



## Imagination Island gets stamp of approval

Many New Zealanders will know TV programme 'Fish of the Day' hosted by the Clarke Gayford (the Prime Minister's fiancé). While filming in the Solomon Islands, Clarke and crew had the pleasure of staying in the amazing over-water bungalows of Imagination Island - one of the Solomon Islands' best kept secrets.

Just a short ride from bustling Gizo in the country's Western Province, and smack bang in the middle of one of the Solomon Islands' best diving, surfing and fishing regions, the resort offers overwater one and two-bed bungalows complete with private en suite and environmentally friendly composting toilet facilities and all furnished with locally made wood, bamboo and cane furniture and complete with hammocks and nets.

The resort's Reef Bar Restaurant is renowned for its fresh seafood dishes - and is also one of the best spots in the area to sit back with a cool drink and watch a spectacular Solomon Islands sunset. To find out more go to [www.imaginationisland.com](http://www.imaginationisland.com) or watch the 'Fish of the Day' (Series 9 / Episode 3) at [www.threenow.co.nz](http://www.threenow.co.nz).

## International dive conference a major success

The Solomon Islands recently staged one of the world's largest dive medical conferences - the South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society's (SPUMS) 48th Annual Scientific Meeting in Honiara. Attracting delegates from as far afield as New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, the Middle East and the USA, the event was an excellent opportunity to showcase the country's world-class diving.

The MICE market is relatively small, it showed the country could successfully deliver a major convention to an international audience.

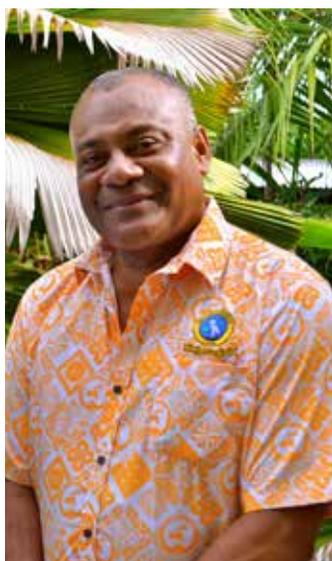


Featured image - pictured (from left) Tourism Solomons CEO, Josefa Tuamoto; Tourism Solomons senior marketing officer, Fiona Teama; Diveplanit director, Simon Mallender; Ministry of Culture Permanent Secretary, Andrew Nihopara, and SPUMS president, Professor David Smart.

## Tourism CEO invited to PATA Board

There was strong recognition for the Solomon Islands on the international tourism stage and huge kudos for Tourism Solomons when CEO, Josefa 'Jo' Tuamoto was invited to join the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) executive board. The move follows Mr Tuamoto's attendance at the 'PATA Annual Summit 2019' in Cebu, Philippines, last week where, taking part in a leadership debate, he gave an impassioned presentation on the United Nation Sustainable Development Goal 8 - 'Sustainable economic growth and decent jobs for all'.

Describing the invitation as a "real feather in the cap" not just for the Solomon Islands but the entire Pacific region, CEO Tuamoto said he was extremely humbled by the invitation and to have so much trust placed in his hands by the leadership of the Asia-Pacific's most highly respected travel industry organisation.



Josefa 'Jo' Tuamoto

## Tourism Solomons announces 2019 Dive Festival

Once again celebrating the world-class diving of the Solomon Islands, the fourth annual Solomon Islands Dive Festival will take place in the Western Province from 28 September - 05 October 2019. Hosted by Tourism Solomons in conjunction with Dive Gizo, SIDE Dive Munda and SIDE MV Taka, the seven-day event features a host of dive excursions, cultural activities, photographic competitions, and workshops with focus given to three of the Solomon Islands' best dive locales - Munda, Gizo and Tetepare Island, known internationally as one of the South Pacific's conservation jewels.



Program highlights on Tetepare include ranger-led dugong and crocodile spotting and turtle tagging. Seven-night programs are now available from Dive Adventures. Priced from NZD\$2525 the packages include all accommodation, all meals during the event, 15 dives, all lectures and workshops and sightseeing programs. For more information visit [www.diveadventures.com.au](http://www.diveadventures.com.au).

# Solomon Is. Chill

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