

The New Caledonia Weekly

12 - 19 Sept. 2008 - #17

Islands Fair in Maré

Maré, famous for its breathtakingly beautiful unspoilt countryside, is the venue for the 18th 'Islands Fair', the major Loyalty Islands festival and agricultural fair.

This major annual event is a key rendezvous for the entire farming and crafts community of the Loyalty Islands, who all flock to the fair to show off their produce and creations and share their traditional skills and knowledge.

Maré can be reached by a 4 hours boat trip from Noumea. It is an island of mystery and enchantment, magnificent landscapes and totally unspoilt nature. This year, the Islands Fair will be held at Taduremu, not far from the capital Tadine. The Islands Fair is an ideal opportunity to catch up on local news, exchange views, meet new people and enjoy the shows put on by bands and dance companies from all over New Caledonia.

The program also includes excursions designed to give visitors a chance to explore some of Maré's glorious beauty spots. Plenty of activities will be on offer...

Package deals at F14,440, including return transport by boat, transfers, two night homestay accommodation & breakfast, are on sale at the DIL offices in Noumea, 27 rue de Sébastopol, first floor, tel. 27 66 27



Bringing the past to life



The New Caledonia Weekly on the Net every Friday

www.office-tourisme.nc

www.newcaledonia.com.au

www.newcaledonia.co.nz



Photo : David - Fort Teremba

Every year the Marguerite Association organises a breathtaking and vibrant sound and light show recreating the events of the past at historic Fort Térémba.

The Fort Térémba show is a major annual attraction which transports crowds of spellbound visitors back into the living past of New Caledonia. Fort Teremba lies in the Moindou area on the West Coast, 1 ½ hours drive from Noumea. For four evenings every year, it is the backdrop for a colourful reconstruction of New Caledonia's colonial past. The Fort Teremba show has now been running for 20 years and has

become a byword for excellence in historical accuracy and inspired interpretation.

Stepped in history

Fort Térémba is an impressive building established in 1871 by Governor Gaultier de la Richerie, as one of New Caledonia's key penitentiaries and military centres. The building accommodated 200 detainees, who were housed in cob built shacks on a compound outside the Fort and spent their days toiling on the construction of buildings, roads and bridges. Restored in 1989, the building has recovered all its past glory. It now houses the Centre for the interpretation of New Caledonia's

penitentiary and military heritage and is run by the Marguerite Association. The theme for this year's show is 'Le grand jury de Térémba'. For two breathtaking hours various historical figures will tell their stories and bring the past to life. With a cast of over 180, this show looks like being one of the most grandiose of all the Fort Teremba historical performances. The finale will include a magnificent fireworks display in the sky over the fort. Pure magic!

Dates: Friday 12, Saturday 13, Friday 26 and Saturday 27 September 2008

Times: The show begins at 8.30 p.m. and lasts 2 hours.

Presale ticket prices: F2,500

for adults. Children aged 6 to 12: F1,000. Free admission for children under 6. On-site ticket prices: Adults F3,500 and children F1,500. Tickets on sale in Noumea at Caverne D'Ali Baba in downtown Noumea, Trésors d'Ali Baba in Baie de l'Orphelinat, La Foa Tourisme in La Foa, Fort Teremba in Moindou.

Transport: Return shuttle with Alpha international: F2,500, tel. 26 13 13.

Fort Térémba, www.fort-teremba.com, tel. 44 32 71

Fort Térémba is open daily 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Guided tours can be pre-booked. Association Marguerite, La Foa, tel. 44 32 71.

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From Anse Vata to Paris,
Tadine to Auckland,
Sydney to Poindimie, and
from Goro to Brisbane...

Every week,
10 000 people
read
The New Caledonia
Weekly

Planete Weekly



Hot Picks

centre culturel Tjibaou
info: 41 45 45

simply beautiful



Photo : Grands Hôtels de Nouvelle-Calédonie

Wining & Dining

Dining in style

The Surf Hotel's 'Le Colonnaire' restaurant is the perfect place for a gourmet meal to round off a busy day spent exploring the sights or relaxing by the lagoon.

