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Manihiki harbour projects to spur services

By Prime Minister Hon Henry Puna

My two weeks in Manihiki were a great success and have highlighted a range of constraints, concerns, and issues for the Island that is both reflective of the Outer Islands in general and the need to ensure our momentum for pursuing results are maintained. Manihiki though, is unique in many ways. The North has many peculiarities of its own and this island in particular has had the economic motivation of a key industry for many years.

Unfortunately, the vulnerabilities of climate change and the threat of cyclones brings a further dimension to the pressures of an isolated atoll. And chief among these involve the work that is necessary to build up and safeguard the shipping infrastructure. Transportation and communication with the North are sectors crucial to the livelihoods of our people. Shipping and the services to their

communities sit at the core of these priorities.

This year, I am pleased that the work will commence on the Manihiki harbours at Tauhunu and Tukao. Tauhunu – the larger of the two facilities has not been attended to since Cyclone Martin, in 1997. Nearly 16 years later, we will pursue this development – and complete is rehabilitation and development as soon as is practicable.

This will be a challenge to Government but one that I am strongly supporting, with the backing of my colleagues in Cabinet. Core resources will be tapped for these projects and the responsibility will fall on our shoulders to achieve what many have failed to do.

As it happens, my stay in Manihiki these past two weeks coincided with a fuel shortage – an ongoing constraint exacerbated by shipping conditions. Anomalies with shipping will no doubt impact broadly in terms of foodstuffs and



equipment but fuel supply still remains an essential factor thanks to our energy needs and dependencies.

The most recent occasion was assisted greatly by the concerted effort of the Mayor and Island Council and Island Administration. I am grateful we were able to alleviate what could have been a drastic situation due to the uncertainties of the present cyclone season.

Our good relations with foreign fishing companies – the Chinese in this case – again proved to be an important ingredient and the cooperation of our

National Police in the utilization of Te Kukupa was also highly commendable.

Having averted a poor fuel situation, I am more than convinced of the need to secure adequate services for the harbour and incoming shipping deliveries, as well as keeping up the drive toward renewable energy integration. These are projects that point to better security, improved living conditions, and further potential for economic advancement. My stay in Manihiki helped reinforce this priority and encourage further support for our smaller communities.

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CIP welcomes new MP

The Prime Minister, his Cabinet and colleagues in Caucus, and the Cook Islands Party as a whole extend congratulations to the winner of the recent by-election in Tamarua – Tetangi Matapo. The Prime Minister extends these congratulatory best wishes to Matapo, and her family, in this new endeavour as an MP for her village. He said the Party and his government respect the wishes of the people of Tamarua in their democratic choice for MP. Government will continue to support Mangaia and the programme of development for the Outer Islands will continue as planned, he says. The PM and his team will help the parliamentary process of allowing the new MP-elect to engage in the formalities required to join the sitting about to commence.

Traditional leaders following developments

By Charles Pitt

In regard to the traditional leaders, it remains for historians to record the impact of the decision by Premier Henry's administration in 1965 to include the Ariki in the political process.

At that time, it could not be known how the Ariki, indeed the Aronga Mana (AM), would evolve.

Fast forward to 2013 and we see a very active Aronga Mana taking a keen interest in developments and making a valued contribution through submissions based on sound research and reasoned arguments.

According to Tere Mataiapo (Paul Allsworth), Treasurer of the Kotou Nui, while the members of the House of Ariki are older and as a result less active than the Mataiapo and Rangatira, they are never the less following

the latest developments in relation to the Marine Park, sea bed minerals, the environment, climate change and fishing, with keen interest.

In regard to the sea bed minerals developments, Tere Mataiapo reports that the Aronga mana met with the Sea Bed Minerals (SBM) Authority recently to discuss the topic and other matters.

He said Government had already given its blessing for a rep from the AM to be on the SBM Board. The AM is planning to meet with Minister Mark Brown to discuss the Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF), its Board membership, operations and matters such as the distribution of funds or possibly dividends.

He added the AM had not been sitting around but had been very proactive in many key

areas. They had already met with Minister for Marine Resources Teina Bishop to discuss fishing licenses, the Pago Pago based Golden Brand tuna canning initiative and the matter of fish by catches not being allowed by the BTIB to be off loaded here.

The AM had met Paul Lynch the Commissioner for SBM. They had also met with their Minister Hon Teariki Heather, to update him on their concerns and plans for the future.

