

# FOLAU SAMOA.

CRUISING GUIDE TO SAMOA.



S/V 'OUTSIDER AUSTRALIA' 2015.



Talofa Lava!

Welcome to our beautiful islands of Samoa! It's my pleasure to thank you for choosing Samoa to be one of your cruising destinations.

Samoa is considered by many 'The Heart of Polynesia'.

The people, the islands and the culture (Faasamoa) the Samoan everyday way of life makes Samoa unique on its own.

This way of life means our hospitality, our love of music, our dancing, our love of food and the great respect we have for our families, our country and all our visitors. Every village is governed by a council of chiefs who are the lawmakers, peacemakers and the decision makers for the well being of the community.

Samoa has so much to offer to make your time here enjoyable and fun. From sandy beaches to waterfalls and to some of the most stunning scenic drives like no where else. The town area of Apia has a variety of shops for your daily needs and do not forget to visit our produce market, fish market and our flea market. The Samoa Tourism Authority information centre in the heart of town can assist you with any questions and information you may need to make your stay here easier.

I do hope that you enjoy your visit to our piece of paradise, and this guide 'Folau Samoa' helps you to make exploring and discovering my country and it's people an experience never to be forgotten.

I'm really looking forward to meeting you at the Samoa Culture Village for a truly Samoan experience

Tolefoa Chris Solomona.

## **Malo, from Ian and Wendy on 'Outsider Australia'.**

We arrived in Samoa in November 2014 and spent the wet season, we soon found very little information, for cruisers, was available for this wonderful destination.

We had our family fly in for a holiday, so we started looking for anchorages to visit.

This guide is a result of that small adventure. All the waypoints given are from 'Outsider's' log and are to assist but not to be used for navigation. The depths given below 2.5 mts are worked to zero datum for Apia or Mulifanua Harbour. Electronic cartography, in Samoa, we found rarely accurate. We hope this helps make Samoa a destination, not just a stopover.

Thank you to the following for their help and support in creating this guide:

Samoa Tourism Authority, Apia Port Control, Kat & Ted from Aquasamoa, Urs & Françoise from Samoa Adventures, Cedric Holtz from Fruit Pacifique, the people of Samoa and the Matai's who welcomed us into their communities.

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### **Some useful Samoan language:**

English	Samoaan	Pronunciation	English	Samoaan	Pronunciation
Hello (informal)	Malo	Mah-loh	Yes	Loe	Ee-oh-e
Hello	Talofa	Tah-loh-fah	No	Leai	Le-ah
Goodbye	Tofa	Toh-fah	Maybe	Masalo	Mah-sah-loh
Thank you	Fa'afetai	Fah-ah-fay-tie	Tomorrow	Taeao	Tah-e-ao
Please	Fa'amolemole	Fah-af-mor-le-mor-le	How are you?	O a mai oe?	O-ah-my-o-ho



## Upolu Island:

Upolu Island is the main island of Samoa, having the Capital, Apia, the main shipping port and the international Airport. Savai'i, was in the past the main Capital, but after a devastating cyclone, many of it's residents moved to Upolu and reside pretty much full time here.

Upolu offers quite a diverse and often surprising kaleidoscope of landscapes and culture, from the almost sophisticated social scene in Apia to the basic rural life style enjoyed by the Samoan people in the many beautiful and remote areas.

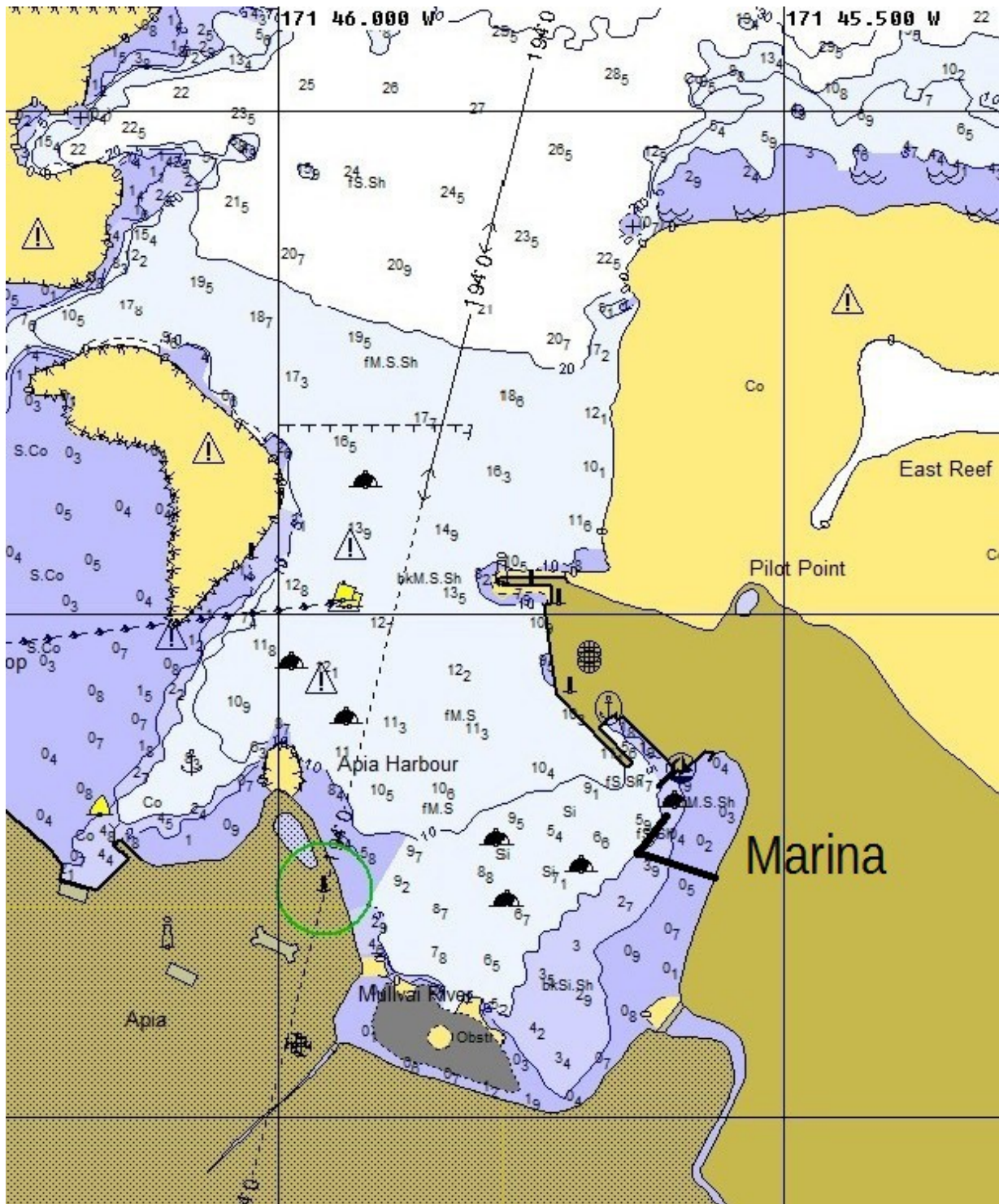
The coast line offers some wonderful experiences and some awesome anchorages. From spectacular waterfalls, turquoise lagoons, surf breaks, world class fishing and diving, white sand beaches, black sand beaches, fiord like bays, nesting birds, flora with colours so vivid it's hard to believe some of the plants are real and all this combined with some of the most easy going laid back folk you are likely to come across on the planet.

The Samoan cruising permit just about sums up things here when it states that we will not duly intrude in the lives of the Samoan community and that the Samoan people will render any assistance to the yachts person and crew who visit their wonderful islands.

We have sailed a long way to get here, now you have the opportunity to slow down and enjoy an island circumnavigation with 15 anchorages, 15 different vistas and experiences and only 20 miles to travel on the longest leg. Then onto to Monono and Savai'i for the icing on the cake, another 7 great stops!

Sounds like paradise to me.





### Apia Harbour. Upolu Island.

Lies approximately half way along the North coast of Upolu Island. It is Samoa's main commercial harbour and only Customs clearance port. The electronic charts seem reasonably accurate. The harbour has a container and general freight unloading wharf as you enter on the port side and a marina further in.

Approaches: The best approach is from the north, the reef edge is well defined on both sides, and the entrance is wide and deep. Approach the inner harbour keeping the rock wall and lit beacon to your port side and the large yellow commercial buoy's to starboard. Apia Port Control should be called on VHF channel 16 or 14 prior to entry.

Customs, Immigration & Quarantine: If you require C, I & Q, Apia Port Authority will assist you to the marina and advise C, I & O offices of your arrival. Fly your Q flag and remain on the vessel until advised. For us they were prompt and professional. There are no fees for clearance in.

Marina: Once cleared, then visit the Port Authority Office for ship documentation and marina allocation if needed, see Clare. You may anchor in the harbour or remain in the marina. The marina is prone to some surge and after any rain event there is much debris including large timber branches and logs. These issues will remain until the proposed new sea wall is completed.

Cruising Permit: To visit the anchorages of Samoa other than Apia, a cruising permit is required. There is no fee for this. Apply to Lolo at the Government building, 4th floor, with all ships clearance documents, passports and a proposed list of anchorages and approximate timetable.

Tourist Information: The tourist information is almost opposite the blue and white Catholic Church. They do a free Cultural demonstration every Tuesday and Thursday, which should not be missed. You will find any information you need to enjoy your visit here.

Currency exchange: There are many banks in Apia most with ATM's. If you require exchanging cash Western Union offers better rates and a much shorter queue.

Telephone & Internet: There are 2 telco's, Digicel & Bluesky. Both offer phone & data packages. Our Bluesky phone worked everywhere, our Digicel internet had black spots.

Taxi's: Apia has many and the prices are very reasonable. We used Leo 7796563.

Expediter: Tour guide, massage. Need help in Samoa call Tasa 7718222.

Vet's Clinic: Animal Protection Samoa have a clinic 10 mins from town, by taxi, behind the USA compound. Staffed by volunteers from New Zealand. Again, call Tasa.

Fruit & Veg market: There is a very large F & V market in town. \$5 ST or a 20 min walk.

Seafood Market: At the fisherman's harbour, open everyday, early Sunday morning is best.

Craft Market: Opposite the fish market, massive variety of local and imported goods.

Supermarkets: Are every where, for imported food items, we found Lucky's, Farmer Charlie's and Frankie's to be the most consistent.