Le Colonnaire is located between the superb beaches at Anse Vata and Baie des Citrons, close to all Noumea's major tourist attractions. The restaurant overlooks the Surf Hotel's attractive swimming pool, surrounded by a secluded tropical garden shaded by coconut palms and palm trees. The French Chef, Thierry Meteau, has created a mouth-watering menu which

combines the elegance of classic French cuisine with a touch of the exotic and includes local recipes often prepared with freshly caught local fish. Every Wednesday evening, guests can enjoy the lazy summer evenings at the restaurant's special 'summertime evenings', featuring a delicious barbecue set up in the restaurant's fare. And on Friday evenings, the program includes a seafood buffet and an exotic Pacific island show.

Open daily for breakfast and dinner. Closed at midday, except Sundays.
www.grands-hotels.nc,
tel. 28 05 05

Shopping

The Farino market experience

Take a trip to Farino on Sunday 14 September and experience the relaxed, colourful atmosphere of a real local country market.

Every second Sunday of the month, the Farino market attracts crowds of eager shoppers. Farino is a delightful village, just 1 1/2 hours drive from Noumea, perched high on a mountain top and commanding breathtaking views over the lagoon. Once a month this peaceful little village turns into a bustling marketplace, full of life and lively chatter, with local producers flocking to display their wares. On Sunday 14 September, Farino will be celebrating the 'Fête du ver de Bancoule' (Candlenut Worm Fair), a typically New Caledonian event dedicated to an

unusual local delicacy. You'll also find plenty of stalls selling green and flowering plants, vegetables and fruit. And if you want a really new experience, why not try a few of the celebrated worms? Raw, grilled or sautéed with Pastis... absolutely yummy!

*Farino market, Sunday 14 September 8.30 a.m. to midday
Farino Townhall, tel. 44 35 46*



Photo : Mairie de Farino

Move it

The New Caledonia Groupama Race

On 13 September, a dozen yachts and their crews will set out on a non-stop race around New Caledonia.

This will be the first New Caledonia Groupama Race. Competing yachts will be fighting it out over a distance of 1,200 km in this exciting against-the-clock race in the waters of New Caledonia's vast and magnificent lagoon. This is a world class race attracting top sailors, with competitors including many vessels and crews from New Zealand and Australia. The race will commence and finish in Noumea, with the start-off scheduled for 9.30 a.m. on Saturday 13 September from the Rocher à la Voile (Baie des

Citrons). The finishing line will be in Baie de l'Orphelinat.

You can watch the race live in the Cercle Nautique Calédonien (New Caledonian Nautical Club) clubhouse and the day's most impressive video footage will be shown every evening at 6 p.m. The laps which take in the 'Grand passage' in the far north of New

Caledonia and the 'Canal Woodin' in the south should provide some particularly compulsive viewing, so don't miss them! Tactical skill, endurance and the will to win will be the watchwords in this exhilarating race.

*Groupama Communication
Department, tel. 79 72 75, CNC,
tel. 79 31 39*



Photo : Service Presse Groupama

Where to stay

An oasis of calm and luxury right in the heart of Noumea

The Méridien's elegant luxury and peaceful atmosphere are just a stone's throw from bustling downtown Noumea and all the major tourist attractions.

The Noumea Méridien is ideally located on the Magnin headland, overlooking the turquoise waters of the lagoon at Anse Vata. The hotel offers guests a delightful blend of luxury and contemporary design, just a 10 minute drive from downtown Noumea. Nobody who stays there can fail to revel in the hotel's restful yet revitalizing ambiance. The Méridien's spacious swimming pool is a wonderful place to relax and the hotel's lush tropical gardens are one of the most beautiful in Noumea, showcasing a fascinating variety of plant species. And for guests

with a more energetic program in view, the hotel offers a wide range of water sports and leisure activities.

