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# Biosecurity Monthly Newsletter



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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pukapuka—Now a  
Designated Port of  
Entry and Departure 1

Seized Petai beans  
from Indonesia 2

Export Inspection

MS Amsterdam  
Visit 3

## Pukapuka—Now a Designated Biosecurity Port of Entry & Departure

Staff from Pukapuka and Nassau travelled to Rarotonga as part of an upskilling program with the Ministry of Agriculture. A component of their training program included an introduction to and awareness of biosecurity legislation, standard operational procedures and cargo and vessel clearances.

They are Neiao Topetai, Pukapuka Agri-



culture Manager, Ms Tango Ravarua, a trainee from Pukapuka and Course Topetai, Agriculture officer for Nassau.

Prior to the completion of their training, they sat a written exam on what they had learnt. We are pleased to advise that the three employees did extremely well with their test results.

The three were awarded their “Warrant of Appointment” as Biosecurity Officers. Pukapuka was also Designated as a point of entry and departure in accordance to the Biosecurity Act 2008.

The event was attended by the Minister for Agriculture Hon. Vainetutai Rose Brown, Associate Minister Patrick Arioka and Associate Minister and MP for Pukapuka/Nassau, Mr Tingika Elikana.

Left to right– Nassau Biosecurity Officer: Mr Course Topetai, Mrs Elikana, Pukapuka Biosecurity officer trainee – Ms Tango Ravarua, Associate Minister Hon. Tingika Elikana and Senior Biosecurity Officer Mr Neiao Topetai



Biosecurity Officer Tamarua Teroi explaining the inspection process of heavy machineries to Neiao Topetai and Course Topetai.

We acknowledge the PEARL project for funding this upskilling exercise.

## Siezed petai beans from Indonesia.

On 28 February, Biosecurity officer Mari Syme seized a consignment of 3 packets of Petai Beans (*Parkia speciosa*) brought in from Indonesia.

The consignment was imported by an Indonesian national entering the country on a work permit.

The passenger was questioned whether they had any food or vegetable items to declare, and they replied “no items to declare”.

The passenger’s baggage was inspected and 3x 950gms bags of Petai edible seeds were found under clothing items. The passenger stated “they forgot about the beans and thought that was okay to bring them in”.

The passenger was corrected and informed that the consignment is not permitted into the country. The seeds were then removed for incineration.



3x bags of petai beans imported by the passenger



Petai beans in pods

Source: Google

# Export Inspection – Personal Effects

On 07 February, Biosecurity Officers Tamarua Teroi and Greta Remuera inspected a 20ft shipping container of personal effects destined for New Zealand.

The interior of the container had been treated with residual insecticide (Deltamethrin). The container consisted of work tools and marine parts.

The container was thoroughly inspected and found to be free of any visual signs of pests and therefore, an export clearance certificate was issued for the consignment.



Some of the items in the container



## MS Amsterdam Visit

On Monday 24 February, MS Amsterdam arrived at the Port of Avatiu from Papeete, Tahiti.

MS Amsterdam was carrying 1,202 passengers and 617 crew members.

This was the perfect opportunity for newly warranted Biosecurity Officers from Pukapuka and Nassau to observe and experience the clearance process of cruise vessels.

Senior Biosecurity Officer Takapi Kora boarded MS Amsterdam, accompanied by the team.

The officers were taken through the documentation process, checking the Vessel's Master Certificate which includes details on previous ports of entry, ship stores lists etc.

As per Biosecurity procedures, an announcement was made on-board that "no fruits and vegetables are to be taken ashore".

All necessary biosecurity inspection requirements were completed before biosecurity clearance was granted.



**Border Officials with Shipping agent Mr Stuart Henry onboard MS Amsterdam**

# Leadership Training

Senior Biosecurity Officer Piri Maa and Biosecurity Officer Greta Remuera attended a leadership training organized by the Cook Islands Customs Service. The training from the 17th to 21st February, was facilitated by Michelle McCormack of People Focus NZ, Mr Kevin Kneebone of NZ Immigration and Mr Shane Panettiere of NZ Customs. Participants included members of Customs, Tax Department and Immigration.

The objective of the training was to improve leadership capacities of the participants and conduct a leadership assessment of each participant. Highlights of the training included the 5 critical success factors for high performing relationships, the GROW model, types of leaders and types of conversations. Sincere appreciation to Cook Islands Customs Service for providing the opportunity for Biosecurity Services to take part in the leadership training.



Participants of the training



Team discussion during perspective game, "Zoom in and Zoom" out group activity.