

# IBETEL A KLEBELAU

Quarterly Newsletter

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## FY'21 Site Rehabilitation and Conservation Project

On March 09, 2023, The Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation under the Ministry of HRCTD wants to congratulate the following state for receiving the \$5,000 to rehabilitate and restore their irreplaceable cultural sites listed in the Palau Register of Historic Places. The Site Rehabilitation and Conservation Project will involve cutting and clearing vegetation, restoring fallen or misplaced rocks, rebuilding pathways, and so forth. The project will commence shortly after signing of the Cooperative Agreement with the following sites:

**Honorable Governor Nichloas Aquino of Sonsorol State**  
**Japanese Defense Fortification Site Number B:SU-3:1 F1, F2, F32 &F33**

**Honorable Dwight Ngirabai of Ngarchelong State**  
**Diong er a Teluat ma Cheldeklel a Rael Site Number B:NE-2:1 F24 & F28**

**Honorable Mary Frances Ilolang Remengesau of Ngeremlengui State**  
**Oublallang (el ngar ngii a Chesuch el Bad) Ngereklelong Site Number B:NM-2:9 F14**



tives, traditional leaders and individuals could be reminded once again that these precious resources are theirs and should be maintained for many reasons: for present and future generations to use and enjoy: for continuous education of present and future generations: for heritage tourism, and for economic development.



The main purpose of this project is to educate and motivate the public, especially the affected villagers to realize the importance of the site and its potential economic benefits. Through the project, the concerned execu-



## Society of Historians 2nd Session

As part of an ongoing project in the ethnography section of the Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation office, The Society of Historians held their second session , on February 20th to the 24th of this year at the Civic Center Conference Room.

This session is a continuation of the first session that was held last year of 2022 in the efforts of collectively working together as historians of their respective states along with the staffs of BCHP in preparation of an upcoming historical booklet. This five day session all began with an opening prayer and followed by open discussions on certain topics, and was all facilitated by Chief Sunny Ngirmang with assistance of BCHP staffs Ms. Filly Carabit and Jae-Dee Ngirdimau.

Special appreciation to Minister Ngiraibelas Tmetuchl and Director Kiblas Soaladaob for attending and partaking in some of the discussions with our Historians.



Group photo of the Society of Historians with Minister Tmetuchl, Director Kiblas Soaladaob and BCHP/MHRCTD Staffs



Open discussions during the session with Minister Tmetuchl

### Palau Society of Historians (Recheldellel a Rechedal a Ibetel a Cherechar)

1. Ochob Rachel Becheserrak—Ernguul
2. Ridep Okada Techitong—Ngerdubech
3. Ngirutelchii Emiwo Mad—Imeungs
4. Julita Tellei—Ngetelngal
5. Dirrengulbai Sariang Timulch—Ngerbuns
6. Esebei ra Kedung Edwin T. Chiokai—Ngedebuul
7. Vacant—Rteluul
8. Floriano Felix—Kerradel
9. Rechemang Gabino Llecholech—Kiueluul
10. Rechedebechei Ananias Bultedaob—Oldiais
11. Rebechall Takeo Ngirmekur—Belias
12. Vacant—Ongedechuul
13. Smau Amalei Ngirngesang—Odesangel
14. Jonathan Severio Joseph—Edeaur
15. Laura Ierago-Miles—Dongosaro
16. Sabino Sackarias—Hocheriki

## Registered Site Corner

***Olsechall er a Ruchel***  
 “A Olsachel ra Ruchel a ngara Ngeaur ra chelsel a beluu ra Ngebeanged. E tiakid a le blarengii a rechad ra irechar ea chelid el Uchelsung a mle metengel el kidbeterir a rubak e tmouch a dirir el mes-terir. E sei el beluulechad e tirkang a dirk kora chad e chelid, ma doltirakl a chel-

decheduch ra irechar ea klobak a ulemuchel ra beluu er Ngeaur. Te mlara tiakid el Olsachel ra Ruchel e tmouch a dirir e tuib a kelulul a klobak er Belau. Me ng ulemuchel er Ngeaur e uleberek el mo ra bek el beluu er Belau el rokir.”

- *the Late Theodosia Blailes*  
*Former Governor and Historian of Angaur State*



Photo of *Olsechall er a Ruchel*

## Traditional Chant and Dance Lesson Concluded

The Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation of the Ministry of Human Resources, Culture, Tourism and Development held a Performance Night Recital on March 09, 2023 at the Civic Hall, Civic Center to conclude the ten days lesson of the Palauan Traditional Chant and Dance. This was a pilot project to gather information for the planning and budget of the upcoming cultural skills training and teaching for the students.

This is part of the Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation office on-going efforts to educate and for awareness of our precious cultural and historical heritage.

The Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation with its Ministry of Human Resources, Culture, Tourism and Development

would like to take this opportunity and thank all the participating students from Koror Elementary School 8th grade, George B. Harris Elementary School 8th grade, and Airai Elementary School 8th grade, principals, teachers, parents, instructors, Vice-President/Minister of Justice J. Uduch Sengebau Sr. for attending the performance night, and all the attendees that came to watch and support our students. Thank you for the success of the project and a successful performance night.



