



TMC MARINE  
A BUREAU VERITAS GROUP COMPANY



NAVAL ARCHITECTURE • MARINE OPERATIONS • ENGINEERING • OFFSHORE

# Wrecks without reckoning - Keeping the gods appeased

## Operating in Oceania

Captain Roger C King (SCR)





## Roger C King - Master Mariner (SCR)

16 salvages and wreck removals

RENA, KEA TRADER, SOLOMON TRADER/DORIC CHARIOT, MAJORCA, SPD 13A Platform, CRYSTAL SEA, JODI F MILLENIUM,  
PORTLAND BAY



## History of Exploration (and Disaster)

- Balboa – 1513
- De Neira - 1568
- Drake – 1577
- De Quiros - 1606
- Tasman – 1642
- Roggeveen - 1721
- Wallis - 1766
- Bougainville - 1766
- d'Entrecasteaux - 1792



### Magellan - 1519

Crossed the Pacific. 1 ship out of 5 returned to Spain  
Killed by natives in the Philippines



### Dufresne - 1772

Voyages in search of the Southern Continent  
Killed by Maoris in New Zealand



### Cook - 1779

3 Expeditions to the Pacific  
Killed by Natives in Hawaii



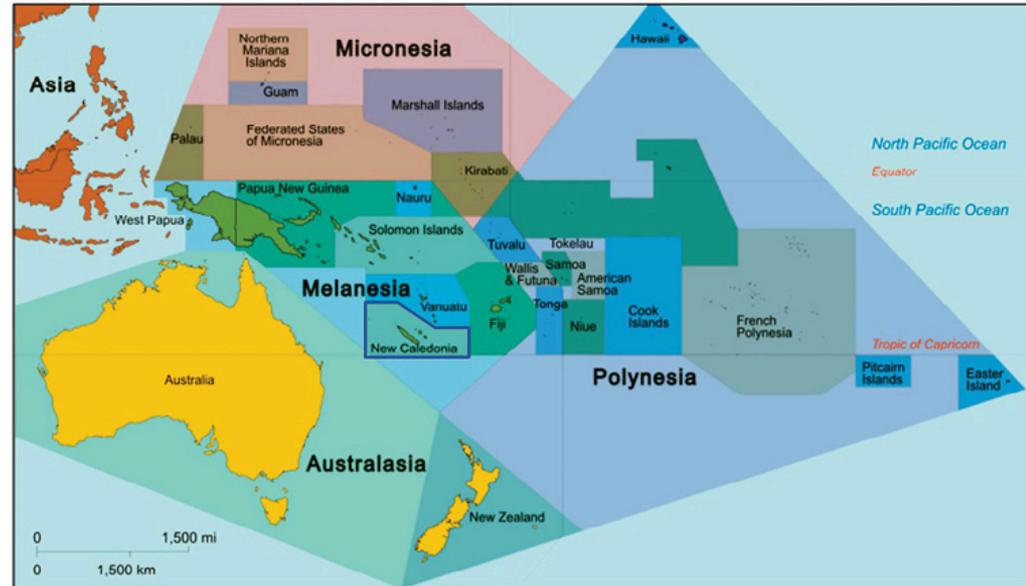
### La Perouse – 1788

2 vessels wrecked by a cyclone  
Perished in the Solomon Islands



## Oceania Region

- Australasia, Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia
- Australian West Coast to Pitcairn Islands
- Northern Marianas to Macquarie Island and NZ sub-Antarctic Islands
- 40,500,000 inhabitants





## Pacific Islands and Reefs

- Indigenous populations
- Affinity with nature
- Maritime / subsistence cultures
- Sensitive environments (ecosystems)
- Complex geo-political landscapes
- History of colonialism
- Marine casualties present as a serious disturbance to life and offence to nature



## Weather

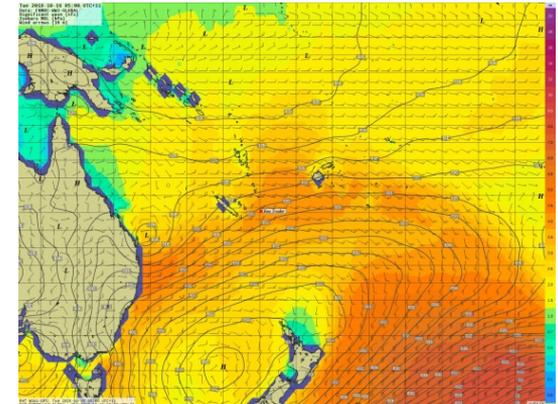
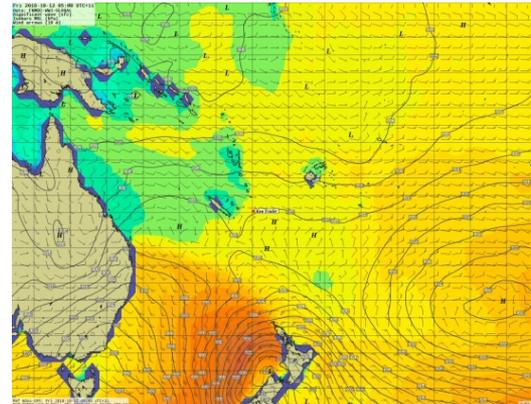
### Cyclones – November through April

