Yann and Helena, SV Alcyone, arrived in Suva during the weekend. They were familiar with Fiji clearance procedures having previously arrived in Savu Savu and Lautoka . They knew about the steep weekend costs for checking in. Working through the Royal Suva Yacht Club they were able to wait with their Q flag flying until Monday. Here is their story.

**We arrived on Saturday morning** and asked help of RSYC for all the process; (ch 16 then 17) who asked us if we prefer to wait for Monday or to be cleared immediately with overcharge...we chose first solution; A nasty wreck (long, with a simple stake without light, and just above sea level) on the way to  RSYC justifies a wait until daylight to arrive if you don't have any waypoints.

**On Monday**, we have to be prepared not to be a priority...commercial vessels come first in SUVA except the Quarantine who came on board at 11h00. All the other officials (immigration, health and customs) arrived together at 15h30. "just after lunch"; they were all very nice and polite, just not in a hurry. The Biosecurity guy accepted nzd (65nz for 85f$). When they left the boat, it was too late to visit any administration, but not to get some cash and phone card down town through the RSYC; Nice, helpful ladies again in this old RSYC. If you are not sure to leave Suva in less than 3 days, getting a temporary member card for 1 member of family is the best (45 f$) as if not, dinghy dock is 10f$/day and showers 3f$/person.

**On Tuesday** --, we had to visit 3 offices in this order which gave us an interesting vision of Suva. The ‘procedure’ takes less than hour if you use the cheap taxis:

-1) The quarantine (first floor of a decaying building in the heights of Suva) to pay 163,5 f$, (10min if you come with exact change).

2) The magnificent Itaukei affairs board to get our cruising permit; in a beautiful park with free and quick delivery of the permit (all places). Obviously one of the best government administrations to work in Suva regarding the level of education of the staff including the impressive -in shape and education- guard (10min).

3) The rustic Customs office where you have to receive your local clearance after getting the cruising permit. Here again nice people in a very difficult building to work in.(20min inside including the punishment return walk along the fence from entrance to 1st floor office)

**As a summary here are the present costs to enter in Suva, Fiji dollars**

- Quarantine (to pay downtown), 163,5

- Biosecurity (possible to pay on board in nzd), 85

- Immigration (on board) 0

- Cruising permit to visit downtown 0

- Custom to visit downtown 0

- Yacht Club service to organise the boarding party, 60

- 4 Taxis (RSYC->Quarantine->Itaukei foreign->Customs->RSYC), 16

- Dinghy dock in RSYC, 10

TOTAL 334,5 if you don't get the RSYC membership.

and if you arrive on Saturday, you can't be sure to be cleared 100% before Tuesday...Welcome to Island Time!

Thanks Yann

And an update from Whistler who arrived in Savusavu.

Hi, I spoke to the manager at Waitui Marina and she said that if boat arrives on Saturday or Sunday, they are not forced to check-in until Monday. They must stay on board, but this is now sanctioned by Customs. They do not have to pay for overtime in Savusavu. Nice to hear. Margy