The hotel's 245 rooms are a charming blend of contemporary and colonial design and offer really luxurious comfort. The Méridien's four restaurants serve a delicious and creative range of dishes based on French and international cuisine. Try L'Hippocampe for an elegant and

intimate gourmet meal, enjoy a sumptuous buffet at Le Sextant as you admire the superb view, savour a refreshing salad or a perfectly grilled steak at Le Faré or discover the joys of Japanese cuisine at Le Shogun. Spoilt for choice!

www.starwoodhotels.com/lemeridien
Tel. 26 50 00



Photo : Le Méridien

Arts & culture

Animal totems

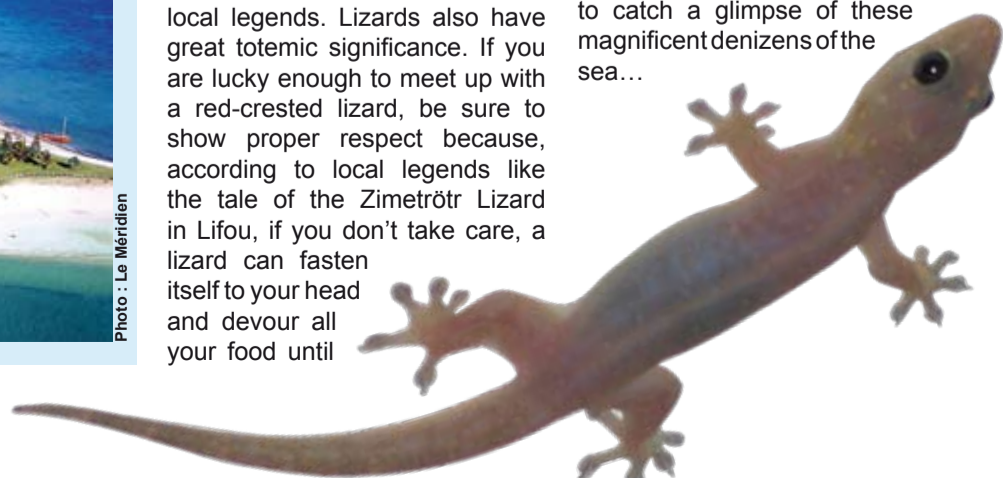
All New Caledonia's Melanesian communities attach great symbolic importance to various animals which feature in local legends.

Pacific Island Boas (Candoia bibroni) found in the Loyalty Islands can attain a length of 1.5 m. They pose no threat to humans and are highly efficient rodent hunters. In the past, boa meat was eaten by local inhabitants and the snake features in several local legends. Lizards also have great totemic significance. If you are lucky enough to meet up with a red-crested lizard, be sure to show proper respect because, according to local legends like the tale of the Zimetrötr Lizard in Lifou, if you don't take care, a lizard can fasten itself to your head and devour all your food until

you meet a sorcerer wise enough to explain how to get rid of the unwanted guest.

Marine totems

Turtles, like dugongs, are also totemic animals; they are protected by law and can be observed in the waters of the lagoon. They are only hunted in connection with the most important customary ceremonies, when special dispensation must be granted. Keep your eyes open and you may be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of these magnificent denizens of the sea...



What's up?

This week 12 to 19 September



Heritage Month

Noumea

Fri. 12 September

Theme evening

Traditional music and dance show with seafood buffet at Le Surf hotel restaurant, from 7 p.m. F6,200.

