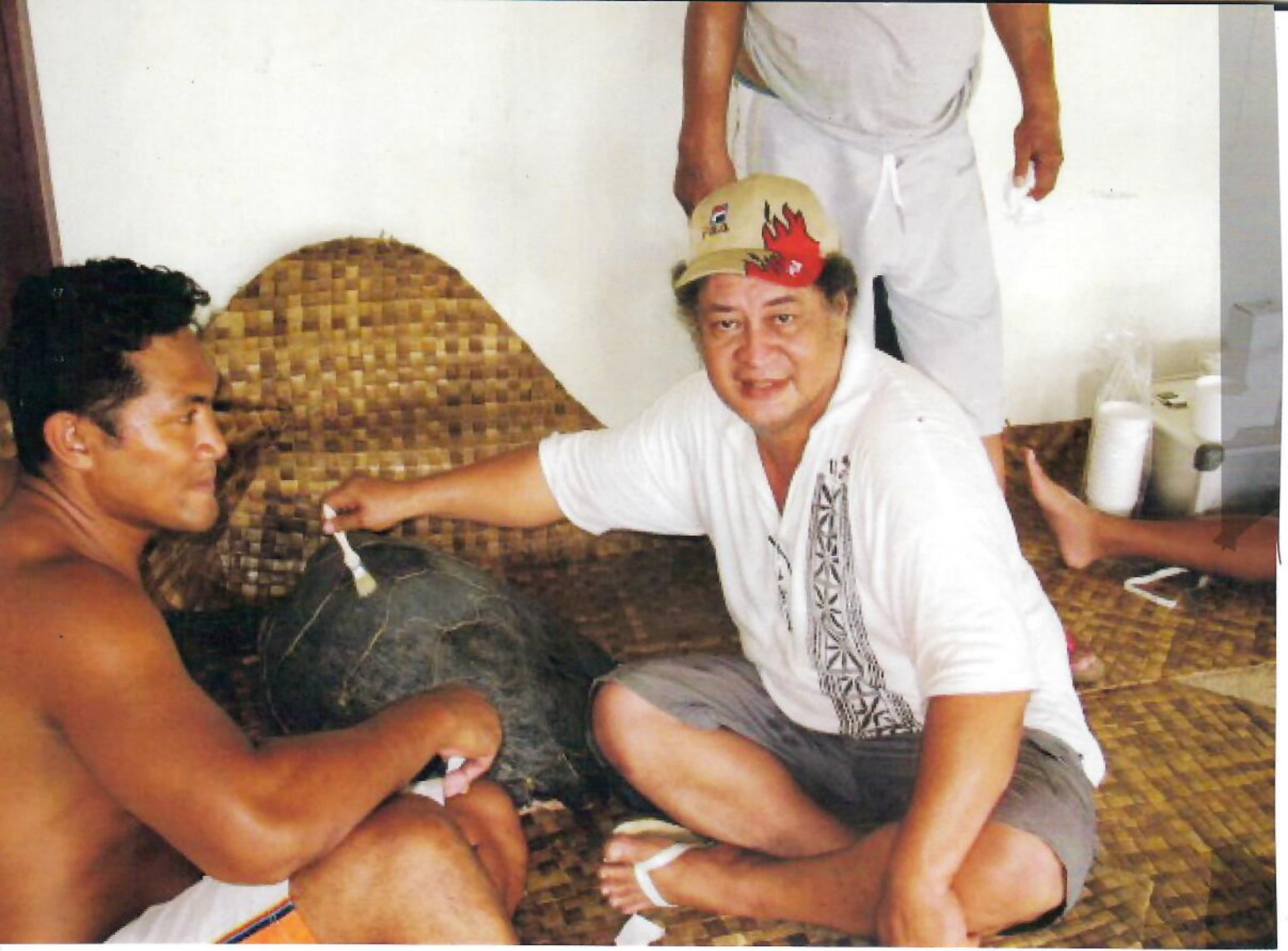




*In  
Loving  
Memory*

Lui Bell  
1956 - 2012







David Schofield (NOAA Fisheries Service, Pacific Islands Regional Office, Honolulu, Hawaii)

Aloha,  
Very sad indeed, a huge loss, I just worked with Lui on a capacity building in Fiji for marine mammal response and investigation.

*David Schofield*

Phillip Clapham (NOAA Federal)

This is the latest in a string of bad news of good - no, great - people dying young. I am so terribly sorry to hear this. Lui was such a wonderful man, and his loss will be deeply felt with the Consortium family.

*Phil*



Debbie Steel

My heartfelt condolences to Lui's family and friends. He was a wonderful man who will be deeply missed.

Sending big hugs

*Debbie*

Nan Hauser

There will never be another Lui. What a beautiful friend he has been to all of us and to all of nature.

We will miss you Lui! We love you! Thank you for all that you have taught us.

Xx

*Nan*







Judy Seumanutafa

A friend Lui Bell, died, taken at a young age. He has been a co-volunteer for the St. Vincent de Paul Society here for some years now.

Feeling shocked and very sad for his wife, children and family.

Love

*Judy*

Frank Wickham (former SPREP Capacity Development Advisor)

This is very sad news indeed. Lui was a great person, family man and professional.

My deep sympathies are with his wife and children.

Frank

*Frank*



Mick McIntyre (Director, Whales Alive)

Lui, Lui, Lui.

I will always remember you.

I will always remember your unflappable ways, Your total belief in preserving our marine species was an inspiration to all of us who worked with you.

It was not wise to mess with you when it came to issues of conservation, you were a warrior, a strong committed warrior.

We will miss you, the marine species will miss you.

You are now going on a different journey. I wish you smooth sailing and abundant love on this new journey.

Love and blessings,

*Mick*







Saras Sharma

Lui, words are not enough to state how much we will miss you. Thank you for connecting the Pacific Islanders to their ocean. I can't believe we were supposed to be on turtle field work next week. The Fiji Fisheries Department will certainly miss a champion. Anybody who has worked with you can always boast about working with the best.

Condolences to SPREP and to Lui's family.  
Rest in Peace dear friend.

*Saras*

Jayven Ham

Vanuatu team would like to pass on its condolence to Lui's Family on the sudden lost. Our hearts will always be with you. RIP

*Jayven Ham*



Kosi Latu (SPREP Deputy Director General)

Lui - we are all still shocked and saddened by your sudden passing away. Even after a few days of your passing it is still difficult to process this mentally and accept that you are gone. You will be remembered by your colleagues and friends here at SPREP for your commitment and passion for your work on marine species in the Pacific. But also your smiling face, your generous spirit in helping the needy in Samoa, and for the down to earth person you were.

Ia manuia lau malaga Lui - *Kosi*

Bernard O'Callaghan

Thanks Lui for your passion and contribution to the world.. The world is a better place - thanks to you and your efforts.

My sincerest condolences to Lui's wife, children and family.. Also thoughts to our SPREP colleagues... Our Pacific Ocean has lost champion. Thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

*Bernard O'Callaghan*







Theresa Fox

Lui, met you briefly you at Nakalou in Macuata, Fiji, but I shall remember your passion for marine turtles for a lifetime. Thank you for inspiring me! God Bless your family richly !!!

*Theresa Fox*

Easter Galuvao (SPREP)

Lui worked hard with conviction to protect and conserve turtles, whales, sharks, dugongs and marine life in general. He had utmost respect for these species. In 2011, for the Year of the Dugong, the theme was "Respect and protect the dugongs". Lui was already talking about declaring 2014 to be the Pacific Year of the Whale!

