

MEDIA RELEASE

08 May 2020

Rotuman Language Week
10th to 17th May 2020



RAK'AKIA 'OS FÄEAG TA . SE 'OS LA'RIRI'I . LA SE MAO 'E TA AV
TEACHING OUR LANGUAGE . OUR CHILDREN . FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

For a more a detailed programme and information – please see below and visit

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rotumanz> & www.rotuma.org

And please use this link for a Wikipedia article on the language

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotuman_language

Next week Rotuman people from all over the world celebrate the **Rotuman Language Week 2020**.

This Kiwi-led initiative was started in 2018 by the **Auckland Rotuman Fellowship Group Incorporated (ARFGI)**, and has now grown to include many groups throughout the world.

“We invite all Kiwis to come and join us, and celebrate being Rotuman”, ARFGI Chairperson Mr Faga Fasala said, “Due to the unprecedented current COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the events will initially be hosted as online seminars and streamed via social media”,

The week-long fully community-led and community-funded event, will celebrate and showcase the unique and beautiful language and culture of people who originate from the idyllic pacific island of Rotuma.

For a more a detailed programme and information – please see below and visit

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Rotuman people are a separate ethnic group with their own distinct Polynesian language, culture and identity. Rotuma is described as an ‘untouched paradise’ with some of the world's most pristine and beautiful beaches.

The Language Week will commence this Sunday 10th May with a blessing and online Church Service, led by the members of the **Kingsland Rotuman Methodist Congregation**, where the Group's origins began.

The theme for the Language Week is : **RAK'AKIA 'OS FÄEAG TA . SE 'OS LA'RIRI'I . LA SE MAO 'E TA AV** (Teaching Our Language . Our Children . For A Brighter Future).





ROTUMAN LANGUAGE WEEK 2020 : PROGRAMME
10th MAY TO 17th MAY 2020

RAK'AKIA 'OS FĀEAG TA . SE 'OS LA'RIRI'Ī . LA SE MAO 'E TA AV
TEACHING OUR LANGUAGE, OUR CHILDREN, FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

10 May Sun : **Church Service - Opening & Blessing of Rotuman Language Week 2020**
(Led by members of the Kingsland Rotuman Methodist Congregation)

11 May Mon : **Elders Group**
(Led by Fesaitu Vaurasi & Faga Mosese)

12 May Tue : **Children's Group**
(Led by Tupou Mafileo Kamoe)

13 May Wed : **Rotuma Day Celebration**
(Led by Faga Fasala)

14 May Thu : **Rotuman's in their Bubbles all over NZ**
(Led by Victoria Molia)

15 May Fri : **Zumba Exercises**
(Elon Sokra'a - Kainaga Group)

16 May Sat : **International Programme**
(Led by Marina Jiare Fesaitu – Sweet Endings, Fiji)

17 May Sun : **Church Service - Thanksgiving & Closing of Rotuman Language Week 2020**
(Led by Toma Vaurasi & Pastor Ravai Mosese)

Rotuma consists of the island of Rotuma and its nearby islets, and is located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, about 500 kms north of Fiji, and 500 kms west of Wallis & Futuna. Rotuma was annexed by the British on 13 May 1881 ('Rotuma Day'). Although Rotuma is its own nation, it is currently administered by Fiji as a dependency.

The Rotuman language is listed on the UNESCO List of Endangered Languages as "Definitely Endangered".

For more information : please email :
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