	132	768	117	27	6	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B3481k_6	548	20833	187	81	28	126	743	111	25	11	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B3481k_7	383	21507	218	79	24	147	1309	117	20	13	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B3481k_8	660	21003	212	81	26	130	752	116	23	12	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B3481k_9	517	20302	198	75	22	131	710	111	25	×	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B3481kk	629	21247	225	LL	26	137	741	114	23	12	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B3481kkk	369	18710	205	70	21	118	696	101	28	11	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B3481kkkk	532	20634	215	LL	23	128	754	110	21	6	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B3481kkkkk	618	21511	219	LL	28	132	735	115	23	10	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B34811	508	20544	223	76	25	126	724	116	24	13	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B34811_6	638	20073	187	71	23	132	1014	110	22	12	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B34811_7	615	20580	199	76	27	129	914	114	22	12	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B34811_8	504	20740	219	75	23	136	889	118	25	10	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B34811_9	498	20796	202	79	24	126	684	109	23	10	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B348111	441	20411	191	76	25	135	733	115	26	13	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B3481111	652	21559	233	78	32	140	985	118	27	11	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)
B34811111	584	20361	189	73	23	130	755	116	22	13	Orito	Orito	mata'a (complete)

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GaKal	22 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	$232 \\ 223 \\ 224 \\ 224 \\ 226 \\ 228 $
NbKa1	119     115     115     115     116     117     119     119     119     110     111     111     111     112     113     116     111	$\begin{array}{c} 111\\112\\111\\116\\1119\\1108\\108\end{array}$
ZrKal 1	721 774 7738 7738 7791 7791 7791 858 858 8660 7771 7771 7771 7771 7771 7749 869 869 764 7749 869 869 764 7749	708 744 729 729 784 730 781 846
Kal 2	33 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	38 33 33 33 33 33 33 33 33 33 33 33 33 3
Kal Y	0 4 4 4 5 9 4 5 7 8 0 8 1 9 4 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9	6 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
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ZnKal	212 213 213 213 213 213 213 213 215 215 215 215 215 215 215 215 215 215	225 239 231 231 200 200 200 223
FeKal	21520 21520 21106 21134 21734 21734 21758	21386 21469 21794 21192 21214 21214 21259 21292 21431
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3481p_7 3481p_8 3481p_8 3481p_9 3481pp 3481pp	583 562 613 590 642	20865 21715 21170 19284 22285	193 239 207 203 235	75 75 81 81 81	25 25 23 23 23	123 132 134 115 137	714 733 843 742 733	113 120 116 97 120	24 25 23 23	12 13 11 12 12	Orito Orito Orito Orito	Orito Orito Orito Orito Rano Kau	mata'a (complete) mata'a (complete) mata'a (complete) mata'a (broken stem)
83481pppp 83481ppppp 83481q	607 501 514	20542 21879 21007	201 218 196	81 82 82	52 52 5	131 139 136	817 879 766	011 611	21	1 4 6	Orito Orito Orito	Orito Orito Orito	<i>mata</i> 'a (incomplete) <i>mata</i> 'a (complete) <i>mata</i> 'a (complete)
33481q_6 33481q_7 33481q_7	595 568 504	20335 20288 18855	232 197 183	74 77 33	25 24 25	133 132 110	1005 732 684	116 112 100	25 19 19	13 6	Orito Orito Orito	Orito Orito Orito	<i>mata</i> 'a (complete) <i>mata</i> 'a (complete) <i>mata</i> 'a (complete)
33481q_9 33481qq 33481qq	543 454 539	19517 21351 21077	202 215 203	77 81 76	23 28 27	120 130 133	685 742 794	107 113 114	26 24 27	11 10 14	Orito Orito Orito	Orito Orito Orito	<i>mata</i> 'a (complete) <i>mata</i> 'a (complete) <i>mata</i> 'a (broken stem)
33481qqqq 33481qqqqq 33481r	502 508 566	20628 21593 21453	221 222 206	77 97 97	26 24 24	129 129 131	739 818 753	114 118 119	22 29	12 13 13	Orito Orito Orito	Orito Orito Orito	<i>mata</i> 'a (complete) <i>mata</i> 'a (complete) <i>mata</i> 'a (complete)
33481r_6 33481r_7 33481r_7 33481r_8	696 581 478	20164 20864 18612	213 221 197	74 75 78	27 25	121 127 134	704 726 1397	107 118 105	27 26	4 1 1 1	Orito Orito Orito	Orito Orito Orito	<i>mata</i> 'a (complete) <i>mata</i> 'a (complete) <i>mata</i> 'a (complete)
33481r_9 33481rr 33481rr	541 612 456	20189 21125 20547	201 207 183	73 76 85	21 26 23	128 130 127	716 739 821	112 114 112	23 26	17 9 12	Orito Orito Orito	Orito Orito Orito	mata'a (complete) mata'a (complete) mata'a (broken stem)
33481mm 33481mm 33481s	569 625 691	21701 19125 21555	227 173 224	78 79 79	25 22 24	141 121 134	806 699 751	116 103 115	26 23	13 9	Orito Orito Orito	Orito Orito Orito	<i>mata</i> ( complete) <i>mata</i> ( complete) <i>mata</i> ( complete)
B3481s_6 B3481s_7 B3481s_8 B3481s_8 B3481ss B3481sss B3481sss B3481sss	394 579 567 371 540 639	18945 21155 20153 20206 21892 19786	205 186 200 249 193	70 84 77 77 71 71	<sup>53</sup> <sup>53</sup> <sup>53</sup> <sup>53</sup> <sup>53</sup> <sup>53</sup>	114 132 129 124 131 125	652 697 779 773 702 808	104 116 119 109 107	21 23 23 21 21	9 9 9 11 11	Orito Orito Orito Orito Orito	Orito Orito Orito Orito Orito	mata'a (complete) mata'a (complete) mata'a (complete) mata'a (complete) mata'a (complete)

