

2.0 ORTHOGRAPHY. The Rotokas language is spoken by approximately 4,200 people living in the Kieta Sub-District of Bougainville Island. There are three dialects which have been designated: Aita, Pipipaia, and Rotokas Proper. The orthography and majority of words are from the Rotokas Proper dialect.

In the Rotokas Proper dialect the following sounds are heard: *a, e, i, o, u, g, k, p, r, s, t, v*. The pronunciation of these sounds is as follows:

### 2.1 VOWELS.

- a* as in *father*
- e* as in *bed*
- i* as in *machine*
- o* as in *pole*
- u* as in *pool*

The long vowels: *aa, ee, ii, oo, and uu* are pronounced as single vowels but are held over a longer period of time.

### 2.2 CONSONANTS.

- g* as in *go* (In the middle of the word it is very soft.)
- k* as in *rocker*
- p* as in *pepper*
- r* is made by a quick tap of the tongue on the roof of the mouth, similar to a quick *d*. (It might be described as the sound in the word *very* as spoken by a precise Englishman.)
- s* as in *seal* (It often sounds more like *ts* and is always followed by the *i* sound.)
- t* as in *tape*
- v* as in *bat* (The lips are not completely closed.)