

Wednesday, 26th May 2006



To all paddlers of Samoan Descent

Dear Gentlemen,

As you may all know, Pineula Sports, although in harmony and welcoming of all our neighbouring Pacific cultures, is and has always been at its core a Samoan based entity. This does not in any way mean that it is a club for Samoans only as this is very far from the truth as our membership roster will easily attest to. No, what our ultimate focus is, is to cultivate a sporting environment for New Zealand based Samoans and all their New Zealand neighbours utilising training systems, techniques, combatative mindsets and competitive philosophies endorsed by us or those that we have developed over a reasonably illustrious and enduring history in canoeing and sports in general.

That said, it is perhaps pertinent in this, a World Sprint Championship year, to again acknowledge Pineula Sputnik (Jaffray Ah Kuoi, Peter Williams, Brent Whitcombe, Ray Tonkin, Gavin Clark, Martin Helluer and Grant Bliss) for their world renowned achievement of not only being the current reigning World 500M Open Men's Champions but also the current World Record Holders in that distance. Unfortunately due to personal circumstances most of the team are unable to attend this year's event and as such will not be there to defend their title. Those that are attending with new teams under other club colours have not only our support but our best wishes for their campaigns.

Finally, to the matter at hand. Through our association with Samoa, an opportunity has arisen that will allow a select number of paddlers of Samoan descent living in New Zealand to paddle for Samoa through a sister-club relationship between Pineula Sports and Pualele Outrigger Canoe Club, based in Apia, Samoa. If there is enough interest, the President of Pualele, Fred Puni and the writer have formulated a plan to achieve this and the key points are as follows:

1. There are 2 x W6 Open Men's slots available (pending trials and assessments) for us to fill through Samoa.
2. There are 2 x W1 Open Men's slots available (pending trials and assessments) for us to fill through Samoa.
3. Those selected (pending trials and assessments) on the New Zealand side will be given Pineula memberships and will follow an intensive training program starting immediately, leading all the way through to the August event.
4. Paddlers will be responsible for 100% of their own costs in attending the Worlds.
5. We will be looking at the same squad to represent Samoa at the next South Pacific Games.
6. All teams / paddlers selected and go on to Worlds will be doing so under Pualele Outrigger Canoe Club of Samoa (Pineula Sports is still and always will be a New Zealand based entity and therefore come under NKOA governance).
7. Final selection will be by the writer and Fred Puni.

If you are interested and you meet the criteria contact me now:

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Yours faithfully,

Josef Tomasi

President

PINEULASports

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For the pursuit of excellence