



Canterbury Get-Together! A Wonderful Celebration of Independence

More than 200 members, their families and friends, visited Canterbury during the last weekend of July for a very successful Get-Together to celebrate the 32nd anniversary of Kiribati Independence. There were people there from all over the UK as well as many parts of Europe and even the USA! The event took place at St. Anselm's School on the outskirts of the city. One of the school's sports fields was used as a campsite for the long weekend.

Many of the campers arrived early on Thursday so as to welcome members of the Kiribati Delegation to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, held earlier that week in London, who had extended their stay so as to join the celebrations.

By Thursday evening there were tents of all shapes and sizes, as well as an assortment of gazebos, around the periphery of the large sportsfield, sheltering under the mature trees bordering the site.



**KTA Chairperson Mrs Beta Richard Turpin with
Clr. Ian Thomas, Lord Mayor of Canterbury**

On Friday evening Get-Together hosts Patrick and Philomena Lawrence provided a barbeque for the campers as well as KTA members staying in local accommodation who visited the campsite for the evening to join the festivities.

In addition to a good meal, with some fine wine generously provided by Tiantaake Martinez and her family from Paris, the diners were rewarded with an impromptu *Batere* staged by the KTA dancers; an unexpected but much appreciated addition to the evening's entertainment!

It was a superb occasion that provided a great start to the weekend's programme!

(continued on page 2)

Chairperson informs AGM of increased KTA membership!

In her address welcoming members to the Annual General Meeting the Chairperson Mrs Beta Richard Turpin, who had been away in Kiribati for most of the previous year, paid special thanks to Mrs Rotee Walsh for acting as Chairperson in her absence.

Beta mentioned having met with several KTA members in Kiribati during her time there who included Nick, Avira and Tebe Harding, and Kaitibo + Simon Batterham, all of whom asked Beta to convey their best wishes to everyone attending the Get-Together.

Beta reported on a busy year for the Association since the last Get-Together, held in Ashburton on the edge of Dartmoor, which she had heard described as one of the most successful and enjoyable KTA events! She mentioned a well attended New Year gathering in Bristol and spoke of KTA members supporting a Pacific/Kiribati stand at the Cornwall Show hosted by Dave and Teieia Bradbury.

The Chairperson also spoke of her delight that the KTA membership had increased by 16 new members since the last AGM, taking the "paid up" number

2012 GET- TOGETHER

The K T A
ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER
2012 will take place at
The Foakes Hall,
Gt. Dunmow, Essex, on
Saturday, 28th July, 2012.

The Dourdan Pavilion and adjacent
Sports Ground have been booked
for campers from Thursday 26th to
Sunday, 29th July.

Our host for the event will be KTA
Executive Committee member and
Trustee Mr. Clive Smith.

Great Dunmow is situated just 6
miles east of Stansted Airport.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Members are reminded that KTA
subscriptions for 2012 fall due on
1st January.

Those members who do not pay
by Standing Order are requested
to send a cheque for £10 with their
name and address details please
to:

The KTA Treasurer,
62 Radnor Park Road,
Folkestone, Kent, CT19 5AY

Standing Order mandate forms
can be downloaded from:
www.ktaweb.org.uk

2 Annual Get-Together, Canterbury, 2011.



SOME OF THE HANDICRAFTS ON DISPLAY



CHLOE BAIRETI at Reception with ANN ORME + Ann's brother BEN and young cousin PETER



THE MAGNIFICENT INDEPENDENCE CAKE



LADIES ENJOYING THE EXCITEMENT OF THE DAY!



KIRIBATI PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION GUESTS WITH SOME OF OUR MEMBERS

Continued from Cover page.

When the Main hall opened on Saturday morning for the more serious proceedings of the Get-Together, stalls were in position for the sale of mementos and polo shirts bearing the Kiribati crest, together with Roddy Cordon's books about her time in the islands, as well as Kiribati DVDs in aid of the handicapped school on Tarawa supported by the Netherlands Kiribati Friendship Association represented here by Mark Overbeeke.

Situated elsewhere in the hall was an excellent display of Kiribati artefacts arranged by Paul Chilton, and an exceptional exhibition of Kiribati, Gilbert Islands, and Gilbert & Ellice Islands postage stamps dating back to three years prior to Tuvalu's separation, staged by members of the Folkestone and Dover Philatelic Societies.

Waiting to greet members as they arrived were two young ladies in traditional dancing costumes positioned alongside the Get-Together reception desk at the school's main entrance.