- ✓ Categories 1 to 5 (Gusts to 151 knots)
- ✓ Cyclone contingency plans essential
- ✓ Expert meteorological service

### Southern Ocean Swells and Winter Trade Winds

West Tasman Sea low pressure systems

Southern Ocean high Pressure Systems





# Salvage and Wreck Removal in Oceania

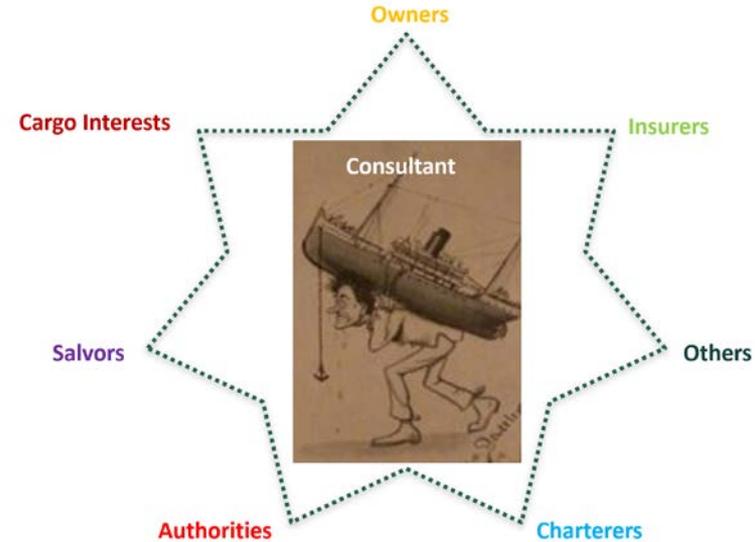
## Normal Considerations For Any Successful Salvage Or Wreck Removal

- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Technical
- ✓ Operational
- ✓ Logistical



## Oceania Focus For Wellbeing

- ✓ Social
- ✓ Economic
- ✓ Environmental
- ✓ Cultural





## Social and Economic



- Political environment.
- Environmental interests and activists.
- General population.
- Community champions.



- Economic impacts.
- Effects on Livelihoods.
- Environmental clean up.
- Business interests (exploitation?).
- Controls or regulations – absence of
- Corruption!



## Environmental

### UNESCO World Heritage Areas

Australia's Great Barrier Reef

New Caledonia's Grande Lagoon

New Zealand's Fiordland

Lord Howe Island

Tasmanian South West

Macquarie Island

Solomon Islands – Rennell

Island's Lake Tegano

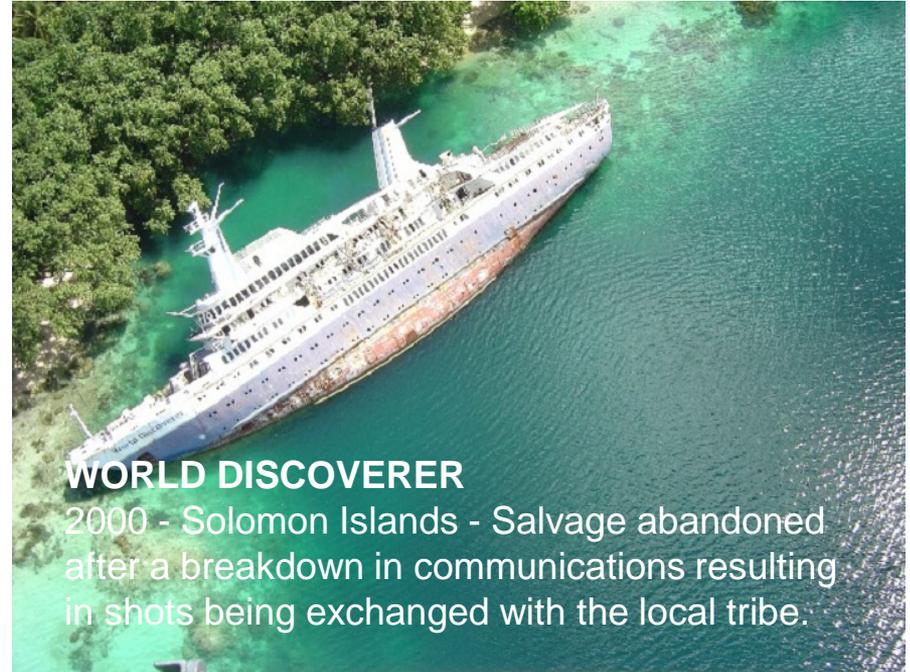
New Zealand's sub-Antarctic

Islands

SOLOMON TRADER – Vessel grounded in a gale. A significant HFO spill occurred when the casualty degraded during an unforecast cyclone – Oma.

