

# TAKE FIVE with



**FINE TOHI PASSES AWAY IN NUKU'ALOFA** Fine Tohi, former General Manager of Dateline Transam Shipping in Tonga, and Director of the Transport Board, passed away at his home on January 3rd 2020. The Directors, Management and staff of Dateline Transam, NSL, CRS, NASL, BinGo, PTH and PDL extend our deepest sympathy to Fine's wife, Tiani, and her children, Christian and Gloria. Fine worked for Dateline Transam for 24 years, leading his team with compassion and professionalism. He was a true leader in his Church and Community and his funeral in Nuku'alofa was testimony to the life of service Fine gave us all. Fine, known as "Big Boss" by his team, was 49 years of age, just two weeks short of his 50th birthday.



The team at Dateline Transam have been deeply saddened by Fine's passing and have applied themselves to honouring his legacy by continuing to work hard and make DTS even more successful. Joe Passi has been promoted to General Manager after Fine's resignation from the role in mid 2019 to focus on his Directorships. We at PDL wish Joe and his team every success and all the support to get through the sad passing of Fine Tohi. RIP Big Boss.



**PDL STAFF SAYS FAREWELL TO ALAN FOOTE** After 21 years with Pacific Direct Line, Commercial Manager, Alan Foote spent his last day in the office recently before taking holidays prior to retiring in April 2020. Alan spent 1nraised more than \$50,000 for Youth Trust. Pictured on the right are Andy and Alan on the Tee with the PDL sponsorship sign.



**STEPHEN BLADE, GENERAL MANAGER, TRANSAM VANUATU** Stephen joined PDL in December 1999 so he has been with the Company more than 20 years! Like Alan Foote, he has been working for the Ravel family for more than 30 years. He remembers fondly the times when our CEO, Olivier Ravel, would come to the Sofrana office on school holidays and do Stephen's filing! Stephen transferred to Vanuatu in 2004, spent a year back in New Zealand in 2009, and two years as GM Transam Fiji from 2010 before returning to Vanuatu where he is now a naturalised Vanuatu citizen. The branch in Vanuatu has 15 staff including the two Auckland Head Office accounts staff who work closely with Stephen. His favourite saying: "If in doubt, charge it out." Stephen said, "I love this business, I love working for PDL and Oli. Best and most supportive company and bosses ever!" The agency represents HamburgSud, FedEx, PIL, PDL, APL, Helka, Kuehne and Nagel, ShipCo, Mondiale, CT Freight, Maersk, Inchcape and Toll.



**CURRENT ISSUES AROUND COVID-19 VIRUS** PDL services in the South Pacific are continuing as advertised despite the rapidly evolving situation around the COVID 19 pandemic. There are new requirements set by each country that our ships service and our Logistics Team are focused on ensuring the safety of our employees, our operations staff and the ship's crews by complying with all new regulations and precautions. This situation is unprecedented and is fast moving. In that regard PDL is working to ensure that services continue as smoothly as possible given the challenging situation. Many major disruptions have hit the cruise ship industry and our agencies with cruise ships being denied entry in Tahiti, New Caledonia, Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga and Samoa. Pictured on the right is the Southern Lily discharging in Apia after receiving permission to do so from local Health Authorities. The ship had left Auckland before the new regulations, requiring Special Health Declaration Cards and temperature records for all crew, were introduced.



**Thought of the Day:** You have to enjoy life. Always be surrounded by people that you like, people who have a nice conversation. There are so many positive things to think about. Sophia Loren

**MARCH 2020**