A very well attended AGM got underway shortly after 11am with reports from the Chairperson, Dance Organiser, and Treasurer, before electing Miss Nancy Day as the KTA's new Publicity Officer.

A full report of the AGM can be found on the association's website at www.ktaweb.org.uk

With the formal proceedings of the AGM over, Mr Patrick Somerville, in his customary role as MC, summoned everyone into the hall and saw to it that glasses of sparkling wine were distributed whilst the Independence Celebration Cake was put on display, after which the Honorary Consul Michael Walsh proposed a toast to the Independence of Kiribati!

Dr Tetaua Taitai then addressed the gathering saying how pleased he and his colleagues were to be able to join our celebrations and to see how healthy our association was with so many members supporting its activities. He wished us well for the future.

The Hog Roast was then brought into the hall alongside a tremendous array of dishes that included whole tuna, salmon, mackerel, crabs, and many traditional island treats such as breadfruit, taro, bananas and coconuts, in addition to pots of beef curry, sweet and sour pork, beef stir fry, and other culinary delights!

At this point the Lord Mayor of Canterbury Councilor Ian Thomas joined the proceedings. He welcomed everyone to the city of Canterbury and wished us an enjoyable reunion.

Sir John Smith then said grace before the Lord Mayor and other special guests, including Mrs Chris Luxton PISUKI Chairman, and Mrs Vasi Hollingsworth-Daniels, representing the Commonwealth Countries League, accompanied by the KTA Chairman, headed the queue for lunch.

In the brilliant sunshine many members made use of the picnic tables on the terrace alongside the hall overlooking the sports fields so as to enjoy the good weather.

When lunch was over the Dance Displays, which we had all been eagerly awaiting, commenced and the marvelous sound of Kiribati voices combined in song could be heard which brought everyone back into the hall. The wonderful sight of a stage filled with dancers in their traditional costumes brought the proceedings alive and was greeted with immediate applause.

A brilliant day of celebration!

After a display involving all the dancers we were treated to spirited performances by enthusiastic youngsters which brought laughter as well as applause from the audience. These were followed by serious displays by other young and then older dancers more skilled in their intricate routines.

There were a total of 30 extremely entertaining dances which lasted for almost 2 hours but seemed to be over in the blink of an eye. They concluded with an excellent impromptu performance by the GT host Philomena Lawrence which was very well received.

It was now time for tea consisting of scones with cream +strawberries and an assortment of cakes!

The Get-Together Raffle then took place with a fine selection of prizes. It raised £280!

Games were then organised on the
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sports field by Harry Orme who had entertained the youngsters throughout the weekend with football matches and other competitions. Now it was time for a three legged race, sack race and even a tug-of-war! However, the tables in the hall didn't seem to clear with groups of people enjoying each others company well into the late afternoon.

Eventually people started departing for home, their local hotel or B&B, whilst others returned to the campsite for an evening around makeshift campfires or barbeques that went on into the early hours.

Nevertheless a great number of volunteers were somehow found to clean up in the hall and kitchen! Sunday morning saw tents being dismantled by people packing up camp and saying their farewells. Gradually all the campers departed bringing an extremely productive, enjoyable and happy reunion to a close!
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KTA DANCERS ASSIST SOUTHAMPTON CHARITY

The KTA dancers performed at the "Great Wight Attack" in Southampton in September which was a fund raising exercise for the Southampton Hospital, and its purpose was to fund a new state of the art scanner for pancreatic cancer.

The Charity Ball was its climax, enabling the sponsors, who included Dave Savage (born and brought up in Kiribati), to present £25,000 to the Hospital.



DANCERS AT CARDIFF CITY HALL

COMMONWEALTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM 2011

The Minister of Internal Affairs, The Hon. Kouraiti Beniato together with his wife Nei Terikau, his Permanent Secretary Depwe Kanono, and Nei Eustelle Tioti and Nei Amina Uriam from his Ministry, attended the Commonwealth Local Government Forum at Cardiff City Hall in March 2011.

They were joined at the closing ceremony on March 18th by the KTA Dancers, who performed for more than 500 delegates to the Forum, from all over the world.

The Minister and party then spent the weekend at the Kiribati Consulate, from where they were able to visit Raglan Castle and to see the sights of (and to shop in) Abergavenny.