Their next meeting will be with Minister Brown, to discuss the SWF and the outcomes from the Banking Review, especially the area of high interest bank rates. The AM was concerned at the many mortgagee sales by Banks and the number of people leaving and going overseas.

As to the outer islands, the AM have visited Mauke with

TIS and the SBM team to hold discussions with the people. Their next visit is Atiu and Mitiaro, then Mangaia and lastly Aitutaki. The AM will also visit the Northern Group but will wait for funding as it is very expensive to get up there. Vaka meetings on Rarotonga are planned after the southern group visit.

The AM receives a small grant from government each year to enable it to hold an annual conference. They are looking for extra funding and have approached overseas organizations such as Oceans 5.

Terea Mataiapo said the Kotou Nui executive meets on the first Monday of each month at the House of Ariki in Kavera.

The President of the House of Ariki is Travel Tou Ariki and the President of the Kotou Nui, is Turi Mataiapo, - Maria Henderson.

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This category 5 storm was packing winds gusting to 150 knots (280kph) when it tracked towards Rarotonga on 6 February 2005. What a relief when a last minute deviation spared us from massive destruction. However the storm surge of around 14 metres did damage buildings on the waterfront and northern coastline.

But Meena reminds us that February has been a time of strong cyclone activity in the past, and for us to keep the following items on hand:

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Stinking fish processing plants in Avarua

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

Several years ago my wife and I travelled to American Samoa to attend the Pacific Arts Festival. It was our first time there and we were greeted by a huge Samoan protocol officer and driver that could barely speak English. Both became close friends of ours to today. I distinctively remember the officer saying to me "Welcome to the cesspit of the Pacific". He was in fact referring to the stench in the air from the fish processing plants located close to the wharf in the centre of town. I later toured those two plants and fish was being, scaled, gutted cooked and canned in it. The smell was

dense and constant and lingered in the air incessantly. It was a stark contrast to the vibrant, dynamic representations of Pacific culture being celebrated by "te au tangata Pasifika".

American Samoa has a huge harbour in Pago pago and fishing boats mainly from Taiwan berth there to unload tons and tons of fish caught in "Te Moana Nui o Kiva". These processing plants employ lots of unskilled labour with quite a big number from Samoa (Western). However, these plants were grubby and grimy looking and dominate the harbour outline. I saw a similar set up and formed and indelible dislike for fish processing canneries when I visited the



Seychelles Islands in the Indian Ocean and out from the East Coast of Africa before my visit to Pago pago.

Well, my fears have now been come home to roost. The recent disclosure that the Cook Islands Government plans to build a fish processing plant at Avatiu Harbour or somewhere near there in Avarua have shocked a number of Cook Islanders. I first heard by way of rumour of this plan by the Ministry of Marine Resources down at the Punanga Nui Market. The proprietors there were furious of plans that the newly reclaimed area might be the site for the fish plants. Others said it might be the adjoining site to Origin Gas on the actual wharf.

The Opposition will strongly oppose this proposal and I will be discussing this matter further with our caucus team at our pre-Parliament briefing. We will join in public rallies and protest marches when it comes to that and I seriously believe this is one Government project that will raise the ire of our people. After all this could potentially destroy our tourism industry and could also damage the Avarua harbour ecosystem and general environment. Avarua and Avatiu will be polluted and will no longer be the beautiful "ava" that

we know.

It appears that this is collaboration between the Minister of Marine Resources and his honorary advisor, Sam Chou, also the chief operating officer for Luen Thai Fishing Ventures. But where is the Prime Minister on this matter? We know he has been in Manihiki for two weeks of holiday on top of his frequent overseas trips that one can easily class as "extra holidays." Not a whisper from him; oops I forgot, the PM is too scared to stop it for fear his Minister might retaliate and boot him out of the top seat.

Last year, I exposed thorough my column and media articles that Luen Thai is a fishing company with a dubious reputation and has been forced out of its traditional business area to the Cook Islands. It had been the subject of serious investigations by the United States Government and had been accused of being a major shark finning front. And yet, the Cook Islands is now a shark sanctuary or is it as I believed the shark sanctuary as it stands has no real bite but is more a public relations exercise to appease the proponents of the sanctuary.

I seriously hope that this proposal will fail. It is stupid, crazy and suicidal.