Tel. 28 05 05

Theme evening

Tahitian show and seafood buffet at Complex Novvata Parc from 7 p.m., F6,900. Tel. 26 05 53

Fri. 12 and Sat. 13 September

Live event & exhibition

Events and exhibitions with an Australian theme featuring Australian artists and musicians, including well-known didgeridoo player, Tjupurru, Rivière Salée Media Library. Tel. 41 54 02

Art

Downtown Noumea and the Latin Quarter transformed into a vast art gallery. 30 artists showing work in 43 exhibition spaces. Tel. 28 02 07

Dance

'Dance World', 80 dancers present a wide variety of dance styles: hip hop, jazz, Latin American, disco, dressed in colourful costumes. They will be accompanied by singers, FOL, 8 p.m., F1,800 adults and F1,500 children. Tel. 91 28 32



Sat. 13 September

Heritage Month

- Tour of the Nou Island jetty and penitentiary buildings, presentation of building skills used in their construction, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. admission free. Tel. 28 67 36 / 79 44 90

- Presentation of trades and skills and guided tour of the monument, Saint Joseph's Cathedral, 10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. Tel. 27 32 88

Capoeira festival



Capoeira festival including samba lessons, Capoeira Brasil Room, Ouémo 10.30 a.m., F1,500. Capoeira demonstration and lessons, Baie des citrons, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., admission free. Tel. 81 94 29 / 85 50 26



Sun. 14 September

Heritage month

WWII American jeeps exhibition, Kuendu Beach Hôtel, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tel. 91 00 15

Horseracing

Final Grand provincial du trot race, Henri Milliard racetrack, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tel. 25 47 11

Tues. 16

and Thu. 18 September

Show

'The Kanak Path', explore the myth of human creation, accompanied by the drums and songs of the We Ce Ca dance company, in the unique plant world of the Kanak Path, Tjibaou Cultural Centre, every Tues. and Thu. 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tel. 41 45 45

Weds. 17 September

Capoeira festival

Capoeira festival including a show and Brazilian evening at La Bodega, from 9 p.m. Tel. 81 94 29 / 85 50 26

Till Thu. 18 September

Exhibition

'Révolte et amour', (Revolt and Love) exhibition focussing on the feminist movement born in 1968, pictures, set-pieces, digital creations, texts... Galerie 11 & demi, rue du Général Magin, downtown. Admission free. Tel. 75 17 22 / 81 50 13

Thu. 18 September

Downtown Thursdays

Special Thio evening, colourful market displaying produce and crafts from the Thio region. Place de la Marne, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tel. 28 02 07

Till end September

Circus

Samoa Magic Circus, acrobats, clowns, jugglers, tumblers & trapeze artists ... Parking at Kenu In shopping mall, Tues to Fri, 7 p.m., Sat. 2 p.m., Sun. 4 p.m., adults F1,800 and children F1,000. Tel. 82 60 24 / 92 86 21

Till 12 October

Exposition

'Latitudes : Terres du monde' arts event to promote works created by contemporary artists from all France's overseas departments and territories, Tjibaou Cultural Centre, Komwi and Kavitaro Rooms. Tel. 41 45 45

Till the end of the year

Exhibition

'Sous les lagons, le recif', exhibition dedicated to coral reefs, one of the world's most precious natural heritages, Noumea Aquarium, Tue. to Sun. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fri. until 9 p.m. Feed the fish at 1 p.m. Meet the turtles on Weds. at 3.30 p.m. Tel. 26 27 31

South Province



Fri. 12 and Sat. 13 September

Heritage Month

- Sound and light show at Fort Téremba in Moindou at 8.30 p.m. Pre-sale tickets: adults F2,500 and children F1,000. On-site tickets: adults F3,500 and children F1,500. Tel. 44 32 71

Kayak

Canoeing under the full moon in the Yaté drowned forest, Aventure Pulsion, F4,150. Tel. 26 27 48

Sat. 13 September

Kayak



Moonlight kayak excursion on the lagoon at Poé, Poé Sailing School, 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m., F2,500. Tel. 43 36 37 / 92 33 47

Sat. 13 and Sun. 14 September

Kayak

Kayaking up the river Néra, leaving from the base of the Roche Percée, 13 Sept, 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. 14 Sept. 9 a.m. to 12 a.m., Poé Sailing School, F3,500. Tel. 43 36 37 / 92 33 47