Description	<i>mata</i> 'a (complete) <i>mata</i> 'a (complete)	1 1 mata'a (complete)
Source (DFA)	Orito Orito	Rano Kau
Source (SVM)	Orito Orito	Rano Kau 1
ThLa1	8 £ 1 £ 5 1 0 0 7 0 £ 1 0 0 7 1 1 0 1 0 1	11
GaKal	2 2 3 2 8 2 3 2 4 4 2 5 2 3 2 3 2 8 8 2 3 4 2 5 2 5 2 5 2 5 2 5 2 5 2 5 2 5 5 5 5	27
NbKa1	100     118     114     117     111	116
ZrKal	625 728 802 765 712 1027 703 807 807 703 807 742 742 742 742 742 807 795 692 684 684 682 810 7795 7795 7795 810 7795 820 7795 837 7758 837 7758 837 7758 807 7758 7758	776
Y Kal	112     135     136     137     138     139     139     131     132     133     135     136     137     138     131     131     132     133     133     131     132     133     133     133     133     133     133     133     133     133     133     133     133     133     133     133     133     133     134     135     137     138     139     131     132     133     133	142
SrKal	4 5	23
RbKal	68 80 80 80 87 77 87 80 80 80 80 80 80 81 77 70 81 77 70 83 84 87 77 87 88 88 88 88 88 88 88 88 88 88	62
ZnKal	201 201 201 201 205 205 205 205 205 205 205 205 205 205	243
FeKal	18795     21681     21118     21155     211356     21356     21356     21309     19333     21497     20036     203310     21497     20036     20036     20036     21780     21780     21780     21780     21024     21780     21780     21780     21780     21780     21780     21780     21780     21780     21780     21780     21780     21780     21780     2187     2187     2187     221246     220723     220723     220723     220723     22082     21087     21087     21087	21667
MnKa1	463 572 621 633 602 602 602 603 603 603 603 612 512 663 663 663 663 613 513 613 513 613 513 613 513 613 513 513 536 538 553 573 573 572 572 572 572 572 572 572 572 572 572	635
Sample No.	B3481t_6 B3481t_6 B3481t_6 B3481t_6 B3481t_6 B3481t_8 B3481tt1 B3481tt1 B3481tu_6 B3481u_6 B3481u_7 B3481u_6 B3481u_8 B3481u_8 B3481u_8 B3481v_6 B3481v_800000000000000000000000000000000000	B3481ww