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First public meeting on tax review

By Charles Pitt

The first public meeting last Friday at the Parekura Conference Centre to discuss government's proposed tax review was well attended given the timing of the event however one could sense an uneasiness pervading the whole event.

Prior to the meeting the Herald had sought the views of several business people on the purpose and timing of the review. Some commented that without economic development, there is little difference between government's proposed tax reform and re-arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic.

Local business persons also indicate that tax is a sub-set of an overall social and economic development strategy and that it cannot be properly seen as a stand alone policy area. They say tax policy should properly be designed to support government's overall social and economic development strategy. Most importantly, you need a social and economic development plan first to drive all the sub set plans of tax, human resource development, infrastructure, etc.

There was no mandate in the CIP's 2010 election manifesto to reform the tax system. There was reference to considering reducing the secondary tax rate to 10 per cent. The report of the Economic Development Taskforce under John Tierney recommended some tax changes to assist businesses but

the priority was on economic reform. The previous Budget Policy Statement (BPS) which set the priorities for the 2012/2013 year made no mention of tax reform and set economic development as the priority. The Minister has said that at the time of announcing the 2012/2013 Budget, he also outlined the desire of government to undertake a review of the current tax system and the rates prevailing in the Cook Islands. In the BPS for 2013/2014 issued in December last year, Government refers to tax reform as one of the six focus items for expanding our economic base (P 8, Section 1.4).

Some 40 persons attended being from local businesses, government ministries including private sector organizations. The 2pm start may have deterred many who could not afford time off work.

Finance Minister Hon Mark Brown sat at the front with Finance Secretary Richard Neves and Chartered Accountant Mike Carr to his left and MFEM's Tax Chief Andrew Haigh to his right.

This writer sat down the back among the common folk and overheard mutterings questioning the priority and need for tax reform.

In his opening remarks, Brown referred to the impact of the outstanding tax of around \$24 million and the extent of the bad loans with the banks. He said the current system was set up in 1996 and we needed to have a fair tax system that was easy to comply with. The review he said would

look at thresholds, income tax, secondary tax and VAT among other things and would look that the burden is not unfair. He said some submissions had already been received.

Neves mentioned two reps from the IMF would be here for ten days. One rep was coming from Suva and the other from Washington, USA.

Neves then took the audience through the handout Explanatory Paper prepared by MFEM which contained much helpful background material and statistics on taxes collected.

Mike Carr advised that submissions would be published on the website unless the submitter said otherwise. He also urged submitters to ensure any data they mentioned was checked for accuracy and Neves said submitters could consult the MFEM website for data.

The meeting was then opened up for comments from the floor.

Even some in the audience went down side streets. There was a question put to Brown whether government, if making cuts to personal income tax, would make corresponding savings by cutting government expenditure. Brown's response was, "No." Clearly to do so before an election would be political suicide.

Then came a remarkable suggestion for putting more money into small retailers by banning visitors from bringing in food in their suitcases. Mike Carr pointed out such instances were becoming fewer. Brown referred

to Cook Islanders visiting family at Christmas and bringing in food for them. His response to the suggestion to stop this? "No."

There were some suggestions related to creating new taxes but Brown reminded the audience the purpose of the review was to reform the tax system to better distribute the burden of taxation.

The question was raised as to holding meetings in the Vakas and Neves said they will try and arrange three or four such meetings. There was a request to record oral submissions and for MFEM to hear submissions in Maori.

Movement in the threshold cap was raised and Neves said a downward move was unlikely. Mike Carr told those present there was no preconceived or set bias or agenda. One person mentioned the tax free zone equated to the minimum wage-lift the minimum wage and you lift the tax free zone.

One member of the audience submitted that for his industry sector MFEM data showed that the cost of administration and compliance appeared to exceed the revenue collected. He said there would follow from his Association, a written submission on levies to illustrate the point.

One retailer suggested MFEM staff visit and assist local businesses with filing of VAT returns and company tax as many small retailers have incurred penalties due to incorrect calculations of VAT. This was

Continued page 6



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First public meeting on tax review

From page 5

supported by local accountants. Neves acknowledged this was a problem and MFEM will look at how they can assist them. It had also been raised by the Minister. Another businessman said local businesses had suffered because of poor business skills.

One member of the audience suggested reintroducing the tax clearance procedure before people leave the country. This attracted a fee of \$10.