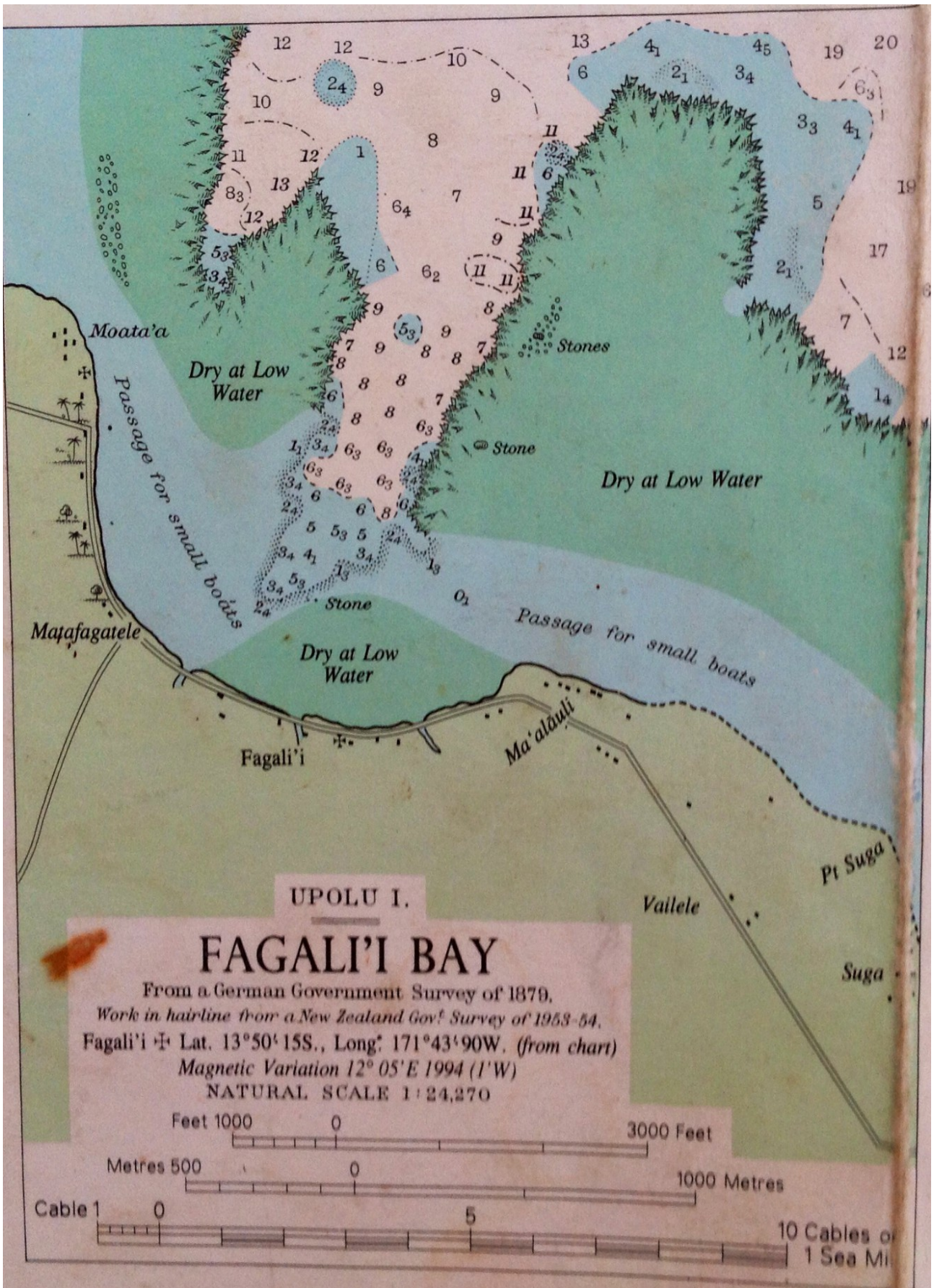
Butcher: If you require good quality beef, pork and sausages pre packed and delivered, call Tom @ Samoa Meat Supplies on (685) 30011 or 7771274.

Chandlery: Sadly none in Samoa, some stuff in the hardware stores: Ace, Bluebird, SMI, Seb and Renee and Lober Ind, best for SS bolts etc.

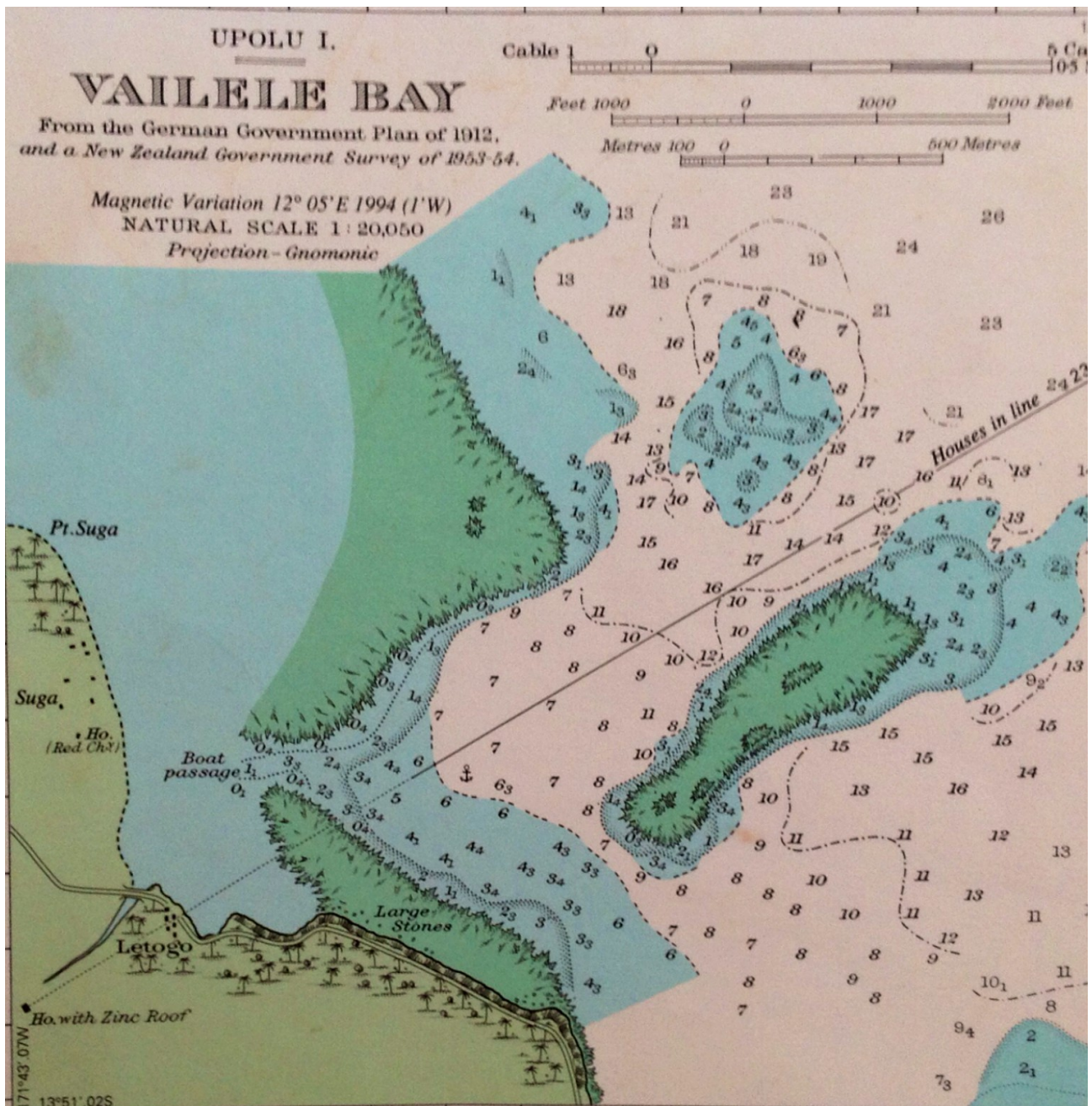
Hash House Harriers: Exercise, drinking & social networking. [www.apiahash.blogspot.com](http://www.apiahash.blogspot.com)

Importing Parts & Goods: Samoa has high importation costs, to avoid these it's best, prior to shipment, to take a letter to Customs requesting that your goods be free of duty as you are a yacht in transit. We had goods delivered by DHL, quick but expensive. Be prepared to spend several hours on the collection process. Also, if you are flying in from overseas, any new goods in their original package will be subject to importation duty.

Garbage: Bins outside the marina. All of Samoa had animal proof collection platforms. We spent 4 months in Samoa and above are some of our most frequented retail establishments. The shopping in Apia can be rewarding, but the availability of imported goods is dependant on the freight delivery cycle be prepared to change the menu from time to time. Don't forget to watch the Policemen's parade in the morning.







### Vailele Bay: Upolu Island.

Vailele Bay is a pleasant palm fringed bay sheltered from all directions except from the North East.

Approach: From the North East the reef on your starboard side is very well defined with some sand bank exposed further in. Clear water way point: 13° 50'.50 S 171° 42'.18 W.

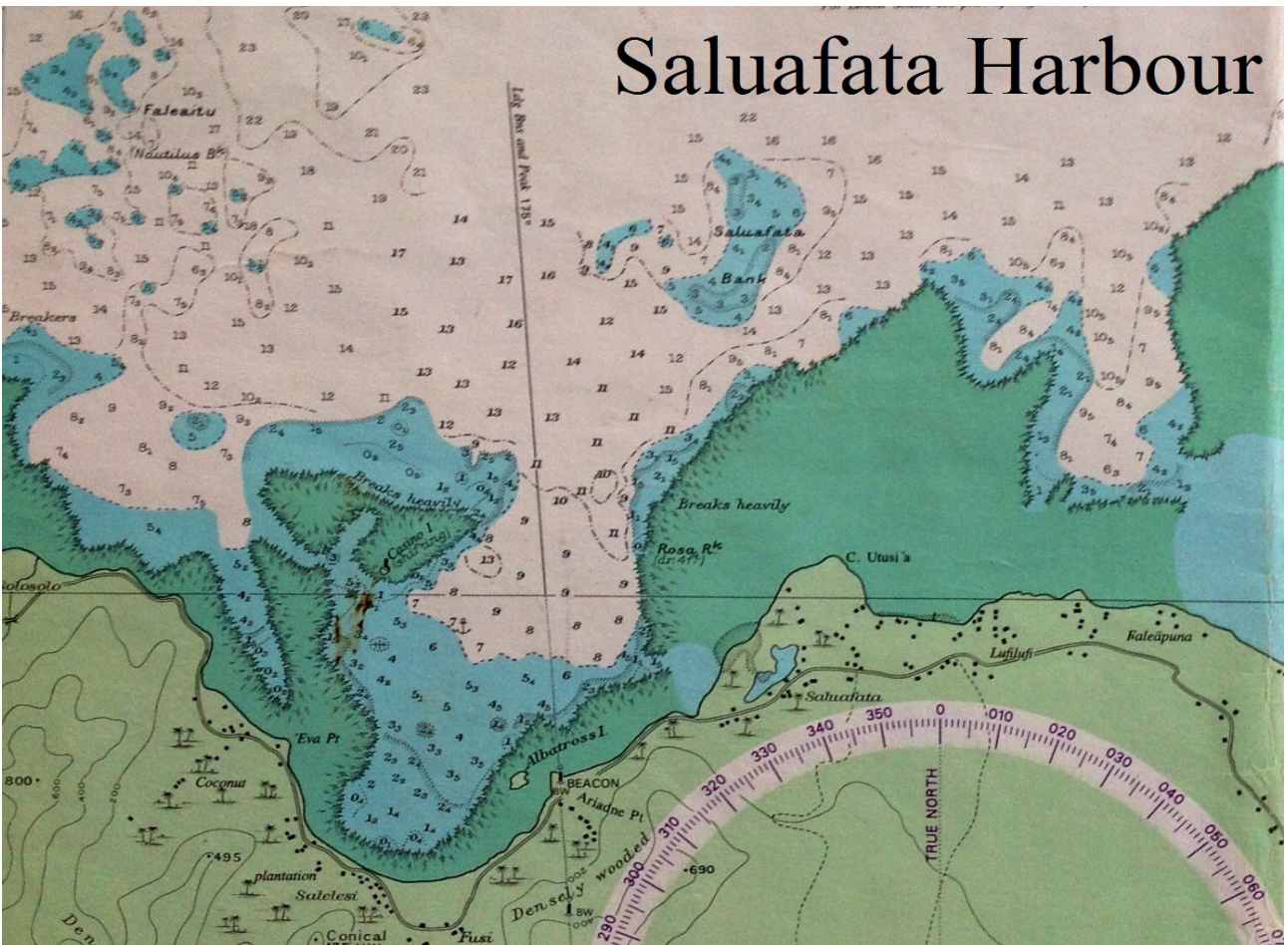
Anchorage: Way point: 13° 51'.043 S 171° 42'.825 W.

We anchored in 13 mts off the white sand beach, with the new timber fale with the green roof. The bottom was fine silty sand and the holding was fair.

Getting Ashore: There is a break in the reef to the west of the anchorage, once inside it becomes shallow quickly. At high tide we were able to get ashore in the corner of the rock wall near the yellow house with the green roof.

Ashore: The main road runs along the bay's perimeter, there are a few private houses and the nearest village, Letogo, is about 1 kilometer west.