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ThLa	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
GaKa1	$\begin{array}{c} & 22\\$
NbKa1	116 117 117 117 117 117 117 117 117 117
ZrKal	764 770 770 7705 7705 743 7746 7745 7747 7710 7747 7710 7710 7710 7710 7710
Y Kal	134 135 136 137 137 138 133 133 133 133 133 133 133 133 133
SrKa1	25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 2
RbKal	83 83 85 85 85 85 85 85 86 82 77 73 88 87 73 88 87 73 88 87 73 88 87 73 88 87 73 88 73 88 73 88 73 88 73 88 73 88 73 80 75 76 76 76 76 76 76 76 77 76 77 76 77 76 77 76 77 76 77 76 77 76 77 76 77 76 77 76 77 76 77 76 77 76 77 76 77 76 77 76 77 77
ZnKal	221 209 176 218 218 218 219 201 201 191 191 191 194 193 201 202 202 202 203 203 203 203
FeKa1	21479 19573 19573 19573 20794 21722 21722 21849 21059 21055 20157 201657 201657 201657 201657 20167 221110 20001 221110 221157 20008 221157 20088 221157 20088 221157 221157 221157 221157 221157 221157 221157 221157 221157 221157 221157 221157 221157 221157 221157 221155 222155 2222155 2222155 2222255 2222255 2222155 2222155 2222155 2222155 2222155 22222225 2222255 222255 222255 222255 222255 222255 2222555 2222555 2222555 2222555 2222555 2222555 2222555 22225555 22225555 2222555555
MnKa1	531 557 570 570 557 664 664 664 664 664 664 668 588 586 691 669 588 586 588 588 588 588 588 588 588 588
Sample No.	C4121a C4121aa C4121aaa C4121bb C4121bb C4121bbb C4121bbbb C4121bbbb C4121bc C4121cc C4121cc C4121cc C4121dd C4121dd C4121dd C4121ff C4121ff C4121ff C4121gg C4121bf C4121gg C4121bf C4121ff C4121bf C4121bf C4121bf C4121bf C4121bf C4121ff C4121ff C4121ff C4121ff C4121ff C4121ff C4121bf C4121bf C4121bf C4121bf C4121bf C4121ff C4121bf C4121ff C4121ff C4121ff C4121ff C4121ff C4121bf C

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Description	<i>mata'a</i> (complete) <i>mata'a</i> (complete)	<i>mata</i> 'a (complete)	mata'a (broken stem)	mata'a (complete)	mata'a (complete)	<i>mata</i> 'a (complete)	mata'a (complete)	<i>mata</i> 'a (complete)	mata'a (complete)	mata'a (broken stem)															
Source (DFA)	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito
Source (SVM)	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito	Motu Iti	Orito	Orito	Orito	Orito
ThLa1	10	10	10	12	6	10	11	10	11	10	6	13	12	14	11	12	12	13	11	6	6	13	12	14	٢
GaKa1	23 25	25 25	22	24	22	22	25	25	24	25	28	25	23	21	26	27	24	25	21	26	21	24	24	24	23
NbKal	115	114	117	109	115	118	120	107	117	112	111	104	118	120	118	114	118	116	111	109	86	120	121	114	116
ZrKal	839 756	714	804	748	705	756	840	701	744	770	787	694	740	912	740	824	759	751	742	751	523	738	729	821	750
Y Kal	135 135	132	133	133	135	134	136	119	134	127	134	123	144	143	129	130	128	134	129	127	101	135	135	131	129
SrKal	22 26	25	24	23	24	27	24	27	28	21	25	22	23	24	24	26	27	24	26	22	31	24	27	30	24
RbKal	81 81	10	76	76	78	80	78	LL	LL	72	81	73	81	80	83	LL	81	78	83	78	61	80	84	<i>4</i>	82
ZnKal	217	222	193	230	214	211	195	202	212	184	202	205	205	226	205	199	200	205	211	211	174	194	217	219	204
FeKa1	21284	21347	19971	20596	21447	21135	20526	20178	21596	20203	21069	19228	21082	21737	20919	20722	21111	21704	20725	21082	18501	21101	21737	21286	21038
MnKa1	542 638	501	617	509	550	580	523	483	593	551	556	529	638	638	516	464	582	663	550	580	541	643	575	533	492
Sample No.	C4121ttt C4121	C4121uu C4121uu	C4121uuu	C4121v	C4121vv	C4121vvv	C4121w	C4121ww	C4121www	C4121x	C4121xx	C4121xxx	C4121y	C4121yy	C4121yyy	C4121z	C4121zz	C4121zzz	C602	C603	C8353	C8354	D2969	D2970	D2971