There was a comment that PAYE be lowered and look at bringing in say 1,000 foreign workers to cover the shortfall.

One businessman suggested government abolish taxation in the outer islands and raise the tax threshold from \$10,000 to \$20,000 as those in this bracket are Cook Islanders.

Another person suggested an amnesty for those who had not filed a return for some time and maybe focus on recovering taxes for the last five years as opposed to the last 10years. With five years, a payment plan can be established. Otherwise people may just leave the country.

There was a suggestion that penalties on individuals and companies be scrapped.

Review of JPs now with Crown Law

On Monday Chief Justice Tom Weston advised the Herald on progress with the discussion paper he prepared on the restructuring of the Justices of the Peace (JPs) which was circulated to interested parties for comment on 13 August 2012. He advised that there had been various discussions between him, the Secretary for Justice (Mr Elikana) and senior JPs over the last four weeks about the future structure of the High Court in relation to the role of the JPs. The Chief Justice said it had now been agreed that the discussion paper, together with one written submission received (from Aitutaki), will be referred to the Crown Law Office for the drafting of appropriate legislation. It is not known how long this process will take. Further progress of course will be a matter for Parliament to decide. —Charles Pitt

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Fisheries observers meet to discuss their future

By Charles Pitt

The 13th Regional Observer Coordinators Workshop kicked off at the Parekura Conference Centre next to CITV on Monday morning with 43 participants from 19 countries attending.

It is the biggest gathering of regional observers yet and for the first time two country observers from Korea are attending.

Also attending are representatives from the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the US National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (USNOAA).

The Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) is hosting the weeklong event and Peter Graham of MMR welcomed delegates. Senior Pastor John Tangi conducted the opening prayer.

Minister for MMR, Hon Teina Bishop then addressed the delegates.

He welcomed the delegates and said the government was honoured the Cook Islands had been chosen as the venue.

The Minister acknowledged the role of observers and



their importance in the management and sustainability of the resource. Observers, said the Minister bring some comfort with their knowledge of the state of the fisheries. The Minister spoke of the close cooperation with the government of American Samoa with Cook Islands recruited Samoan based observers. The Minister

explained how they were set up with the assistance of the SPC and FFA in view of the fact most of the vessels licensed to fish in our EEZ are based at Pago Pago. To this end the Minister said it was government's intention to establish an office at Pago Pago. The Minister spoke of the many challenges to come and the greater use that will be made of e-technology.

He said he was supportive of MMR's intentions to seek further resources to boost their capacity for monitoring, control, surveillance and collection and analysis of catch data.

The theme of the workshop is "Designing our future." Although Peter Sharples from SPC speaking after the Minister expressed it as, "where do we go from here." He said a review of their function was timely.

During the week the delegates will discuss such matters as communications, media contacts, transshipment, safety equipment, insurance, tagging, sampling, training, salaries and allowances and other matters.

Fisheries observers have an important role in the fishing industry. They sail on board foreign fishing vessels sometimes for long periods of time and their main duties include the recording of scientific catch data such as species, lengths, weights, by-catch, discards, tagging, biological sampling as well as collecting data on fishing effort and reporting on vessel compliance. Their efforts contribute significantly to the better management of the important fishery resource.

The workshop is chaired by Andrew Johns (AJ) of MMR.

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Team Cook Islands impresses at Donor meetings

By Charles Pitt

The Herald has received reports that the Donor partners attending the presentations at the Edgewater Resort on Tuesday were very impressed with the high standard of the presentations.

From all accounts, the presentations were executed very professionally and the Development Coordination Division team from MFEM acted with high efficiency and effectiveness. It seems the team was a credit to the Cook Islands. Both the New Zealand and European Union delegations reported that the presentations were the best they have experienced to date and this reflects the degree of hard work and preparation that went into the event by the team.

It has been reported to the Herald that the team of ten drawn together at MFEM to prepare for the event, worked very long hours and at times

worked under stressful conditions to tight timelines. The background papers were acknowledged by Donor partners as being of a high standard with quality data and information.

Members of the team also impressed at the function held at the Edgewater Resort on Monday evening.

Few get to see and hear of the tremendous work effort that goes into making certain an event such as this is carried off smoothly. Yes there were late nights, rewrites, long hours and sheer hard work.