# Saluafata Harbour



## Saluafata Harbour: Upolu Island.

Saluafata Harbour is a large well protected harbour, on the North coast of Upolu, with room for many boats, a very comfortable anchorage with the villages of Fusi and Salelesi nestled between the harbour and the lush escarpment.

Approach: From the north, Saluafata bank and the fringing reef of Cape Utusi'a is easily seen as is the eastern edge of the reef on the west side of the bay.

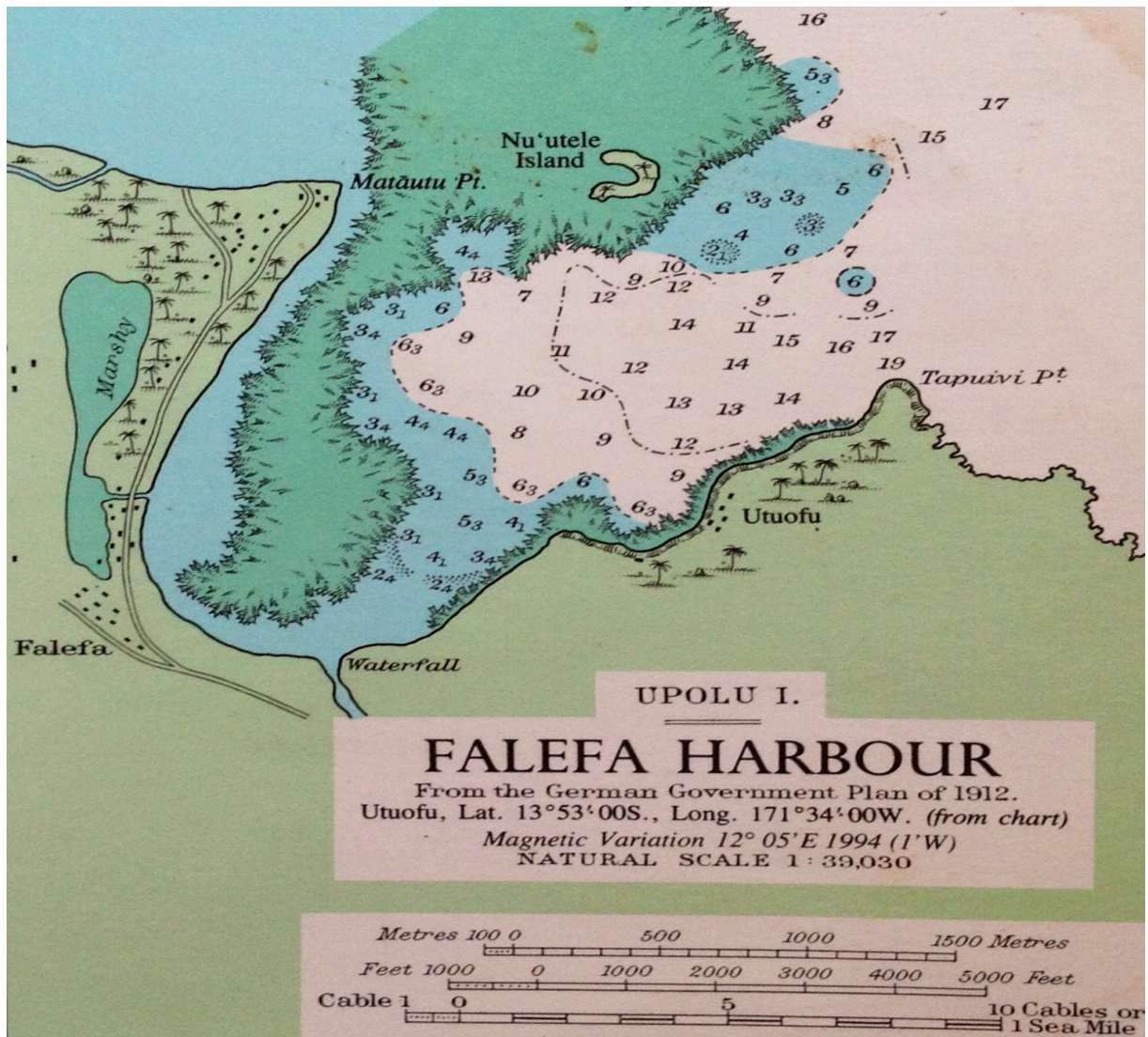
Clearwater way point:  $13^{\circ}51'.32$  S  $171^{\circ}37'.15$  W, heading  $160^{\circ}$  magnetic, once inside the reef edge way point:  $13^{\circ}52'.40$  S  $171^{\circ}37'.05$  W the bay opens up and shoals slowly with a flat bottom.

Anchorage way point:  $13^{\circ}52'.92$  S  $171^{\circ}37'.29$  W. We anchored in 4 mts with a flat sandy bottom with excellent holding.

Getting Ashore: Fusi, we went ashore on a rising tide crossing the reef edge off the 5 foles, then to port and ashore on the sandy beach adjacent to the white Mormon Church. Salelesi, the white sand beach on the south west side of the harbour, near the green house with the silver roof at the end of the sea wall, can be accessed carefully, approach from the western end keeping the stick marker to port. Once ashore, cross the road and seek permission from the Matai. His name is Amua, he is very amiable and welcoming.

Ashore: Fusi and Salelesi are well manicured, clean and well looked after villages, pleasant to stroll through. There is plenty of traffic and buses to either direction and many small shops.

The Albatross Hideaway is 100 mts west of the Mormon Church and was the best stocked shop that we saw, the bar and restaurant were under renovation in February 2015.



### Falefa Harbour: Upolu Island.

Falefa Harbour is a delightful spot offering more protection than one would assume, because of the extensive reef and Nu'utele Island on the north side. The 2 churches and houses along the foreshore make an attractive vista from the anchorage.

#### Approaches:

Best approach is from the SE keeping Tapuivi point to port, once clear of the point head towards the churches. The bottom shoals slowly and appears level, the fingering reef is well defined in good conditions. Clear water WP:  $13^{\circ}52'.95\text{ S}$   $171^{\circ}33'.64\text{ W}$

#### Anchorage:

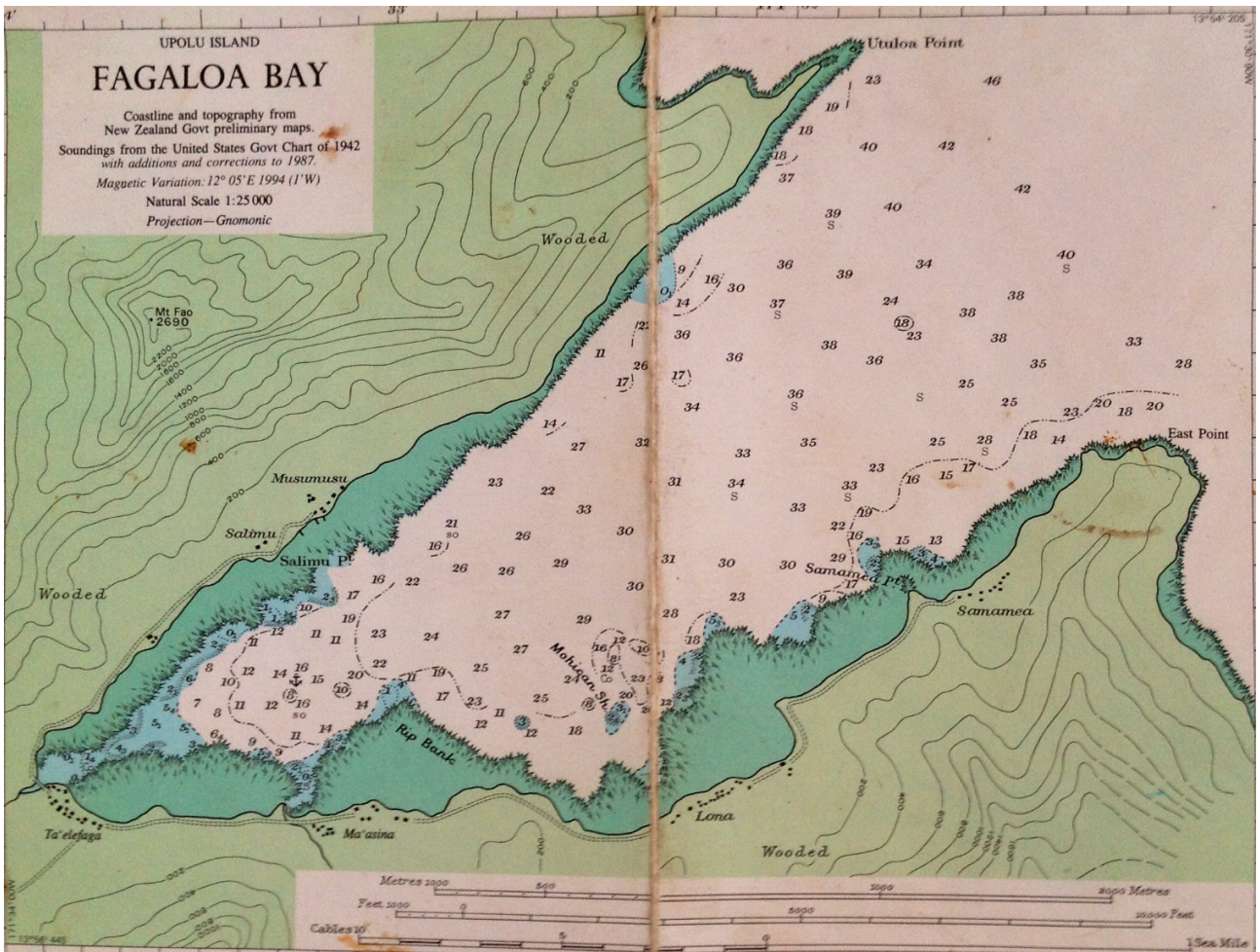
We anchored in 8 mts, the holding was excellent, due to the gravel bottom. The outflow from the river kept us stern out.  $\nabla$  WP:  $13^{\circ}53'.18\text{ S}$   $171^{\circ}34'.84\text{ W}$

#### Getting Ashore:

There is a channel through the reef defined by the disturbed water from the river. Once inside the reef edge depths vary. In the right conditions it is possible to dinghy to the waterfall.

#### Ashore:

A small tidy village with a few hole in the wall shops . Regular bus service to Apia. Enjoy!



View looking down into Fagaloa Bay from lookout.

## Fagaloa Bay: Upolu Island.

Fagaloa Bay is a deep fiord like bay surrounded by high steep hills covered in dense green tropical foliage with many, many high cascading waterfalls, spectacular during and after rain.

From clear water into the anchorage is 2.5 nm. It offers protection from wind and swell from all directions except North East, however because of its depth even in NE conditions the anchorage it is still tenable. In strong winds it can be subjected to bullets coming down the hill.

### Approaches:

Approach from the NE clear water WP 13,°54'.93 S 171,°31'.79 W.

At the entrance the bay is wide and deep. Although expect a wind sheer and a build up of swell until well inside the bay. There is deep water all the way in, keep to the centre, clear rip bank on your port side.

### Anchorage:

We anchored in 12 mts off shore of the green house with the powder blue roof.

⚓ WP 2. 13,°56'.33 S 171,°31'.93 W

The water is very clean. When we were here there was a made northerly swell and we experienced a very long attenuated slow roll on anchor. In 15 knots of NE breeze it was quite comfortable. A light stern anchor could be set to improve comfort in this beautiful spot in contrary conditions. There was a constant outflow current from the end of the bay.

Getting Ashore: The easiest public place we found to go ashore was by the culvert with the round pipes.

### Ashore:

This place is very rural, there are 7 villages surrounding the bay and a pleasant walk can be had in any direction. The hydro power plant is relatively new and generates 400kw+ of eco energy and worth a look at. There are a few hole in the wall shops around Taelefaga, but no cold beer. There is a bus service to Apia. We enjoyed our time here, a very Marquesian feeling about it.





## **Uafato Bay: Upolu Island.**

Uafato Bay is a lush tropical little bay on the North East side of Upolu Island, dominated by a massive waterfall from the summit of Mt Malata, dropping glistening spider webs of mountain water hundreds of meters before disappearing into a jungle ravine then emptying into the corner of this unique place.

