



## Office of the Clerk

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# Duty Travel Report 2024

1. Hon. Tai Tura  
Speaker  
Parliament of the Cook Islands
  2. Tangata Vainerere  
Clerk  
Parliament of the Cook Islands
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**Event:** 53rd Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference  
**Dates:** 8 – 12 July, 2024  
**Location:** Adelaide, South Australia  
**Venue:** Assembly Chamber, Parliament of South Australia.  
**Cook Islands Delegation:** Speaker Tai Tura; Clerk Tangata Vainerere.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The POCC is an annual Conference of Presiding Officers and Clerks of Parliament in the Pacific region.

## 2 THEME OF THE MEETING

The theme of the 53rd conference was **LEADING AND MANAGING CHANGE IN PARLIAMENT** - With legislatures throughout the region facing change on various fronts (cultural, political, technological as well as keeping abreast of modern workplace practice) this theme aims to give all participants the opportunity to focus on and share perspectives on issues currently facing them.

## 3 PARTICIPANTS

The Conference is for Presiding Officers and Clerks from all CPA Countries in the Pacific region including Australia and New Zealand. As such, Parliamentary Speakers, Deputy Speakers, Clerks, Deputy Clerks and Senior Officials of Parliament participated.

## 4 PROGRAMME AND METHODOLOGY

### Monday, 8 July 2024

1. Registration was conducted at 4.00pm at the Old Chamber of the South Australian Parliament House.
2. Delegates then gathered at Parliament House for the walk over to Government House for the Welcome Reception Hosted by His Excellency, Dr Richard Harris SC, OAM, Lieutenant Governor of South Australia.
3. Delegates witnessed the Illuminate Adelaide display on the East face of the Government House. A very beautifully designed lights display specifically set up in celebration of the achievements of the indigenous people of Australia during NAIDOC Week. NAIDOC Week is an Australian observance lasting from the first Sunday in July until the following Sunday. The acronym NAIDOC stands for National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee, originally National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee.

### Tuesday, 9 July 2024

1. Registration continued at 9.00am followed by coffee and tea.
2. At 10.00 am the Conference opening began with a Welcome to Country/Smoking Ceremony officiated by Uncle Mickey Kumatpi Marrutya O'Brien, Senior Aboriginal Man.
3. Delegates were then formally welcomed to the Conference followed by the election of the Chair and Deputy Chair.
4. The keynote address was delivered by Ms Andrea Mason OAM, Director, First Nations Voice Secretariat, followed by a Question and Answer session.
5. This was followed by the first session of Jurisdiction reports and questions: *Australian Capital Territory; Kiribati; Queensland; Papua New Guinea; New South Wales; Solomon Islands; and Bougainville Assembly.*
6. A presentation titled '*20 years of change in the Victorian Legislative Council*' was delivered by Hon Shaun Leane, President of the Legislative Council and Mr Robert McDonald, Clerk of the Legislative Council, Parliament of Victoria.
7. Then followed a paper titled '*Observations about the tension between the efficiency and effectiveness of Parliament*' delivered by Mr Neil Laurie, Clerk, Legislative Assembly, Queensland.
8. Another presentation titled '*Reflect, celebrate, imagine: commemorating the bicentenary of the New South Wales Legislative Council*' was delivered by Hon Ben Franklin, President of the Legislative Council, New South Wales Assembly.
9. The Conference photograph was taken inside the Assembly Chamber.

10. A paper titled *'The art of theory, the reality of practice: Embracing or exploring the contrasts for meaningful gender outcomes in parliaments'* was delivered by Hon Joy Burch, Speaker, ACT Legislative Assembly.
11. Another paper titled *'Head of the Table: Empowering and sustaining women leaders in Parliament'* was delivered by Hon Michelle Roberts, Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Western Australia.
12. At 6.30pm the Presiding Officers dinner was held at 2KW Restaurant on King William Street while the Clerks boarded a bus for a ride to the Clerks dinner at the Red Ochre Barrel + Grill Restaurant on the War Memorial Drive.

