



# Bok Melele

News updates from the:  
**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

## Education Week February 20-24

### BE COOL, STAY IN SCHOOL!

**EDUCATION  
THE KEY  
TO OUR  
FUTURE**

Don't be a dropout and lose out on your future. It's never too late to go back to school.

*Parents, make sure to enroll your children even if you move island. Otherwise your children may fall behind and find it hard to catch up later.*

## EDUCATION WEEK DEBATES

Thursday  
February 23  
& Friday  
February 24  
at the ICC  
from  
2 to 5 pm

Come and support the high school students who are debating the following topic: The RMI should institute a quota system that reserves five of the thirty-three seats in the Nitijela for women. **COME ONE, COME ALL!**

### Debate Topic

The RMI should institute a quota system that reserves five of the thirty-three seats in the Nitijela for women.

## Reminder from the MOE:

It is **FREE** to ride on all school buses...**NO MORE BUS FARE!**



**Ejjelok wonan  
ettor ilo  
School Bus!**

### Would your school like to be featured in a future **Bok Melele** column?

Maybe you had an amazing Education Week spelling bee, or maybe a teacher has tried out great new techniques? We welcome submissions from all schools! Please send them by email to [rmi2@worldteach.org](mailto:rmi2@worldteach.org), or drop off paper submissions at the WorldTeach office at the Ministry of Education complex.



John and Kristy Totten of the yacht Raynad receive food from Mayor Rufina Jack and Rev. Hilai Kaious. Photo: Isaac Marty

# Yacht takes food to Ailuk Atoll

KAREN EARNSHAW

"Ailuk has a food drought," came the news a few weeks ago from Rev. Anious Kaious on the Mico Beach Yacht Club's single side-band radio 'Yokwe Net\*.'

Club members John and Kristy Totten of the yacht Raynad heard the call and as they were planning on visiting some of the outer islands, decided to make Ailuk their first stop.

The Reverend was overjoyed to hear this and contacted friends and family in Majuro, telling them to gather food and deliver it to RRE Shoreline Wednesday, February 15. Mayor Rufina Jack and Reverend Hilai Kaious were among those at Shoreline to hand over the goods and thank the Tottens.

"We arrived Ailuk Friday evening loaded up with 3,300 pounds of foodstuffs," reported the cruisers.

"Turns out that the last two supply boats never made it, and they haven't received supplies since September! We must have had at least 30 bags of rice, 10 to 15 bags of sugar, 10 to 15 sacks of flour. The boat was definitely hiding its waterline by the time we finished loading."

The voyage to Ailuk was brisk: "We had winds from 25 to 35 knots, gusting to 40, so even with the 12 foot seas, we averaged close to seven knots."

The Tottens were greeted by the Reverend and his wife. "They gave us a traditional welcome of flower leis and shell necklaces, plus the sweetest drinking coconuts I've had yet."

Since their arrival, John and Kristy have been enjoying watching the multitude of local canoes sail by their yacht. "Yesterday morning we had five outrigger canoes pass with the crews all calling out to us with glee as they are still distributing the food to residents on some of the smaller islands."

The Tottens also presented a bag of school supplies and a soccer ball donated by the yacht club. "Even though school had been canceled due to the "famine" lots of kids were hanging around the school playing with an old basketball, so we were able to get a nice photo of the kids and the headmaster on the steps of their new school. As soon as the photo session was over, the kids rushed out to the concrete pad and split up into teams for a lively soccer game! That was really great to see. This will be one very well used ball."

\*The Yokwe Net is on HF 6.236 at 7:45am daily.



A WAM canoe in the fourth race.

# De La Mer wins race

One minute there was a clear blue sky, next the clouds were whizzing overhead and the wind was gusting to 35 knots with visibility down to a 100 yards ... then the sun came out again, then the big winds... Warrar! These are not perfect conditions for holding a yacht race.

Nevertheless, four yachts and four outrigger canoes headed out onto the lagoon Sunday for the fourth race in the Mico Beach Yacht Club's 2011-12 season.

The catamaran Celsius played the role of committee boat with its crew recording the yacht Seal first over the start line and French Kiss first to cross the finish line after sailing two laps of the course. This saw the boats sail from Marshall Islands Resort to the High School and then around all the moored fishing boats and back to MIR.

On corrected time, the yacht De La Mer took first place, French Kiss second, Seal third, and Molly II fourth.

The blustery conditions meant that none of the canoes finished the race, despite their courageous efforts, and a number of them were 'rescued' by the fishing boat Wasabi. On board was Pacific Islands Forum photographer Jason Chut, who has been photographing a kaleidoscope of Marshallese life in Majuro over the past couple of weeks.

The yacht club's next event is the annual general meeting this Friday from 5:30pm 'under the tree' at MIR. All are welcome to attend.