Approach: From the north keeping Cape Tagisia to starboard,

Clear water way point: 13°56'.49 S 171°30'.23 W. There is a finger of reef extending well into the bay from the South West corner, on the end of which whilst we were there was a very consistent surf break the locals call Galu, with deep water on either side.

Anchorage: We anchored in 10 mts on what appeared to be gravel @ WP 13°57'.00 S 171°30'.75 W, holding was good.

Getting Ashore: At high tide we crossed the reef edge off the small sand beach area with the culvert and 2 pipes about 100 mts East of the Church.

Ashore: Uafato Village is at the end of the road, only accessible by 4WD, with a population of approx 200. There are many weavers and wood carvers here, they made us very welcome. Kili, whose beach fale is 100 mts East of the culvert was happy to display his work and spend some time with us explaining various technics of his craft. Also, Wendy went and spent time with a weaver who in a matter of minutes produced 2 fans. The village is very clean and pretty, the water front is landscaped with a shaded path and colorful plants. The folk of Uafato were very laid back as well as being industrious, whether weaving, carving, harvesting or gardening. Even the children playing in the stream. A delightful place to visit.

## **Ti'avea Bay: Upolu Island.**

Ti'avea Bay lies approximately half way between Uafato Bay and Utufa'alalafa Point on Upolu's South Eastern corner. This secret Samoan famous surf spot is a pretty bay open to the North, it is an open roadstead anchorage, good in the right conditions.

Approach: From the North, clear water way point: 13°57'.95 S 171°27'.92 W. There is a well defined break to port and an easily seen deep reef to starboard, it shoals up reasonably quickly.

A good lookout would be prudent here.

Anchorage: Deep, 17 mts flat bottom. Anchorage way point: 13°58'.304 S 171°28'.034 W. The more adventurous may try to anchor further in!

Getting Ashore: Between the 2 breaks is the river mouth, once inside you can go ashore anywhere convenient.

Ashore: This bay is private property and the owners receive payment from all land bound visitors. A wander along the river is pleasant, as is a walk along the coral sand beach. There are several inhabited family homes and some deserted dwellings scattered along the bay behind the frontal dune. There is another surf break in the South East corner of the bay.





### **Ulutogia Wharf, Namu'a Island: Upolu Island.**

Situated at the South East corner of Upolu Island, in the lagoon behind Namu'a Island. A large commercial slipway exists here, with a marked entrance. In close proximity to Fanuatapu, Namu'a, Nu'utele and Nu'ulua Islands.

#### Approaches:

From the north, clear Fanuatapu Island to port then round Namu'a Island, also to port, the passage is about 500 mts South off the south tip of Namu'a.

From the south, there is deep water between Nu'utele and Upolu and a deep passage between Nu'utele and Nu'ulua. The reef extends in places quite away out from Upolu Island.

Approach the passage from the East, the channel has leads in line, red and white posts inside the shipyard, next to the slipway.

Clear water way point: 14<sup>0</sup>.01'.86 S      171<sup>0</sup>.25'.03 W      290<sup>0</sup> Magnetic.

There are floating channel markers once inside the reef edge. The minimum depth in the channel is 4 mts. Depths outside of the channel shoals quickly, but seems to level out at 1.5 mts. Zero datum. The outer port buoy was only visible at low tide on our visit.

#### Anchorage:

We dropped the pick 100 mts to the north of the channel, WP 14<sup>0</sup>.01'.56 S    171<sup>0</sup>.25'.32 W in 1.5 mts zero datum. The holding was fair, the bottom is hard sand and coral rubble.

There is room in the channel for anchorage if deeper water is required. There is very little traffic to the slipway. We experienced a south setting current up to 1.5 knots at times.

#### Dinghy Access:

You can tie up at the slipway, but it is a long way from anywhere, about 1 kilometer to the north, near the 2 Towers Church with the red roof, is a small landing place at high tide.

#### Ashore:

The villages along this road are spread out, the nearest shop is near the landing at 2 Towers Church. There is one on the south side of the slip way but it is further to go.

Namu'a Island has a day resort, a beautifully manicured white sand beach with fales, shade trees and restroom's, they charge \$40 ST per person.

A dinghy trip across to Nu'ulua and Nu'utele is well worth while. On the NE corner of Nu'utele is an uninhabited beach which used to be a leper colony, getting ashore can be tricky, anchor dinghy off and swim in is possibly the easiest. The channel between here and Nu'ulua is deep and appears obstruction free. The 'hole in the wall' on Nu'ulua is very impressive, transiting the hole could be quite a challenge.

Both islands are nesting grounds and there is much bird activity. Boobies, terns, frigates and other birds were abundant.

The water here is clear, there are many turtles and the fishing was productive for us.

The slipway is a large commercial railway with a massive trolley, it is relatively new and well maintained. They have no trouble hauling out yachts and catamaran's. However there is nothing in the way of paint, parts, etc available here. Apia is a 3 hour round trip by car, and the bus takes much, much longer.

For information regarding haul out contact Apia Ports Authority .

We enjoyed our time here anchored in the lagoon, a great stopover in the right conditions.

### Falealili Harbour: Upolu Island.

Falealili Harbour is on the South cost of Upolu Island approximately 15 NM West of Namu'a Island. The harbour is situated in the lea of the beautiful Nu'usafe'e Island and its fringing reef. It is a large bay, separated into 3 smaller bays encircled by quite extensive reef. Throughout the bay there are many scattered bommies. Falealili should only be entered when visibility is good.

#### Approach:

Falealili can be entered from the South, either side of Nu'usafe'e Island. The reef extends well on both sides of the island and is well defined.

Clear water waypoint Eastern side: 14<sup>0</sup>.03'.19 S            171<sup>0</sup>.41'.08 W

Clear water waypoint Western side: 14<sup>0</sup>.02'.71 S            171<sup>0</sup>.41'.90 W

There is a passage connecting both sides of the bay approximately 300 mts North of Nu'usafe'e Island.

#### Anchorage:

In the Western bay 'Poutasi' we anchored at waypoint: 14<sup>0</sup>.02'.217 S            171<sup>0</sup>.41'.482 W in 9 mts on good holding sand.

We surveyed the middle bay and but could not find anchorage with suitable depth less than 16 mts.

In the Eastern bay 'Matautu' we anchored at waypoint 14<sup>0</sup>.02'.481 S            171<sup>0</sup>.40'.652 W on the fringe of a lagoon, in 2.5 mts, white sand with excellent holding. Access to this beautiful spot required transitting a short, narrow (20 mts wide), marked passage.

Outside waypoint 14<sup>0</sup>.02'.800 S    171<sup>0</sup>.40'.824 W. The minimum depth of the passage at the inner bar is 2.2 mts zero datum. There can be a cross current here so one should not dawdle.

Both anchorages have marine reserve areas, staked and buoyed off, close to the shore which should be kept clear of.

#### Poutasi Village Anchorage:

##### Getting ashore:

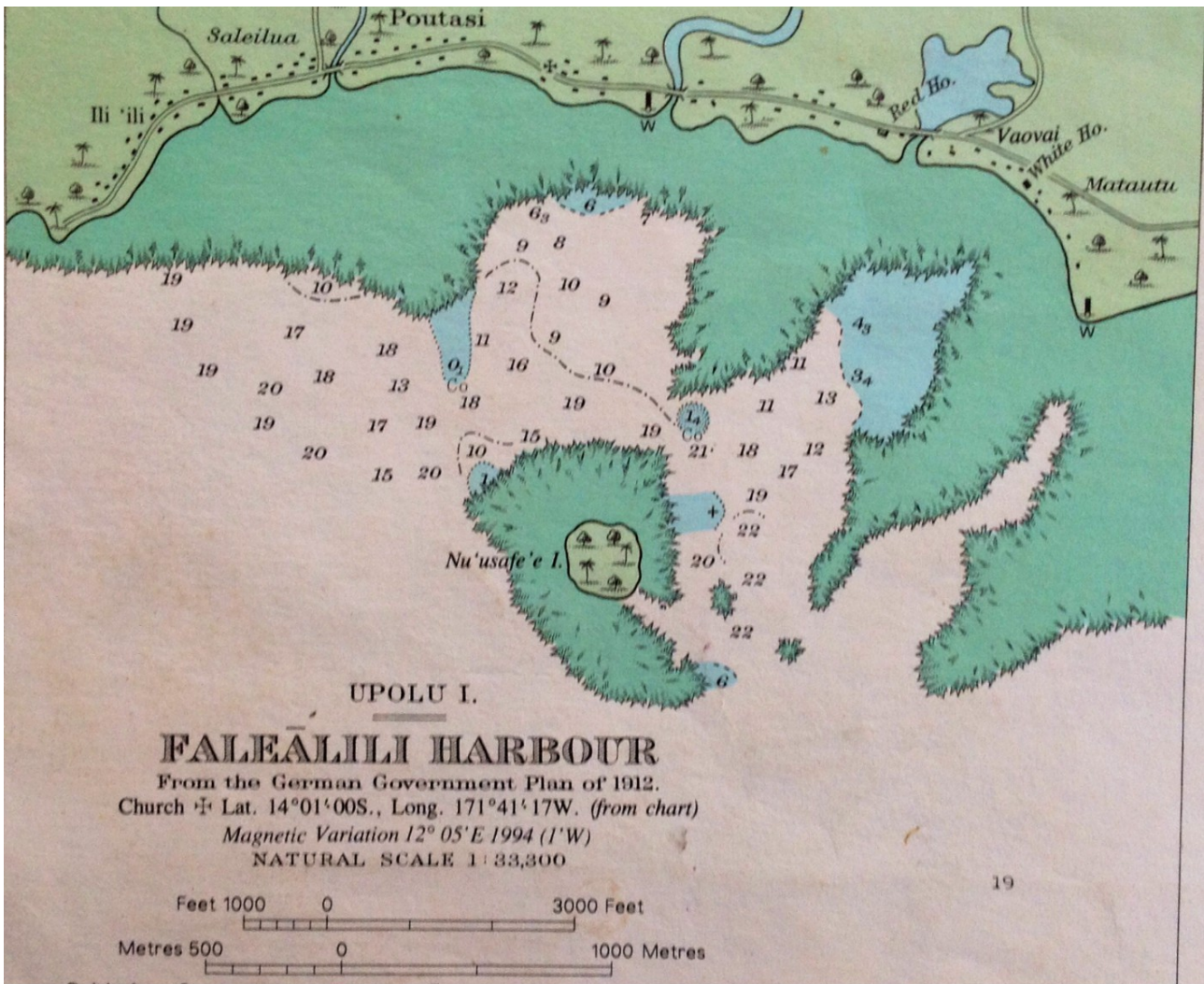
There is a concrete ramp near the white Church with silver roof and red trim.

From the anchorage enter via the East side of the bay, keeping the stick markers to port at low tide. Dinghy access at 1/2 tide or better can be made carefully across the reef.

##### Ashore:

The house on the water front, to the West side of the ramp, is the home of Tuatagaloa Joe Annandale the Matai. Joe is an active participant of The Voyaging Society. His phone number is (685) 25191. Please try to make contact with him, you will be assured of a warm and friendly welcome. If you wish to visit Nu'usafe'e Island permission must be given by him prior to going ashore on this beautiful island. The village of Poutasi has much to offer. They have a cultural center/cafe, showcasing local arts and crafts. There is the Samoan Ministry of Agriculture nursery and 'Poutasi Greens' a short walk away which can supply fresh green vegetables. Also 2 small shops, a police station, hospital and a taxi service. Poutasi to Apia is \$50 to \$60 ST. This village was devastated by the Tsunami in 2009, many of the buildings are new including the village hall and the hospital.

Nearby is the Sinalei Reef Resort, one of Samoa's premier resorts, if you wish to visit by road, taxi is \$15 ST each way.