The fact that it was done by very capable Cook Islanders did not go unnoticed by the Donor partners who attended. The team did the country proud.

It is especially pleasing that the Donor partners expressed the view that the presentations were the best they had attended in the region.

The team thoroughly deserves to be congratulated.

News Briefs *By Moana Vaevae Tetauru*

New MP to be sworn in Monday

With Parliament due to sit on Thursday, Clerk of Parliament Puna Rakanui told the Herald the swearing in ceremony for the new Tamarua MP, Tetangi Matapo will be held on Monday and not Thursday due to administrative measures. He said firstly, Parliament will need to make sure that the 7-day petition period is adhered to, which was Wednesday. Also there are no flights from Mangaia on Thursday. It's understood that by the end of Wednesday, if there is no petitions lodged against Matapo, then measures will be undertaken to have her flown to Rarotonga on Friday, for orientation then on Monday, she will be sworn in as a member of Parliament.

MP's workload

Parliament is set to sit on Thursday from 1pm and it is the first sitting for the 2013 year. 6 papers will be tabled including, 5 orders in executive council, ranging from employment, tax, shark sanctuary, customs tariff, departure resident and entry, and the second audit quarterly report. On the order paper is the Island Government Bill, and Clerk of Parliament, Puna Rakanui is anticipating the Companies' Amendment Bill and others may be included.

Delegation to Noumea seeks applicants

If you are between the ages of 16-25 and interested in being part of the Cook Islands delegation to the Pacific Youth in Sports Conference which will be held in Noumea, Caledonia from the 2nd to the 7th of March then now is your chance to apply. The closing date for applications is next week Monday the 18th of February. You can pick application forms up from the Youth and Sports Division at the Ministry of Internal Affairs or email choff@intaff.gov.ck. The success for applicants will be announced next week. —Te Riu Woonton

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Islands struggle in the fuel game

A lot of attention has been paid to the voluntary renewable energy targets adopted by various Pacific countries. These are listed in table 1.

What is striking about these targets is their ambition. Six Pacific countries aim to generate 100% of their electricity from renewable energy technologies. Contrast these with the 20% target set by Australia and the EU for 2020, or China 15% by 2020.

Overambitious is the word that immediately springs to mind when considering the Pacific targets. Why? Because sun and wind power are the only sources of renewable energy for low islands and atolls like Tuvalu, Tonga, and Nauru. And the intermittent power supply from these technologies and the storage of electricity become very real problems under a 100% target.

Notwithstanding the difficulties, there is a reason why Pacific countries as a group are enthusiastic about renewable energy. It's because our problems, needs and situation on power generation are very similar.

The vision is clear. We share the same objective of generating power for our needs without worrying about the insecurity of fuel supply and the volatility of fuel prices. The challenge for us lies in the execution of our ambition – how you get there – which is yet to be determined.

But the current situation in Manihiki gives an insight into why renewable energy should have a magnetic appeal for the Pacific and why many Pacific islands display a love/hate association with diesel.

First of all, Manihiki gets power through the conventional way. It relies on a generator to turn diesel fuel into electricity to meet the islands energy needs. The previous generator had been too big and inefficient for the island which is why it was replaced in 2011. But it



Installing a generator for an outer islands power station

left behind a big kaiou (debt) which the island continues to pay down today.

Secondly, Manihiki needs constant fuel supplies to keep the current generator working. Getting the fuel to Manihiki is dependent on shipping. Last week the island ran out of fuel stocks but was able to borrow 5,000 liters from a Chinese fishing boat diverted to the island by the authorities. This will tide it over until the patrol boat Kukupa makes a special trip from Rarotonga to bring another 5,000 liters. Hopefully, this will last until the cargo ship Tiare Moana arrives next month with more fuel. This juggling and resourcefulness in obtaining fuel supplies can be exhausting and shows the hassles everyone goes through just to keep the lights turned on in Manihiki.

Interestingly, the story doesn't end there. You have to include other factors in this equation. There is the human factor. According to Cook Islands News, no-one has actually got down to making a booking yet for the Tiare Moana to take fuel there on the next voyage. And then you have the weather factor. The transfer of fuel from large cargo

Table 1: Renewable Energy Targets of Pacific Island Countries July 2012

Country	Renewable energy target	Year to be achieved
Cook Islands	100	2020
Fiji	90	2015
FSM	30	
Kiribati	10	
Marshall Islands	20	2020
Nauru	50	2015
Niue	100	
Palau	20	2030
Samoa	20	2030
Solomon Islands	100	2030
Tokelau	100	2012
Tonga	50	2020
Tuvalu	100	2020
Vanuatu	100	2013

boat to small boats takes place in the open ocean because Manihiki doesn't have a harbour for the Tiare Moana to dock. Everybody always prays for calm seas when this happens.