Sun. 14 September

Kayak

Excursion in Kaori Bay at the mouth of the Rivière Bleu, stopping off at the hot water springs, Terraventure, F5,870. Tel. 77 88 19

Tues. 16 and Thu. 18 September

Trail

Foot trail along the three bays at Bourail, Turtle Bay, Lovers' Bay and Goaro Bay, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Poé Sailing School, adults F2,500, children F2,000. Tel. 92 33 47

Thu. 18 September

Theme evening

'Bougna' evening at Hotel Kodjeue, Isle of Pines. Tel. 46 11 42

North Province

Fri. 12 September

Theme evening

Iberian buffet at the Tiéti Tera Beach Resort from 7 p.m. F4,900. Tel. 42 64 00

Sat. 13 and Sun. 14 September

Fair

Hienghène community fair including snacks and drinks, displays of plants, flowers, fruit and vegetables, fishing and French bowls competitions, beauty queen contest... Introduction to hang gliding, music and dancing. Hienghène municipal stadium, admission free. Tel. 42 43 57

Till Wed. 24 September

Exhibition

'L'art est vivant', Living Art - paintings, sculptures, graphics, illustrations, focusing on the theme of hollowness. Poindimié Media Library, admission free. Tel. 42 67 00

Till Fri. 10 October

Exhibition

Exhibition of photographs showing former dwelling and farming sites (ancient mounds, taro fields, raised yam beds ...), Koné Cultural Centre, admission free. Tel. 47 11 06

Loyalty Islands

Ouvea

Weds. 17 September

Market

Hnyinèhè market by the sea (between Banour and Wadrilla), 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Maré

Fri. 12 and Tues. 16 September

Market

In Tadine, opposite the Town Hall Shelter, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lifou

Fri. 12 and Weds. 17 September

Market

In Wé, 6 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Later

From 25 September to 5 October

Festival

Femmes Funk festival. International and local musicians meet to offer the public an unique melting pot of concerts. Tel. 41 45 45

Even if you missed the boat, don't miss hearing about New Caledonia!

Download it for FREE!

EVERY FRIDAY!



www.newcaledonia.com.au
www.newcaledonia.co.nz
www.office-tourisme.nc

The New Caledonia Weekly

History

Missionary Fever

During the mid 19th century, the Loyalty Islands became a key focus for missionaries bent on converting the Kanak people to Christianity.

Evangelisation is the process of bringing the Word of God to native peoples and converting them to Christianity. In 1841, London Missionary Society (LMS) teachers settled in the Loyalty Islands and set about converting the local inhabitants to the Protestant faith. On 20 December 1883, the French Marist Mission also arrived in the Loyalty Islands, with the support of

the French army, bent on converting the natives to the Catholic faith.

As a result, the Loyalty Islands became the scene of fierce, and often bloody, fights between Protestant pastors and Catholic missionaries. However, when chiefs Naisseline in Maré (1848) and Boula in Lifou (1851) were converted to Protestantism, LMS teachers Tataïo and Fao were able to gain a lasting foothold in the islands. A few years later, in 1856, Protestant missionaries from Europe set up a base in Ouvea. Religion still plays a central role in the life and culture of the Loyalty Islanders.

