

# Muller, Kelen go to Oz

Former Nitijela member and Public Accounts Chairman Frederick Kano Muller (pictured) will be speaking at a Regional Workshop on Democratic Institutions next week in Brisbane, Australia.

He is joined by NGO Council President Alson Kelen in representing the RMI.

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Commonwealth Secretariat are sponsoring

the workshop that will include a wide range of governance issues including the workings of the parliament, the executive, judiciary, the electoral and political process, the media and independent constitutional offices such as the Auditor-General.

Muller said he will be speaking from his experience with the Public Accounts Committee about accountability issues in the RMI.



# MWSC to test all the hydrants

Majuro Water and Sewer Company and the Fire Department are gearing up to test all the hydrants on Majuro next week, according to MWSC Manager Hirobo Obeketang.

He stated that it will be a hands-on training while testing the hydrants. "Our hydrants are stronger now as proven during the fire at Entertainment Center," said Obeketang.

# Call for FSM to ban shark fishing

When the Federated States of Micronesia adopts a shark ban, enforcement against the shark trade will improve in the north Pacific, Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority Director Glen Joseph said Friday.

Currently, Palau and the RMI have established shark-fishing bans within their 200-mile exclusive economic zones. Palau fined a Taiwanese vessel \$65,000 last week for shark fishing, and the RMI fined a Japanese transshipment vessel \$125,000 for having shark on board.

"It's important for the FSM to do the same because if we don't have a level playing field, shark fishing operators will look to the FSM," he said. "This doesn't serve the interests of the legislation banning shark fishing."

Joseph said he understands that the FSM Congress is moving on this issue. Senator Joseph Urusemal of Yap is preparing to introduce a resolution on sharks that could be approved before the end of this year, Joseph said.

"No matter what we do (to ban shark fishing), the value of shark is still there," Joseph said. "There is an incentive for illegal trade in sharks."



MIMRA enforcement officer Marcella Tarkwon who works with the police to board vessels.

# \$125K fine

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fiscated sharks and cut off fishing gear (from the vessels) and burned the fins."

A week later, a visit to MIFV found "the vessels clean, with no sign of sharks," Tarkwon said.

"We work with the police and go as a team," she said. "We randomly select vessels to board." She said the most ships the enforcement team has boarded in one day was eight.

The Japanese carrier that paid the \$125,000 to MIMRA last month had over 60,000 pounds of shark carcasses and more than 1,500 pounds of shark fins on board, Tarkwon said. "The fine was based on it being the first offense and the value of the shark on board," she said. MIMRA issued a violation notice to the vessel and it quickly paid the fine, she said.

## Annual General Meeting

5:30pm, Friday, February 24 @ MIR



It's your club. How would you like it to be run? What suggestions do you have? Come to the meeting and have your say. Everyone is welcome.



This photo graces the back of club T-shirts. It is the start of the club's debut race in 2003. The yachts are, from left, Roxanne, Kaimana, and Seal.

The meeting will be held 'under the tree' just past the pool at the Marshall Islands Resort. The agenda will include the election of officers (must be a member to vote), achievements of the past year, financial report, quartermaster report, suggestions for the coming year, and 'other business'. Enjoy provided snacks, plus no host bar.

www.sailingmarshallislands.com

Get your cameras ready!

## The U.S. Embassy in Majuro invites you to take part in the "My Island Home" photo contest



In anticipation of Earth Day 2012, the U.S. Embassy in Majuro is accepting entries to its first-ever photo contest, under the theme, "My Island Home".

All submissions will be displayed on U.S. Embassy Majuro's Facebook page.

Contest winners will receive a brand new Sony Cybershot digital camera.

Contest begins February 15, 2012 and the deadline for entry is March 15, 2012.

Find out more by logging on to the U.S. Embassy Majuro's Facebook page and following the instructions for submitting your photo entry.


<https://www.facebook.com/EmbMaj692>

Visit our website : [Majuro.usembassy.gov](http://Majuro.usembassy.gov)

# KALGov cops cordon off campus

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Kwajalein Atoll was dispatched to Ebeye Wednesday morning shortly after receiving notification of the problem, said USAKA Public Affairs Officer Ruth Quigley.

Ebeye Public Safety and KALGov police cordoned off the area around the school and by late morning Wednesday the projectile was removed and on its way to Ebeye dock for transport to Kwajalein. But children and adults tried to crowd in and observers said police were challenged to keep people at a safe distance as the projectile was transported to the dock. "Kids and adults alike have no sense of danger," said one observer.

The ordnance was identified as an unexploded mortar shell.