4 The KTA General Funds

THE KIRIBATI TUNGARU ASSOCIATION NO2 ACCOUNT - GENERAL FUNDS

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE - YEAR ENDING 31ST MAY 2011

		Opening Balance 01/06/2010	£7,816.28
INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Subscriptions	£1,230.59	Committee Meetings	£372.53
Donations	£35.00	Newsletter & Administration	£446.45
Interest on Savings	£2.07	New Constitution circulation	£77.04
		KTA Website	£170.16
2010 Get-Together		2010 Get-Together	
Ticket Sales	£2,440.00	Venue, campsite + eqt. Hire	£2,026.04
Less incl. 2010 acts	- £360.00	Less deposits pd. 2010 acts	- £363.96
Camping Fees	£450.00	Food, wine, hog roast, etc	£1,012.00
Raffle, Books, Quiz, etc.	£502.50	Trnsprt of gazebos + addtnl foodstfs	£178.09
Refund Lavender House Hotel	£50.00	GT Tickets, Banners, Printing, etc	£62.42
2011 Get-Together		2011 Get-Together	
Ticket Sales	£320.00	Deposit St. Anselm's School	£250.00
		Canterbury City Cncl. TENotice	£21.00
		Special Events Insurance	£152.00
		GT Invites & Postage	£71.00
			£494.00
Total Income:	£4,670.16	Total Expenditure:	£4,474.77
		Excess of Income over Expenditure:	£195.00
		Closing Balance 31/05/2011:	£8,011.67
		<u>Bank Reconciliation</u>	
		Unpresented cheque	£92.00
		Money to be deposited	-£80.00
		Balance at bank:	£8,023.97
Patrick Lawrence, KTA Treasurer, 1st June, 2011		Lloyds TSB KTA No2 Act 31/05/11	£2,921.74
		Lloyds TSB KTA Inst. Saver 31/05/11	£5,102.23
			£8,023.97

EXAMINER'S ENDORSEMENT

I have examined these accounts and supporting documents and am satisfied that they provide a fair and true summary of the transactions on the Kiribati Tungaru Association General Funds No2 account for the year 01 June 2010 to 31 May 2011

Peter Illsley
Honorary Examiner 25th July, 2011

In other words.....

During the financial year June 2010 to May 2011 the Association spent £1,066.18 on Committee Meetings, production and distribution of the newsletter, managing the KTA website, and circulating members with information about proposals for amending the constitution.

Other major items of expenditure concerned the annual Get-Together held in Ashburton in 2010 and deposits and other costs in preparation for the event held in Canterbury in July 2011.

Members Subscriptions continued to provide the biggest source of revenue, totalling £1,230.59. The odd sum of pence resulted from currency exchanges for payments received from overseas. Ticket Sales, camp fees, raffle, quiz, and book sales financed the annual Get-Together. For the first time a hotel was used as the venue which proved more expensive than usual, nevertheless the event managed a small surplus of £167.95 which was added to the General Funds.



Two boxers from Kiribati, Andrew Kometa and Tarieta Ruata, have been training at the Manchester Metropolitan University campus in Crewe since 14th October. They were met by David Little who has recently returned to the UK after many years on Tarawa (and has joined the KTA). David was until recently a member of the Kiribati National Olympic Committee. Overall responsibility for training and welfare of the boxers while they are here rests with Les Burwitz, Emeritus Professor at Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) in Cheshire and Coordinator, MMU Cheshire East Pre-Games Training Camps.

The boxers are generously funded by the UK Olympic organisation, and by the British Friends of Kiribati, an organisation set up by businessman David Hudd (who has been appointed Kiribati Olympics Attache). The British Friends of Kiribati, which has full charitable status, provides financial support for the sportspeople of Kiribati both at an elite level such as the Olympics and the Commonwealth Games, and in the community in Kiribati itself. David Hudd has previously met Kiribati athletes in Melbourne and Delhi, and BFK have been able to raise a significant amount of money from the business community in London.

Andrew and Tarieta are doing well, but they must succeed in the Oceania qualifying rounds in Australia, in March, if they are to participate in the Games.

After a recent visit, David Hudd wrote: "A & T are extremely committed to their training...; they are always on time and...[their coaches] are very pleased with them; it will not be for lack of effort on their part if they fail to qualify".

The KTA is delighted to join 'Te Reitake – A 2012 Games Kiribati Dance Extravanza', in association with two Cheshire dance groups, the Malbank School and the Department of Contemporary Art at MMU. This is to be held on 3rd March next year to bid our boxers farewell and good luck. We shall forward details of this event to KTA members when they have been finalised.

