

MEDIA RELEASE

09 May 2019

Rotuman Language Week & inaugural Rotuma Pasifika Festival 2019 12th to 19th May 2019

**'OTOM FAMORI . 'OTOM AGA . 'OTOM FÄEGA
OUR PEOPLE . OUR CULTURE . OUR LANGUAGE**

For a more a detailed programme and information – please see attached and visit www.rotuma.website
And please use this link for a Wikipedia article on the language
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotuman_language

The Rotuman Community of Aotearoa/New Zealand is excited to announce the **Rotuman Language Week, and the first-ever Rotuma Pasifika Festival** - with most activities held next week at the Western Springs Garden Community Hall in Auckland.

The theme for the Language Week is '*Otom Famori . 'Otom Aga . 'Otom Fäega* (Our People, Our Culture, Our Language).

The fun-filled activities will celebrate and showcase Rotuman culture, and feature a mini-Festival on Saturday 18 May. More details and information can be found on the attached Programme and at www.rotuma.website.

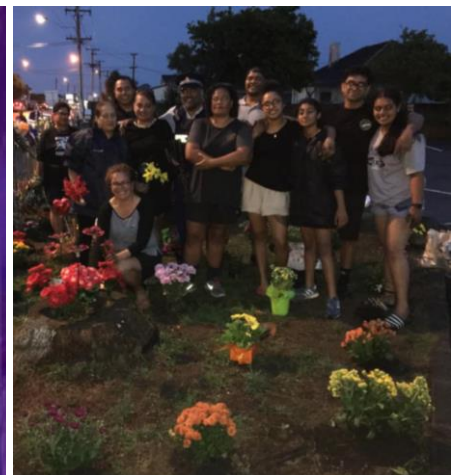
The week-long celebration of Rotuman culture is being organised by the Auckland Rotuman Fellowship Group Incorporated (ARFGI), and is a fully community-led initiative, supported with their own resources and funds.

“Language is what makes us who we are, and is part of our culture and identity”, the Group’s Chairperson, Mr Faga Fasala said. ***“And it is our duty to preserve this invaluable taonga”.***

This year is also the United Nations International Year of Indigenous Languages, which makes this Language Week even more important.

The Group hopes the week’s fun-filled activities will help bring people together, and showcase Rotuman culture. ***“We invite all Kiwis to come and join us, and celebrate being Rotuman”***, Mr Fasala added.

“Each day of the week has been allocated to the different groups within our community”, Mr Fasala stated, ***“With the Elders, Youth, Sports, Diversity and Religious leaders hosting their own days.”***



“The feature events will be Monday’s Rotuma Day celebration, including the “Ate Fak Rotuma” – which will be a traditional feast eaten off banana leaves, with everyone sitting together on mats on the floor. And of course, there is the Rotuma Pasifika Festival on Saturday”



“It has not been easy for our community to keep our language alive in Aotearoa”, Mr Fasala said, “We pay tribute to our elders and leaders, who for the last 30 years, have continued to celebrate our culture in New Zealand, and for helping keep our customs and traditions relevant”.

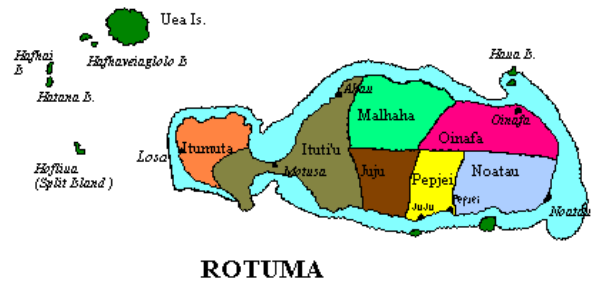
The Group has inspired other ethnic groups, including Rotumans, who live in other cities and countries throughout the world, to hold similar events.

Rotuman people are a separate ethnic group with their own distinct language, culture and identity, and originate from the polynesian Island of Rotuma.

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".

Rotuma is described as an ‘untouched paradise’ with some of the world’s most pristine and beautiful beaches.



ROTUMAN LANGUAGE 'OTOU FĀEAG TA MY LANGUAGE RAKOA LEARN IT INEA'IA KNOW IT MAURĀKIA LIVE IT

A courtesy resource from the Auckland National Polytechnic Group, New Zealand. www.rotuma.org.nz

Simple Conversation Hello Noa'ia Thank you Fāiāk se'ea Please Figalelei How are you? 'Āe taptapen? Come here Leum se te' Go over there La'au se tāe My name is 'Otou asa le I'm fine Gou ne'ne' Who said that? Sei ta 'ea te ta?' I'm sorry Se fek / Hanis ma rot'āk What happened? Tes ta soko? What a shame Te ne masraga Goodbye Fu'amus/Nonoam	Relationships I / Me Gou You 'Āe Father O'ia Mother O'itōni Sister Sāghāni Brother Sāgavānc Grandfather Ma'piag fa Grandmother Ma'piag itāni Uncle O'ia'ak Aunt O'hōn'ak Son Le' fa hc Daughter Le' han hc In-Laws Hymfua / Mac Cousin Spōni'ak	Numbers One Ta Two Rua Three Fak Four Hāke Five Easa Six Oco Seven Hūhū Eight Vahu Nine Siva Ten Saghulu 100 Tevaga 1000 Āret 1 million Māliwan	Months January Janeni February Fepueri March Ma April Epereli May Me June June July Jul August Okoita September Sephempa October Okolopa November Novempa December Tisempa	Time & Events O'Clock Ao hela Today Ei Tomorrow E ka Yesterday E asa Morning Mjarani Lunchtime 'Āe lanina Afternoon Ut' as ta Midnight Turapogi Week Gesao ta Month Hula Year Fgu Birthday Terin'au Funeral A'ragvaka Wedding Sg
Common Words Yes I No Tōke What Tece Where 'E tei Why Po' a / Po' le tes When Av'hes / Av'hes ta How Tapen Walk La' la' Run Joni Money Mone / Sedene Book Puku Sing Sui mak Dance Māka Speak Fagag	Eating & Drinking Eat 'Āe Drink 'Iom'imo Thirsty Sunhuag / Sunhuaga Hungry Vag'ie Food Teia Tea Ti Fruit Te mafa Vegetable Rau' ai' a'a Meat Tiko Fish Fa Milk Susu Bread Ferooa Water Tan'Tanu	Emotions Love Hanisi Laugh Kaha Smile Kāmplumu Angry Fakē Cry Ou Sad Kokomo Happy 'Oaf / 'Oaf'ouaf Passive Namesake Sigoa Chief Gagaj Teacher Fa / Han re rako Pastor Fakau Priest Fa Na'a	Colours Red Mā' Blue Jarao fak'ita Green Jarao fak' my'usu Yellow Pēpēne Black Kele White Fisi Gold Koual Household Items Mat Eap / Epa Cup Kape Pot Sepepe Cook Ti korag so hela Pridge 'Āai Store Fui' la'le' hang' lō'ia Mirror Teo Rooms in the House Bedroom Ut' moseag ta Kitchen Ut' hanag' te'le' / Kēhece Bathroom Ri' Kaku' uga Toilet Ri' la'oga Living Room Uan Rita Buildings House Ri' Noho Church Ri' Rotu School Ri' Rako Hospital Haspete Furniture Chair Nofō'a Table Tepeli Cupboard Kapota Lamp Pūli' ne' lig' he Bed Takaga	

For more information : please email : info@rotuma.website, or telephone Mr Faga Fasala 022-4028249 (Chairperson, ARFGI) & Mr Jioji Vai 021-02782216 (Youth Convenor & Deputy Chair, ARFGI)