The ‘ovava is the Pacific Banyan tree which was used as the meeting place for a chief and his people. It would be under the ‘ovava that announcements, discussions, as well as declarations of war would be made.

There is a Tongan saying:
“Holo pe misi ki he ‘ovava”
“The misi flock to the ‘ovava”

The misi is an indigenous bird of Tonga and will instinctively seek shelter and sustenance from the ‘ovava tree. For the Tongan people, the ‘ovava tree is an analogy for safety and protection.
PATRONS

Hon Alastair Nicholson AO RFD QC

Alastair Nicholson is a former Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia and a former Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria. He is also a former Judge Advocate General of the Australian Defence Force and Air Vice Marshal RAAF. He is currently a Professorial Fellow attached to the Law School of the University of Melbourne and Chair of Children’s Rights International, an NGO advocating children’s rights issues. He has spoken and written extensively on human rights issues with particular reference to children and Indigenous people.

His Excellency Sonatane Tu‘akinamolahi Taumoepeau Tupou

His Excellency Sonatane Tu‘akinamolahi Taumoepeau Tupou is Tonga’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, a position that has concurrent accreditation as Tongan Ambassador to the United States, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, and Venezuela, and Tongan High Commissioner to Canada. He is a former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Defence, and Governor of Vava’u for the Government of Tonga. He has advocated widely for the nations of the Pacific region.

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