At the office, Lui is the first person I see when I come in the morning and that is because his desk is next to the door. So obviously, you would say good morning to Lui and also because he usually comes in early before everyone else. Now, his desk is empty, and it is hard to come in the morning and not seeing Lui at his desk.

I was shocked when I was told of Lui's sudden passing away. It was so hard to believe it as he was with us at work that day. He and I discussed a number of things including his budget which was in a big red (SPREP colleagues know what this means)! Lui always reminded us that we can accomplish so much with so little funds. This is so true. In 2010, we visited the Karkum Conservation Area in PNG where the community had received about \$2,000 from Lui to help with their turtle conservation activities and it was amazing how much the community had achieved with the funds from Lui.

As we prepare for the 9th conference for nature conservation and protected areas which is to be held in November in 2013. I shared an idea with Lui on how we could use turtles as ambassadors for the conference. Lui was very excited with this idea and wanted to use one of his turtle projects in Fiji to implement this idea in the lead up to the conference. He said that he would look into this idea during his trip to Fiji in December. I am sure Lui would want us to take this idea forward and make it happen.

Fa'afetai tele Mauigoa mo au galuega lelei aemaise o ou uiga tausua'afia ma le agamalu, e le tautala soo, ae fiafia e faitala malie. Ia fa'atasi le agaga o le Tama I le Lagi i le tina, fanau ma le aiga fa'anoanoa.

Manuia lau malaga.

*Easter  
Galwao*



Jeff Kinch

Daer All, I am just back from Madang, and received a couple of notices off some List-Serves; and Tony also sent me a message; very sad indeed, another circle of life completed;

Please pass our condolences to Lui's family from the Kinch family, and trust that the funeral arrangements and associated feasting goes well; and Lui ends up swimming in the afterlife with whales, dugongs and turtles as his angels; he was a very dilligent and hard-working fellow;

SPREP (or some other funding arrangement) could allocate say USD 20,000 per year as the Lui Bell Marine Animal Memorial Fund, and people could then apply for grants to do marine animal work; this would be a way to have a lasting legacy for Lui and allow others to follow the motivation and committment that Lui had for the marine animals and the people of the Pacific that utilised them;

The SPREP squash evenings will not be the same with out the juggernaut and his killer (whale) smashes (next SPREP internal squash championship could also play for the Lui Bell Memorial Shield, and each year the winner would have their name put on it, this could be another way to remember Lui's other passion, the squash games at Heem's Gym) ;

Please raise a glass or three to Lui at the next SPREP Bar night for me; may God/Spirits continue to bless us all; regards,

*Jeff*



Cheri Robinson

I am grateful I had the fortune to get to know this great man through a social squash group...I only knew him for a relatively short time but his zest for life and vibrant personality was enough to leave a lasting imprint... I will miss him. RIP dear friend

*Cheri Robinson*

Richard Farman

A man is remembered by his achievements but also by the esteem in which his friends and colleagues hold him. Thank you George for telling us how special Lui was for you. I too hold fond memories of Lui and what a nice man he was.

Conservation work may be never done, but Lui did make a very significant contribution. Let us all carry on in his name.

*Richard Farman*



Espen Ronneberg

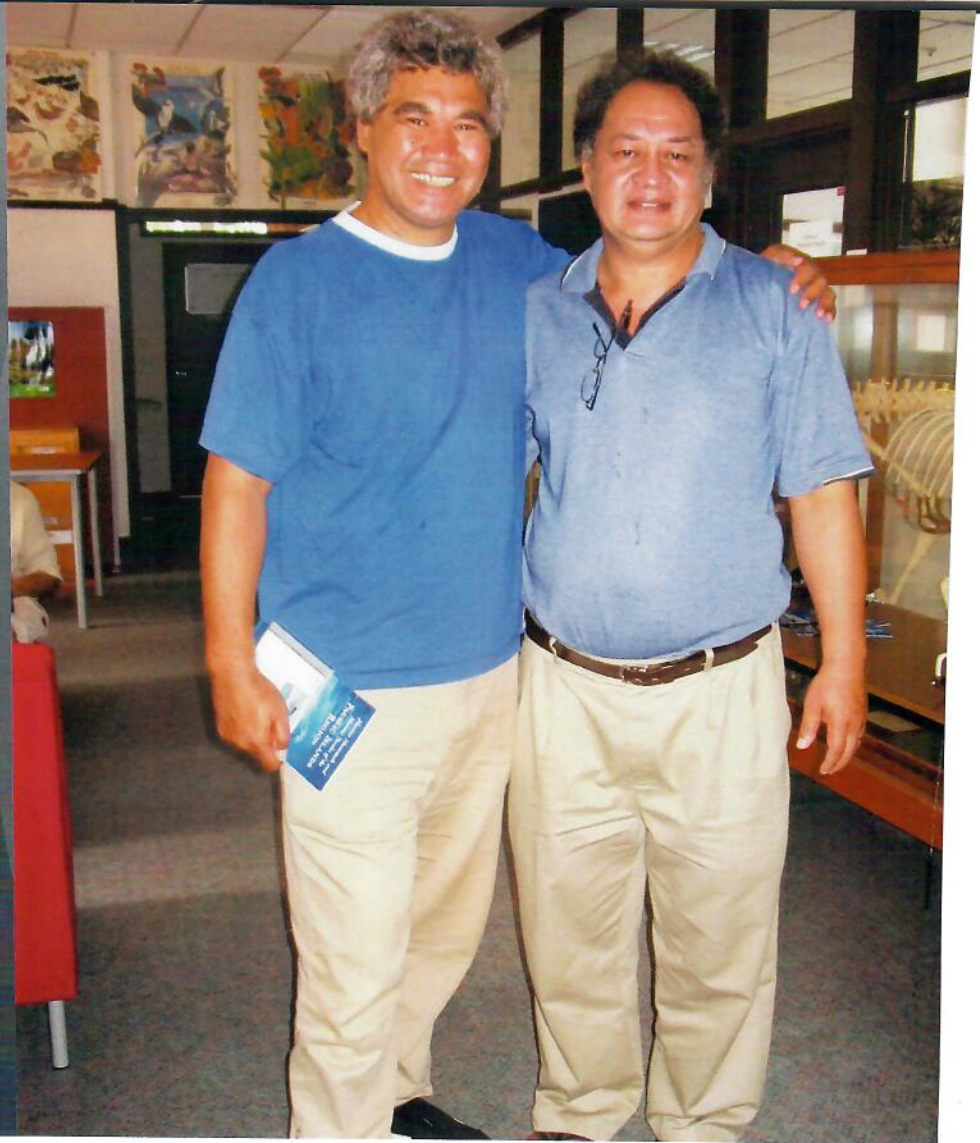
The tide recedes,  
but leaves behind  
bright seashells on the sand,

The sun goes down,  
but gentle warmth  
still lingers on the land,

The music stops,  
and yet it echoes on  
sweet refrains ...

For every joy that passes,  
something beautiful remains.

*Espen  
Ronneberg*



Aisake Batibasaga

This is a great loss for the countries of the region, and this more so for Fiji as Lui had a natural affinity to Fiji and kept encouraging marine species management and conservation here. He was a very important pillar for marine conservation in the South Pacific.

We will really miss you Lui as we were on the threshold of commencing the four year Ecotourism Sea Turtle Research and Conservation project co funded by SPREP and NZ Doc with 3 other countries.