### Mataututu Village Anchorage:

#### Getting ashore:

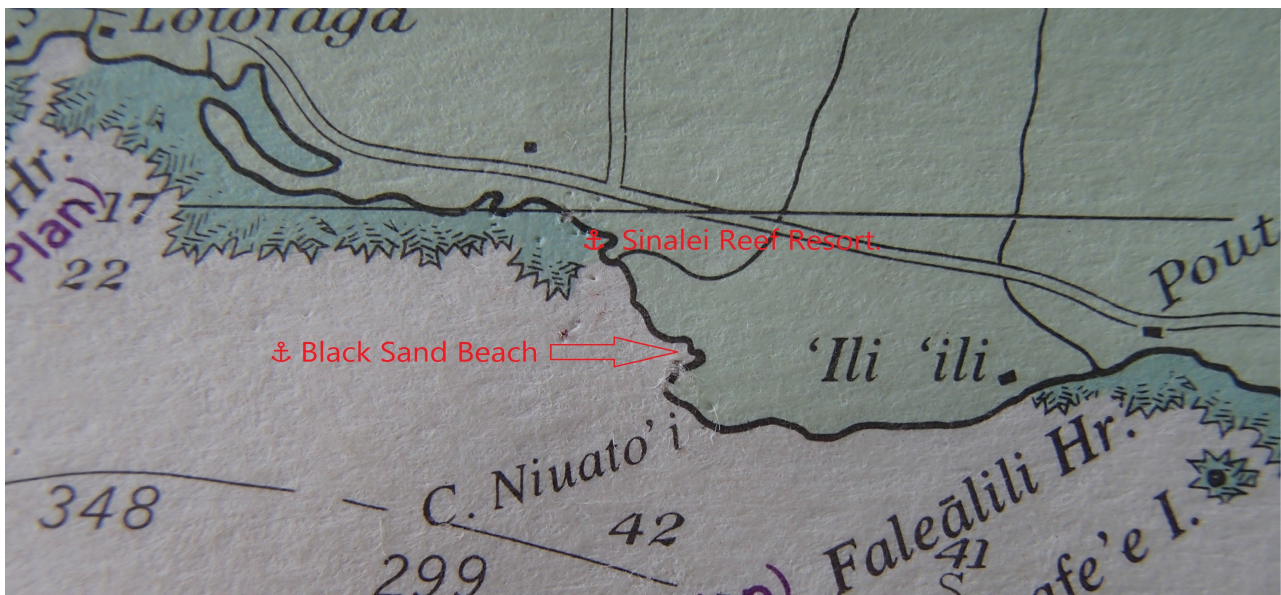
The white sand beach to the West of the staked off marine reserve is easily accessed at all tides. The anchorage waypoint is only 200 mts from the beach.

#### Ashore:

The village Matai's name is Petele, he should be contacted soon after arrival here, he is keen to meet yachties. Behind the beach is the home of Cedric Holtz, he is a delightful French man who is endeavoring to establish a tropical fruit plantation. Cedric can be contacted by phone on 7283747, if you require any information on the passage or need assistance in any way, do not hesitate to call him.

The village of Mataututu is off the main road therefore is very traditional, they do not get many visitors here. This anchorage is along way inside the fringing reef, very calm, comfortable and a delightful place to spend some quality time.

From here, West to Safata Harbour the coastline is home to some of Samoa's best known surf breaks. Some of there are, Nu'usafe'e Island, Bolders, Skin Graft, Outer and Inner Siumu, Coconuts, Village left and Suck out.



### **Black Sand Beach: Upolu Island.**

This anchorage is in a small bay tucked in behind Cape Niutato'i offering a very good lea in all conditions other than South West.

**Approach:** From the South West. If coming from the East, after rounding Cape Niutato'i, which is dramatic because of it's very distinct land bridge. From the West there is extensive reef to the North and West of the bay. Clear water waypoint: 14°02'.09 S 171°46'.39 W. Entering the bay the bottom shoals up steadily, there are some bommies on the north side. The bottom seems flat and good holding sand, you can get in close to the beach here. Anchorage waypoint: 14°01'.969 S 171°46'.012 W in 5 mts on sand.

**Getting Ashore:** A beach landing is easily achieved as there is no fringing reef.

**Ashore:** Black Sand Beach is on government land, vehicular access to the beach is 4WD only. There are no facilities here, just a beautiful sandy remote beach. If you are approached by anyone and asked to pay, just explain you paid with your Customs clearance in Apia.

### **Sinalei Reef Resort:**

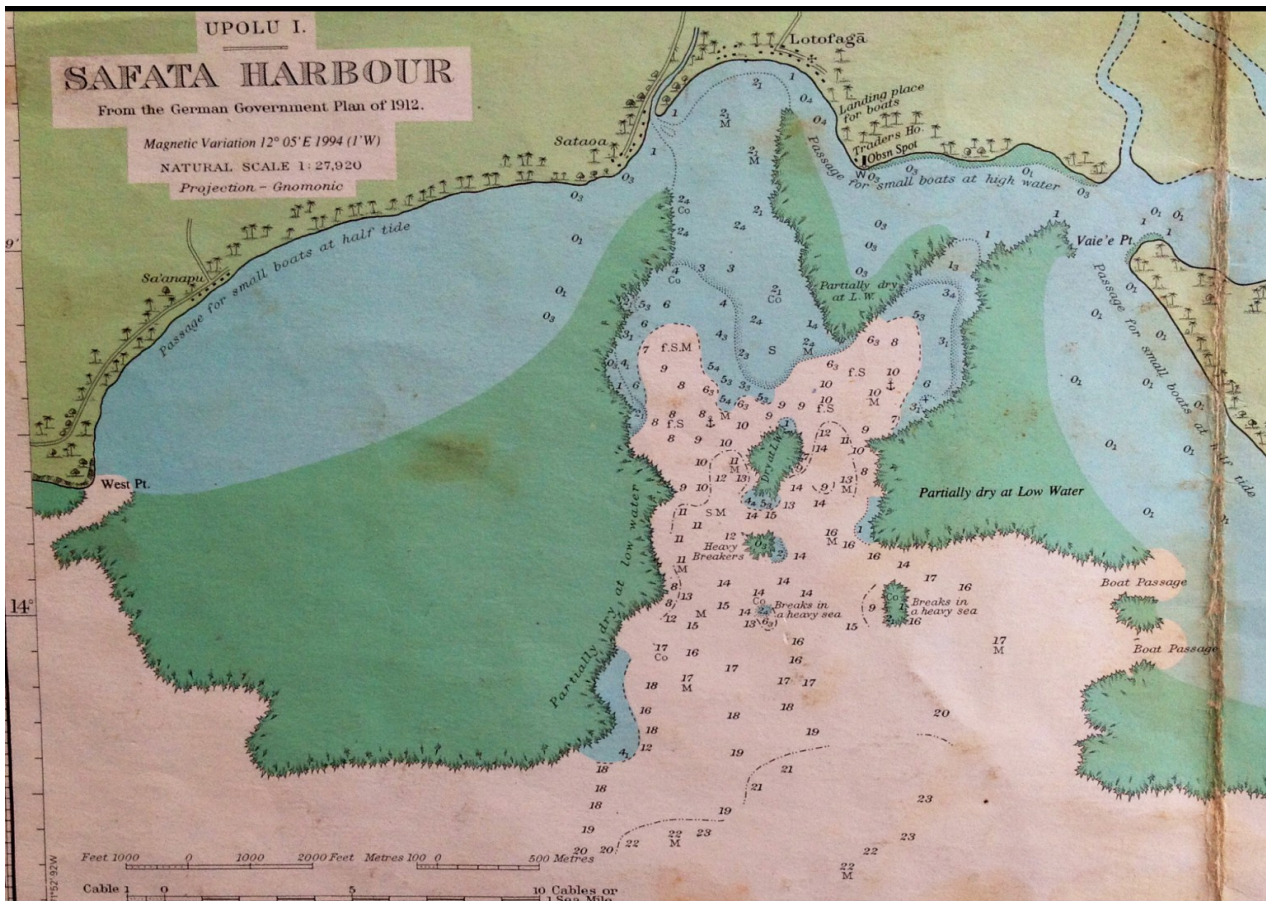
This anchorage is tucked up into an indent in the fringing reef in the corner between Black Sand and Safata Harbour, it is open to the South and should only be attempted in calm conditions.

**Approach:** From the SSW, keep the well defined reef edge to port, there is a large, sometimes breaking bommie, approximately 200 mts to the East, but plenty of room between it and the reef. Clear water waypoint: 14°01'.20 S 171°47'.48 W.

**Anchorage:** The bottom shoals slowly and is flat and sand. We anchored in 14 mts. Waypoint: 14°00'.817 S 171°47'.395 W inside the previously mentioned bommie.

**Getting Ashore:** There is a jetty on the Eastern end of the restaurant at the Sinalei Reef Resort, follow the reef edge towards the twin brown shingle roofed buildings. There is a channel through the fringing reef approximately 200 mts out. At the end of the jetty there is a fresh water up welling adjacent to the ladder.

**Ashore:** On our visit we were made most welcome by the management and staff of this truly magnificent resort. They offered us full use of the bar, restaurant and pool, also water was available if needed. The surf here is good, water is clear and there are many turtles .



### Safata Harbour: Upolu Island.

Safata harbour is located on the South coast of Upolu Island, 2/3 of the way from East to West. The anchorage is over 1.5 miles inside the outer reef, giving very good protection from all directions.

**Approach:** From the south. The reef between here and Cape Niutato'i extends a long way south. The fringing reef on the Western side of the harbour is well defined and usually breaking. Clear water waypoint:  $14^{\circ}01'.103\text{ S } 171^{\circ}51'.42\text{ W}$ . Keeping a good lookout with the reef in the center of the bay to Stb and the Western reef to Pt. Waypoint :  $14^{\circ}00'.24\text{ S } 171^{\circ}51'.59\text{ W}$ , the water becomes murky as you proceed further into the bay. The bottom shoals slowly and is flat.

**Anchorage:**  $13^{\circ}59'.26\text{ S } 171^{\circ}51'.45\text{ W}$  in 4 mts sand with excellent holding.

**Getting Ashore:** To the WNW of the anchorage approx 200 mts north of the rock wall. You will see the local canoe's here. There is a short track off the beach to the road. Best access 1/2 tide or better.

**Ashore:** Sataoa is spread out along this flat road. Left from the dinghy access there is a small shop and a beach fale resort. To the right, about 1K walk to the main road on the right is a very well stocked shop with fresh bread. This village was devastated in the Tsunami, many of the buildings are new. Clare, from the Port Authority lives here. There is a large inland waterway to the East accessible by dinghy or shoal draft. .7 mts zero datum. From waypoint  $13^{\circ}59'.685\text{ S } 171^{\circ}50'.806\text{ W}$  to just West of the sandy point, across a flat sandy bottom, once beyond the point keep to port for better depths. The whole bay is very shallow with some deeper areas to 2.4 mts just around the sand point.



### Mulifanua Harbour: Upolu Island.

Mulifanua Harbour lies on the NW corner of Upolu, about 20 nautical miles W from Apia, and is the main harbour for ferries to Savai'i. As such it has a well marked and used channel, once inside the reef edge offers access to the lagoon both NE and SW of the channel. The port facility offers little to the yachting, 3 Small food outlets. To the NE of the commercial harbour there is access to Aggie Grey's resort, Aquasamoa dive and ice-cream and Samoa Adventure. And a very short taxi trip to Faleolo International Airport.

Approaches: Best approach to the main channel is from the north. Don't trust your electronic charting, neither C-Map or navionics. The outside mark is a large post on the reef edge. Keep it to port. Once inside the channel is marked with floating buoys.

Clear water: WP 13,°49'.04 S 172,°2'.81 W

Channel entrance WP 13,°49'.35 S 172,°2'.63 W

Inside channel WP. 1 13,°49'.49 S 172,°2'.58 W

Inside channel WP. 2 13,°49'.65 S 172,°2'.38 W

Channel depth to WP. 2 is greater than 4 mts. At WP. 2 we exited the channel to port to an anchorage about 100 mts off Aquasamoa in greater than 2 mts.