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## ABSTRACT

On Rapa Nui (Easter Island), four geological sources of rhyolitic obsidian were utilised to manufacture obsidian artefacts, including tanged implements known as *mata'a*. In the present study, a total of 332 *mata'a* from the collections of Bishop Museum were analysed using portable X-ray fluorescence (pXRF). Two analytical methods, Discriminant Function Analysis and Support Vector Machines Classification, were used to assign geographical provenance to these artefacts. These appear to be manufactured using obsidians predominantly from Orito, one of four geological sources on the island. This study demonstrates how non-destructive analyses of museum collections can contribute to our understanding of obsidian procurement and production on Rapa Nui.

*Keywords:* obsidian, museum collections, geochemical sourcing, portable X-ray flourescence, Rapa Nui, Easter Island

## CITATION AND AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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## REVIEWS

Kirch, Patrick Vinton: *Kua'āina Kahiko: Life and Land in Ancient Kahikinui, Maui.* Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2014. 336 pp, illustrations, maps, US\$49.00 (hardcover).

# ALEX E. MORRISON

University of Auckland

Patrick V. Kirch's latest book, *Kua'āina Kahiko: Life and Land in Ancient Kahikinui, Maui*, is an extensive summary of the author's nearly 20 years of archaeological research in the *moku* 'land division' of Kahikinui, southeastern Maui. Written for the general public, this remarkable book synthesises dozens of scholarly articles, monographs and personal reflections into a thought-provoking, well researched and entertaining treatise. The book includes a variety of engaging visual aids, such as aerial photographs, plan view maps and personal photos spanning a period of over half a century.

*Kua'āina Kahiko* and Kirch's research in Kahikinui in general is significant for a number of reasons. First, the *moku* of Kahikinui, Kaupō, and Kīpahulu have seen less development and urban sprawl than most areas in the Hawaiian Islands and consequently provide an unprecedented archaeological landscape from which to examine a number of questions about the past. Second, due to a lack of historic documents and ethnohistorical information, the life-ways of the inhabitants of ancient Kahikinui are less well known than in other locales in Hawai'i. Archaeological studies must therefore play a central role in understanding how people managed to survive for over four centuries in the harsh and limited landscape of southeastern Maui. Finally, *Kua'āina Kahiko* provides an important link between Native Hawaiians now reclaiming their ancestral lands in Kahikinui with the people of the past. This final point highlights the significant contribution that archaeology can make to indigenous rights issues and exemplifies how to report archaeological findings to the general public in a meaningful and accessible way.

Kirch has a personal relationship with Kahikinui that goes back to 1966 when, as a teenaged Punahou High School student, he first visited the *ahupua'a* (further division of land within *moku*) of Kīpapa with Peter Chapman, William Kikuchi and Elspeth Sterling. Those interested in the history of archaeology in Hawai'i will find Chapter 1 informative, as it is filled with personal reflections and historical background to archaeological research in the *moku*. In Chapter 2, Kirch describes his return to Kahikinui in 1995, where he finds a political struggle between the Native Hawaiian group Ka 'Ohana O Kahikinui and the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL). Ka 'Ohana wishes to re-inhabit the Kahikinui landscape of their ancestors but are being dissuaded by DHHL because of the harshness and remoteness of the area. Recognising the role that archaeology can play in substantiating that Hawaiians

once lived successfully in Kahikinui, Kirch situates his presentation of the results of nearly two decades of research within this greater political climate.