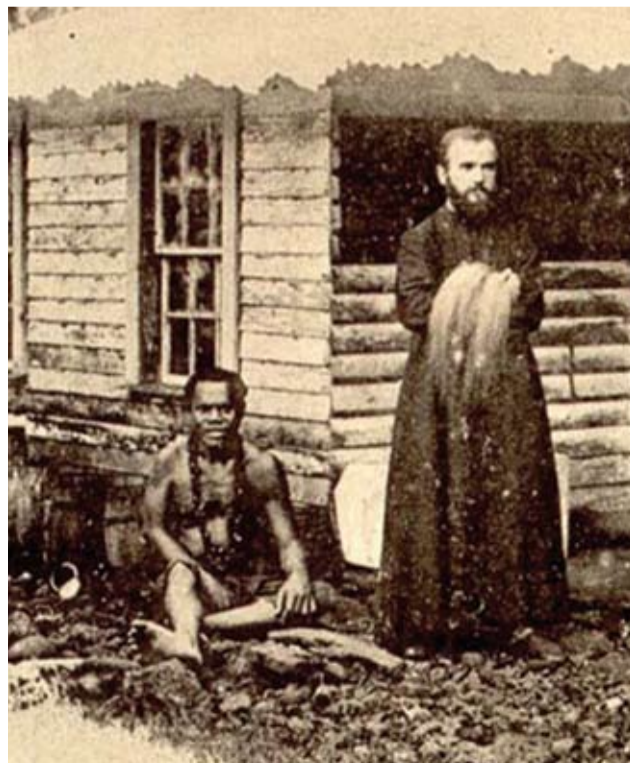


Photo : Collection du Musée de la ville de Nouméa

Life Style

Fresh air

Mangrove magic

Thanks to an initiative headed by the New Caledonia Office des Postes et Télécommunications (OPT), in partnership with the Environmental Awareness Centre, you can explore the world of mangrove ecosystems.

The OPT is organising a series of monthly visits to the mangrove on the Ouémo peninsula east of Noumea, as part of a public environmental awareness initiative. Mangroves, with their tangled and intricate system of aerial roots, flourish in soft, muddy



Photos: OPT



saline coastal areas, washed by the ebb and flow of the tides. New Caledonia possesses around 20,000 hectares of mangroves, mainly along the West Coast and in the far North of the Main Island. Mangroves are a unique and significant ecosystem supporting an abundance of plants and terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species. This fragile and versatile ecosystem is at threat and we have a duty to protect it. The OPT is setting an example with this exemplary initiative to promote environmental responsibility!

Next scheduled visits:
- Sun. 14 Sept., Sun. 26 Oct. and Sun. 23 Nov, 9.30 a.m. to 12 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 3.30 p.m., F500.
Bookings and information, Environmental Awareness Centre, Mon. to Fri., 8 a.m. to 12 a.m., tel. 27 40 39.

Caledonian taste

Chayote



The chayote (Sechium edule), also known as sayote, tayota, choko, chocho, chow-chow, merlito or christophine, in memory of Christopher Columbus, is an edible plant originating in South America. It is a large pear-shaped vegetable, pale green or yellow in colour, with firm flesh and a delicate nutty taste.

Chayote gratin

1 kg chayote, 1 tbsp flour, 1 tbsp butter, 1/2 glass of milk, 4 garlic cloves, thyme, 1 tbsp oil, grated cheese, breadcrumbs, salt, pepper. Peel the chayote, dice them and cook in boiling water with salt, thyme, oil and 1 crushed garlic clove. Prepare a béchamel



sauce by gently heating the 3 remaining garlic cloves with the butter and gradually mixing in flour, milk and pepper. Continue stirring until sauce thickens. Butter a gratin dish, add the chayote and cover with the sauce, grated cheese and breadcrumbs. Bake for 30 mins at thermostat 6.

Chayote salad

2 chayote, 1 garlic clove, wine vinegar, 10 cl oil, parsley, salt and pepper. Quarter the chayote, peel and remove the centres. Dice finely and boil in salt water for 15 mins. Drain and mix in the vinaigrette (wine vinegar, salt, pepper, garlic and chopped parsley). Serve warm.

Inside story

When Qantas was operating flying boats



Qantas has provided an uninterrupted air service from Sydney to Noumea since 1945. Then known as QEA (Qantas Empire Airways) the aircraft (Catalina, then Sunderland flying boats) originated from Sydney's Rose Bay and alighted in the main harbour along the Nouméa waterfront. Then came the DC4, Constellation, Super-Constellation, Electra, and Boeing 707 & 747. The present daily service to/from Sydney, code-sharing with AirCalin, operates either Boeing 767-200 or 737-800. The flight time from Sydney is just over 2 hours, considerably faster than my first Catalina flight to Sydney in December 1949 which covered the distance in 10 hours with maximum seating for 14 passengers. Code-sharing as well with AirCalin, Qantas also provide 4 weekly flights to/from Brisbane.

