



Judges Association of New Zealand
TE HUNGA KAIWHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

**Auckland, New Zealand,
28 January 2022**

The year is ripe with the promise of new and better things to come for our New Zealand members.

That joy and sense of promise was blunted by the Tonga tsunami. A ghastly event for our Tongan heritage judges and lawyers, especially as they found communication with family so difficult in those early days. JANZ holds a very special place in our hearts and constitution for Pacific judges, and so I reached out to their Chief Justice with our kind thoughts and support.

I lived in Tonga, at Haatafu, around 2008 while assisting in the devolution of the monarchy into a democracy. The scale of the disaster can be seen from the photographs below.

These early days of rapid disaster relief will drift into the longer and more difficult task of rebuilding homes and communities and infrastructure. JANZ plans to work with the Pacific Lawyers Association to provide long-term support to the judges, lawyers, and law students of Tonga. We also encourage our regional and international association to assist. I would very much appreciate a message of support from both the IAJ and ANAO. As communication with Tonga is so poor at present may I suggest you send any email to the Chief Justice through me and I will ensure its delivery.

In relation to general assistance for Tonga there are various international organisations that are seeking donations. The details for donations can be found on their respective websites: **Red Cross, Caritas NZ, Oxfam, UNICEF and TearFund.**

Do keep Tonga in your thoughts and prayers.

Mālō 'aupito,
Nāku noa,
Kind regards

**Judge Gerard Winter
President J.A.N.Z.
Te Hunga Kaiwhakawa o Aotearoa
Judges Association of New Zealand**

Ha'atafu Beach directly in front of the surf resort (2019)



Vakaloa is along Hataafu beach, it is now completely destroyed.



The nearby Haatafu coastline before and after the tsunami

