



THE FOAGA FILES

A COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SAMOA
CENTRE FOR SAMOAN STUDIES

WHAT ARE THE FOAGA FILES?

HERE AT THE CENTRE FOR SAMOAN STUDIES (CSS), WE WANT TO WORK WITH THE PUBLIC TO RECORD AND PRESERVE ANY KNOWLEDGE ON FOAGA AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!

THE FOAGA FILES IS A COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT ENCOURAGING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO DOCUMENT FOAGA FOUND IN THEIR VILLAGES.

IF YOU FIND A FOAGA, YOU CAN SHARE YOUR DISCOVERY WITH OUR FOAGA FILES TEAM, AND WE WILL DISPATCH A TRAINED ARCHAEOLOGIST (AND ARCHAEOLOGISTS IN TRAINING) TO DOCUMENT THE FOAGA AND COLLECT ANY SCIENTIFIC AND ETHNOGRAPHIC DATA.

ALL OF THE DATA GENERATED FROM THIS PROJECT WILL BE ENTERED INTO UTU: NATIONAL SAMOAN ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE DATABASE, AND USED ONLY FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT WILL BE MADE TO YOU, AS THE INTREPID DISCOVERER OF THE FOAGA, AS WELL AS THE LANDOWNERS, FAMILY AND VILLAGE WHERE THE FOAGA IS LOCATED, IN UTU, AND ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS.

WHAT IS A FOAGA?

A FOAGA IS A GRINDING STONE USED IN PRE-CONTACT TIMES BY INDUSTRIOUS SAMOANS FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS. FOAGA WERE USED TO SHARPEN STONE AND WOODEN TOOLS LIKE TO'I MA'A OR FISHING SPEARS, OR POUND AVA FOR DRINKING, OR EVEN GRIND PLANTS AND FLOWERS USED IN THE MAKING OF DRINKS AND MEDICINES.

FOAGA COULD ALSO HAVE BEEN USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES THAT WE ARE YET TO DISCOVER - THAT'S WHY WE NEED YOUR HELP!

WHY ARE FOAGA IMPORTANT TO SAMOANS?

FOAGA WERE USED FOR MANY DIFFERENT PURPOSES RELATED TO SAMOAN CULTURE, SOCIETY AND HISTORY. FROM TOOL MAKING TO WARFARE TO MATERIAL CULTURE - FOAGA ARE A GREAT WAY TO RESEARCH HOW OUR ANCESTORS DEVELOPED TECHNOLOGY LONG BEFORE EUROPEAN FOREIGNERS ARRIVED AND BROUGHT METAL TO OUR ISLANDS.

THIS PROJECT WILL HELP OUR TEAM, AND OUR STUDENTS, LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE PRACTICES AND, IF WE WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN COLLECTIVELY PRESERVE THIS KNOWLEDGE FOR THE FUTURE.

IT'S A WIN-WIN SITUATION FOR ALL OF US!

WHO MANAGES THE FOAGA FILES?

HEADING UP THE FOAGA FILES TEAM IS TA'ATIA UNOI.

TA'ATIA IS A CSS RESEARCH ASSISTANT PURSUING HIS POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SAMOAN STUDIES, WITH AN EMPHASIS IN ARCHAEOLOGY. TA'ATIA IS THE PRIMARY CONTACT FOR THE FOAGA FILES AND HE WILL BE MAINTAINING THE FOAGA DATABASE AND COORDINATING COMMUNITY SITE VISITS.



HERE IS TIA ON A RECENT SITE VISIT TO DOCUMENT A FOAGA IN SALEIMOA. EXCITING!



WHERE WOULD I FIND A FOAGA?

YOU MIGHT FIND A FOAGA NEAR A RIVER OR WATER SOURCE, BECAUSE IN ORDER TO SHARPEN TOOLS USING A FOAGA, YOU NEEDED WATER.

OR, YOU MIGHT FIND FOAGA NEAR A ROCK QUARRY, WHERE PEOPLE WOULD SOURCE STONE FOR TOOLS OR OTHER IMPLEMENTS.

BUT IN ACTUALITY, YOU COULD FIND A FOAGA ANYWHERE WHERE SAMOANS HAVE LIVED. THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS!

WHAT DO I DO IF I FIND A FOAGA?

1

TAKE A PICTURE OF THE FOAGA WITH YOUR SMART PHONE. THIS AUTOMATICALLY RECORDS THE GPS LOCATION OF THE FOAGA, MAKING IT EASIER TO MAP AND DOCUMENT.

