

Life Here

Ready to Rumble

WHEN IT'S TIME TO GIVE THANKS ON TONGA, STRAP ON THE BOXING GLOVES
BY ANDY ISAACSON



Put 'Em Up

The village of Felemea rarely sees visitors, and welcomed our group with songs and dances. Then these two women appeared — pretending to spar, to the delight of everyone. It felt like Tongan vaudeville.

Trading Shots

I visited with Seacology, a nonprofit that proposes win-win deals to islanders. In this case, Seacology renovated this village's community hall. In return, the villagers agreed to protect 368 acres of marine habitat.

Knockout Blow

I wasn't braced for their unconventional displays of gratitude. The woman on the left singled me out and faked a punch. I threw my head back. She landed two more. I hit the ground. We called her Tonga Tina.

