



# Nauru Bulletin

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## Classes resume after home schooling stint

Six weeks after initiating the home schooling program, the Department of Education will welcome back all students to the classroom on Monday, 21 March.

The department initiated the program at the start of the academic year in response to the shortage of teachers for grades three to five across two schools.

The program commenced 7 February for 1,040 students at Nauru Primary School and Sacred Heart College but scaled back on 7 March when grade five classes resumed.

On Monday, 21 March grades three and four will also resume normal classes.

The program was initiated as the return of 17 foreign teachers back into Nauru was delayed due to travel measures imposed by COVID-19.

The department had previously prepared a 'COVID Package' in the event of schools closing due to COVID-19; thus enabling the department to quickly implement the program.

Secretary for Education Darrina Kun says the issue is the shortage of teachers on island but says is not unique to Nauru as countries around the world also feel the same strain.

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), 69 million new teachers must be recruited in order to provide quality universal primary and secondary education by 2030.

Quality education is listed as the United Nation's fourth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) – it calls to ensure more



*Grades 3 to 5 resume normal classes after weeks of home schooling*

inclusive and equitable quality education but also underscores the importance for more qualified teachers through the support of the international community.

Isolated and with a 12,000 population, makes it especially difficult for Nauru to sustainably maintain the minimum number of local teachers required.

In a statement to parliament in January, Deputy Minister for Education Richard-Hyde Menke expressed his concern over the urgency to rectify the teacher shortage situation against the measures needed to observe COVID processes.

"The department recognises that recruitment is subject to the stringent requirements for entering Nauru and that the protection of our borders takes precedence over any decisions," DM Menke said.

Ms Kun adds that in the third week of home schooling, 41 per cent of children in the affected year levels collected their learning packages and the following week saw a steady rise to 47 per cent.

In contrast, the average attendance rates for those year levels attending school normally would range between 60 to 65 per cent. The department regards this as a positive result given the additional stress and efforts of students and parents and the difficulties associated with home learning without teachers.

With department resources already stretched to capacity, a support mechanism for parents and students in these grade levels was vital to ensure there was enough support for the concerned students.

Less than 10 women over the age of 50, mostly former teachers, are driving this program.

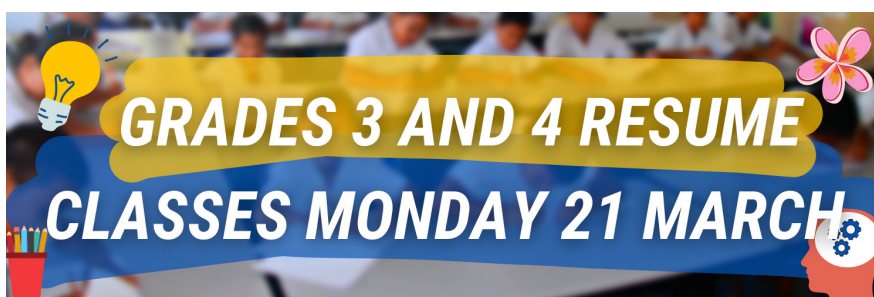
Their responsibilities include compiling the program, attend the daily community support stations offering support to parents and students, and answer the hotline.

Parents also collect their children's learning packages from these stations.

The department's office staff are also reassigned to schools to assist with the teacher shortage.

In its aim to minimise the impacts of the shortage of teachers the department through a long-term strategy, has 12 people currently studying at the University of New England (UNE).

The UNE is a teacher education program that helps develop the capacity of pre- and in service teachers in Nauru, further closing the gaps in schools •



# Concerns over excessive vehicle imports

The growing number of imported vehicles into Nauru is contributing to road congestion and land waste, Minister for Transport Martin Hunt told parliament in January.

The minister warned that the number of imported vehicles continue to grow at an accelerated pace with over 5,000 registered vehicles - cars and bikes - in Nauru.

Countless more are unregistered but still make it on to public roads.

“Though this reflects the positive status of where our economy stands at today, the issue of too many vehicles can also have detrimental effects just like any other imported product if brought in excessively,” Minister Hunt said.

“This issue will pose problems in several areas such as road safety, environmental protection and traffic congestion during emergencies.”

According to Nauru Customs in 2021 alone, 117 vehicles, trucks and special vehicles were imported in to Nauru; but a total of 318 over three years since 2020.

Nauru Census prep-work undertaken from May to June 2021 records Nauru’s average driving population, grouped from 17 to 70 years totals 6,994.

Secretary for Transport Nodel Neneiya says a new community bus route is being drawn up to encourage people to use public transport, hence minimise traffic congestion but importantly to discourage car imports.