2

SEND THE PICTURE TO OUR FOAGA FILES TEAM. YOU CAN EMAIL IT TO US OR MESSAGE IT TO US VIA FB MESSENGER. ALL OF OUR CONTACT DETAILS ARE BELOW.

3

THE FOAGA FILES TEAM WILL CONTACT YOU WITHIN 24 HOURS TO ARRANGE A SITE VISIT.

4

OUR TEAM WILL VISIT AND RECORD THE FOAGA ALONG WITH ANY HISTORICAL INFORMATION YOU ARE WILLING TO SHARE WITH US

5

YOUR FOAGA DATA WILL BE LOADED INTO UTU AND OUR TEAM WILL POST YOUR DISCOVERY ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA, ACKNOWLEDGING YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND VILLAGE

6

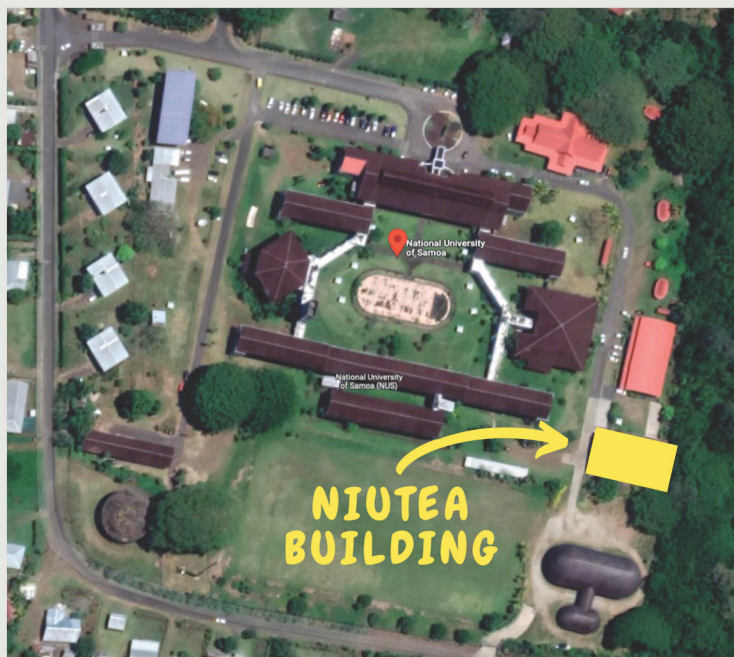
YOUR FOAGA BECOMES PART OF A GROWING SAMOAN FOAGA DATABASE!

HOW DO I CONTACT THE FOAGA FILES TEAM?

DROP BY OUR OFFICE:

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SAMOA
CENTRE FOR SAMOAN STUDIES
ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE DEPARTMENT
NIUTEA BUILDING
LE PAPAIGALGALA CAMPUS
TO'OMATAGI**

OFFICE HOURS ARE MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 9AM TO 4PM



YOU CAN ALSO CALL, EMAIL AND FIND US ON FACEBOOK OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO:



20072 X209



FOAGAFILES@GMAIL.COM



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CENTREFOR SAMOANSTUDIES



WWW.SAMOANSTUDIES.WS/ACH



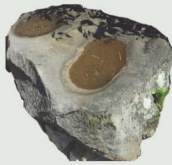
SAMOAN FOAGA CITATIONS



**LOCATION - FALETAGALOA, SAVAI'I
RECORDED - ALISTAIR BUIST, 1966 (IN ROGER
GREEN AND JANET DAVIDSON 1969)**



**LOCATION - MATAVAI, SAVAI'I
RECORDED - ROGER GREEN AND JANET
DAVIDSON, 1969**



**LOCATION - SALEIMOA, UPOLU
OWNERS - COOK FAMILY
RECORDED - FOAGA FILES TEAM, 2022**



**LOCATION - AVAO, SAVAI'I
RECORDED - ALISTAIR BUIST, 1967 (IN ROGER
GREEN AND JANET DAVIDSON 1969)**



**LOCATION - MOAMOA, UPOLU
FOUND - DICKIE NANSEN, 2013
RECORDED - ETHAN COCHRANE AND DIONNE
FONOTI, 2013**



**LOCATION - FALETAGALOA, SAVAI'I
RECORDED - ALISTAIR BUIST, 1966 (IN ROGER
GREEN AND JANET DAVIDSON 1969)**



**LOCATION - VAI'AISA SPRING POOL, NONO'A,
SALEIMOA, UPOLU
RECORDED - FOAGA FILES TEAM, 2022**



**LOCATION - SALEIMOA, UPOLU
OWNERS - COOK FAMILY
RECORDED - FOAGA FILES TEAM, 2022**