The majority of the 17 chapters that make up this book revolve around three primary themes. One theme is defined by the remarkable innovations that ancient Hawaiians living in Kahikinui developed to make a living in the drought-prone lands and impoverished marine environs of southeastern Maui. Chapters 3, 4, and 10 primarily provide background on the difficult and impoverished Kahikinui marine and agricultural environments, while Chapters 8 and 12 describe in detail archaeological evidence for the unique solutions that inhabitants of Kahikinui developed to harness scarce rain water and extensively utilise limited productive soils for the growth of sweet potato.

A second theme discussed in the book is domestic and religious life in ancient Kahikinui. Chapter 5 describes the range of stone structures identified in the Kahikinui survey area and gives a brief introduction to the methods of settlement pattern analysis that orient much of Kirch's research protocol and those of Peter Chapman's original 1966 survey. Chapter 9 moves from regional scale settlement pattern analysis to focus on social organisation and the fundamental archaeological unit of the kauhale 'homestead'. Some of the noteworthy results that are presented in this chapter are archaeological indications of the practice of 'ai kapu or genderbased eating restrictions and the presence of a ritual garden, interpreted as evidence for social distinction in Kahikinui. Two chapters, 13 and 14, are devoted to describing and explaining formal variation in *heiau* 'temple' or 'shrine' structures. In these two chapters Kirch argues, based on the results of a series of Uranium-Thorium (U/Th) dates from coral offerings placed on and within a range of *heiau* forms, that these structures were used contemporaneously. Considering both the pantheon of Hawaiian gods and the orientation of *heiau*. Kirch suggests that formal variation in *heiau* may reflect differential devotion to various deities

Finally, Chapters 6 and 11 deal with the important questions of Hawaiian demography. In Chapter 6, Kirch provides an answer to when the first people settled Kahinkinui. Based on an extensive database of radiocarbon and U/Th dates, Kahikinui was initially settled around the 15th century. Chapter 6 also provides a nice marriage of oral history based genealogical data and radiometric-based time estimates, a practice which Kirch has developed in greater depth in two other recent books, *How Chiefs Become Kings* (2010) and *A Shark Going Inland is My Chief* (2012) (both University of California Press, Berkeley).

What makes this book particularly noteworthy is the sheer amount of data spanning archaeological surface structures and excavations, oral traditions, historic documents, and a variety of laboratory analyses, which are seamlessly assembled in a coherent and clear narrative about the prehistory and early history of Kahikinui. Achieving this goal is only possible owing to Kirch's skilful writing style and personal reflections which are interspersed throughout the book. Although nearly 300 pages in length, the writing is eloquent, the personal reflections are interesting and relevant, and the flow of the chapters will ensure that the non-archaeologist and archaeologists alike will find the exposition an enjoyable read.

Archaeological practice in Hawai'i has gone through a number of significant changes over the past decade. Perhaps most importantly the discipline has seen a growing number of Native Hawaiian students and graduates entering both academic and cultural resource management positions. One can only assume that this growth is a symbol of the increasing interest that Native Hawaiians have in the information that can be acquired through archaeology as well as movement forward as stewards of the material remains of their ancestors. *Kua 'āina Kahiko: Life and Land in Ancient Kahikinui, Maui*, is an example of how archaeological research plays a significant role in this process and can be of service to the greater public good.

Morrison, Hugh, Lachy Paterson, Brett Knowles and Murray Rae: *Mana Māori* and *Christianity*. Wellington: Huia Publishing, 2012. 327 pp., biblio., glossary, illustrations, index, photos, (softcover).

## MICHAEL P. J. REILLY

## University of Otago

The work of the spirit is a prominent and valued element in the indigenous cultures of all Pacific peoples. In *Mana Māori and Christianity* the authors describe how the spirit has worked through both churches and individuals in the New Zealand Māori world since the colonial period. Although *mana* Māori is not specifically defined in this book it might be described as the working of a distinctively Māori spiritual life in the beliefs and practices of believers and faith communities. Like other Huia publications the book is a credit to its publishers (and editors) who collectively present a well written text, supplemented by interesting historical photographs, and very helpful aids such as a bibliography and index.

