

Reid Cowell.

Letter about Antigua

Funafuti
Tuvalu

Date: 19 November 1991

Mr T R Cowell
17 Maurice Place
GARRAN
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Australia 2605

Dear Mr Cowell,

I am terribly sorry for the undue delay to your request concerning Mr Anetipa.

Much as we in Nui would love to know more about Mr Anetipa's personal history including his achievements, I am afraid the information I got from reliable sources in Nui, maynot be sufficient nor sound complimentary to the record you hold about Mr Anetipa.

According to the information I got from my brother Lika, (a former Nui magistrate), Mr Anetipa was born in Nui left as a young man for training to become a pastor in Kiribati. Nothing is known about his parents (who are Nuians) or his brothers and sisters. He qualified as a preacher (pastor) and ministered in Kiribati. Unfortunately he was sacked from the Ministry (London Missionary Society) whilst still a young man for urinating on to someone's head whilst he was helping in the building of a house (he was sitting on the rafters and "pissed" on to the head of the person standing or walking below him). Since his fall from grace, nothing was heard again from him until he died in Kiribati (he never returned to Nui).

Perhaps a more accurate account may be obtained from the records of the London Missionary Society (LMS) at Beru (where he was trained as a pastor.

Mr Litagi Sueni is still the President of the Nui island Council. His version of Anetipa may help to piece together this man's contribution and achievement which still remain obscure particularly on his own home island of Nui. I have not cross-checked the information I got with him. Anetipa seems to be an intelligent man and I admire him for his connection with the great men of his time such as Sir Arthur Grimble and H.E Maude. One (such as I) would assume that his connection with Sir Authur Grimble started after he left the LMS.

I am sorry that I have not been very helpful. All the best anyway.

Tofa



A'K Seluka