You have left a void which can not be easily filled.  
So long Lui. RIP

*Bati*

Matt McIntyre

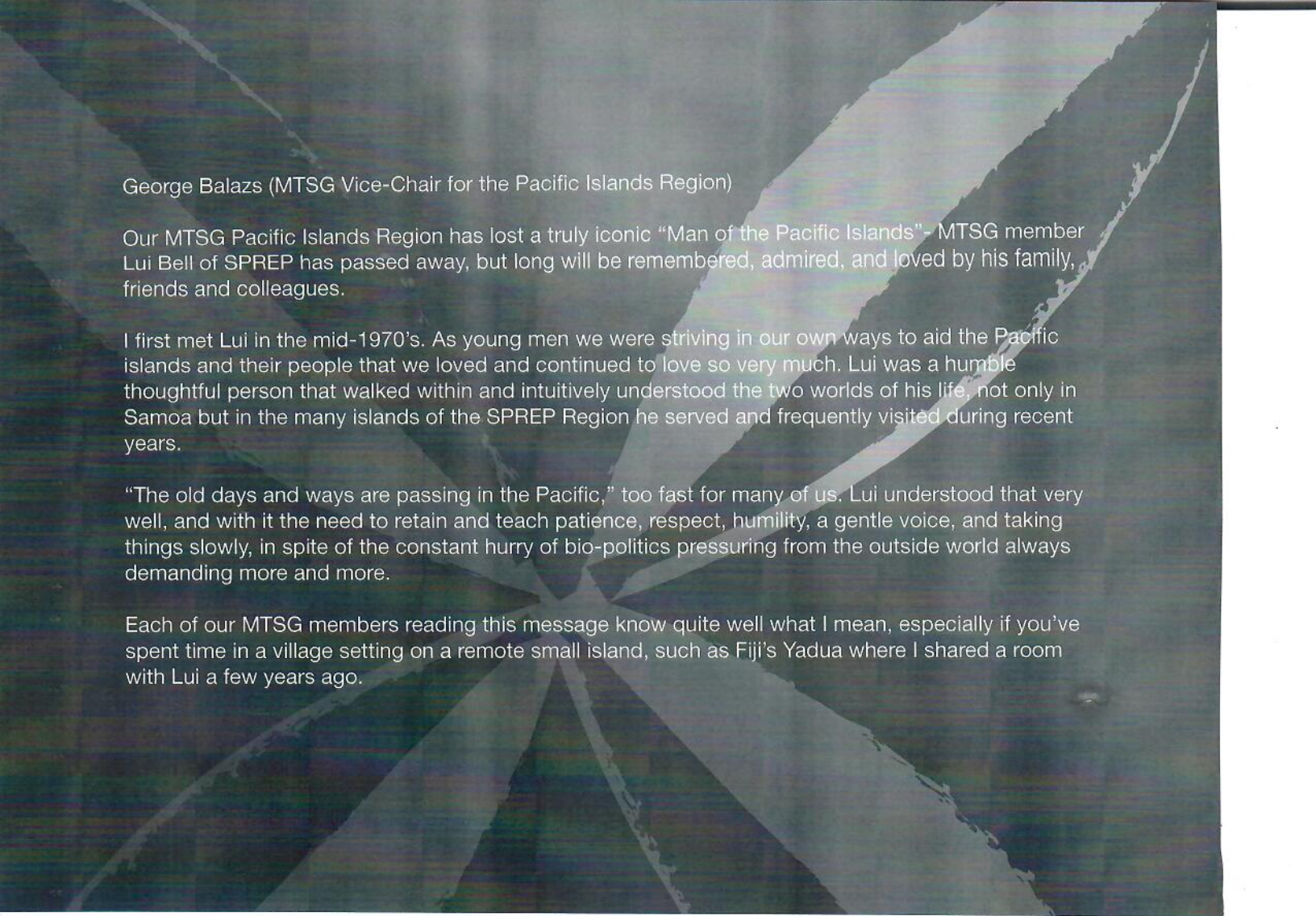
Very sad news indeed. What a great man!

Regards and sympathies to his family and friends.

Take care

*Matt*





George Balazs (MTSG Vice-Chair for the Pacific Islands Region)

Our MTSG Pacific Islands Region has lost a truly iconic “Man of the Pacific Islands”- MTSG member Lui Bell of SPREP has passed away, but long will be remembered, admired, and loved by his family, friends and colleagues.

I first met Lui in the mid-1970’s. As young men we were striving in our own ways to aid the Pacific islands and their people that we loved and continued to love so very much. Lui was a humble thoughtful person that walked within and intuitively understood the two worlds of his life, not only in Samoa but in the many islands of the SPREP Region he served and frequently visited during recent years.

“The old days and ways are passing in the Pacific,” too fast for many of us. Lui understood that very well, and with it the need to retain and teach patience, respect, humility, a gentle voice, and taking things slowly, in spite of the constant hurry of bio-politics pressuring from the outside world always demanding more and more.

Each of our MTSG members reading this message know quite well what I mean, especially if you’ve spent time in a village setting on a remote small island, such as Fiji’s Yadua where I shared a room with Lui a few years ago.

Learning from Lui by his soft word and example further deepened my respect for him. I will sincerely miss Lui and pray for his guidance and good cheer from above. Lui opened every SPREP turtle meeting and training session with a prayer, asking God to bless the participants and guide their work and decisions in striving to conserve sea turtles for the benefit of the marine and island ecosystems, and for the cultural needs of the people.

May God now bless you Lui, and watch over and give comfort to your family. Talofa, Aloha, Vinaka, and Fond Farewell until we all meet again.

*George Balazs*

Akanisi Lomaloma

Isa Moce Mada Tutu Lui, May his soul rest in peace and Gods blessings be with his family during this time.

*Akanisi Lomaloma*



Kate Walker (Vavau Environment, Tonga)

I was so saddened to hear of Lui's passing, he will be greatly missed friend and colleague to many people. Although I only recently met him, his passion for his work was evident and I was very much looking forward to working with him on this and other projects.

My thoughts are with his friends and family at this awful time.

Kind Regards

*Kate*

Christine Trenorden (Environmental Law Programme Coordinator, IUCN)

I was so saddened and shocked to hear from Bernie today of Lui Bell's passing. My condolences to his SPREP colleagues and family. My thoughts and prayers are with everyone. It is such a great loss to his family, colleagues, SPREP and the region.

In sympathy,

*Christine*

Taniela Faletau

Sad news indeed. He will be missed not only at SPREP but by all of us who were fortunate at some stage to have shared a beer with.

Rest in peace good friend, you were nuggety on the outside but wholesome with a good spirit always.

*Taniela*

José Truda Palazzo, Jr.

Lui was an inspiration for all of us in Latin America struggling for a living planet. His legacy will live on as long as there's one of us fighting against the devastation of our shared oceans. It was a privilege to get to know him and to have the opportunity to share a few precious moments with him.

*José Truda Palazzo, Jr.*





Seema Deo

Lui. There are really no words to express who you really were. "Humble" sounds too weak. "Persistent" just sounds aggressive. You lived your life and followed through on your profession with a zeal that many of us just dream of.

You left us just as we were finalising the printing of the next 5 year set of action plans for marine species in the region and it is perhaps fitting that as I write this, I can only hear your voice as we sat on a little boat earlier this year after a clean up activity on Manono Island. A turtle surfaced in front of us and you said, so matter of factly, "she is thanking us for cleaning up her home". It's these sorts of things that define you for me. You were absolutely clean of heart. And you would never willingly hurt a soul.

We know of the work you did for conservation but you also found the time to do some amazing stuff "behind the scenes" for so many, so quietly, so graciously and yet, always with great humour. Mornings at SPREP would hold a bounce after bumping into you in the corridors – you had a word for everyone that would bring out a smile or an unexpected burst of laughter.