The editors divide the book into two parts. The first comprises six chapters that discuss the degree to which mana Maori has been embraced by different churches. What may surprise some is the struggle many Christian denominations have had in embracing mana Māori. Wayne Te Kawa shows how the Presbyterians, with honourable exceptions, remained a white, immigrant church until the 20th century when it began to develop a strong engagement with the Maori world. Harold Hill reveals how the Salvation Army, hampered by culturally ignorant leaders, failed to support its limited 19th century Māori mission, and continues to be an institution where Maori more often appear as users of its various social services rather than in the ranks of the Army itself. Similarly, Simon Moetara explains how many of the Pentecostal churches, with the partial exception of the Apostolic churches (ACTS), view any expression of mana Maori as an impediment, with the unsurprising result that few Maori participate in these churches and even fewer as leaders. Philip Carew and Geoff Troughton's examination of the Assemblies of God reveals a similar neglect of any specific mission to Maori in favour of a stress on multiculturalism. By contrast, Robert Joseph highlights how from the earliest beginnings in 1881 Mormon missionaries learned Māori language (te reo) and lived in their communities, establishing deep roots that were further assisted by cultural affinities shared by Mormons and Maori, such as the value both placed on the significance of prophecy. Peter Lineham examines the new Destiny Church, including its affiliations to Black

Pentecostalism, its expression of a fundamentalist and exclusive world view, and most interestingly, its location within the Māori prophetic tradition, especially its similarities with the Rātana Church.

Perhaps not surprisingly in a book with strong Dunedin connections, the Presbyterian Church looms large in the second half of this book. Hugh Morrison interprets representations of Maori in the juvenile Presbyterian magazine, Break of Day, suggesting that beneath the dominant messages of Eurocentrism and racial superiority there was, to some degree, a more morally ambivalent reading of colonialism's consequences. Lachy Paterson charts the development of Pākehā female missionaries as inter-war leaders in the Presbyterian Māori mission, a role that disappeared with the evolution of a Māori arm of the church. Te Hinota Māori, in the 1950s. Complementing this general study is Hone Te Rire's intimate oral history of one Pākehā mission worker, Sister Annie Henry/Te Hihita, drawing from the memories of the Tūhoe children who knew her. The pleasurable intimacy of this essay is enhanced by Te Rire's descent from one of the boys Te Hihita adopted as a whāngai. Murray Rae explores Rua Kēnana's theology, revealing its affiliations to the religion developed by Black slaves in the United States and, more recently, to liberation theology; all articulate a belief that God serves not the masters but those they oppress. Keith Newman discusses the prophetic life of Rātana and the incomplete legacy of his relationship with the Labour Party. Bookending these essays are two that look at less known elements of two major churches that otherwise do not appear in this collection. Nathan Matthews surveys those kaikatikihame, 'catechists', who sustained a distinctive Māori Catholic spiritual life, even as they were abandoned by an increasingly Irish church, marked by paternalistic attitudes, and unwilling to understand the world view of their Māori co-religionists. Bernard Kernot interprets the carved art work by the Anglican priest, Hapai Winiata, and discusses his theological prioritising of Christianity over culture, in marked contrast to the views of colleagues such as Māori Marsden.

Christianity began in New Zealand exactly 200 years ago when Samual Marsden preached on Christmas Day 1814. This collection reveals how far the different Christian churches have come in their acceptance and creative engagement with *mana* Māori, and how much further they need to go. Perhaps more attention could have been devoted to certain major Christian churches, but even so, this collection makes an important contribution to historical and contemporary studies of Māori Christianity. The diverse approaches and interests of the authors is a strength. I enjoyed the objective academic studies of some, as well as the more subjective and intimate writings by others. *Mana* Māori afterall affects the whole person. The book has much to say both to those who believe and are open to the working of *mana* Māori in their practice of Christianity, as well as to those who wish to understand the long history of Christianity within the Māori world.

# PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED\*

## March 2014 to September 2014

Besnier, Niko and Kalissa Alexeyeff (eds): *Gender on the Edge: Transgender, Gay, and Other Pacific Islanders.* Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2014. 378 pp., biblio., illustrations, index. US\$35.00 (softcover).

