**Media Release**

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# AFP supports music ‘by the Pacific, for the Pacific’ as inaugural Pacific Police Tattoo crowns its winner

**Editor’s note:** [Images of the Tattoo available on Hightail](https://spaces.hightail.com/space/u32R2xB7mA) along with[Behind-the-scenes imagery from Tattoo rehearsals available on Hightail](https://spaces.hightail.com/space/lBm4jHhMEo)

The Royal Tonga Police Force Band has taken out the Overall Performance award at the inaugural Pacific Police Tattoo held in Papua New Guinea today.

The musical celebration in Port Moresby drew more than 100 musicians from across the Pacific, who proudly performed with their police bands at Sir Hubert Murray Stadium.

Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) Commissioner David Manning congratulated the musicians from around the Pacific for their commitment and dedication to their craft and police work.

“This event has not only deepened the bonds between our organisations, it has demonstrated the strength of regional policing partnerships in action,” Commissioner Manning said.

The vibrant Tongan contingent captivated a crowd including Acting Papua New Guinea Prime Minister, the Honourable John Rosso, and AFP Deputy Commissioner Lesa Gale with a setlist that included Mahina Katoa, Kailao (Tongan war dance) and Moana.

Royal Tonga Police Force Band Director Superintendent Siosaia Mohenoa said: “We feel honoured and grateful. But first of all, and most importantly, we give thanks to God.”

Supt Mohenoa said their mission in travelling to Papua New Guinea for the Tattoo was to “share our musical talent and connect with our fellow Pacific police band members”.

He praised all participating bands for highlighting and sharing their culture and traditional music.

The Tattoo, presented by the RPNGC, with support from the Australian Federal Police (AFP), showcased the culture and talent of nine bands:

* The RPNGC Band
* PNG Corrective Services Band
* AFP Pipes and Drums
* New Zealand Police Pipe Band
* Samoa Royal Police Band
* Fiji Police Force Band
* Royal Solomon Islands Police Force Band
* Nauru Police Force Band
* Royal Tonga Police Force Band

Other Tattoo award winners were:

**Drill Display:** The RPNGC Band  
**Fan Favourite:** Samoa Royal Police Band  
**Spirit of the Tattoo:** Fiji Police Force Band

AFP Assistant Commissioner Pacific Command Nigel Ryan, who represented the AFP at the Tattoo alongside Deputy Commissioner Gale, said it was a chance to celebrate, enhance and amplify critical Pacific partnerships.

“The AFP is a preferred partner of choice in the Pacific for peace, security and prosperity,” AC Ryan said. “What the Tattoo has done is bring together police tradition with Pacific music and culture, showcasing and strengthening our partnerships in ways that go beyond simply policing.

“It’s been an incredible privilege, both for the AFP and for me personally, to bring musicians from across the region together and to see firsthand their pride in this incredible showcase of their unique culture, talent and music.

“The connections and friendships they have made will also carry forward, helping to strengthen regional relationships under our overarching ethos of ‘by for the Pacific, for the Pacific’.”

Dignitaries who attended the Pacific Police Tattoo were:

* Papua New Guinea Acting Prime Minister, Hon James Rosso, MP
* Papua New Guinea Police Minister, Hon Peter Tsiamalili Jnr, MP
* AFP Deputy Commissioner Lesa Gale
* Assistant Commissioner Nauru Police Force Imran Scotty
* Superintendent Tuvalu Police Force Piliota Viliamu
* Fiji Police Force Commissioner Rusiate Tudravu
* Vanuatu Police Commissioner Kalshem Bongran
* Samoa Police Force Commissioner Logoitino Filipo
* Tonga Police Commissioner Geoff Turner
* Kiribati Police Force Assistant Commissioner Eeri Aritiera

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