Group photo with Minister Tmetuchl



Men's traditional dance (Ruk) performed by Airai Elem. School boys



Women's traditional dance (Delal a Ngloik) performed by Koror Elem. School girls



A room filled with supporters and anxious audience waiting for the performances

## Bebil er a Chermel a Ulaouch (Rechuodel Vol. II)

### Chebacheb Palau Nightjar

The calling of the Palau Nightjar (Chebacheb) signifies female pregnancies and pollination of fruit trees. When the Chebacheb calls out near a house where a girl resides, it signifies her pregnancy. If there is no girl in the household, it signifies the emergence of a coconut or betel nut flower.



## aDNA Sample Collection in Palau

On February 6, 2023, Joanne Eakin and Jolie Liston met with Chief Sunny O. Ngirmang and Deputy Calvin Emesiochel of the Palau Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation (BCHP) to finalize details of the memorandum of agreement (MOA) regarding the collecting of ancient DNA (aDNA) samples from human skeletal remains housed at a BCHP storage facility and the Belau National Museum in Koror, Palau. The meeting covered the MOA details, the sampling schedule, and sampling procedures. On February 7, the MOA was reviewed and approved by the Director of the BCHP, Kiblas Soaladaob.

On February 7 and 8, with the assistance of BCHP personnel, Eakin and Liston collected aDNA samples at the Community Center in Koror. The BCHP

provided boxes of skeletal elements from different projects, and elements were evaluated for selection. We collected 32 samples from three settings: the Koror Quarry (n=22), and Uche-liungs and Omedokel islands (n=10). Petrous bones were collected when possible. When petrous bones were unavailable, molars were collected. A skeletal assemblage from the Post Office in Koror was evaluated but no samples were selected. The remains were determined to be historic, possibly Japanese.

On February 9, Eakin and Liston coordinated with Belau National Museum personnel and collected samples at the Museum (n=5). The samples are from an unknown location, possibly northern Babeldaob.

All samples were individually packaged and assigned a track-

ing number: P(Palau) 1, P2, P3, and so on. Each packaged sample was photographed. An inventory spreadsheet and separate handwritten inventory were maintained to support continuity of information.

On February 10, an inventory of the samples that includes known provenience information and elements sampled was submitted to the HPO.



Consultation meeting between BCHP staffs and research team

## Olachitnger el Cheldechoduch

### Sechou Er A Keanges

Tia a cheldechoduch er a Ngetkib er a Irrai. A sechou er a Keanges a mle blechoel el bad er a ked er a Ngerikiil me a Metengal a Kumer e mo melen-got er a Keanges e kuk mo remei er isei. A Remesechau a rubak er a Ngetkib er a blai er a Ngermangrang el kiliei ngii me a bechil e dimlak a rengel-

kir. A ta er a klebese e a Remesechau me a bechil a mlo kengkengesakl a delongelir. Ng mla er ngii a kekere el uchul er a klebese e te mlo kaungeroel e mlo ketord, me ng mlo meketeket el diak el chadecheduch. Ng dimlak a ngelekir el kuk olaod a uldesuir me a lechub e loungeroel er ngii me le mesumech a delongelir.

Tirka a se el le ngar er a blai e a ta a ngar er a telia me a ta a kuk ngar er a teliang. Ng mle meketeket el diak el sebechir el katekoi.

A ta er a klebesei e ngika el sechou a kuk ngar er a ked er a Ngerikiil e mocha belsechel el mo melengot e le ng mocha ouiamel a kereker, me ng suebek el me engelakl e kmal di mo kirel a uchub er a blirir e ouchoch!

## Palau Delegation Attends FestPAC Visitation

On March 13 to March 17, 2023, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) organized a visit to Hawai'i in preparation for the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture (13th FestPAC), that is scheduled for 6-16 June 2024. The visit provided members of the Council of Pacific Arts & Culture (CPAC) with the opportunity to gather information in preparation for the 13th FestPAC, including through; visits to venues which are proposed for accommodation, events and activities; and meetings with the Hawai'ian Commission for the 13th FestPAC as well as the Director for the 13th FestPAC on matters such as program content and scheduling, size of national delegations, entry into Hawai'i, biosecurity issues, and the like.

The Palau delegation to the CPAC were Director Kiblas Soaladaob of the Bureau of Cultural & Historical Preservation, Director Olympia Morei-Remengesau of the Belau National Museum, and Ms. Katarina Mad representing the Palau Visitor's Authority.



A total of 17 out of 26 Pacific countries and territories attended the CPAC meeting starting with Australia, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawai'i, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand (Aotearoa), Republic of Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Rapa Nui (Easter Island), Solomon Islands, Tonga,

and Wallis & Futuna.

The 13th Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture will be held in the State of Hawai'i from June 06 – 16, 2024 and Palau will be making its preparations in April.