The other principal Kiribati hopefuls are the weightlifters who are currently undergoing professional training in New Caledonia, and, like the boxers, must qualify to participate. Kiribati is, however, automatically entitled to field two athletics sportspeople (one male, one female) and they will definitely be in London next July.

David Collins, from the Kiribati National Olympic Committee, was in London recently for an Oceania Regional Olympics preparatory meeting. He is seen here with the Kiribati Honorary Consul, Michael Walsh, together with our Chairman Nei Beta, and David Hudd. Beta and David were there to represent the two principal I-Kiribati NGOs in the UK that are connected to the Olympics. Les Burwitz is in the background between Michael and Nei Beta.



KIRIBATI GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

Having got all MPs after the General election on 21st October, a total of 44 plus 2 nominated members, that is the Attorney General and one from the Rabi Council, the House of Assembly had its first sitting on the 25th November to elect the Speaker and to nominate the presidential candidates.

Taomati Iuta was re-elected Speaker and the following were elected from 3 main political parties : Anote Tong was nominated from the ruling party, Boutokan te Koaua, Dr Tetaua Taitai from the the Opposition and Rimeta Beniamina was nominated by the Independents who are mostly newly elected MPs.

It appears that the Opposition and the Independent members when combined are in the majority which might be worrying for the ruling party. However, the final say always rests on the general public to choose who will be the next president to be elected by simple majority on 30th December. Because the voters are not affiliated to any political party it is always hard to predict the outcome.

Let us hope all goes well with the Presidential election and extend our good wishes and blessing to the incoming government. With 3 ex-presidents, Ieremia Tabai, Teatao Teannaki and Teburoro Tito, all easily retaining their seats in Parliament we can trust that any new Government will have plenty of experience to guide it on the back benches.

LATE NEWS FROM TARAWA !
President Anote Tong is back for another term with 41% of the votes cast.

70% of registered voters turned out !

Candidates totals:

Anote Tong 14,315

Tetaua Taitai 11,866 and

Rimeta Beniamina 7,738.

6 Food for thought!

Desalination: An answer to recurring problems of drought in the islands?

Drought has been in the news recently in Tuvalu, Tokelau and the Cooks and it comes regular as clockwork too in Kiribati. I only recently understood that drought in the Pacific was connected almost umbilically to the La Nina effect. From childhood in Kiribati, and then living off the land on Tabiteua as a young man in the 70s, I have known that regular droughts can bring hardship, particularly in the south. Less toddy, fewer and smaller coconuts, brackish water, breadfruit, pawpaw, banana and other plants all suffering and often dying. Cabbages, tomatoes and pumpkins withering or never getting going.

More recently my young lemon and breadfruit dying in Ambo during a comparatively minor drought. The problems of farming in Kiribati!

Back in the 70s, whilst living on Tabiteuea, I remember reading about reverse osmosis desalination converting sea water into drinking water. A new technology at that time it was much too expensive a solution to our problems. Thirty years later things look different, very different.

The problems remain the same - as they have for centuries, but exacerbated by climate change, rising sea levels, and increasing population all further endangering the fragile water lens beneath the habitable islands. But the costs of desalination, powered by renewable energy, have come right down. The technology is now available neatly packaged in a small container or even on wheels.

It now seems quite possible (to me at least!) that each village could have its own desalination system

This could bring about a major improvement in the quality of life for everyone in Kiribati. And maybe even make a large number of currently uninhabited islands habitable

Clean, safe fresh water would have a major impact on improving health in Kiribati, particularly in reducing very high levels of infant mortality. It would also make a huge difference to the ability to grow crops if fresh water could be guaranteed. Young trees would have a chance to make it through the regular droughts, vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, cabbages, and pumpkins could be grown reliably. Standard crops such as coconuts, pandanus, babai, and breadfruit should all do better if the water lens was not being depleted for human consumption. Safe clean water is one of the millennium development goals for the good reason that it makes a huge difference.

So how much would it cost? Is this a realistic possibility? My own research shows that a small desalination unit, producing 50,000 litres per day would cost in the region of £5000. An array of 10 solar panels with batteries, controllers and associated extras would cost another £10,000. Another £5000 for tanks and pipes for water distribution and \$20,000 could do a small village, perhaps \$50,000 for a large one. While this would be difficult for any village on its own, and would take a few years to accumulate, it becomes very possible with central government and international support to cover the initial capital expense.

