

Tonga

'Otai *(Watermelon Fruit Juice)*

Relationships are central to Tongan culture, and when watermelons are in season you are guaranteed to be generously offered a cup of 'otai whether in the office, with friends, or out in the community.

Australian volunteer Maureen has a cup with her colleagues after office meetings and, on Sundays, it's part of the lunch feast after church. She values the opportunity to share an 'otai, a laugh and a smile with people – it's one of the best parts of life in Tonga.



Ingredients

- ½ watermelon, sliced and grated
- ½ cup pineapple, chopped and grated
- ¼ cup fresh coconut*, grated
- ½ cup coconut milk
- 1 jug water
- Sugar to taste

Method

- Combine grated watermelon and pineapple.
- Add coconut milk and grated coconut.
- Add water to preferred consistency (don't make it too watery).
- Add sugar to taste.
- Serve.

Tips

- * If fresh coconut is not available, consider adding shredded coconut that has been soaked in water, which will add a different texture. Or you can use coconut cream for extra creaminess.