The Centre for Public International and Comparative Law at the TC Beirne School of Law, and the UQ Solomon Islands Partnership invites you to a seminar titled

A history of use and abuse of coconut based on Solomon Islands experience

Presented by
Mr Mike Foale
Honorary Fellow
UQ Solomon Islands Partnership

Date: Thursday, 11 April 2013
Venue: Sir Samuel Griffith Room W341, Level 3, Forgan Smith Building (1), St Lucia
Time: 12noon to 1pm
RSVP: Beth Williams, Ph: 3346 9350 or Email events@law.uq.edu.au

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Mr Foale reported to the Colonial Administration in Honiara at the age of 23 to take up a post in the Department of Agriculture. His background includes farming in the South Australian Mallee, an Agricultural Science degree from The University of Adelaide and preparation for the Colonial Service at Cambridge and Trinidad.

Mike was seconded to Levers Pacific Plantations at Yandina after a few months as the Coconut Agronomist, responsible for research on issues of productivity and renewal of the plantations. After 9 years at Yandina he left and joined The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in Queensland working on crops other than coconut, but has maintained his passion as a “coconut specialist” ever since. From 1985 to 2000 he was coconut consultant to the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) which funded a series of projects on coconut genetic resources, particularly in Melanesia and Polynesia.

In retirement Mike has adopted the mission statement “coconut redemption” relating to a desire to reverse the negative image that has been bestowed on coconut as food by rival vegetable oil marketers. He believes that the only way the coconut producers of the Solomons will achieve a sustainable income is when coconut is recognized as a highly valuable dietary item.

As an Honorary Fellow at UQ, Mike is advocating the benefits of coconut as food and coconut production as a means to relieve poverty in the coconut world.

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