Mr Neneiya says in the past commuters were disheartened about using the bus service as they were unaware of the bus schedule, adding that the issues of concern with the initiative are fuel supply and planning the actual bus timetable.

Director for Environment with the Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment Bryan Star says Nauru and Small Island developing States (SIDS) contribute insignificant levels of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions generated from vehicle use. However, he advises that importing bad quality cars which break down faster add to stockpiled land waste and pollute ground water supply.

Mr Star encourages good car management and maintenance by their owners helps maintain the car’s good condition and minimise early scrapping, thus the cycle of purchasing more vehicles and adding to



*Transport department to reintroduce bus service in the hopes of reducing car importation*

the waste problem.

The Motor Traffic (Amendment) Act 2021, section 128B, prohibits the importation of motor vehicles manufactured over 12 years prior to the intended day of importation. Fines of up to \$10,000 or two years’ imprisonment, or both, apply.

Importing a car this year would mean importing one that is not older than year 2010.

All imported motor vehicles shall comply with the prescribed environmental requirements of Nauru, the Acts states.

In support is the Environmental Management and Climate Change Act which also imposes fines for excessive emissions from vehicles.

For a diesel-fuelled vehicle, when operated normally, excessive emissions means visible smoke continuously for more than five seconds or a cloud of visible smoke which is larger than one metre in diameter at any point.

For a petrol-fuelled vehicle, when operated normally, any visible smoke is considered excessive emissions.

Mr Star adds the department is in discussions with regional partners and looking at compacting equipment as potential avenues of disposing car waste.

He says a compacting machine that operates from a ship’s deck travelling through the island countries is something they are looking into.

The compacted scrap would then be shipped to junk yards or recyclers abroad •



## Locals aim high in aviation sector

Despite the disruptions to a relatively normal way of life caused by COVID-19, Nauru Airlines continues to find ways to improve and invest in Nauruans in all facets of airline operations and management.

The cadet pilot training program is one of those initiatives.

The program is an extension of the Nauru Government's mission to empower locals in the airline sector and is fully supported by the airline's board and leadership cadre.

Four Nauruan cadets are undergoing pilot and engineering training and certification at different levels.

In 2020 the pilot training cadet program was initiated and its first student Aoki Limen who was recruited internally began his first year at flying school in Nadi, Fiji with Advance Aviation Training Fiji, Ltd., (AATF).

Nauru Country Manager Limay Uera says Aoki's proven dedication and commitment whilst employed at Nauru Airlines prior to his cadetship provided him the opportunity to start his flying school training in 2020.

"Following Aoki's example, NAC opted to recruit potential candidates and employ them as interns for a minimum of 12 months monitoring their performance monthly in areas of their PPL/CPL exam results, attendance/punctuality, on-the-job performance with relevant sections under Nauru Airlines (load control, ramp activities, radiotelephony with the Nauru control tower," Ms Uera said.

The program attracted three cadets a year later in 2021 with Jet Jeremiah, Aiue Harris and Jonah Harris. The trio completed their final first year assessment in October 2021 which laid the path for the stream of aviation they can enter.

Ms Uera says the airline is reviewing the interns before they move on to the next level and enrolment at a flying school.

The pilot trainee matrix sets out an extensive 77 months training program which includes work experience, flight training including simulator, theory work, and Australian licencing, before they are deemed qualified a first officer for Nauru Airlines.

The airline's management is pleased with Aoki's progress. He gained his private and commercial pilot licences in June 2021 and was also rated on the multi-engine training aircraft in November.

"The training has been going well. It has been very challenging though, both with theory and practical," Aoki said.

"I am content with my progress; however, I would have preferred to have finished my training by now, March 2022, which will mark two years since the commencement of my training.

"Unfortunately, COVID has not been kind to aviation, even affecting us, trainee pilots, delaying our studies [for a further eight months]."

Aoki has five theory subjects to complete for the Airline Transport Pilot Training (ATPL).

"Right now, I am in line for a flight test for my Multi-Engine Command Instrument Rating, while also building hours on our single engine props, Cessna 172s, to meet the requirements of a Commercial Pilot's License (CPL) flight test."

Upon graduation Aoki will be required to build and achieve his 500 multi-engine flying hours, complete a Boeing 737 type rating requirement, convert his Fiji gained licence to an Australian (CASA) licence, pass simulator check at Nauru



*Aoki Limen on his first solo flying in October 2020*

Airlines Corporation (NAC), then have the qualification to be a First Officer with Nauru Airlines.

Growing up along the runway and listening to the roaring sound of jet engines Aoki found his career choice.

"Becoming a Nauru Airlines captain has always been my ultimate goal, anything further than that, is a question for the future."

To budding pilots, Aoki's advice is that they ask themselves, is this what I truly want to do?