### Wednesday, 10 July 2024

1. The Conference resumed at 9.30am with a presentation titled *'Refurbishment of the Parliamentary Annexe / Overview of Education Activity - Build your own Minecraft parliament competition'* delivered by Hon Curtis Pitt, Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Queensland.
2. This was followed by a paper titled *'Addressing constitutional challenges through procedural change'* delivered by Dr David Wilson, Clerk, House of Representatives, New Zealand.
3. The Australia and Pacific CPA meetings were held in the Assembly/Council Chambers at 11.00 am followed by the Joint CPA meeting at 12 noon.
4. An interesting and informative Parliament House tour was conducted for interested delegates at lunch time.
5. The afternoon session kicked off with a presentation titled *'Reflections on becoming a new Presiding Officer'* delivered by Hon Barbara Kuriger, Deputy Speaker, New Zealand House of Representatives.
6. Then followed a most interesting presentation titled *'Navigating change in parliamentary education: creating a regional strategy'* delivered by Ms Natalie Badcock - Community Education and Engagement Manager, Parliament of South Australia.
7. This was followed by Jurisdiction reports from the Parliaments of *New Zealand; Northern Territory; Niue; South Australia; Tonga; Tasmania; and Samoa.*
8. The Conference dinner was held in the South Australia Parliament Dining Room at 6.30pm.

### Thursday, 11 July 2024

1. The day started off with a presentation titled *'The 30th Anniversary of the Federation Chamber'* delivered by Hon Ian Goodenough, Second Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives, Parliament of Australia.

2. Then followed a paper titled *‘When too much Procedure and Privilege are barely enough: a quick hike through seven concurrent Procedure and Privileges Committee inquiries, with something for everyone’* delivered by Mr David Blunt AM, Clerk of the Parliaments, Legislative Council, Victoria.
3. More Jurisdiction reports were then tabled by the Parliaments of *Nauru; Victoria; Tuvalu; Western Australia; Cook Islands<sup>1</sup>; Commonwealth of Australia* followed by a special presentation by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Niue Hon Hima Douglas on the upcoming 50th Anniversary of Self-Government to be held in November 2024.
4. The Twinned Parliament meetings were convened during which we met the Clerk of Parliaments of Western Australia Mr Sam Hastings to discuss progress on implementation of projects of common interest to the two Parliaments.
5. This was followed by the Closing remarks delivered by the Hon Chairman and handover of hosting the next POCC to the Parliament of Nauru.

## Friday, 12 July 2024

Optional day trip for those who remain and wish to participate:

9.45 am Depart Parliament House for walk (10 minutes) to Adelaide Oval

10.00 am - 11.00 am Tour of historic (and modern) Adelaide Oval, including inside the heritage listed old scoreboard

11.15 am Board coach from Adelaide Oval for trip to McLaren Vale wine region

12.15 pm Lunch at the Vale Taphouse

2.00 pm Guided tour and tasting at the d’Arenberg Cube, including the Salvadore Dali exhibition

3.30 pm Board coach for return to Parliament House

4.30 pm (approx.) Arrive back at Parliament House

## 5 NOTES

Under CPA Pacific arrangements, the Cook Islands is rostered to host the 2029 POCC.

## 6 OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Apart from the acceptance of all reports and papers presented during the Conference, no specific recommendations were adopted by the Conference. However, announcements were made of the following:

1. The next CPA Council to be held in Sydney in November 2024 during which the new Chairperson of the CPA will be elected.

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<sup>1</sup> Attached as Annex 1

2. The 54th POCC will be held in 2025 to be hosted by the Parliament of the Republic of Nauru and all are invited by the Speaker of Parliament of Nauru, Sir Marcus Stephen to attend.

## 7 CONCLUSION

In concluding this report I would like on behalf of the Hon Speaker Tai Tura to thank the Speakers and Clerks of the Parliament of South Australia for inviting the Cook Islands to participate in the 53rd POCC and the Tai a Kiwa Programme of the Parliament of New Zealand for the funding support of the participation costs of the Speaker and Clerk as well as the practical arrangements made for our successful participation in the Conference.