Thank you, Lui Bell, for using the time you had on earth to bring out the best in all of us. I know that, well beyond your memory, your legacy will live on.

Rest in peace and safe journey.

*Seema*



John E. Scanlon (CITES Secretary-General)

All of us here at the CITES Secretariat received the news of Lui's sudden passing with great shock and sadness.

Lui was an integral member of the CITES family and a champion of marine mammal conservation in the Pacific Island region. We have worked with him on many occasions over the years, the most recent one being the joint CITES-SPREP workshop held in Fiji earlier this year.

Many of our Secretariat staff communicated regularly with Lui both in person and through email communication. Everyone appreciated the great value he brought to CITES's work in the Pacific region through his strong professional dedication. Those staff who were fortunate enough to have known Lui personally - Tom and Haruko in particular - very fondly recall him as a dear friend who was full of kindness, humor and energy.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Lui's family, friends, and colleagues at SPREP at this difficult time.

Kind regards

*John*



Faye (Faafo) Clarke (nee Bell) & Husband  
Bill

Oh Cousin Lui, Little did we imagine when we saw you and Silila on White Sunday that after having found you again that we could lose you so soon. We are shocked and distraught with the news and our hearts go out to Silila and the rest of the family in this time of great sorrow. We pray that you will all be strong and remember and be comforted by the good times that you had together and knowing that he will still be around in spirit and not so far away from us all. Peace be with your spirit cousin you will be greatly missed by all of us.

All of our love and deepest sympathy

*Faye (Faafo)  
and  
Bill*







Nick Gales (SPWRC)

I did not know Lui as well as many of you, but I was struck by Lui's quiet passion for marine mammal conservation and the kind and humble manner in which he directly affected change. He will clearly be very sadly missed.

*Nick Gales*



Rev Leoo Polutea

I miss this guy so much with his attitude of assisting people especially his working colleagues. One of the high chief of the village "Mauigoa" and he does not want people know and goes at very low profiles.

When we worked together for the World Bank Project on Coastal Infrastructure Asset Management Project he assisted me with so many issues and guidelines to protect water pools on the coastline as assets and heritage for the communities and people of Samoa. However, he always want me to proceed with the three pools at Fusi Safata to protect first with good reasons; e.g. because of the largest mangrove in Samoa situated in Fusi, and these water pools were there for so many years where he always cleaned his beard whenever he returned from an overseas conference or trip.

Ia manuia tele lau malaga uso ma ia iai pea le filemu o le Alii ia te oe, ia tumau pea le mafanamafana o le Atua i le faletua ma nai ou alo.

Soifua uso.

*Rev Leoo Polutea*





Rawiri Paratene (NZ actor - Whale Rider)

Nga mihi aroha ki te whanau pani me nga hoa mahi o te rangatira.  
Sympathies to the bereaved family and to all of Lui's work mates/associates.

*Rawiri Paratene*

Nan Woonton  
Dear Lui,

Writing this tribute has been one of the most difficult things for me to do, I have written and rewritten with such a sad heart.

If I knew the last time we met would be the last time we would speak I would have told you –

“Thank you Lui for being such a good friend, it just seems like yesterday that we were having a special lunch to celebrate your contract at SPREP and I'm so glad you are here as I really enjoy working with you. I learn a lot from your 'get on with it' attitude never letting anyone distract you knowing exactly what it is that you wanted and working to produce it. Sometimes I leave my office to seek you out in the SPREP passage ways looking for some honest feedback followed by a really good laugh - it always puts me in a happier mood for the day.

I'm really impressed by the way you give so generously and selflessly, always treating people with respect - that's a quality I really admire and endeavor towards. I think it's cool the way you help people because you can. I also think it's awesome how committed you are towards marine conservation in the Pacific, you do some really amazing work - I often hear good things about you when I travel and so proud to work with you.

Lui, you are a really neat person, I am blessed that God has placed you in my life."

I will really miss you Lui, my deepest condolences and prayers go out to his family and all his friends.

Aere ra Lui,  
Te Atua te Aroa.

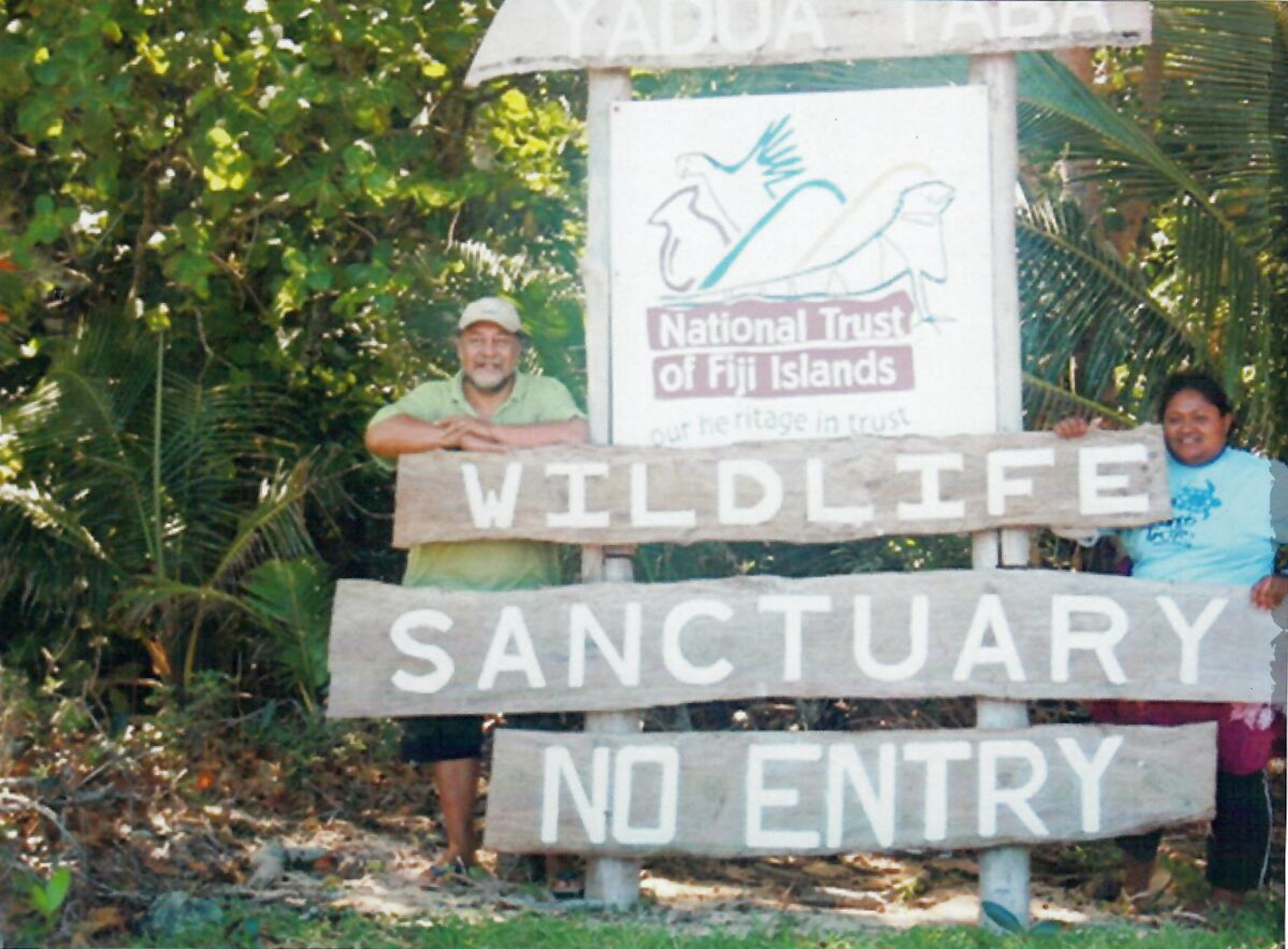
*Nan*

Mick Guinea

My condolences to Lui's family and loved ones.  
From the lecture theater to the SCUBA dives in Fiji, you will live in my memory. Moce sota tale Lui and thank you.