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Tired of having no water or low pressure? - finally, someone is doing something about it. Will it end our water woes, well we will just have to see.

The \$1million Project City or water upgrade project currently underway, will see up to 4-months of water supply stored once completed.

Recently, the CI Herald interviewed the Minister of Infrastructure and Planning who has guaranteed, the project is worthwhile and in the long run, 'beneficial' to the people of Rarotonga.

From the months of October to December last year, the island was running dry and an urgent stakeholders meeting was called to discuss ways to help with the depleting water supply, the supply was obvious when people turned their taps on and the water pressure was either slow, or no water at all, what was more noticeable were those whose homes were on higher ground and were without water months before. The Minister says, the project will enable water to be stored which will help ease the water situation during our dry season.

Earlier last year, the Minister of Finance announced that as part of government's promises during their election campaign, all homes on Rarotonga will be given a free water-tank which was to come into effect in December of last year, but CI Herald understands, plans are still on the cards, but will be something that will be addressed before the project is completed.

It's understood, that the work will also include the major upgrading of the islands current 7 water intakes which feeds villages around the island. Currently intakes have to be regularly cleared of debris especially after a huge downpour when despite the amount of rainfall, some residents especially those living in Tupapa are still left without water. A state of the art system is to be installed and be monitored on a regular basis.

The Minister says, the project is part of a major undertaking which will see the people of Rarotonga being able to drink pure clean water once completed. Discussions are still continuing as to how much people will pay, but the Minister says, the cost could be as little as \$2 a week, as people are already paying for water, and the cost households will pay is cheaper.

The project currently underway is funded by the Asian Development Bank, and funds will also be made available in the 2013/2014 budget from the trilateral agreement that was signed between the Cook Islands, China and NZ back in August last year to complete the project.

by Mona Tetauru

In a Flash:

For years some of us have been suffering from no water or low water pressure, a basic necessity of life. Finally, we are seeing some development that will guarantee us up to 4-months worth of water. Whether its enough, we doubt it, but its incremental change, and its a step in the better direction.



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Incomplete home! Out of budget! Who is to blame? - Sometimes the least cost option is not always the best.

For many, a new home is a solid foundation for a new life, new goals and new achievements. Sadly, that has not been the case for a number of homeowners on the island.

Numerous complaints have been received by the Building Control Department within the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning (MOIP), regarding the quality of work carried out by unqualified or unregistered local builders.

“(Builders) never followed the approved plans, or, they made amendments without our consent,” said MOIP’s Building Controller. “As a result, homes are still incomplete, and the homeowners have run over their budget.”

According to MOIP’s Building Controller, majority of builders on the island are either unqualified, or unregistered. Unfortunately, there is no law that allows the Ministry to prevent these builders from practicing.

“So basically, if you think you can build a house, you can build. At the end of the day, it’s up to the home owner. Most of them prefer cheap labour, but then we tell them that it’s their choice if they want to take the risk,” he said. “The only thing we can do is offer advice when people come to apply for a Building Permit.”

While majority of builders are unqualified or unregistered, Local Architect Romani Katoa confirmed that there are a number of local contractors that homeowners can trust. “You just have to shop around. Find out who the good builders are,” he said. “Their work is just as good as commercial contractors – sometimes better, because they know that they have a reputation to keep.”

Normally, when building a home, the owner is liable to pay for three things – an architect, a building permit and a builder. The architect will design a home that both complies with the local building code, and meets the owner’s needs, wants, and budget. The plan will then need approval from the National Environment Service, the Department of Public Health, and Building Controller before construction.

“If one department doesn’t approve, then the whole plan is unapproved,” he said. “The architect will then need to go back, find out where the problem is, and fix it.”