## Olachitnger el Cheldech duch (cont.)

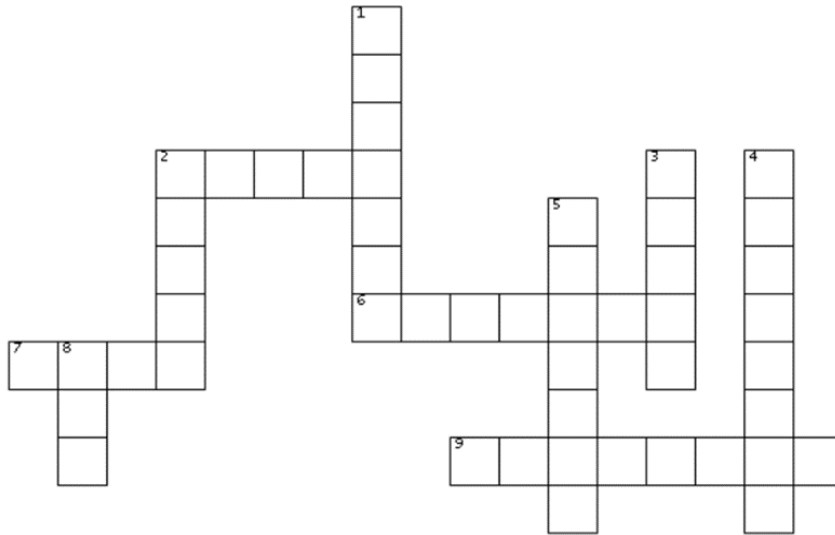
choch!, e remiid el mo er a Keanges me ng melengot a kelel e lmuut el mo remei. A ta er a tutau e ng kuk mocha ouiamel a kereker me ngika el sechou a luueta el merman. Me ng merrechokl el mo kmeed er a uchub er a blai e ouchoch! choch! Tia ikid e ngika el mechas a kmal kilurs ochil er a ulaol e oungerela er a sechou el kmo, "Morael el

mo er a Keanges me molai a kelem el chulad e lak mouchoch er kemam, e le ng cherrad e ulolam me ng di kemam el mesmechokl er ngii." Tia ikid e a rubak a dula el kmo, "Errang, ng diak moungeroel er ngak e oungeroel er a sechou?" Tia ikid e ngii a mlongil a delongelir me te luueta el mo ta el ongall e mo teluo el chiull e le ng mesmecha a delongelir.

**[Note: A utebengall er tia el cheldech duch a kmo: Lak moleau a tekoi a lak el tekingem.]**



## Mekreos el Klalo Dil er a Chim



### ACROSS

2. Klalo eldi ua teletelel a oliich eng di lemuut el dmolech a chelsel el ruul er a cheluib
6. Chelaus el such el orreked er a cheriut meng diak el rebet
7. Chelaus el such el orreked er a delel a redil er a uriul er a le mechell
9. Chelaus el such el di ua teletelel a chedecholl el lousbech er ngii el blil aike el meringel el chad el bar me a chiull el di keltmokl

### DOWN

1. Bilir a redil el ruul er a lab, cheremall me a lechub eng kerdikes
2. Mengai er a chelibel a Ngasech el uel e ududir a redil
3. Meruul er a lius el dolab el mengilt a bedenged
4. Chelaus el meolt el blil aikel mekreos el klalo el ua udoud
5. Mekekerei e chelaus el such el blil a udoud
8. Blil a mekreos me a omerotel el klokkel a tal chad er a bek el sils

### WORDS

1. Tet
2. Cheriut
3. Terir
4. Toluk
5. Omsangel
6. Otungel
7. Btek
8. Chilt
9. Toluk
10. Techull

## Historical Clearance Permitted in this Quarter

During the period of January to March 2023, the Bureau reviewed and concurred a total of fifty-four (54) Historical Clearance. Out of the fifty-four, forty-nine (49) were regular permits, and two (2) were extensions. There was two (2) minor permit, no section 106 permit, and only one (1) permit with MOA. These development projects included constructions of new access roads, improvement of existing access roads, building new residences, commercial projects, clearing projects, renovation of existing buildings, home extensions, earthmoving project, dredging projects, grading and leveling projects.

As mandated by law, the Bureau must review and determine the effects of any public and/or private development projects to insure historical and cultural resources are protected and preserved. Before any development project begins, a Historic Clearance Permit must be obtained from the Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation.

### REGULATION FOR HISTORICAL/CULTURAL PROPERTIES

It is illegal to take, remove, alter or damage any historical or cultural properties, including artifacts, sunken WW II vessels and parts thereof, WW II relics, historic landmarks, and cultural properties. Detailed information on Public Laws regarding historical and cultural properties can be obtained from PNC Title 19 Chapter 1 and its subsidiaries. To ensure compliance with these laws you may contact the Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation/Historic Preservation Office at (680) 767-1126/2452 or send an email to [histpres@palaunet.com](mailto:histpres@palaunet.com) / [bac\\_reg@palaunet.com](mailto:bac_reg@palaunet.com) / [bac\\_arch@palaunet.com](mailto:bac_arch@palaunet.com)

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