*Mick Guinea*





YALUA TABA



National Trust  
of Fiji Islands

our heritage in trust

WILDLIFE

SANCTUARY

NO ENTRY



Frank Wickham

To Lui's family including the SPREP family and Pacific Conservation family, many of us in Solomon Islands was shocked to hear of the passing away of a good friend and conservation champion for the Pacific. Lui had a wide experience in marine conservation and community engagement in our region. I knew him as a humble family man who would not hesitate to share his insights and experiences with colleagues and fellow professionals. I learnt a lot from Lui and enjoyed his companionship and personality.

Elsie and I, Kwan Amataga and family, Staff of the Environment and Conservation Division here in Solomon Islands convey our deep condolences to Silila and the children.

*Frank  
Wickham*







Vaitoti Tupa

Kia Orana from the Cook Islands

It is with profound sadness that I have learned of the demise of my close friend, Mr Lui Bell, SPREP Marine Species Adviser. On behalf of the National Environment Service of the Cook Islands, Prime Minister and Minister for Environment, Hon Henry Puna, his CEO Edwin Pittman, staffs that has been working closely with Lui and my own behalf please accept our most sincere condolences, respectful consideration.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this difficult moment and also to the SPREP staff.

Kia Manuia  
Director  
Sincerely

*Vaitoti  
Tupa*



Andrew Yatilman

It is with great sadness to learn of this tragic loss of one of Pacific's environment champions. My staff and I extend our condolences to Lui's wife and children during this difficult time. We will remember you in our thoughts and prayers. May Lui rest in eternal peace.

FSM Office of Environment and  
Emergency Management

*Andrew  
Yatilman*



Lyn Lambeth

Very sad news indeed. I remember Lui well from my time in Samoa in 1997/98 and while at SPC after that. A funny, happy unique soul. My condolences to his family and many friends.

*Lyn*

Sereima Savu

I clicked onto the SPREP webpage and was shocked to see the link to this. I hope he is at peace and my thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

*Sereima Savu*

Una Malani

Isa Lui. Such a down to earth and humorous person that was committed to the cause. May God console his family during this tough time. May you RIP, Lui Bell.

*Una  
Malani*



Louise Main (Rotary Club of Samoa)

Words fall short of expressing my sorrow on hearing the news of Lui's passing.

I met Lui for the first time last year at SPREP while planning the clean up and conservation of turtles on Manono Island. His jovial nature and inspirational presentation on turtles on Manono enthralled child and adult alike. I was honoured to have met Lui and gotten to know him better in the weeks that followed our Manono trip.

I will treasure the knowledge he passed on to me not only of turtles but of the vast variety of sand-fish and hopefully I can honour his memory by passing on this knowledge to others. His memory as 'Turtle man' will live on, on our little Island....

I know you will miss Lui, and words however kind will not fill that void but those who care and share your loss wish you comfort and peace of mind.

May the love of those around you help you in the days ahead

With love & prayers,

*Louise*

Andrew Peteru

I'll miss not having anyone pick on me on the squash court. I'll miss not being able to tease you as well. We won't need a referee to sort out our 'lets'. I'll miss telling you off about smoking in between games. I'll miss you glaring at me when I put some other team on the court when you were supposed to be next. I'll miss you especially when you team up with Stuart or Esther and become the biggest cheats on the court (and you accusing me of the same). I'll miss your laugh, your yells, your face, your smile, your beard, your khaki pants, your white van, your new shoes, and your killer shots. I'll miss talking to you about anything from your children, our poor health, expired tomato sauce sachets, work, coke, and Donnie's famous drink mixes.

You were my Bestest adversary on the court Lui and you really made my favourite times of the week that extra enjoyable!

I thank Gcd for your life and for being a part of it (albeit very small).

Fa Lui!

*Andrew  
Peteru*



Mitimiti & Amelia Kinahoi Siamomua (New York)

We will treasure fond memories of a humble friend, brother, colleague, a true regional professional. Thoughts are with you Silila and the rest of your family during this time. May your legacy live on Lui! May you rest in peace and may God's love and grace comfort and sustain Silila and your family. 'Ofa lahi atu Silila! Manuia lou malaga Lui.

Alofa tele!

*Miti and Amelia*

Peter Thomas

I was shocked to hear this saddest of news and my deepest sympathy goes out to Lui's family in this time of grief and sadness. Lui's unassuming and respectful manner, his dedication to the marine environment, his deep knowledge and experience in fisheries and marine conservation and his ability to work with all and sundry will be sadly missed by so many of us who have had the privilege of knowing Lui and working with him, right across the Pacific.

*Peter Thomas*



## Posa Skelton

I was recruited by Lui when he was with the Fisheries Division in 1996. The first job he gave me on my 2nd day was to survey Manono Island. As a newbie and a recent graduate - it was a steep learning curve that spurred my interest in marine conservation and fisheries management. Lui was a leader that led by example. He worked long-hours including Sundays - and I always remember his green-pick-up truck parked at the Fisheries Division on Sundays. We parted ways - when he joined FAO and I moved to USP...but kept in touch when he moved back to the Government of Samoa - leading the marine section of the Division of Environment. We collaborated on marine invasive species - and he was instrumental in getting funding support from UNDP to fund marine invasive species survey at Apia Harbour. I used Lui as a referee in the jobs I applied for - including the Marine Species Officer post at SPREP - which he also applied for. I'm pleased that he got that post - as his achievements were phenomenal and one that will be hard to match. Lui's jokes, infectious smile and laugh and positive outlook are something that i will treasure. He was a sportsman and a gentleman. He played a mean back-hand in table-tennis (both at Fisheries Div's old lab and at the SPREP fale) and his serves on the squash courts were often difficult to return. Lui smoked a lot of cigarettes. His cigarette butts often filled up the dish outside of our office door. The smell of his cigarettes lingered and admittedly would get up my nose. But you know - I would live with that cigarette smell any day if it means keeping Lui with us for a while longer. My office cubicle sits opposite Lui's - I will miss seeing my friend and mentor. I will miss the distinctive ring-tones from his phones..I will miss our Tuesdays and Thursdays squash...I will miss him giving Tiva a hard-time...I will miss seeing the bearded man with the Einstein hairdo. I will miss him very much. Safe journey Lui until we meet again...much alofas.

*Posa Skelton*



Dominique Benzaken

I met Lui when he was still with the Saoman Government and I had been with SPREP just a few months.

I recruited him and never regretted it. He was an incredibly hard working and committed individual. He liked to have his way and quietly resisted all my attempts at managing him which was at time frustrating, but there was always respect and friendship. I owe Lui one of my best professional achievement.

Together we secured the CMS Pacific Cetacean MoU. What an amazing success it was....I still remember the SPREP meeting in Noumea when 11 countries signed MoU in the presence of Lyle Glowka, then at CMS.

The news of his passing so suddently is a blow and a very sad moment. I can't help thinking about him, his warmth, his smoking, his laugh and his crown of freezy hair. My thoughts go to his family.