We also extend to our Parliamentary Services staff under the leadership of the Deputy Clerk Mrs Tai Manavaroa for all the administrative arrangements made to ensure our successful participation in the Conference. Meitaki maata kia kotou katoatoa.

Our grateful appreciation is also extended to Ms. Mikara Pupuke and the Aunties from Pa Teua Kura and Mama Matapurotu Family as well as Pastor Maara Kapao and the FADC Congregation of Adelaide for the kind hospitality and gifts to us during our stay in Adelaide.

God bless you all.

Kia manuia.



Tangata Vainerere  
Clerk  
Parliament of the Cook Islands

## Annex 1: 53rd POCC Schedule.

Monday, 8 July 2024		Venue
	<b>Arrival</b> Delegates arrive and make way to accommodation and Parliament House	
3.30pm-5.15pm	<b>Early Registration / refreshments</b>	Centre Hall/Old Chamber
5.30pm-6.30pm	<b>Welcome Reception</b> Hosted by Her Excellency, Hon Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia	Government House
	<b>Free evening</b>	

Tuesday, 9 July 2024		Venue
8.30am-9.30am	<b>Registration - Tea/Coffee</b>	Old Chamber
9.30am-10.00am	<b>Official conference opening</b> Welcome to Country/Smoking ceremony	Courtyard
10.00am-10.15am	<b>Welcome from Presiding Officers</b> Election of Chair and Deputy Chair	Assembly Chamber
10.15am-10.45am	<b>Keynote address and questions</b>	Assembly Chamber
10.45am-11.15am	<b>Morning tea</b>	Old Chamber
11.15am-12.30 pm	<b>Jurisdiction reports 1</b> 5-minute reports and questions	Assembly Chamber
12.30pm-1.30pm	<b>Lunch</b>	Balcony Room
1.30pm-3.00pm	<b>Panel session 1</b>	Assembly Chamber
3.00pm-3.30pm	<b>Conference photograph and afternoon tea</b>	Front steps / Old Chamber
3.30pm-4.30pm	<b>Panel session 2</b>	Assembly Chamber

6.30pm -	<b>Presiding Officers dinner</b>	2KW - King William Street
6.30pm -	<b>Clerks dinner</b>	Red Ochre Barrel + Grill War Memorial Drive

Wednesday, 10 July 2024		Venue
8.30am-9.00am	<b>Tea/coffee</b>	Old Chamber
9.00am-10.30am	<b>Panel session 3</b>	Assembly Chamber
10.30am -11.00am	<b>Morning tea</b>	Old Chamber
11.00am-12.00pm	<b>Australia and Pacific CPA meefings</b>	Assembly and Council Chambers
12.00pm-12.45pm	<b>Joint CPA meefing</b>	Assembly Chamber
12.45 pm-2.00pm	<b>Lunch</b> Optional Parliament tour 1.30pm-2.00pm	Balcony Room
2.00pm-3.00pm	<b>Panel session 4</b>	Assembly Chamber
3.00pm-3.30pm	<b>Afternoon tea</b>	Old Chamber
3.30pm-4.30pm	<b>Jurisdiction reports 2</b> 5-minute reports and questions	Assembly Chamber
6.30pm -	<b>Conference Dinner</b>	Dining Room - Parliament House

Thursday, 11 July 2024		Venue
8.30am-9.00am	<b>Tea/coffee</b>	Old Chamber
9.00am-10.30am	<b>Panel session 5</b>	Assembly Chamber
10.30am-11.00am	<b>Morning tea</b>	Old Chamber
11.00am-12.15pm	<b>Panel session 6</b>	Assembly Chamber
12.15pm-1.00 pm	<b>Twin Parliament meefings</b>	Commiftee rooms
1.00pm- 2.00pm	<b>Lunch</b>	Balcony Room
2.00pm-2.30pm	<b>Conference close</b> Closing remarks and handover	Assembly Chamber
2.30pm-3.30pm	<b>Closing drinks</b>	Old Chamber
	<b>Free evening</b>	

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PARLIAMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS JURISDICTION REPORT 2024  
Hon. Tai Tura  
Speaker of Parliament

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Mr Chairman, Honourable Delegates and Observers, Staff of the Parliaments of South Australia;

On behalf of my delegation from the Parliament of the Cook Islands it is my honour to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today and pay my respects to their Elders past and present.