He describes the hours and years of training are long and elevating to a fully qualified first officer takes more years.

"The reason for my advice, is that during my time here in Fiji, I have seen many students give up on their training and withdraw from the program altogether. This is sometimes after spending about \$60 to \$70,000 which is pretty much double the cost of a bachelor degree at USP.

"So to put it simply, my advice is to really be true to yourself as you know your strengths and limitations.

"Yes, one can argue that you need to be smart and assertive to make a great pilot, but I feel that one's drive and motivation is just as important.

"With all that being said, I would also like to add that a strong mathematic and English foundation is an essential part of a pilot's repertoire," Aoki said.

Other airline personnel rising through the ranks and upskilling are Lance Harris who has converted his B737-200 New Zealand licence to the Australian licence and Daleon Uera who is currently working through his piloting requirements.

Having successfully completed theory work on the Boeing classes B737-300/400/500s Lance is now working at the NAC hangar in Brisbane to complete the practical part of licencing – the Schedule of Experience (SOE) on this equipment.

Other notable staff highlights are that of Helena Kepae and Captain Robert Eoe who passed their CASA exam and interviews and "are the first Nauruans to achieve this distinction," Ms Uera said.

Ms Kepae qualified as a quality manager for both the airworthiness and maintenance sections of the engineering department.

A quality manager is responsible for preparing and implementing a quality audit program to review compliance of the organisations and air operator certificate.

Captain Eoe passed the CASA interview deeming him qualified to be the accountable manager and deputy chief executive officer of the airline.

The airline's CEO is often referred to as the accountable manager who is ultimately responsible for the safety of operations and the operation for the safety management system •

## #breakthebias on international women's day

His Excellency, then Acting President Martin Hunt and cabinet Ministers attend the church service led by Reverend Roger Mwareow at Orro Congregational Church, commemorating International Women's Day, 8 March.

Rev. Mwareow opened the service with a scripture reading from Proverbs 31:28-29, followed by hymns led by choirs from the different churches, prayers of request, the women's prayer and women's anthem.

In a statement released by the department, Secretary for Women's Affairs and Social Development Joy Heine says the theme #BreakTheBias speaks to the perceived and very real bias that exists in Nauru and around the world around what is generally assumed about women and girls and what the real experiences are that they face.

"The theme for International Women's Day speaks to the perceived notion that limits a woman's access to change and understanding the privilege that men have in our society and using that privilege to challenge the stereotypes and mind sets that bring about bias.

"Whether deliberate or unconscious, bias makes it difficult for women to move ahead. That is the reason why we strike the pose for the theme for this year. It is using the women's collective and

it is our overall collective.

"BreakTheBias means understanding the journey for the Women's Affairs Department and the many victories however small we have celebrated to get to where we are today.

"It is understanding the types of stumbling blocks that stops a woman from reaching her full potential. It is ensuring that we lend our voice and have the conversations to break the bias," Ms Heine said.

The department says the celebration for 2022 also represents the journey that the women's affairs department has taken to progress to this stage nationally.

The celebration recognises that the work cannot be done in silos but needs partnership and support from the men and so appreciation was given to the government of the day, the many stakeholders, Australian High Commission, Taiwan Embassy, districts and communities for their overwhelming support to the social sector.

"The celebration speaks on the many paths taken and sheds a positive outlook for the future," the department said.

International Women's Day is one of the nine official national holidays in Nauru •

## 'Red zone' house hand over

The Nauru Maritime Port Authority (NMPA) hands over a new house under the government-funded Red Zone relocation project to a family in Meneñ district, 3 March.

Minister for Internal Affairs Isabella Dageago presented the house keys to new homeowners Jampel and Monica Scotty, who said they were blessed to have their new house.

Minister Dageago said it is pleasing to see that the Red Zone relocation project is able to give the family a new home. This is the second completed house under the project.

The project is a government-funded initiative that aims to relocate people living in the vicinity of the on-going port development project in Aiwo district.

Presently, approximately 250 people from nine blocks at the Location settlement area in Denig are being relocated to new homes.

The construction of two-bedroom houses costing \$64,000 were earmarked for completion by December 2021, however, progress was delayed when building materials imported from Australia and Fiji were caught in a lockdown in the Solomon Islands en route to Nauru.



*Minister Dageago presents keys of 'Red-Zone' house to new homeowners Mr and Mrs Jampel Scotty*

The Ports Management Unit is working closely with construction companies and making weekly visits to ensure progress is on track.

Families in the Red Zone area go through the first phase of temporary accommodation relocation for a limited length of time before going into the second phase of moving into their new permanent homes.

The families are responsible in securing consent from family landowners for the land they intend to build on •

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