God bless.

*Dominique*









Ausetalia

He is a best friend and brother - one groomsman in his wedding Tonga some memories to cherish the rest of this worldly life, Love you brother and may the comfort of the Holy Spirit be with the family - may your children take into the future the legacy of a good brother.

Luv you Silila and kids

*Ause*

Josua Wainiqolo (SPC)

It's sad to note of the passing away of Lui Bell. I know that his work will continue and he will always be remembered by all.

Kind Regards

*Josh*



Theresa Fox

#### Moce Mada Lui Bell

The Dau Ni Vonu Network or community based turtle monitoring programme in Fiji has lost one of its founding pillars, Lui Bell, who passed away in Samoa last week. WWF South Pacific staff is saddened by Lui's passing that is a big loss to the conservation world especially in the area of marine species protection including turtles and cetaceans.

Lui Bell helped the setup of the network early in 2010 through the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund managed by the South Pacific Regional Environment Program where he worked. As a world expert on turtles in the Pacific, Lui played a critical role in equipping at least 20 odd turtle monitors in Fiji with necessary tagging and monitoring skills essential to the work of the Dau ni Vonu. Through Lui's influence and network, the Dau NI Vonu, selected members were able to visit Vanuatu and learn firsthand from the Vanuatu partners and colleagues the successful approach the Turtle Monitors of Vanuatu had developed. For almost all the DNV, it was their first time out of Fiji.

The Dau ni Vonu is an association of young men and women whose actions support the implementation of Fiji's National Sea Turtle and Recovery Plan that feeds into international instruments like the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. Along with monitoring turtles within their traditional fishing grounds, the Dau ni Vonu also carries out awareness and advocate for the protection of the charismatic megafauna in villages, settlements, with their peers, and families.



WWF South Pacific Sustainable Coastal Resource Use Management coordinator Akisi Bolabola said: "Lui will be greatly missed; he has shared not only with community members, but most marine species conservation practitioners, such as the WWF team his experiences and wealth of knowledge. Lui was very supportive to the Fiji Sea Turtle team and he liked to share our local case efforts with other Pacific island countries in the hope that we strengthen this regional species conservation initiative," Bolabola said."

"I, like the rest of the team who had the chance to work with Lui am grateful for being part of the good work that he help start and will fondly remember the good times shared with this mentor and friend in conservation."

To the Dau ni Vonu, Mr Bell was more than a teacher, he was a friend, a peer who had helped their transformation from turtle hunters to protectors.

Often found under the mango tree at WWF South Pacific when visiting the office in Suva, his unassuming and gentle manner make him approachable and an easy person to talk to, often have in conversation with someone.

The Dau Ni Vonu network and WWF South Pacific extends its deepest sympathy and is with the Bell family in this moment of sorrow.  
Moce Mada Lui Bell.

Ends...

*Theresa Fox*



Clark Peteru

Surprising no one's written anything on golf yet, which was Lui's higher calling. He was the president of the quirkishly named Maugafolau (seafaring mountain) school at Faleata - no idea on earth what that meant and had always meant to ask him. He had a spectacular hook shot, when he connected. Unfortunately it was the only shot in his bag, placing him at a moderate disadvantage. Despite this, a few weeks ago at Faleata he beat me and Magele, a visiting friend from Noumea where we had all recently played. We were planning a date to rectify this when Lui passed away - effectively sealing his victory for eternity. This just added to our misery.

In golf as with other sports you get glimpses of the real person. With Lui, what you saw was what you got. There was no pretence. He was as dishevelled on the sports field as he was at work. I think his dress code had something to do with the fact that he was either returning from the field or getting ready to go back. At the Rotorua meeting in July however he was immaculately groomed and attired. It took me a while to find him at Auckland airport

A number of years ago some people were describing SPREP as a policy and technical advisory organisation. I remember thinking about Lui and how this perception was clearly wrong. On thinking about it further, it came as a bit of a surprise at the time, but in some ways, and to many communities, Lui was the embodiment of SPREP. A genuine footsoldier, unassuming and at the frontline.

*Clark Peteru*

Job Opu

my condolences to his family. He will be greatly missed

best regards

*Job*

Mele Ikatonga Makasini Tauati

Rest in Eternal Peace Lui. You were a great inspiration and role model for marine conservationists and managers in the region. It was indeed an honour to work with you and you will be truly missed. 'Ofa lahi atu.

*Mele Ikatonga Makasini Tauati*

Jone Tuipelehaki

Moce mada Lui. You will be greatly missed. Thank you for living YOUR life and inspiring us in the process. Rest in peace.

*Jone Tuipelehaki*



Juney Ward

Oh Lui words cannot describe how much you have meant to many of us especially Malaki and I who were blessed to be your marine officers. We will never forget you and will always think of you when we see turtles, whales and dolphins or when we use that Trebuchet font that you were so fond of. I will also miss dialing 21929 ext 281 to say "hi Lui guess what..."  
Rest in peace our dear friend and mentor until we meet again...much alofas.

*Juney Ward*

Jill Key

It's hard to imagine a world without Lui. He had such presence, always with a smile and a small joke to share. It was a real privilege to have worked with him, and he has left us far too soon. Lui - I'm richer for having known you, and poorer for having lost you. Rest in peace.

*Jill Key*









Kathy Zischka

Oh what sad news. I did some work with Lui whilst working in marine management in Tonga in 2009-2010 and was emailing with him only a few weeks ago about some photos for the new action plans. Lui was wonderfully engaged in species conservation and will surely be missed at SPREP and across the Pacific. Condolences to his family and close friends.

*Kathy Zischka*

Bruno PEAUCELLIER

Sincères condoléances à la famille de Lui et au personnel du PROE dans cette cruelle épreuve.  
Merci pour tout le travail accompli,

Faa'ito'ito - Te aroha ia rahi,

*Bruno*





Sulieti Malianive 'Ali

This email is to offer my condolences to SPREP and Lui's family. I'm lost for words, I just found out that Lui passed away :-(, this is a very shocking news for me. Lui was a father figure, co worker and a great friend. The last time I saw him was around Aug or September we had the game at Victoria Courts. Isa RIP LUI.

Malo

*Suli*

Sanivalati (SeaWeb) and Akuila, Busa and Manu (Yaqaga island turtle monitors)

RIP Lui.

We are still in shock to hear your passing. You will be missed dearly. Remembering your family and the SPREP team in our prayers.

*Lani and Alameci*

Donna Petrachenko  
(Chief Advisor International Biodiversity and Sustainability & Australia's Commissioner to the  
International Whaling Commission)

I am writing to express my deep regret at the untimely passing of Mr Lui Bell.

Australian officials worked closely with Lui for many years and across the various important and challenging issues for which he was responsible. Over that time, we have admired Lui's passion and strategic vision for improving the conservation status of the region's marine biodiversity.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge Lui's efforts in the establishment of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region. Lui's ongoing involvement was instrumental in the successful establishment and implementation of the MoU.

On behalf of the Australian Government, I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Lui's family, friends and colleagues. Lui's legacy will live on in the form of the many sound conservation outcomes for the region which he helped bring about.

Yours sincerely,

*Donna  
Petrachenko*



Jean-Louis d'Auzon (President, Association pour la Sauvegarde de la Nature Neo-Caledonienne)

I am very thankful to you for having transmitted to us the bad news of the passing away of Lui Bell. We were so used to receiving and reading his emails that it will be difficult do realize we will not receive any more.

I did not know him personally but I did meet him during the SPREP conference in Noumea, in September 2012.

