

New Book Newsletter – *Island Legacy: A History of the Rotuman People* by Alan Howard and Jan Rensel

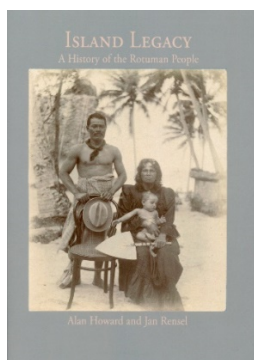
Island Legacy: A History of the Rotuman People is a well-researched and superbly documented story of Rotuma's cultural heritage, including how it was, and, in many cases, how it still is. The book confirms and indeed appreciably reinforces Rotuman identity and sustains the continuing relevance of our island heritage in both general and local terms. This book contains valuable information about the traditional culture of Rotuma, which some may consider irrelevant to an indigenous person whose outlook has been affected by education, exposure to western culture, and a lack of interaction with kâinaga (kin) for several years. But for those of us who aspire to retain, and indeed enhance, our Rotuman identity, the information contained herein about our history, culture, and traditional beliefs and values is a treasure.

Attitudes have changed with the modern-day upsurge of Rotuman identity and increased political awareness among Rotumans remaining on the island as well as those in Fiji and the wider global diaspora. Rotumans are more concerned than ever about their unique traditional heritage, not only with preserving it generally, but also with sustaining particular facets of it. I therefore greatly appreciate that this book is written for Rotumans as well as for scholars and a broader general audience.

For non-Rotumans, *Island Legacy* provides an authentic and authoritative account of Rotuman society and culture as it was when Europeans first arrived and how it has changed since then. The care with which the authors have presented an account of considerable complexity is a demonstration of the genuinely affectionate concern that they have developed for the Rotuman people during a long and mutually beneficial association. (From the Foreword by Major General Jioje Konrote)

This book is a history of the people from Rotuma Island in Fiji. It covers the changing nature of Rotuman society from legendary times through the era of Colonial Protectorate and into the present day. Rotuman history is viewed as a continuous struggle for autonomy at every level of Rotuman society, from the individual to the transnational.

Island Legacy; A History of the Rotuman People



460 Pages

**PUBLISHED BY: PACIFIC
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Contact :

About the Authors –

Alan Howard is an emeritus professor in anthropology at the University of Hawaii and has been doing research amongst the Rotuman people since 1959.

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The authors are grateful to countless individuals who were so generous with their time and material support, including librarians and archivists, religious and governmental personnel, and especially many Rotumans on the island and elsewhere in Fiji who have welcomed and hosted them over the years.

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