

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.