‡ Waypoint: 13,°49'.47 S 172,°1'.96 W

An alternative entrance through the reef and anchorage in deeper water can be made in good conditions, lying somewhat further offshore but still enjoying the protection of the lagoon. Clearwater

WP. 1. 13,°47'.77 S 172,°2'.09 W WP. 2. 13,°48'.57 S 172,°2'.08 W

WP. 3 13,°48'.69 S 172,°2'.03 W WP. 4 13,°48'.79 S 172,°1'.95 W

WP. 5 13,°48'.97 S 172,°2'.00 W WP. 6 13,°49'.22 S 172,°2'.07 W

Good for deeper draught vessels, minimum depth to WP 6 is 4 mts. Navionics seems surprisingly accurate in this area.

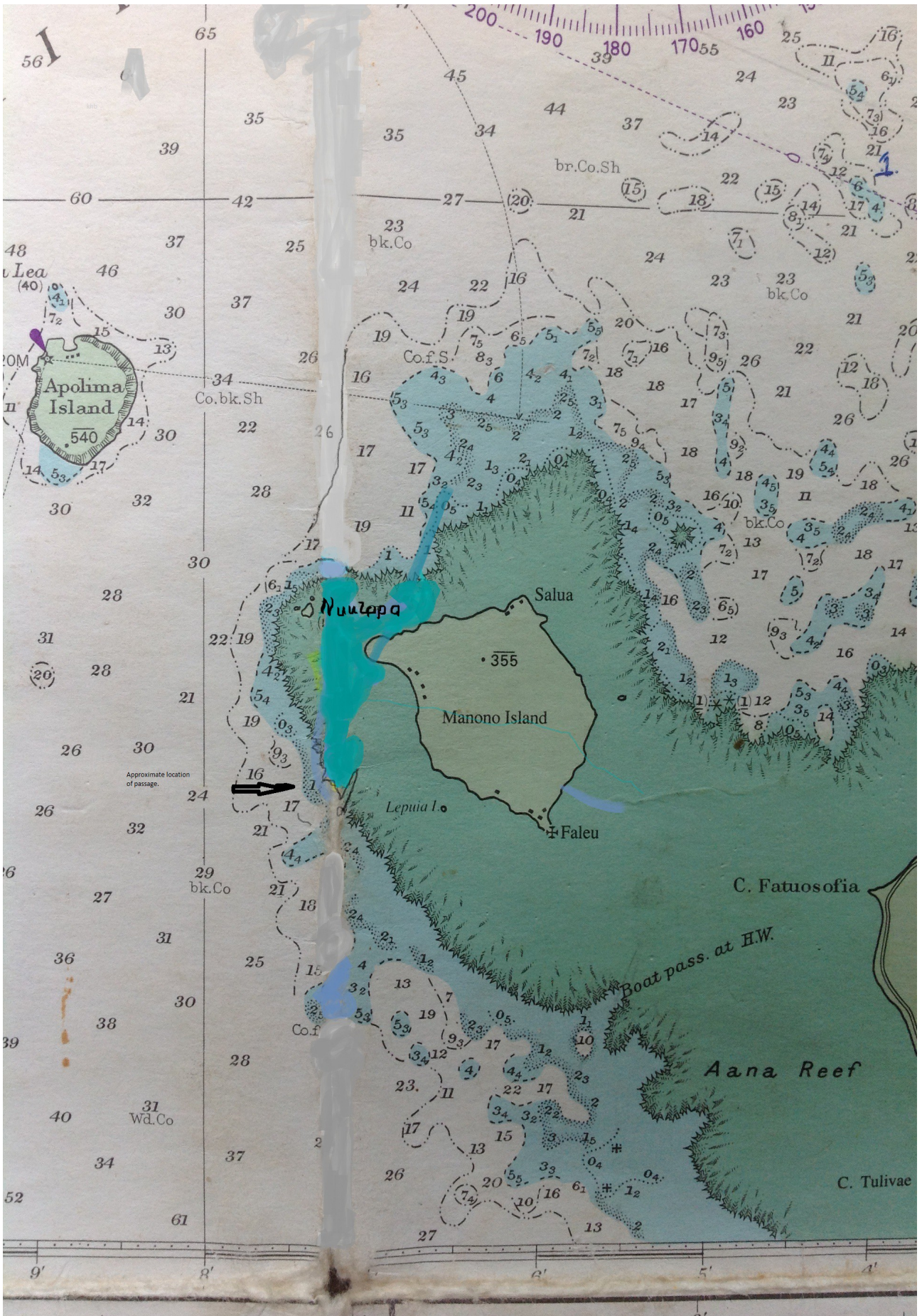
Anchorage: Once inside the lagoon the bottom is very flat, shoaling very slowly towards the island. The bottom is sand with weed and the occasional bommie. The holding seemed good and the closer into the island the water becomes milky. Anchorage can be taken anywhere you are comfortable. We anchored outside Aquasamoa. They have a lovely little white sand beach out front, also a jetty. Dinghy landing can be made almost anywhere on the beach as in good conditions the lagoon is quite calm.

Ashore: We were made welcome by Ted, Kat and the staff of Aquasamoa and given permission to use the jetty for the dinghy and take on water, which is at the jetty. Next to the jetty is a fale, the head office of Samoa Adventures. Their catamaran is usually anchored nearby. The owners Urs and Françoise have been here many years, lovely people with a wealth of knowledge if you are lucky enough to meet them. The resort next to Aquasamoa is Aggie Greys, when we visited we were made welcome to use the restaurant, bar and pool. There is a golf course nearby with an excellent restaurant. Also good snorkling just inside the outer reef.

Airport: The international airport is only ten minutes away. Taxi's can be found at the commercial harbour or a phone call from Aquasamoa or Aggies.

Tide Datum: All depths given are worked on zero tide at Mulifanua Harbour.

A convenient and pleasant anchorage with a lovely beach, nice breeze and great facilities.





## Manono Island.

Manono Island lies just off the North West corner of Upolu. Enclosed by a fringing reef and lagoon connected to Upolu. Monono Isle is in the Apolima Straight between Apolima Island and Upolu.

The only access to Manono is by boat, there are no vehicles or roads on the island. The locals commute to Upolu in small boats across shoal water.

### Approaches:

A passage through the fringing reef can be made in good conditions from the western side of Manono Island. The passage itself is well defined with good depths, however approaching from seaward requires a good lookout as you cross submerged reef before entering the passage proper. There are some bommies, centre passage inside. The south side seems to offer more room.

'Outsider Australia's' track in is:

Clear water WP	13,°51'.23 S	172,°8'.00 W
Channel entrance WP	13,°51'.303 S	172,°7'.615 W
Channel entrance inside WP	13,°51'.290 S	172,°7'.489 W

The minimum depth we recorded was 3.3 mts.

There is also an entrance on the north side to the east of Nu'ulopa Isle, reportedly with good depths.

### Anchorage:

Once inside the lagoon the bottom seemed very flat sand and weed. Depths from 3.3 to 2.7. mts. We anchored off the white church with the blue roof, in 3.0 mts.

WP 13,°51'.23 S      172,°7'.23 W.

On our next visit @ WP 13,°50'.98 S      172,°7'.17 W in 2.1 mts, closer to the beach, the holding was good.

All the lagoon around Manono is navigable by shoal drafted vessel.

### Dinghy Access:

The locals came and visited, then invited us to come ashore, at the yellow fale village, white sand beach, easy access. Any other beaches appeared ok, and not prone to much swell.

### Ashore:

On our first arrival we visited the Matai, his name is Tui, we were keen to have a BBQ on Nu'ulofa Isle the next day and as is custom we paid to allow us to enjoy a family day in a very special place, we found coconut crabs and had an adventure.

There is a great walk around Manono, it is pristine, no dogs, no garbage, no cars. Takes a couple of hours, a few hole in the wall family style shops and one more modern, (Lady Elizabeth). There is a couple of low key resorts offering menu, but when we were there most were closed.

Pretty much the most laid back part of Samoa we have visited so far.

### Cartography:

Electronic navigation is useless at Manono.

### Tide Datum:

All depths given are worked on zero tide at Mulifauna Harbour.

A safe comfortable anchorage, well worth a day or two.



# Savai'i Island.

The Big Island:

Lies to the North West of Upolu. Savai'i is a lush tropical volcanic island rising majestically from the sea, looking almost jurassic particularity from it's South Coast.

By land it is circumnavigated by a ring road, approx 200 klms around the island, upon or close by which most of its population live. The people of Savai'i are welcoming and friendly still retaining their traditional culture and lifestyle.

We found Savai'i to be one of the most beautiful islands we have ever visited, well manicured, relatively garbage free with splashes of Caribbean like colours in the architure and an amazingly stunning variety of technicolour flora continually morphing around every corner and in every village.

Asau Harbour offers the best protection of all the anchorages in Samoa. All anchorages are beautiful in the right conditions, we were made welcome everywhere we went and never humbugged.

Please, leave some time to enjoy this beautiful place. A road trip around Savai'i should not be missed and the boat trip is even better!





## Salelologa Harbour: Savai'i Island.

Salelologa Harbour is the main commercial and transit centre for Savai'i. It is located on the SE corner of the island and the harbour is deep within the fringing reef. Offering good calms in most conditions, however due to the frequency of the ferries expect some wash.

There are many bommies and anchorage should be only taken here in good light, finding suitable swing room can be an issue.

### Approaches:

Approach from the SE keeping a good watch in favourable conditions, the channel is marked and well used.

Clear water waypoint: 13<sup>0</sup>.45'.56 S 172<sup>0</sup>.12'.13 W

WP 1: 13<sup>0</sup>.45'.297 S 172<sup>0</sup>.12'.631 W

WP 2: 13<sup>0</sup>.45'.067 S 172<sup>0</sup>.12'.778 W

WP 3: 13<sup>0</sup>.44'.865 S 172<sup>0</sup>.12'.853 W

WP 4: 13<sup>0</sup>.44'.769 S 172<sup>0</sup>.12'.945 W

Outside the channel the depths vary and there are plenty of bommies.

### Anchorage:

Can be carefully found anywhere clear of the channel, the port side seems to have more suitable choices.