Please forward our condolences to his wife and children and tell them we will think to them at this sad and difficult time.

Best wishes with Lui's family.  
Kind regards,

*Jean-Louis  
d'Auzon*

Setaita Tavanabola

It is incredibly sad that Lui's life ended so soon and he will surely be missed. His memory will live on in all of us forever. Lui I appreciate your friendship and will never forget you.

Sincere condolences,

*Seta*

John Talagi (Acting Director, Dept of Environment, Govt of Niue)

We are sad to hear the passing of our dear friend Lui. On behalf of the Department of Environment, Government of Niue, I would like to extend our sincere condolences to Lui's family and SPREP due to Lui's passing.

Rest in Peace Lui, will miss that unique Samoan humour of yours.

Many Thanks & Kind Regards

*John Talagi*

Chris Schweizer (Assistant Secretary, International Branch, Department of Environment, Canberra)

I would like to join Donna Petrachenko, who wrote to you earlier, in expressing my deep regret at the untimely passing of Lui Bell. The impact of his passing will be felt for many years into the future.

*Chris Schweizer*





George Balazs

The Pacific Islands Region has lost a truly iconic “Man of the Pacific Islands”

As many of us now know, Lui Bell of SPREP has passed away. He will long be remembered, admired, and loved by his family, friends and colleagues.

I first met Lui in the mid-1970's. As young men we were striving in our own ways to aid the Pacific islands and their people that we loved and continued to love so very much. Lui was a humble thoughtful person that walked within and intuitively understood the two worlds of his life, not only in Samoa but in the many islands of the SPREP Region he served and frequently visited during recent years. “The old days and ways are passing in the Pacific,” too fast for many of us.

Lui understood that very well, and with it the need to retain and teach patience, respect, humility, a gentle voice, and taking things slowly, in spite of the constant hurry of bio-politics pressuring from the outside world always demanding more and more.

Those of you reading this message know quite well what I mean, since you've surely spent time in a village setting on a remote small island, such as Fiji's Yadua where I shared a room with Lui a few years ago. Learning from Lui by his soft word and example further deepened my respect for him.



I will sincerely miss Lui and pray for his guidance and good cheer from above. Lui opened every SPREP turtle meeting and training session with a prayer, asking God to bless the participants and guide their work and decisions in striving to conserve sea turtles for the benefit of the marine and island ecosystems, and for the cultural needs of the people. May God now bless you Lui, and watch over and give comfort to your family.

Talofa, Aloha, Vinaka, and Fond Farewell until we all meet again.

*George Balazs*

Faoso Setu

Sad to hear about Lui, such a great person in what he used to do and a lovely friend, rest in peace Lui.

*Faoso  
Setu*



Taito Nakalevu

Ratu, no words can adequately express my grief and sorrow to hear of your sudden passing away. Even though it is a week now, tears still well in my eyes when I recall the last time I saw you standing at the Fale with a tin-Tuna on one hand and noodles on the other.

When I received the phone call to come and see you for the last time at the hospital, I respectfully declined. I did not want to see you lying on that hospital tray but wanted to cherish those last moments together at SPREP. We spent a lot of time together during morning tea that week and you could not stop discussing enthusiastically the turtle conservation programme you will be rolling out in Fiji the following week with the Fisheries folks. You even jokingly asked Sefa to intervene if you will face problems out there. Never did we know that that would be your last week with us all.

*James 4:14*

*"How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog--it's here a little while, then it's gone".*

VINAKA VAKALEVU NA BULA YAGA----Thank you so much for a fruitful and productive life. Your short life on this earth has impacted many!

God Bless Ratu and may the Power and the Love of Christ Jesus be with your family forever more.

*Nakalevu Family*









Caroline Vieux

Dear Lui,

I cannot believe you have left! Reading all the messages your friends left on this page prove how much you were respected in your work but even more just for the person you were, kind, generous, funny and dedicated to your work, family and village.

I remember us laughing in the office so many times, I remember you smoking your menthol outside and I remember the tidiest office space I have ever seen :-)!!!

Lui you were one of this person who makes me miss the Pacific. I wish you a safe trip up there and I am sure you will look after us all.

*Caroline*







Moeo and colleagues (Tuvalu Fisheries)

Talofa,

Message of Condolences to all friends, colleagues and families of Lui Bell and also to all of us fans and friends of Lui who we have to honour and pleasure to meet, greet, talk, chat and laugh with Lui in Regional meetings ..

He is a great man and we missed him heaps..

Thanks SPREP for choosing a man like Lui to teach us, advise us and man we can look up to..and the do so much for our Pasefika region..

Warm regards from

*Tuvalu Fisheries*



Satui Bentin

It's been almost 3 months since you've been gone my friend. Amazing how all the memories flooded back when I went through the photos and the video dedicated to your memory!

I see Kate has mentioned 'outside the IRC' and I smiled knowing and remembering how it was you and me that basically called that little piece of SPREP home ;)

You were such a happy person. Funny how I can't seem to find words to describe the many days we would discuss and debate issues in front of the IRC and then take our frustrations out on the squash courts and laugh about it later. I miss you and even worse, missed your funeral.

My son's wedding was on the exact same day and I thought of you, shed a few tears and then had a drink (or two or three :) for you!

I hope you're having a good time in heaven much as you lived your life on earth. Take care my friend.

*Satui*

Sili'a Kilepoa Ualesi

My first day at SPREP when i was introduced around the SPREP colleagues, me and Luana (HR colleague) met Lui on the way and he offered us a cup of hot cocoa-*rice*.

One day I was about to leave for lunch and he asked me to buy him his favourite food/drink...(his cigarettes ). This is enough to tell me the kind of person he is, kind, loving, funny, happy, humble and he treats everyone the same.

He treats everyone with the same respect old or young and he can come down to anyone's . His smiling face will never be forgotten.

Rest in Peace, my friend...see you in the morning when Jesus comes back to call us all home!