Upon approval, it is compulsory for the

owner to apply for a Building Permit – a document which grants the owner legal authorization to construct a new building or structure, or to demolish, relocate, repair, alter or make additions to an existing building or structure in accordance with approved drawings and specifications. By law, the Building Controller is given 21 days to process an application. Within that time, they will check that drawings comply with the local building code and regulations. By submitting a Building Permit – which must be supported by 10 sets of documents – the owner is confirming a Builder of their choice, and a Building Supervisor. The Building Controller will not accept any applications without the Supervisor’s signature. The owner will then need to request for inspections, which will be carried out by a Building Inspector from within the Building Control Department at MOIP. He/She will visit the site at 10 stages of the construction to ensure accordance with the approved plan and specifications.

Prior to completing a Building Permit, however, homeowners are strongly advised by MOIP to:

1. NOMINATE A TRUSTED PROJECT MANAGER: “Nominate someone who really knows a lot about building,” said MOIP’s Building Controller.

A Project Manager is responsible for overseeing the construction of a building. He / She will liaise with the Building Inspector at all times. At current, majority of homeowners feel that they can oversee the construction process without the advice of a qualified person. While there is a law that states the need for a qualified individual to supervise the construction, it has not been enforced. “We know that it is too costly for our people,” he said.

2. PURCHASE YOUR OWN MATERIAL: It is possible for a builder to be working on two homes at once. In this case, it is also possible for the builder to transfer materials between the two sites.

“You could be paying for someone else’s home to get built, or, you could be paying without knowing that they’re actually using cheaper materials,” he said. Your Building Manager can ensure that this does not happen. He / She can also purchase the materials you need, according to your budget.

3. PAY BY STAGES: “Once the foundation is done, you pay the builder. Then you go into the walls. Once that is done, you pay him again, until the whole house is finished.”

As everyone expects payment on a regular

by Sally Hosking

In a Flash:

MOIP receives a lot of complaints about the quality of work carried out by unqualified and unregistered local builders. Plan alterations by homeowners and builders are an issue. At the end of the day, it is the homeowner’s fault - cheap labour, no contract, cost cutting - it all comes back to bite you in the end. You need to do your homework.

basis, it is only natural that builders will disapprove of the lengthier method of being paid by stages. “But this is the best way to deal with builders. That way you can see exactly what you are paying for.”

According to MOIP’s Building Controller, the formation of a Building Association will be the only way to ensure that unqualified or unregistered builders do not practice in the Cook Islands, as only they will have the right to implement relevant policies. MOIP is currently working with the Department of National Human Resources Development (NHRD) and Cook Islands Trade Training Centre (CITTC) on this initiative. They are also awaiting the arrival of SOPAC in March to evaluate the local building code – which has not been reviewed since 1990.

“The Electrical Association has already been formed, and right now they’re working on the Plumbing Association.”

All Electricians and Plumbers that have registered with the association are guaranteed to be qualified in their area of trade.

“If your name is not on the list, then you won’t be able to practice in the Cook Islands.” The same principle will apply to those who register with the Building Association.

The Cook Islands Trade Training Centre (CITTC) offers two programmes that will enable builders to register as a certified practitioner. Firstly, the ‘Pre Trade Building Construction’ programme which covers the basic theory and practical training, and the ‘Building Trade Certificate’ programme, which covers a few theory components, and allows the builder to visit a site, and assist with construction. This is how their practical skills are assessed. Tutor of CITTC, Angaroa Williams, confirmed that there are builders who are ready to register, but cannot do so until the Building Association is formed.

RATE THIS STORY:

How useful was it to you?



Expired stock? don't winge, take it back - some things are still good past the use by date, but check

I'm sure we've all taken ourselves shopping at one of the local grocery shopping stores here in Rarotonga, and come home a little unsatisfied.

Remember taking a quick look at something on the shelf, then picking it up and just casually dropping it into your trolley only thinking about why you need it. Then it's not till after you've waited in line to be served, paid for the all the food in your trolley, driven all the way home and dragged the bags into the kitchen, to find out that something you've brought is way past its expiry date! (There goes that money)

But there is hope! Because with certain terms and conditions, and at specific stores, you're able to take back your products and either, have the money refunded or have the product swapped for a new one!

Jason Burgess, Food Group Manager at CITC, explained to the Herald that their policy is "if the customer does purchase the product and it has not been reduced due to the product being short coded, then as long as they have a receipt of purchasing the product and it was purchased after the products best before date, then it can either be swapped or money refunded if the product is not available"

There is a swamp of reasons as to why you (the customer) will accidentally end up with a bag of expired products, and it's not only to do with the retailers, but with the customers too!