Goodyear-Ka<sup>\*</sup>ōpua, Noelani, Ikaika Hussey and Erin Kahunawaikaala Wright (eds): *A Nation Rising: Hawaiian Movements for Life, Land, and Sovereignty.* Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 2014. 416 pp., biblio., indices, photographs. US\$27.95 (softcover).

Hviding, Edvard and Cato Berg (eds): *The Ethnographic Experiment: A.M. Hocart and W.H.R. Rivers in Island Melanesia, 1908.* New York: Berghahn Books, 2014. 320 pp., appendices, biblio., illustrations, index. US\$95.00 (hardcover).

O'Malley, Vincent: *Beyond the Imperial Frontier: The Conquest for Colonial New Zealand*. Wellington: Bridget Williams Books, 2014. 280 pp., biblio., illustrations, index, notes. NZ\$49.99 (softcover).

Schütz, Albert J.: *Fijian Reference Grammar*. Honolulu: Pacific Voices Press, 2014. 453 pp., biblio., illustrations, index. N.p. (softcover).

Shore, Cris and Susanna Trnka (eds): *Up Close and Personal: On Peripheral Perspectives and the Production of Anthropological Knowledge*. New York: Berghahn Books, 2013. 284 pp., biblio., illustrations, index. US\$95.00 (hardcover).

Sorrenson, M. P. K.: *Ko Te Whenua Te Utu Land is the Price: Essays on Maori History, Land and Politics*. Auckland: Auckland University Press, 2014. 338 pp., index, notes. NZ\$49.99 (softcover).

\* The inclusion of a publication in this list neither assumes nor precludes its subsequent review.

# MINUTES OF THE 123nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE POLYNESIAN SOCIETY (INC.), 23 JULY 2014, DEPARTMENT OF MĀORI STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND.

Present: Dr Richard Benton in the chair and 14 members.

*Apologies*: Ethan Cochrane, Hamish Macdonald. Benton/Carter: "That the apologies be sustained." Agreed.

*Minutes of 2013 AGM*: Carter/Allen: "That the Minutes be received as a true account of the meeting." Carried.

## Presentation and Adoption of the Council's Report

The Hon. President presented and spoke to the Council's Annual Report.

- The membership has increased slightly which could be attributed to the online availability of the *Journal* and the online payments system. The Society relies heavily on the Institutional Subscriptions, and the slight increase there, especially given online provision, is particularly welcome. Substantial payments from some online providers keeps income maintained. Annual dues and subscriptions cover production and postage of the *JPS* and the Society's running expenses. Although members' dues and subscription payments do not cover other expenses, income from other sources (e.g., royalties on publications) cover these.
- The Society's website and Facebook page are maintained by designated Council members who post *Journal* contents and information regarding membership, submission of manuscripts, etc. Contents and information regarding membership are also sent to several appropriate newsletters and websites. Having the *Journal* online also provides publicity.
- In September the Society co-sponsored an event at Te Papa at which three distinguished New Zealand archaeologists—Janet Davidson, Atholl Anderson and Geoffrey Irwin, all recipients of the Best Medal—spoke. President Richard Benton represented the Society at that function which was initiated and organised by Sean Mallon.
- Council members attending relevant conferences in New Zealand and overseas, set up displays of the Society's publications and flyers about the Society.
- The Society and its members benefit from the support of the University of Auckland which allows the Society to keep costs down. Specifically, the Department of Māori Studies provides the Society with its office and storage space, as well as access to office equipment; likewise, the Anthropology Department provides for the Hon. Editors and the *JPS*. These arrangements are not only economical but also very convenient and congenial.

Annual Accounts have been completed for 2013 and were presented for information by the Treasurer Rangimarie Rawiri.

The Reviewers' report was attached to the Annual Accounts and the Treasurer noted:

- This year we had Subscriptions Recovered of \$846 and therefore no write-off required, as noted for 2012.
- Copyright and royalties have decreased markedly for the 2014 year and the Council is pursuing unpaid amounts which may have not been accounted for.
- The Accounts are prepared on cash and accrual bases, i.e., people who have not paid need to be accounted for in the financial accounts.
- The Income derived from royalties and copyright fees has enabled us to maintain the membership fees at the current level.
- The Council will continue to monitor the effect of online access to the *JPS* on subscription income and the extent to which payments from online providers compensates for any income decline.