Ongoing costs of maintenance, repair and eventual replacement are perhaps a greater challenge, along with the management and co-ordination of the whole system. Having seen how many government aid projects die with their funding streams, and knowing how

dominant 'unimane' (old men) remain in the outer island villages, I would suggest that stand alone village systems (providing power and water) should be run by the 'unimane' of each village. If they were to decide on whether to have one, raise an initial investment of 5-10,000 dollars, and then oversee use, maintenance, renewal and money collection, it would have a much greater chance of working well than if all was provided by central or local government.

Central government in this scenario could focus on assisting the initial capital expense, and providing the training and oversight necessary to make it all run well. There are 185 villages in Kiribati and it would work much better if they were all to use one, two or three different makes of system rather than lots of different ones (much as there are benefits on having most cars made by Toyota, and most outboards by Yamaha).

Costed at a generous \$50,000 per system the initial investment required for all the islands (apart from South Tarawa which would perhaps need a different model) would be about \$10 million. Quite realizable with aid or a very justifiable dip into the 500 million reserve fund! And what benefits!
By Richard Turpin

Does anyone know the whereabouts of John Mills or Brian Savage?

They were teachers at King George V School, Bikenibeu in the late 1960s. Norman Pasley (KGV 1967-68) is keen to meet again and exchange a few stories. You can contact me on 01489 573122 or
Email: normanh3usw@talktalk.net.
Many thanks for any information. Norman

APPEAL FOR PHOTOGRAPHS KIRIBATI IN THE EARLY 70's

We are very grateful to Gill Niblock for responding to last year's appeal by Michael Walsh for photographs to copy for the National Archive in Tarawa.

Some of the photos have, with Gill's kind permission been posted onto the new ex-EBS Facebook site.

**THE KIRIBATI TUNGARU ASSOCIATION DANCE FUND
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MAY 2011**

		Opening Balance 01/06/2010:	£3,227.17
INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Waddington Air Show	£119.14	Dance Practices Bristol	£420.00
Raffle proceeds - Dance Practice, Bristol	£21.00	Waddington Air show - Hire of Transport and fuel	£283.23
Raffle proceeds - New Year Dance Practice, Bristol	£34.00	Commonwealth Fair, Kensington	£106.50
		Dance Display Cardiff - travel exps	£117.17
Total Income:	£174.14	Total Expenditure:	£926.90
		Excess Expenditure over Income:	-£752.76
		Closing Balance 31/05/2011:	£2,474.41
		<u>Bank Reconciliation:</u>	
Patrick Lawrence, KTA Treasurer, 1st June, 2011		Cheque not yet presented	£117.17
		Balance at Bank 31/05/2011	£2,591.58

EXAMINER'S ENDORSEMENT

I have examined these accounts and supporting documents and am satisfied that they provide a fair and true summary of the transactions on the Kiribati Tungaru Association Dance Fund account for the year 1 June 2010 to 31 May 2011.

Peter Illsley,
Honorary Examiner, 25th July, 2011

KTA Dancers open the Commonwealth Countries League Fair

Following their successful performance in 2010, the KTA Dance Group was asked by the organisers of the Commonwealth Countries League Fair, staged in London at Kensington Town Hall, to be this year's opening act. The KTA dancers turned out in force in November to perform once more with participants from continental Europe as well as the UK and the reception they received this year was just as warm.

Majorie Rennie, the chief organiser, wrote: " *Thank you and your dance group for your performance at the Fair on Saturday, which made the Fair such a wonderful and happy feeling event.*

According to Louisa our President, 'everywhere you looked people were smiling and laughing.' The stage was alive which added to the creation of that happy atmosphere. The Fair Committee and the Executive Committee of CCL thank you all most heartily. "



In other words.....

The biggest expenditure from the Dance Fund (£420) was for the hire of venues for Dance Practices which have risen in price in recent years, probably due to the increased cost of heating the halls we use.

Other spending concerned travelling expenses for dancers attending the Commonwealth Fair in Kensington, a Display given at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in Cardiff, and vehicle hire + fuel costs of some of the dancers who performed at the Waddington Air Show, Lincolnshire, the previous year.

The combined spend on these was £506.90, bringing the total expenditure from the Dance Fund to £926.90 for the financial year (1st June 2010 to 31st May 2011).

Money paid into the Dance Fund during the year included an additional donation of £119.14 from the Christmas Island Veterans to further assist with travel expenses of the dancers who supported their efforts the previous year, and £55.00 raised by raffles held by the dancers at their gatherings.

At the end of what had been an active year for the Dance Group the balance on hand in the account had been reduced to £2,474.41 which remains a healthy sum to finance activities for the next year or two.

