ANZAC Day Commemoration

The Australian High Commission was honoured to host the 2011 ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the War Memorial in Betio. Both the Australian and New Zealand High Commissions take turns hosting this important occasion. ANZAC Day is a significant national occasion for Australia and New Zealand. It marks the landing of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps in Gallipoli, Turkey, on 25 April 1915 as a defining moment in the history of our two nations. It is also a day of solemn remembrance for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in times of war. A very good turnout of approximately 200 people attended this year’s commemoration. The ceremony was followed by a traditional gunfire breakfast at the Australian High Commissioner’s residence where people enjoyed a great breakfast and our famous ANZAC Biscuits.

Farewell For Joanne and Steve

Joanne and Steve say their goodbyes

The Australian High Commissioner hosted a farewell botaki for the departing First Secretary for AusAID, Joanne Craigie and her partner Steve Little, who was also the Director of Photography for AusAID’s Communications Unit. The farewell party was held at the Australian High Commission on 6 May. Invited guests enjoyed the dances performed by ‘Te Waa mai Kiribati’ a local dance group from Bairiki. Music and songs were performed by ‘Te Toamatoa’. Taberanikai Video prepared a DVD production dedicated to Joanne and Steve, which was aired on the night. Ms Craigie took up her posting in Tarawa on 7 May 2009 and ended her posting on 9 May 2011.
Delegates of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Legislative Assembly Ms Vicki Dunn MLA, Caroline Le Couteur MLA and Mr Max Keirmaier Deputy Clerk, visited Kiribati from 11 April to 14 April as part of the twinning arrangement between the Parliament of Kiribati and the ACT Legislative Assembly which was initiated in 2008. Ms Vicki Dunn is also the ACT Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations, Women, Attorney General, Family and Community Services, Arts, Nature Conservation and Water. Ms Caroline Le Couteur is the Greens spokesperson for Planning, Territory and Municipal Services, Business and Economic Development, and Arts and Heritage. This visit usually takes place every year and maintains the relationship between the Parliament of Kiribati and ACT Legislative Assembly. The Australian High Commission was pleased to share the team’s last day, where the High Commissioner H.E. Brett Aldam hosted a formal lunch at the residence for the team to meet the Staff of the Australian High Commission and AusAID. The delegates also enjoyed a one day program on 13 April where they had a chance to visit the Centre for Children with Special Needs, Marine Training Centre, Kiribati Institute of Technology and many more Kiribati sights. Their last night was filled with joy and laughter at the Ambo Lagoon Club where Kiribati farewelled the team with screened partnership movies on the relationship between Kiribati and Australia.

Among the invited guests were the Speaker to the House of Parliament, Ministers, MP’s, Secretaries, the Chief Justice, representatives from the Diplomatic Corps, the Australian community in Tarawa, Australian Volunteers International and Australian Youth Ambassadors.

Mr Keirmier, Ms Le Couteur and Hon. Speaker, Thomas Iuta

H.E. Brett Aldam and colleagues enjoy the botaki at the Ambo Club

Nei Tabera ni Kai (Linda), says a few words of introduction for the Partnership movies shown at the Ambo Lagoon Club

Joanne and Captain Boro at the Club

Kantaake Kerry Corbett enjoying her amwarake

Te marooro from Emile Schutz
Spring and Andy Aldam on 5 May 2011. On arriving at the Ward, the patients had prepared a very warm welcome in the maneaba with singing, dancing and some marooro. A good time was had by all on that day and the patients were very happy.

The Club also thanks our patrons who attend our bar nights and other functions held during the year. Without their support The Club would not be in a position to assist where it is needed.

Kam bati n rabwa.

The Social Club’s Committee Members voted in December 2010 to donate $1000 worth of goods to the Bikenibeu Mental Health Ward. The Executive met with the sister-in-charge and after some discussion the following items were purchased by The Club:

- 2 x Electric Hair Cutters (Phillips)
- 2 x Electric Shavers (Phillips)
- 2 x Nail Cutters
- 2 x Volleyballs
- 2 x Soccer Balls
- 82 x Stainless Steel Spoons
- 76 x Large Plastic Eating Plates
- 5 x Large Storage Containers
- 2 x Medium Storage Containers

These goods were delivered to the Mental Health Ward by our Executive Committee; Rekenibai Tawita, Dimi Spring and Andy Aldam on 5 May 2011. On arriving at the Ward, the patients had prepared a very warm welcome in the maneaba with singing, dancing and some marooro. A good time was had by all on that day and the patients were very happy.

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Reconciliation Week 27 May-3 June

The Australian High Commission set up a display at the Kiribati National Library to mark ‘Reconciliation Week’. The display included books, posters and reference materials that highlight the significant contribution of Indigenous Australians in Australian society showing information on Indigenous Australian history and culture. Both the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags were flown alongside the Australian flag at the Australian High Commission during the week.

Reconciliation Week activities are held across Australia each year from 27 May to 3 June to honour the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Australian society.

Indigenous Australians and Australians from all walks of life come together during the Week to promote unity and respect for one another between all the peoples of Australia.

This year’s theme is ‘Let’s Talk Recognition’, which involves building positive and respectful relationships and working together to close the gaps in understanding and opportunities between Indigenous Australians and all Australians.

AVI Profile - Glen Hornby

Glen Hornby and his friends

Mr Glen Hornby has been working in Kiribati since 2009, first as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development (AYAD) and from 2010 as an Australian Volunteer International (AVI). He is currently working for the Kiribati Community Clubs (KCC) program, assisting small teams under the Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs, in association with the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), to develop youth community sporting clubs throughout Kiribati. His job now is to assist with the roll-out across Tarawa and Kiritimati Island.

Prior to working for KCC, Glen worked as a lecturer in Tourism & Hospitality Management at Griffith University, on the Gold Coast, Queensland. He is currently doing a Graduate Certificate in Project Management.

Glen enjoys being in small communities, bumping into a lot of different friends almost any time he leaves his house. “Between social and sporting activities, together with great weather, it is a very active and engaging way of life. At the same time in my work I am able to contribute to the development of Kiribati, which is some of the most morally rewarding work I have ever done. And then there’s being able to eat fresh fish for almost every meal.”

Two students at the Library admire the display

Dimi Spring poses by the Reconciliation Display at the National Library

Resting after a game of Touch Rugby
Australian High Commission, Tarawa

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Advancing the interests of Australia and Kiribati

Upcoming Australian High Commission Public Holidays

- 8 August - Youth Day
- 3 October - Labour Day
- 23 December - Additional DFAT Holiday

Fishing Competition Dates

- 13 August
- 10 September
- 15 October
- 12 November

Kiribati Bites

- Tanimai— Look at me
- Tannako— Look away
- Boiarara— Smells good
- Boimaung— Smells bad