## Cultural

- Varying social structures between cultures.
- Territory, National and Local governments;
- Tribal existence - Government is not necessarily the recognised authority.
- It is essential to determine where the seat of power lies and engage at the highest level early in the response.
- **Polynesia / Māori:**
  - **Rangatira ki te rangatira** (chief to chief).
  - **Kanohi ki te kanohi** (face to face).
  - **Kaitiaki-tanga** (guardianship)
- **Melanesia**
  - Tribal = Chief / Village Counsellor / Clans / Landowners (including reef ownership).





## Community Engagement & Public Information Management





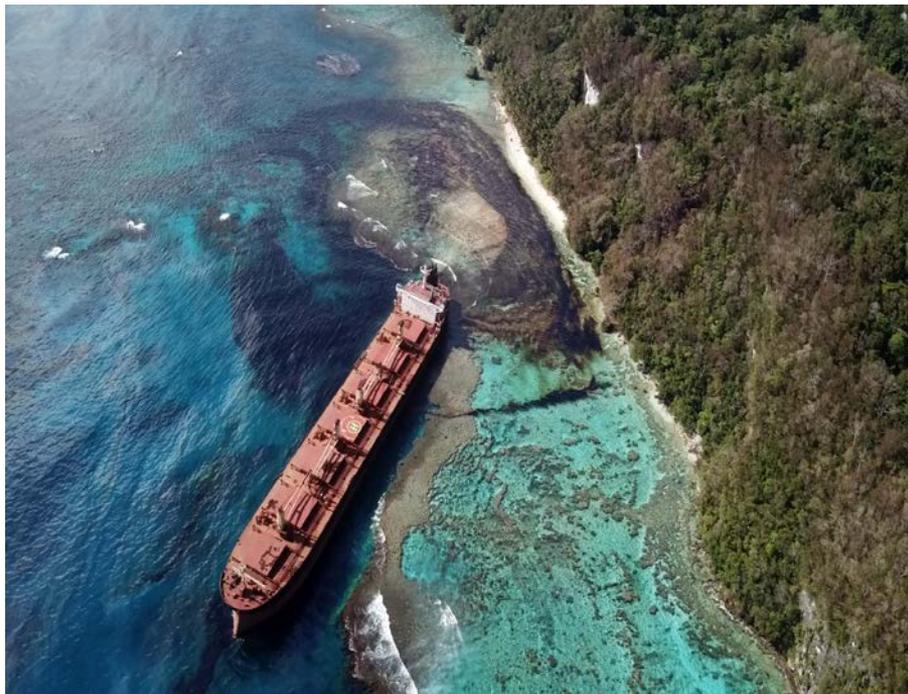
## RENA – Textbook Cultural Relations

- Oil pollution / Flotsam / Seabed debris / ship wreckage
- Damaged to Mauri (life force) / failed kaitiakitanga (cultural offense) / anger!
- Whilst salvage and clean up operations progressed the **RENA Project Control Group (PCG)** was formed.
- Legal, Resource Management Act Consultants, Communications & Cultural Experts and TMC comprised the team under the Owners management with insurers support
- Lessons learnt were successfully applied to KEA TRADER and SOLOMON TRADER by TMC





## SOLOMON TRADER – Remote Island Response





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## Larceny Control and Public Safety



## Rennell Island Infrastructure

Mining port operations  
No controls of any description



« Internet café » – 1 mb emails  
Limited communications



Lavanggu Village  
Chiefs son's wedding





## Environmental, Social And Governance Failures

- The coastal state's legal and infrastructure framework can have a large bearing on the outcome
- Abandoned wrecks are left on too many reefs and in harbours – owners walking away from their responsibilities
- Nations (even resourced ones) are often unable to pursue unresponsive, recalcitrant owners who have:
  - No P and I cover
  - Weak P and I cover
  - No interest in the environment





## Solutions?

- Reinforce Coastal State's wreck removal legal powers – like Niue;
- Strengthen Port State Control standards – training and support;
- Mandate reputable P and I cover for all vessels trading or fishing in the Pacific;
- Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) introduce a levy on vessels participating in or supporting the fishery as most of the wrecks being abandoned are associated with this fishery.
- Know thy neighbour, engage with them and appease their gods.





What will you do on the day of reckoning,  
When disaster comes from afar?  
To whom will you run for help?  
Where will you leave your riches?

Isaiah 10:3

TMC Marine 24:7