

24 December 2006.

Dear Tom, Thank you for your kind letter of 17 Dec. and for sending me a copy of "Amelia Earhart's Shoes". I am delighted to have the latter, as it will now allow me to lend out the earlier volume that you sent me some time ago. I always worry about lending books. They are often not returned, and I have forgotten to record the borrower's name.

Please do not be bothered about having passed on my address to Pam Ribbey. I am always happy to talk to people like her, who are genuinely interested in Pacific Is. history. Nevertheless, I have to confess having been much surprised, when around 9pm. one Saturday evening I answered the 'phone and was asked by the caller - "This is Pam Ribbey in Los Angeles ... would it be convenient for you to talk to me about events on Canton Island in 1941."

I wish you and your team well on your proposed return to Nukunono and I hope that you will be able to advance your present knowledge about that ill-fated flight. Aside from your tasks there, you will be reminded of the Railed Phoenix Islands Settlement Scheme. It is a great pity that it had to be abandoned. There are not many of us who have had the opportunity to visit Gerald Gallagher's grave. It is with considerable gratitude that I look back on the good fortune that befell me in 1941 to have been able to spend time in Gallagher's company when he brought "the bones" to Suva. He was, indeed, a fellow who strove to improve the lot of less fortunate human beings. I am sure that his soul rests in peace along with those like him who assisted others, when called upon to do so, and who put duty above self-interest. You in