The Dance Account is administered by the Executive Committee and managed by the Dancers themselves who determine future expenditure at their gatherings

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT!

Reference the **KTA AGM 2009** held in Saint Peter's Hall, Carmarthen, 11th July.

ELECTION OF OFFICE HOLDERS

During the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting the following action was taken in respect of the election of officers for the Association.

Mr Patrick Somerville was nominated and duly accepted to act as a teller for the election, a role limited to receiving the completed ballot papers, conducting the count and reporting the results for the Chairman to announce.

Ballot papers were handed out to all those people present which listed the vacant posts to be filled. A notice was displayed listing the names of those intending to stand for election.

Mr Somerville observed the completed ballot papers being put into the Ballot Box and the contents were handed to him for analysis. He then wrote down the results and handed them to the Chairman to announce.

The record of voting was then handed to the Secretary for safe keeping. There were no other ballot papers or ballot boxes used or involved in these proceedings.

Mrs Beta Turpin was duly elected to the post of Chairman and the names of the other office holders on the Committee were announced.

The procedure followed had been in accordance with the policy dictated by the KTA Constitution and the results clearly reflected the wishes of the members present. Mr Patrick Somerville was happy to put his name to this statement.

This statement is made to allay any fears members might have that something untoward may have occurred at the AGM in Carmarthen to change the outcome of the elections. Suggestions to this effect have been circulated to a number of members which the Association deeply regrets.

2012 KIRIBATI GATHERING IN HOLLAND

KTA member Mark Overbeeke has announced that the Netherlands Kiribati Friendship Association of which he is an active member plans to hold an event in Holland in 2012 to which they intend inviting KTA members in the UK and elsewhere in Europe, as well as I-Kiribati nationals and friends in Slovakia and Germany.

Full details will be posted on the KTA website but those wishing to express their interest and support of the event can let Mark know by contacting him by post at the address below or via email at :

mark@equivalentvertalingen.nl.

Mr Mark Overbeeke,
Ahornstraat 57,
The Hague, 2565ZV, Holland.

TE REITAKI - A 2012 GAMES KIRIBATI DANCE EXTRAVAZA

The dance extravaganza in support of our Olympic boxers is now named Te Reitaki and two other participants are now fully signed up. The event will take place on

SATURDAY 3rd MARCH 2012

It is an important event and its hoped for a really good turnout.

Dancers are asked to make every effort to attend please !!

The venue will be close to CREWE station for those coming via public transport.

'AN ISLAND IN THE AUTUMN'

Last year's TeBuu reported that two Kiribati related books were to be published in 2011: '**An End to Empire in Oceania**' by Professor MacIntyre of Canterbury University and John Smith's Memoirs covering his time in the Pacific.

The first of these is delayed due to the earthquake in Christchurch; however '**An Island in the Autumn**' is now available, published by Librario Publishing. Michael Walsh writes:

Important as this book is as history, I suspect it will be even more fascinating to elder KTA members as the inside story of what was happening during the 1970s, much of the logic of which was not always apparent to those of us who were there at the time.

It covers John and Sylvester's time in the Solomons (where he was Financial Secretary); and in the then Gilbert & Ellice Islands as Governor: it details the separation of the Gilberts and the Ellice; struggles with largely unsympathetic (and often curiously prejudiced) set of Foreign Office Ministers and officials, as the Gilberts progressed toward Independence after 1975; and above all the story of the Banabans and their demand - supported by a small but vociferous band of UK MPs - for independence from the rest of the Gilberts which as John puts it, "came to take up 90% of my time".

As you will expect, it is full of telling anecdotes as well as analysis and judgement; equally, as you will also expect, it is a jolly good read' from: <http://www.librario.co.uk/>

VISIT TO UK BY KIRIBATI PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

A delegation of MPs and their wives, led by the Speaker, Toamati Iuta, came to London in July for the 57th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Westminster Hall.

As well as the Speaker, the delegation comprised the Member for Tabiteua North, Dr. Tetaua Taitai (who represents Oceania on the CPA Executive Committee); Tetabo Nakara (MP for Beru) and Nei Maria (pictured); the Member for Banaba, Takire Timion, and his wife; and also the Parliamentary Clerk.



They were joined by the Honorary Consul and his wife Nei Rotee for the official opening of the Conference, by HRH The Princess Royal.

As reported elsewhere in this edition of Te Buu, several of the delegation extended their stay so as to be able to join the KTA Get-Together in Canterbury.