

KTA Get –Together 2008

Chairman’s Report

This year’s celebration saw a good turnout which was blessed by being the hottest time of the year at Great Dunmow. The good weather was enjoyed by all who camped, stayed at hotels nearby or came just for the day.

Our thanks to Mr. Clive Smith who is a KTA Co Trustee and the Mayor of Great Dunmow for hosting our 2008 Kiribati Independence get-together. Our gratitude is also extended to the whole of Great Dunmow council for inviting us back and for warm welcome shown to us throughout the weekend. Seeing the Kiribati and Tuvaluan flags flying at entrances of the Pavilion and the Foakes Halls really made the day very special for us.

The day started off with the AGM on true Pacific Time. Thank you to your MC Patrick Somerville, who patiently guided members to the Hall for the meeting. Some of the items discussed at the meeting were:-

- Cataloguing KTA artefacts which at present are being cared for by Mrs. Rotee Walsh. Mrs. Sophia Blackmore kindly offered to do it and have it ready for the next AGM
- Fundraising for the dancers to pay for their tickets to attend a Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Trinidad to which KTA dancers have been invited to perform for a week in November 2009. It was agreed to firstly approach the Kiribati government to ask if they will be willing to sponsor the trip and if not, approach big companies for support. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how to help our dancers, please let us know.
- The 2009 venue and date for the next Get-Together; Mrs. Teka Wainwright offered to host it in Wales. The date appointed was July 31-2nd August due to the fact that some KTA dancers members intend to travel to Kiribati to join the 30th Anniversary of Kiribati Independence Celebration.
- Mrs. Roddy Cordon asked if the KTA would be able to donate money to the Kiribati Woman’s Organisation which is headed by Mrs. Tekarai Russell. Unfortunately the KTA was unable to help, as the association is solely for social and cultural events; however members are invited to contact Roddy if they wish to do so.

The dancing went brilliantly and to see a few of the youngest members dancing was just fantastic – see Rotee’s Dance Report for more details. The dance fundraising started in earnest with raffles organised by David and Ann Wynne Jones followed by the blind auction led by a wonderful salesman Derrick Andrewartha. Our thanks to Mrs. Roddy Cordon who gave all proceeds from her books to the KTA dance fund.

The food was laid out beautifully and although the usual centre piece of the pig was missing, the rest of the food was delicious. The outdoor games were a hit with the

children while the adults watched from the shade of the trees of tents. ‘Too hot to do anything’ someone commented.

Some more highlights for me that weekend were: seeing two three-year-old boys creating their own game in the campsite – who can collect the more tent pegs! The fun they had as they sneaked around pulling pegs out from the unsuspecting campers until they were spotted. The second was coming back from the hall at 2am and seeing so many tents and their occupants peacefully asleep under a wonderful moonlit night. From such a turnout felt contented with the knowledge that this is what KTA is all about – bring families together.

A big thank you to all for your continuing support and especially to the Committee members for their hard work and commitment to the Kiribati Tungaru Association.