Max Shekleton - Center Voyages - Noumea

Passport

Urban stewards

There are six urban stewards in Noumea, they are former athletes, who speak reasonable English and are trained to help and assist members of the public. In their beige uniforms, they have a number of tasks and duties to perform. They give directions and assistance to shopkeepers, inhabitants and passers-by in downtown Noumea and provide backup for organisers of public events and entertainments. They work in teams, patrolling the streets on foot or on bikes, providing a community service by replying to queries and requests for help. Visitors may also ask Noumea's red-uniformed information stewards for help and directions. Their brief is to welcome boats and tourists and provide assistance, advice and information. Urban Stewards: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays to Fridays and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. Tel. 94 00 64

Turtle Tracking

For the last two years, the Noumea Aquarium (Aquarium des Lagons) has been working with the US National Marine Fisheries Services based in Hawaii, on a project to study the movements of juvenile loggerhead turtles. In 2007, 46 baby turtles were collected as they left the nest. They have now attained the minimum size of 25cm and have been fitted with highly sophisticated tracking devices. The turtles were released back into the wild on 11 September. The tracking devices enable scientists to map the itineraries taken by the young turtles. This is the first operation of its kind undertaken in the Southern hemisphere and you can follow the turtles' progress on the aquarium's website www.aquarium.nc



Useful numbers

NC country code: +687

NC Tourist office:
05 75 80 (free call)
28 75 80

Australian
Consulate - General:
27 24 14

New Zealand
Consulate - General:
27 25 43

Air Caledonie
(domestic flights):
25 21 77
Aircalin : 26 55 00
Qantas: 28 65 46
Air New Zealand:
28 66 77
Police: 17
Fire brigade: 18
Emergencies /
SOS Medical service: 15
Directory enquiries: 1012

Noumea weather

Friday 12	22°	Cloudy
Saturday 13	23°	Cloudy
Sunday 14	24°	Partly cloudy
Monday 15	22°	Cloudy
Tuesday 16	23°	Cloudy
Wednesday 17	26°	Partly Cloudy
Thursday 18	29°	Sunny

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the accuracy of the information
printed in The New Caledonia
Weekly, we cannot be held
responsible for last minute
changes in program or prices.

We protect
our Island.



Travel Kit

Money	1 AUD	1 NZD	1 USD
	=	=	=
(exchange rates on 11 th September 2008).	68,02 XPF	55,81 XPF	85,36 XPF

Automatic teller machines (ATMs) are available throughout the territory. Have your pin code handy, so as to be able to use your credit card. Banks are generally open 8 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Take a bus

Karua buses (red buses): the Blue Line goes to the Tjibaou Cultural Centre from the Place des Cocotiers in the centre of town. The Green Line follows the beach roads.

Fares: adults, F200 one way. Tickets can be bought on board the bus or over the counter at the Place des Cocotiers. Buses run approximately every 20 minutes during the week and every 30 minutes at weekends, Tel. 26 54 54 or www.gietcn.nc

Pass' Nature & Culture

Get a 40% reduction on entry fees to 6 major tourist attractions. The Pass costs just F1,700 and includes entry to the Tjibaou Cultural Centre, the Museum of New Caledonia, the Noumea Municipal Museum, the Noumea Aquarium, the Maritime History Museum and the Zoological and Botanical Gardens. On sale at all the above apart from the Museum of New Caledonia.

Take a taxi

Taxis, Central rank - Place des Cocotiers, Fare from city centre to beaches, F1,000. Tel. 28 35 12

Contact us

We would like to hear any comments regarding *The New Caledonia Weekly*, please write to us at: weekly@onenparle.nc



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TOURISME