### Dinghy Access:

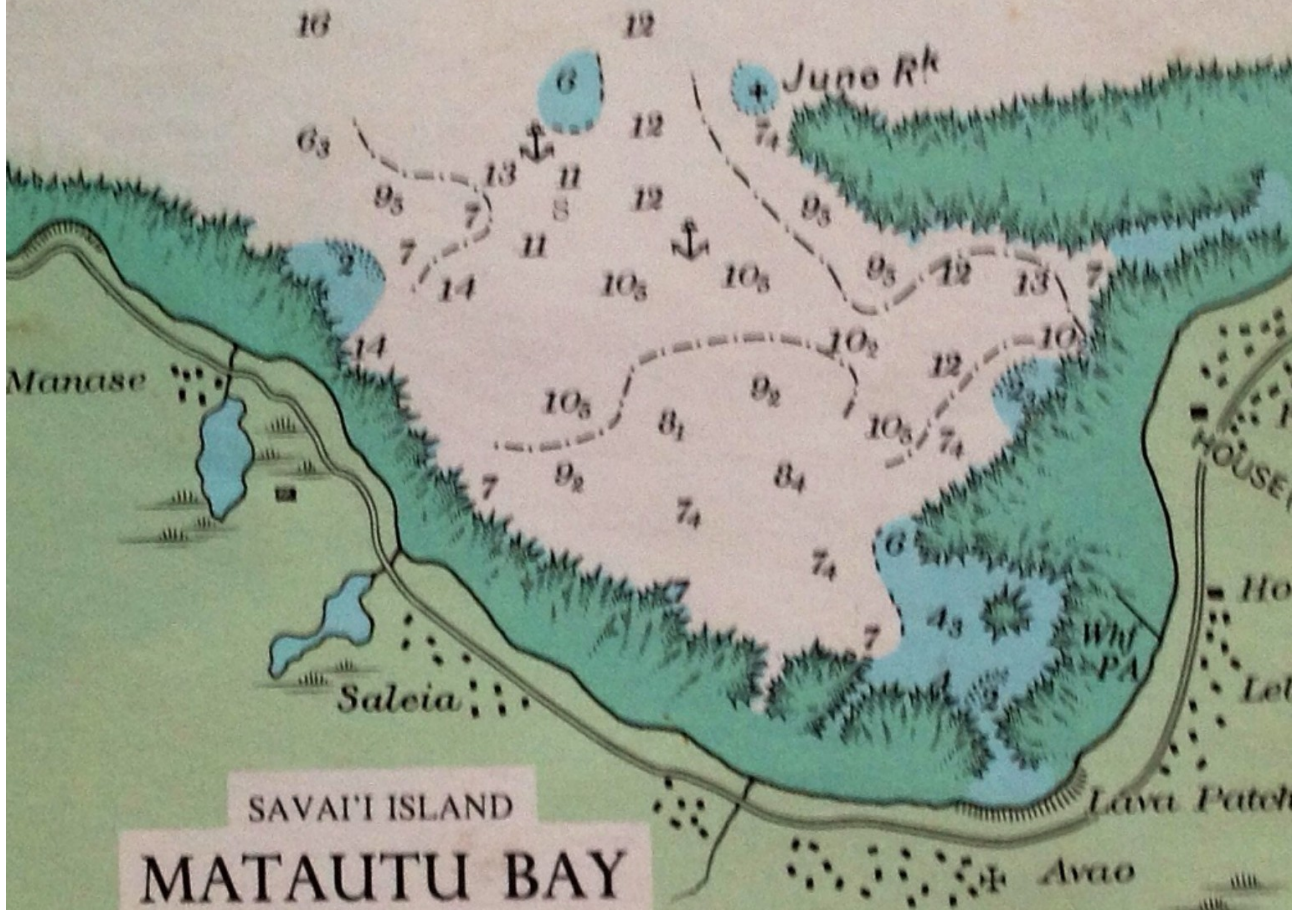
Rocky corner of the little bay near Bluebird Hardware store, adjacent to the pink shop.

### Ashore:

The village of Salelologa has a variety of businesses, restaurants, hotels, bank, travel agents, hire services, however it is quite spread out. There is a large produce and general market adjacent to Frankie's supermarket about 10 mins taxi ride from the wharf. At the ferry wharf there is a handfull of take aways, basic needs stalls. The blue appliance repair shop has very good fish and chips!

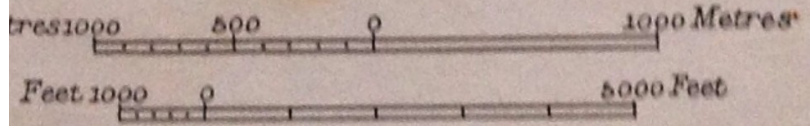
Petrol, diesel & LPG are also available, again 10 mins taxi ride.

The best provinising on Savai'i, but clearly not the most convenient anchorage. The ferry trip back to Mulifunua is \$12 ST per person and takes 2 hours.



SAVAI'I ISLAND  
**MATAUTU BAY**

From the German Government Chart of 1912  
with additions and corrections to 1987.  
Magnetic Variation: 12° 05' E 1994 (1' W)  
Natural Scale 1:50 000  
Projection—Gnomonic



### **Matautu Bay: Savai'i Island.**

Matautu Bay is located just around the NE coast of Savai'i Island, it offers good protection from all directions except North.

The bay once inside, is wide and free of obstructions, there is a river entrance in the SE corner. There is fringing reef around almost the entire bay, behind which there are many white sand beaches, the snorkling and diving is excellent as the water is very clear.

#### Approaches:

Approach from the north leaving Juno Rock to port. The reef edge is well defined. Entrance Waypoint: 13,°26'.08 S 172,°22'.33 W

#### Anchorage:

Once inside the bay we tracked SSE towards the river, the bottom shoaled gradually. ⚓ Waypoint: 13,°26'.6 S 172,°21'.9 W

In 13 mts of water with a sand bottom. Holding was good.

#### Dinghy Access:

We went ashore to the Le Lagoto Resort in the NE corner of the bay. They have a marked channel of sorts through the reef. The water is very clear and judging depths can be difficult. From NW of resort looking SE we lined the telegraph pole with the apex of the steep gabled roof, then as you approach there are floating markers, keep them to the starboard side on entry.

We went ashore at the west end of the beach outside the pool bar area, the restaurant is to the left.

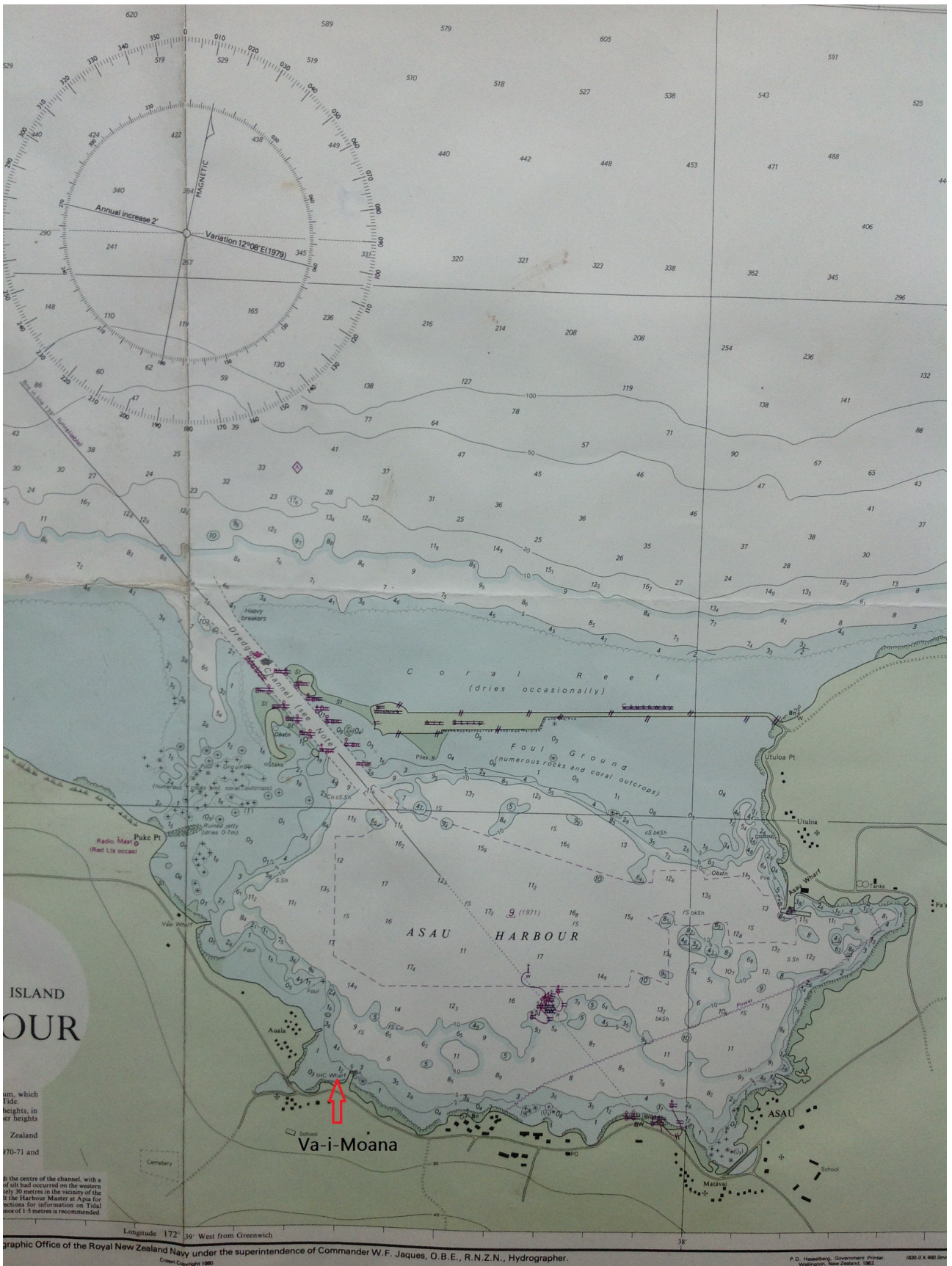
There is also a small channel through the reef at river entrance.

#### Ashore:

Matautu Bay is ringed by traditional style fale villages. From East to West Safai, Satoalepai, Fagamalo, Lelepa, Avao, then Manase. The Le Lagoto Resort is in Fagamalo. The staff at Le Lagoto Resort were very friendly and welcoming and offered us use of the facilities. Also available is hire cars and Seti is a tour guide, he has many wonderful stories to tell about Savai'i..

It is convenient as outside the front, across the road is a well regarded Pizza shop, small supermarket & Padi Dive. To the west of the river channel is a small take away shop. Further around in Lelepa is a garage with diesel, petrol & LPG, ATM.

Between here and Asau Bay, near the village of Samauga, there appears to be a deep channel into a large lagoon. We did not survey this potential anchorage by sea.





### **Asau Harbour: Savai'i Island.**

Asau Harbour lies on the NW end of Savai'i Island. It is a large, deep very protected harbour with plenty of choices of anchorages once inside.

#### Approaches:

The entrance to Asau Harbour is not particularly well defined. From seaward caution needs to be used when entering. If the swell is from the North or NW and made, then this one is best avoided. In good light and good conditions, with good eyeballs, the aid of a GPS, the entrance is easily doable.

Caution: all the electronic charts we had were wrong with the passage location! The waypoints we used were;

Seaward Waypoint.    13,°29'.778 S    172,°39'.528 W

Inside Waypoint.     13,°30'.477 S    172,°38'.931 W

These worked for us and seemed accurate for the channel.

We approached from the NE, followed the reef edge until the breakers on the NE corner became obvious, we favoured the Eastern side of the passage, it looks less shoal. The minimum depth we experienced was 2.5 mts. There were some sticks at the inner end on the port side. If you want assistance call Va-i-moana Seaside Lodge on ph 58140 and they can assist.

#### Anchorage:

Once inside the harbour opens up, there are some reef shoal areas, see chart.

We anchored near the outer island @ WP 13,°30'.39 S    172,°38'.88 W

then nearer the village @ WP 13,°30'.82 S    172,°38'.97 W

With permission from Apia Port Authority it is possible to use the Asau wharf. We consider this is our best cyclone hole in Samoa. The shoal to the SW of the wharf had 2 small lit beacons on it when we were there.

#### Ashore:

Asau village has very little in the way of supplies, the village is very quiet with only 1 shop on the waterfront.

The Va-i-Moana Seaside Lodge is a very yacht friendly establishment, not only will they offer assistance with channel entry, phone first and can monitor VHF 16, dinghy landing on small jetty near beach, they offer full use of the bar & restaurant facility, they also have activities including coco tours, village walks, umu's, school visits, bike hire, fishing trips, and can organise car hire. They can also arrange local produce delivery.

The proprietor Salemoa has been looking after visiting yachts for many years.

A great spot to stop and prepare for the next long leg.



### Falealupo Road: Savai'i Island.

As the name suggests this is an open roadstead anchorage. Situated on the very NW tip of Savai'i, just south of Cape Vaitoloa. Conditions need to be very good to enjoy a comfortable stay here. The beaches are steep to sand and coral gravel and the swell seems to wrap into the small bay.

#### Anchorage:

Approach from the west clear water WP 13,°30'.296 S      172,°47'.84 W

We surveyed the bay, the bottom is uneven reef with some patches of sand and coral gravel. The best anchorage available at the time was at WP 13,°30'.42 S    172,°47'.85 W

The water here is very clear.

A dinghy landing here could be very challenging.