Rawiri/Carter: "That the 2013 Accounts be accepted." Carried.

## Honoraria

Benton/Reilly: "That the honoraria for the year 2014 be at the same rate as 2013, and that they be paid." Carried.

## Presentation and Adoption of the Editors' Report

The Hon. Editors' report was presented and the following matters were highlighted.

- Over the past year there has been one change in the editorial team: Ethan Cochrane has joined Lyn Carter as Book Review Editor. Melinda Allen and Judith Huntsman continue as co-editors, each taking responsibility for two issues a year, and Dorothy Brown is carrying on as assistant editor. Production arrangements with Hamish Macdonald continue to be extremely satisfactorily. Hamish has not only continued to prepare each issue for the printer and advise on printing arrangements but also to advise and initiate in matters digital. The generous and generally anonymous referees who pass judgments and provide comments are crucial partners in maintaining the quality of our venerable publication. On behalf of the Officers and Council, we thank them.
- Journal Production Schedules: Actual publication dates continue to fall behind stated publication dates, and there is little the editors can do about it. The *JPS*, like many scholarly journals, is experiencing a paucity of publishable submissions and the reasons for this are beyond our control. Members can however expect that journal issues will appear eventually, if not exactly in their designated quarterly month.
- Other Publications: One manuscript submitted as a possible Memoir was not accepted for publication. Some of its contents may be submitted for publication

## 346 Reviews

in the *Journal*. The Editors are not soliciting or encouraging new Memoir submissions, simply because we do not have the capacity to edit them ourselves.

Huntsman/Benton: "That the Hon. Editors' Report be accepted." Carried.

## Election of Officers

Having been duly nominated and seconded, the following were elected to hold office until the year 2015 AGM:

President: Richard Benton Hon. Secretary: Rangimarie Rawiri Hon. Treasurer: Rangimarie Rawiri Hon. Co-Editors: Judith Huntsman and Melinda Allen

## Election of Council Members

The following, whose nominations were duly nominated and seconded, were elected as Members of the Council for two years: Michael Goldsmith, Sean Mallon, Peter Sheppard and Ben Davies. Marama Muru-Lanning having been duly nominated and seconded was elected as a Member of the Council for one year following the resignation of Council Member Matthew Campbell.

The President thanked Dr Campbell for his service to the Society.

## Election of Reviewers:

Rawiri/Allen: "That Tane & Assocs., Chartered Accountants be the elected Reviewers." Carried.

## General Business

No items of General Business.

The President Dr Richard Benton thanked the Council and members for their support during the year.

There being no more business, the President thanked members for their attendance and declared the 2014 AGM Meeting closed at 6:00pm

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## PUBLICATIONS OF THE POLYNESIAN SOCIETY

The publications listed below are available to members of the Polynesian Society (at a 20 percent discount, plus postage and packing), and to non-members (at the prices listed, plus postage and packing) from the Society's office: Department of Māori Studies, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92012, Auckland. All prices are in NZ\$.

Some Memoirs are also available from: The University Press of Hawai'i, 2840 Kolowalu Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822, U.S.A., who handle North American and other overseas sales to non-members. The prices given here do not apply to such sales.

## MĀORI TEXTS

- NGATA, A.T. and Pei TE HURINUI, Ngā Mōteatea (Part 1). New Edition of 1958 edition, 2004. xxxviii + 464 pp., two audio CDs, genealogies. 2004. Price \$69.99 (hardback).
- 2. NGATA, A.T. and Pei TE HURINUI, *Ngā Mōteatea* (Part 2). New Edition of 1961 edition. xxxviii + 425 pp., two audio CDs, genealogies. 2005. Price \$69.99 (hardback).
- NGATA, A.T. and Pei TE HURINUI, Ngā Mōteatea (Part 3). New Edition of 1970 edition. xlii + 660 pp., audio CD, genealogies. 2006. Price \$69.99 (hardback).
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