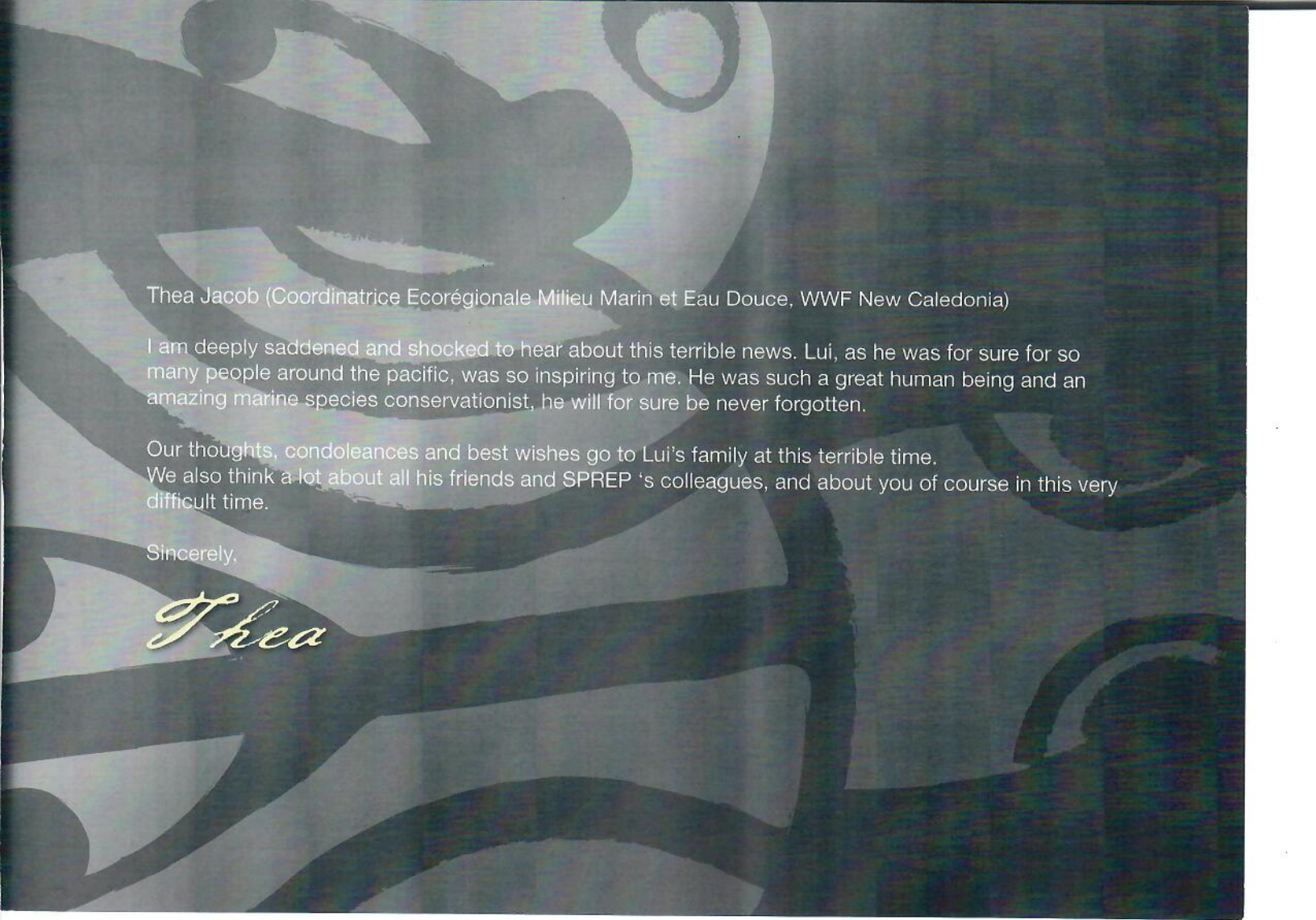
*Revelation 22:12*

*"See, I am coming soon, and my reward is with me, to repay everyone according to the deeds he has done. I am the A and the Z, the Beginning and the End, the First and Last."*

*Sili'a  
Kilepoa Ualesi*





The background of the page features a large, stylized graphic of a hand holding a globe. The hand is rendered in dark, bold outlines, and the globe is depicted with various shades of blue and green, suggesting the Earth. The overall aesthetic is clean and professional, with a focus on environmental themes.

Thea Jacob (Coordinatrice Ecorégionale Milieu Marin et Eau Douce, WWF New Caledonia)

I am deeply saddened and shocked to hear about this terrible news. Lui, as he was for sure for so many people around the Pacific, was so inspiring to me. He was such a great human being and an amazing marine species conservationist, he will for sure be never forgotten.

Our thoughts, condolences and best wishes go to Lui's family at this terrible time. We also think a lot about all his friends and SPREP's colleagues, and about you of course in this very difficult time.

Sincerely,

*Thea*



Naomi McIntosh (Chair, International Committee on Marine Mammal Protected Areas)

As we close the books on 2012, we (the members of International Committee on Marine Mammal Protected Areas) fondly remember the many contributions of Lui Bell. Lui, we thank you for your lifelong commitment, dedication and passion for the conservation of the world's marine mammals.

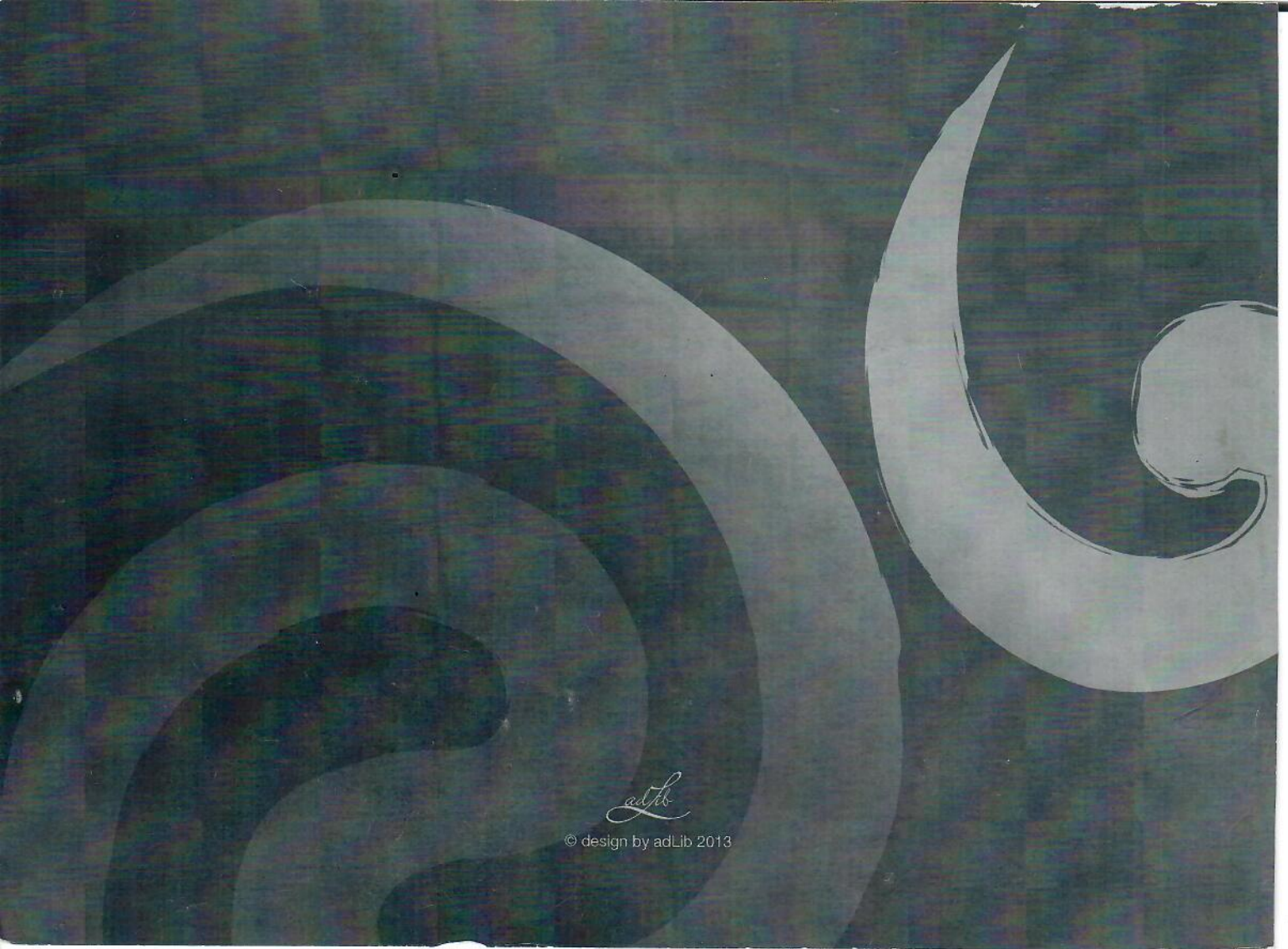
It was our great privilege to work with you...thank you for being an inspiration to us all.

Our sincerest condolences and best wishes to Lui's family and friends.

*Naomi  
McIntosh*







*adLib*

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