



GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

19 October 2021

INFORMATION RELEASE

NIUE NATIONAL AWARDS

The Government of Niue is pleased to release the Honours List on the occasion of celebrating the 47th year of self-government.

Distinguished Service Award – Niue Distinguished Service Cross (NDSC)

Jack Willie Lipitoa, QSM, NDSC

The highest award for service which Niue can bestow on any of its citizens is the Distinguished Service Award. Today, that honour is accorded to Mr Jack Willie Lipitoa, QSM. One of the longest-serving Members of the Niue Legislative Assembly, Uncle Jack – as he is fondly known to one and all – began his long service to his island when he was appointed as a woodwork instructor for the Niue Education Department, after receiving practical training in New Zealand. When the Niue High School opened in 1967, he taught wood until his election to the Niue Legislative Assembly in 1987 as a Member for Namukulu; he has held the seat for 34 years. Mr Lipitoa has not only been a pillar of strength for the village of Namukulu but also contributed significantly to his chosen faith, the Ekalesia Kerisiano Niue. In 1999, in the New Zealand Queen's Birthday Honours list, he was awarded the Queen's, Service Medal.

Public Service Award - Niue Public Service Medal (NPSM)

Sabina Aue Fakanaiki, NPSM

Mrs Sabina Aue Fakanaiki began her long career in education when she first enrolled as a 16-year-old at the Niue Teachers Training Centre in 1965. It was the beginning of 44 years of service, teaching many children. Over the period she worked as a teacher, supervisor of junior classes and Acting Principal of Tuatea School. As Acting Principal of Tuatea Primary, Mrs Fakanaiki assisted in the national effort to amalgamate all village schools into one school, the Niue Primary School. Not only has Mrs Fakanaiki given many long years of service to the children of Niue, she is also highly regarded in her village community; she is a member of the Federation of Christian Women, a lay preacher of the Ekalesia Kerisiano and a Sunday School Teacher. She continues to share her knowledge and experience today as a daycare teacher for the village of Hakupu preschool as well as teaching the village women to sew and weave. Today she is honoured for her 44 years of dedication in the field of education by being awarded the Public Service Award.

Janet Sipeli-Tasmania, NPSM

In a career that spans over 40 years, Mrs Janet Sipeli-Tasmania began work as a teacher at Halavai Primary in 1977, after completing formal training at the Palmerston North Teachers College. Mrs Tasmania's commitment and dedication to her chosen profession saw her progress from the classroom of a village school to eventually becoming the Director of Education. Her career path took her from the village classroom at Halavai, to the Side School and then to the principal of the Niue Primary. She was appointed Director of Education in 2010. During her career, she acquired a Bachelor of Education. Mrs Tasmania retired from the public service in 2013. She is being honoured today with the Niue Public Service Award.

Niue Community Service Award – Niue Community Service Star

Manasofai Sifahoi Viliamu Talagi, NCSS

Mrs Manasofai Viliamu Talagi, over a number of years, has shown her commitment to her village by being at the forefront in numerous community events and activities. After a spell in New Zealand in support of her family's academic pursuits, she returned to Niue in 1990 and became an active member of the Ekalesia Kerisiano Alofi Church where she is today the general secretary for the FCW and a lay preacher. She willingly shares her master weaving knowledge with the women of the village and is responsible for the revival of the Matua Manaia women's sporting activities. She is an orator by nature and loves to share the Aliutu history in chant, song and dance. Today, we honour her with a Community Service Award.

Alan Tano Puleoti, NCSS

One of the driving forces behind the promotion of local sports for many years, Mr Alan Tano Puleoti has been recognised in today's honour's list. As a sports administrator, Mr Puleoti has served as Chef de Mission for Team Niue at many regional and international events. His particular interest in the field of Weight Lifting and Power Lifting has resulted in the elevation of Niue's profile in the region; a number of athletes from the island have also been successful in regional competitions. He opened Tano's Gym in 1994 where he trained many athletes who have represented Niue nationally and internationally, including the first bodybuilding team to compete at the South Pacific Body Building Championship. He has won in powerlifting, a total of 51 medals - 10 gold medals, 15 silver and 26 bronze medals. Today, we honour him with a Community Service Award for Sports.

Note: This is only the second year for Niue's Honours List, giving recognition to those of our people who have given exemplary service for their island. Before submitting for an award, nominators must contact the Premier's Department first.

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