

Case Study – Apia Town Clock, Samoa



In July 2010 the Samoan government advised us that they were embarking on Daylight Savings for the first time and needed to have their national clock, in the centre of Apia, Samoa, functional for the occasion. Along with this request came a number of digital photographs outlining that the installation consisted of a derelict Turret clock mechanism, an electro mechanical mechanism which appeared to be in a poor state – probably from a power surge and a number of bells. The government requested we have the clock operational by the start of daylight savings in September – some 5 weeks away!

Tim flew out to Samoa and took with him a temporary mechanism – because time was short and it was required to be configured on site with little information beforehand as to which parts of the mechanism were operational.

In the 48 hours Tim was in Samoa he was able to install the temporary mechanism, configure to the existing equipment, have one of the bells sound the hours and most importantly, could affect remote access for adjustments thereafter. This visit enabled us to complete a full report to the Samoan Government and provide them with guidelines for the future management of the asset – including a complete restoration.



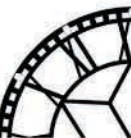


In January 2011, the Samoan government ordered a permanent upgrade to the timepiece. This new mechanism was installed in July 2011. The upgraded system is synchronised with the GPS system, chimes a full quarter Westminster chime and strikes the hours – they were eager to have to bells chime 24 x 7 (which rarely happens elsewhere these days). The bells can be played for civic and religious occasions and can be rung in a variety of ways from a keypad at the base of the tower. The equipment was designed to cope with the fluctuations to the Samoan power supply, over voltages and brown outs, by incorporating an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS).

- To listen to the bells go to:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rw2sleN2h7A>

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TOWER CLOCK SERVICES AUSTRALIA



PO Box 281, Wyong, NSW 2259
Email: enquiries@towerclock.com.au

Ph: 02 4353 7079 or 0427 312 334
www.towerclockservices.com.au