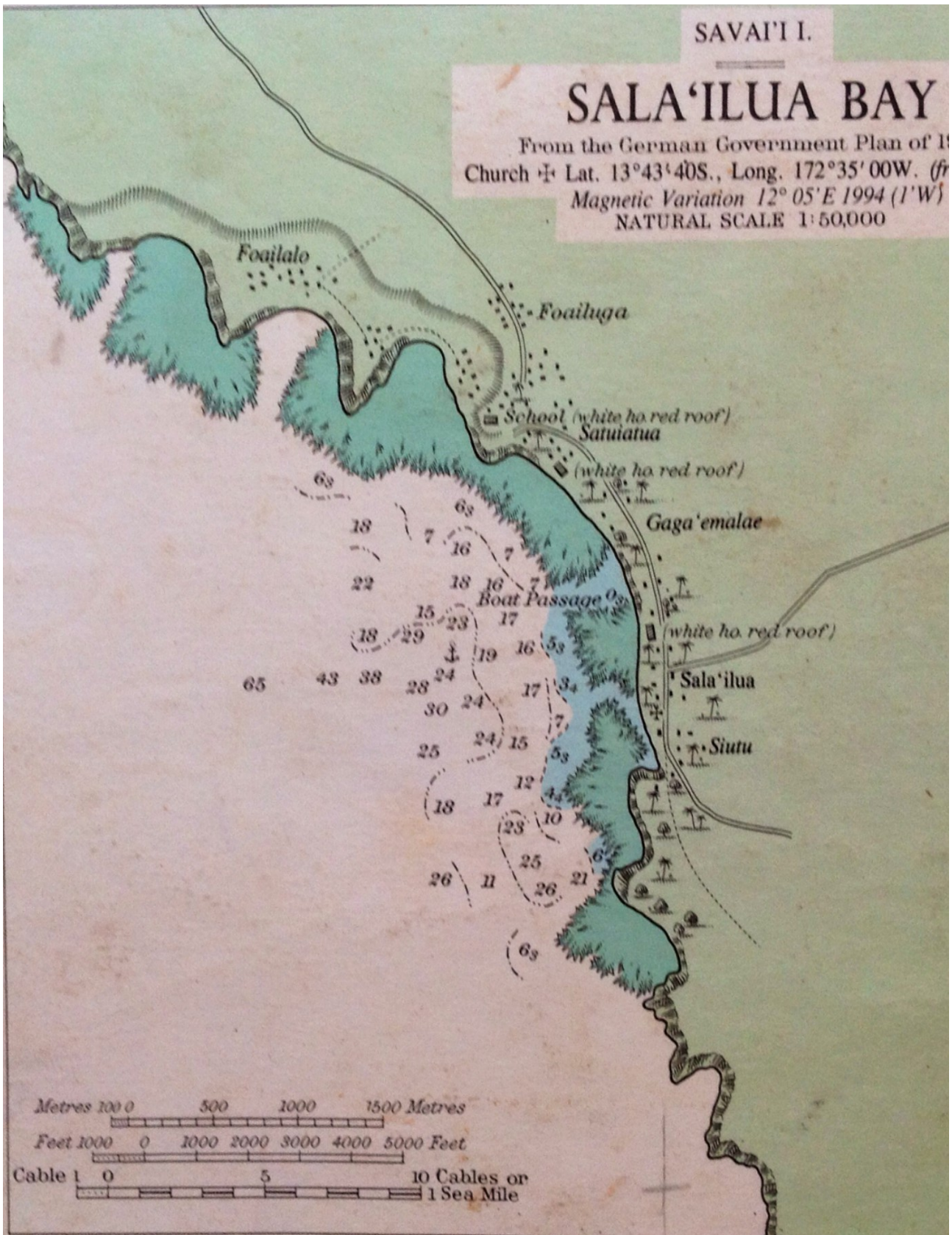
We were told there is a legend about this place; there are big footprints on the rocks here, this is the place where Moso, the original Samon first landed, stepping from Fiji after trying to catch a ball on the water. We visited the village and saw the footprint.

There is a beautiful fale resort with bar and restaurant, not open when we were there, and no other facilities available in a very sparsely populated corner of Savai'i.

The coast from here south is impressive. There is deep water quite close in nearly all the way to Sala'ilua Bay. Mostly lush overgrown cliff faces with indents, bat caves and waterfalls. Very surreal and prehistoric.



Moso's footprint.



### **Sala'ilua Bay: Savai'i Island.**

Sala'ilua Bay lies to two thirds the way between Cape Mulinuu and Cape Asuisui on the west side of Savai'i. It is an open roadstead anchorage which enjoys a better lee than one would imagine, in moderate SE conditions, we found this anchorage quite comfortable. Although very exposed from NW through to South.

#### Approach:

From West the reef edge is well defined in good light.

Clear water WP: 13,°43'.00 S      172,°37'.00 W.

We anchored off the white church with the red roof.

Anchorage WP: 13,°43'.09 S 172,°35'.97 W in about 18 mts on sand. There were deep patches of sand between shallower coral, the pick held well and the water was gin clear. In 20 knots of SE breeze we experienced only a gentle roll.

#### Getting ashore:

There is a small boat channel through the reef, its entrance is approximately WP. 13,°42'.915 S      172,°36'.013 W

You will see leads in line, red and white posts next to the west end of a shed on the beach with a silver iron roof.

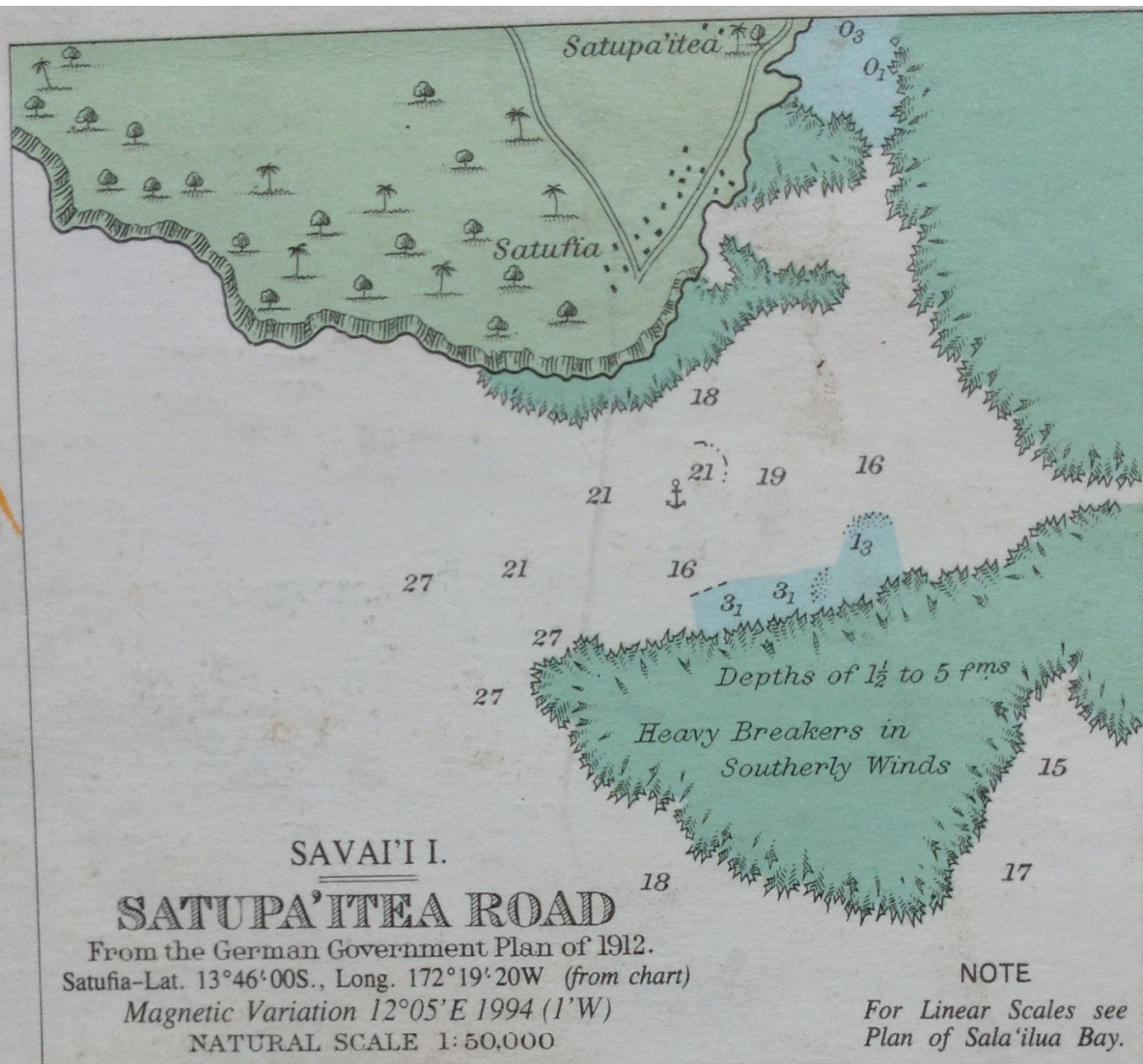
Small fishing boats are moored along the beach nearby. The shoreline here is rocky and a stern anchor would help. About 500 mts north up the beach is the Satuiatua Beach Resort, here you will find fales on a lovely white sand beach. You are welcome to tie your dinghy here and of course use the bar and restaurant if you desire.

#### Ashore:

Basic supplies can be had in the shop south about 200 mts, there is a better selection at the shop further south, about 2 kms, near the green church.

The water is very clear and the snorkling and diving is good. There is a surf break near the dinghy channel and board hire is available. Car hire can be arranged. At the Satuiatua Beach Resort moderately priced fales are available and SC units. The home cooked food is delicious.

The coast line from here to around Cape Asuisui is festooned with hundreds of blowholes, as the water is deep close in you can get a good look at these lava tubes projectile vomiting water at mad angles and heights with accompanying acoustic moans and sighs. Particulary from Fagoloa to Taga. Further along the coast the view to the north is spectacular looking up into the culdera which is the heart of Savai'i, green lush jungle, waterfalls and core remnants of a massive extinct volcano.



**Tidal Levels referred to Datum of Soundings**

Place	Lat S	Long W	Heights in feet above datum			
			MHWS	MHWN	MLWN	MLWS
Tau Island—Faleasao Bay	14° 14'	169° 32'	4.3	3.3	0.3	-0.3
Tutuila Island—Pago Pago						
Harbour	14 17	170 41	2.9	2.5	0.5	0.1
Leone Bay	14 20	170 47	3.3	-	-	-
Upolu Island—Mulifanua	13 49	172 02	3.5	2.7	0.8	0.1
Apia	13 49	171 46	3.2	2.5	0.7	0.0
Saluafata	13 52	171 37	3.4	2.7	0.7	0.0
Fagaloa Bay	13 55	171 30	3.0	-	-	-
Savai'i Island—Asau Harbour	13 30	172 38	3.5	3.0	0.8	0.2

## Satupa'itea Road: Savai'i Island.

Satufia village is on the south end of this point is a close to Satupa'itea as we could get by boat. A fair amount of new coral has grown here since this chart was created in 1912. This anchorage has a good lea from east through north to west, but it challenging to find a coral free spot to ditch the pick with swing room.

### Approach:

Luckily the water here is clear, as a good lookout is necessary. We found deep water from the west close to the coast and followed the fringing reef on our port side into the anchorage. The reef shown on the chart extends much further west and we did not find any passage north to Satupa'itea.

Anchorage: Off the village in 18 mts in the deep sand patches.

WP. 13,°46'.63 S      172,°19'.61 W

### Getting Ashore:

There is a dinghy channel marked by white sticks with red flags, keep to port. A rocky shore adjacent to a green house with a cook fale on one side and a sitting fale on the other, across the road is a yellow church with a star on the gable.

### Ashore:

Lupe and Rard, young ladies who live in the green house, with the rest of the family are keen to meet and assist any yachtie, they have a tribe of kids and speak excellant English.

The village itself is very traditional, it has a large college, the 'Vesilana Technical School'. We saw only 1 small family shop.





'Outsider Australia'  
Vavau Blue Water Festival  
October 2014.