For this Jurisdiction Report, I will not be providing an update on our activities over the last two years as these have been going smoothly with the occasional bumps from time to time which is characteristic of Parliamentary life in the Cook Islands.

I will instead report only on one of the most important milestones of the Parliament of the Cook Islands – the second Consolidation of our Laws culminating in the launching of our new consolidated laws in print and digital formats on Monday 24 June 2024.

Before that, I wish to acknowledge our twin Parliament of Western Australia, the Parliament of New Zealand, the Government of New Zealand and the UNDP Pacific Office and other donors for their various contributions to our Parliament. It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge all that support and pray that such assistance continue into the future.

Mr Chairman, coming back to our report for today, the last consolidation of our laws took place in 1994. A study by Michael Rubacki commissioned by the Australian Parliament in 2012 recommended that another consolidation be undertaken. The study then provided the policy, legislative and production settings, together with a detailed blueprint, for a comprehensive project to consolidate Cook Islands Acts and subsidiary legislation and deliver free and ready access to up-to-date legislation on an ongoing and sustainable basis.

This study was endorsed by the Cook Islands Government in May 2013 and a major project was proposed and developed over the ensuing years and finally received the financial backing of the Government of New Zealand in 2018.

The purpose of the consolidation project is to strengthen the rule of law in particular by:

- i) Strengthening the capacity of Cook Islands legal and judicial system;
- ii) Improving access to the laws of the Cook Islands; and
- iii) Strengthening and promoting good governance.

This new consolidation project preparations began in 2018 with the engagement of an Australian Company - Reed International Books Australia Pty Limited trading as LexisNexis with extensive

experience in the consolidation of laws in the Pacific region to conduct Phase 1 of the project – the scoping exercise which was completed in 2020.

The Australian-based company was further contracted on 2 December 2021 to conduct the second consolidation after completing the scoping exercise. The project involved consolidation of laws enacted by the Parliament of the Cook Islands in the period August 1965 to December 2023.

The Cook Islands Crown Law Office as a partner in the project provided technical advice and support to Parliamentary Services in carrying out its role as primary implementation agency for the project.

On 9 February 2022, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management's Development Coordination Division (DCD) and Parliamentary Services which specified the financial arrangements for the Project.

On 9 March 2022, Parliamentary Services engaged NZ-based consultant Mr Rob Grier to serve as an adviser to Parliamentary Services and to guide and liaise with LexisNexis on technical matters relating to the project. Work on the consolidation was completed in May 2024.

The launch of the Cook Islands Consolidated Laws of 2024 marked a pivotal moment in our nation's legal framework, a result of diligent efforts and collaboration that underscored our commitment to progress and unity.

The expertise and support of LexisNexis have been invaluable throughout this journey, and we are highly grateful for the excellent quality of their work.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Cook Islands Crown Law Office officials, past and present, for their invaluable contribution to the success of the project.

This project signifies our commitment to transparency, efficiency, and justice for all Cook Islanders. It is a testament to the dedication of countless individuals who have contributed their expertise and dedication to this monumental endeavor.

The special features of the New Legal Access Platform are:

1. Comprehensive Legal Database:

*Users can now freely access the consolidated laws of the Cook Islands.*

2. User-Friendly Interface:

*Designed with the user in mind, the platform provides easy navigation and search capabilities to streamline searches.*

3. Regular Updates:

*The platform will be updated on an ongoing basis to reflect the latest updates to the laws, ensuring users have access to current information.*

As we embark on this new chapter in our legal framework, we emphasize the significance of our shared commitment to the rule of law and the well-being of our communities.

Together, we look forward to the positive impact these consolidated laws will have on our society, fostering greater clarity, fairness, and prosperity for generations to come as we celebrate this milestone with pride and optimism for the future of our little paradise - the Cook Islands.

Kia Orana e Kia Manuia.

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Link to Cook Islands Consolidated Laws website <https://cookislandslaws.gov.ck/>

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