Glossary

( F = Fijian; T = Tongan)

balolo (F): a kind of sea-worm, considered a delicacy in Fiji.
buli (F): a salaried Fijian official, the head of a tikina.
bure (F): house.
civitabua (F): a breastplate composed of plates split from the teeth of sperm whales.
cuva (F): to bow the head, or stoop down.
drua (F): a double canoe.
`eiki (T): chief; title holder.
fale (T): house.
Fisi (T): Fiji.
folau (T): trip; journey; fleet of canoes.
fono (T): gathering of chiefs and orators.
ha`a (T): of the status or lineage of.
hau (T): conqueror; champion; most powerful chief.
i tokatoka (F): The extended family group, a subdivision of a mataqali.
kerekere (F): The practice of borrowing amongst kin, at the will of the borrower.
lala (F): the order of a chief, requiring work to be done.
loloma (F): love
lotu (F): (noun) Christianity; (verb) to convert to Christianity.
magiti (F): food, esp. food prepared in large quantities for presentation to others; a feast presented to others.
matanitu (F): a chiefdom; a political federation of vanua.
matapule (T): orator; ceremonial attendant of a chief.
mataqali: (F): A division of the yavusa, a “clan”; the main land-owning group.
meke (F): a Fijian dance.
Ma’afu, prince of Tonga, chief of Fiji

rara (F): The central green of a Fijian village.

solevu (F): a large gathering of people for the ceremonial exchange of food, with feasting on magiti; feasting generally.

soro (F): an offering; atonement; something offered to obtain pardon.

sorovaka (F): to present an offering to a chief in order to obtain a person’s life.

tabilai (F): a type of canoe end, or prow.

tabu (F): forbidden; sacred.

tapu (T): forbidden; sacred.

taukei (F): landowners.

tikina (F): a district or subdivision of a province.

tu`a (T): untitled man; commoner.

turaga-ni-koro (F): The administrative head of a village.

vaka vanua (F): “The way of the land”; according to Fijian custom.

vakarorongo (F): (noun): respect, reverence; (verb): to show respect, to revere; (adj): respectful, polite.

valu (F): war

vanua (F): land; a yavusa under a strong chief.

vasu (F): a man’s sister’s son, who has a right to take goods belonging to his mother’s brothers.

Viti (F): Fiji.

vono (F): a meeting of people of a village, to hear a report of a meeting with chiefs.

yaqona (F): The plant *Piper methysticum* and the drink made from its roots. Also called kava.

yavusa (F): the largest kinship and social division of Fijian society, consisting of the descendants of one originator.
This text taken from Ma’afu, prince of Tonga, chief of Fiji: The life and times of Fiji’s first Tui Lau, by John Spurway, published 2015 by ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.