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TRADITIONAL MOTU CALENDAR

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JULIAN CALENDAR

- First instituted by Julius Caesar (46 BC)
- Used Egyptian calendar adopted by Ptolemy III in (238 BC)
- Consists of 365.25 days.
- Extra quarter days taken care of by having a leap year every 4 years.
- 1 year = 12 months. Year starts at January 1.

(Harper, 1998)



TRADITIONAL MOTU CALENDAR HAS 12 MONTHS

- Lagani ta = Hua gwauta-rua
- The modern day Julian calendar we use today corresponds fairly well with the traditional Motu calendar.



TRADITIONAL MOTU CALENDAR

Modern Calendar	Traditional Motu Calendar	Interpretation	
JANUARY	<i>Biria-Bada</i>		LAHARA
FEBRUARY	<i>Gui-raura</i>	<i>Sprouting of leaves</i>	
MARCH	<i>Goha</i>	<i>Flowering</i>	
APRIL	<i>Lailai</i>	<i>Clearing</i>	
MAY	<i>Daro-daro</i>	<i>Sweep</i>	
JUNE	<i>Divaro</i>	<i>Uncertainty/Confusion/Lack of Confidence</i>	
JULY	<i>Veadi-ado</i>	<i>Planting</i>	
AUGUST	<i>Veadi-Hiri-Hiri</i>	<i>Hiri=Special Trading expedition</i>	
SEPTEMBER	<i>Uria</i>		
OCTOBER	<i>Laga</i>		
NOVEMBER	<i>Manumaura</i>	<i>Fruition</i>	
DECEMBER	<i>Biriakei</i>	<i>Wind-propelled toy made of nipa fruticans leaves</i>	



TRADITIONAL MOTU CALENDAR: WHY 12 MONTHS

- Beginning of each month is indicated by the New Moon.
- 1 month consists of 2 phases of the moon. *Hua rara (14-15 days), Dibura (14-15days)*
- *Hua-rara & Dibura are also associated with their own High-tides (Utu) and Low tides (Komada)*
- *In a year (lagani), there are 12 sets of New Moon (Hua matamatana) = 24 sets of Utu and Komada*
- *Two seasons: Guitao & Lahara*



IS THE TRADITIONAL MOTU CALENDAR USEFUL?

- Accurately reflective of moon cycle, seasons, wind direction, low & high tides.
- It can give us a clear world-view of natural phenomena