From both perspectives, all of our local supermarkets and smaller stores will have reasons why their stock is accidentally sold past it's best before date.

1. Over committing with orders, or over buying a selection of stock that did not sell quickly enough.
2. Products hidden in storage and brought out on to the shelves, without checking dates
3. Not rotated properly on the shelves or in storerooms
4. Not having a date code check procedure in place
5. Slow selling items, getting expired on the shelf
6. Product coming in short dated or out of date from Supplier that you were not aware of and not bought at a reduced price.
7. Product overpriced to begin with
8. Product not displayed properly
9. Staff putting out stock without checking the codes
10. The Retailer got a good deal even though it was short coded stock and is happy to sell out of date, therefore ignoring the date codes all together.
11. The retailer is happy to sell out of date stock and does not care.
12. Product is not selling like it used to: new competitors, new product lines and seasonal changes
13. Poor staff training
14. Management not checking and following up constantly and consistently.

Like being vulnerable to having injuries in sport, out of date stock is a part of every day life with Grocery retailing, but just like stretching helps to avoid injuries in sport, doing certain things can help you avoid buying out of date stock!

Here are a few things too look out for to make sure you don't buy something that's a month old!

1. Check your own cupboards and fridges and storage areas. Most likely those lines that are out of date in those areas will be the same type that are out date or close to it at your retailer

by Dante Numa

In a Flash:

There is a whole host of reasons why you the customer may end up buying expired products. But you as a shopper should always check the use by dates on goods especially for things that go in the fridge. In this article, Dante asks Jason Burgess of CITC to explain why this happens and helps you to be an alert shopper.

2. All those once in awhile items you purchase from your retailer you should check the date codes on. E.g spices, special sauces, soups etc..
3. Does your retailer you shop with always have out of date products displayed prominently out the front of the store, if yes it maybe a sign that they do have issues.
4. Does your retailer have a designated area for markdowns and out of codes? Do you see the products constantly changing in these designated areas meaning staff are constantly checking. If you see the same items all the time on the markdown area then chances are they are not checking everything.
5. Does the retailer acknowledge and have signage up for out of date stock so you know what you're getting or do they just have it as normal priced stock
6. You can help out the retailer a little bit as well by informing your retailer if you do pick up items that are out of date, as there are many products on show and it's virtually impossible to have them all checked consistently
7. If you pick up items that you really want and they are out of date, but you still want to purchase them, you can always ask your retailer if the item isn't already marked down, if they will reduce the price of the product for you.
8. If you are CONSTANTLY picking up items from your retailer that are out of date then you know that that retailer has issues and you should most likely shop elsewhere.
9. If the retailer does not have a markdown section for Out of Date stock nor has it marked on their shelves that the item is expired, then they are obviously not checking dates as there is always markdowns and out of dates in a Grocery Store.
10. And remember that how busy the store is that you shop in, could have an effect on how well they turnover their stock and what amount of dated stock they have on show.

Burgess also tells the Herald that "It's frustrating as a Manager, as you are not getting full value for the products and therefore losing money, whilst letting down your consumer confidence in your operations which could cause them to shop elsewhere and as a consumer you are annoyed that you have purchased something that is not what was advertised and it has cost you money"

So as you head into a store or supermarket, remember to check the dates of something that may seem uneasy to you, or a little bit old. Check when some sort of food is on sale, and ask why the price has been reduced. It's a part of grocery retailing life that there will ALWAYS be instances of customers buying out of date stock off of retailers' shelves, no matter how diligent they think their operations are. It's how the operators themselves manage the out of dates is what separates good retailers from bad.

RATE THIS STORY:

How interesting was it to you?



Remoteness, transport issues, constant lack of fuel, why make it difficult? - renewable energy is the solution, help Government help Manihiki

Over the last year, Manihiki has appeared in the news on more than one occasion for its fuel shortage problem. And pretty much people are sick of it. The Herald has vox popped several people who say 'they are lucky that the Prime Minister is their minister, he can just send the Kukupa or divert the Chinese boat', 'they should sack the island administration, they obviously don't know how to plan their fuel needs,' 'looks like we need another boat,' 'oh that's favouritism for Manihiki,' 'that's abuse of the system,' 'taangaanga tikai ratou ia Enere Puna,' and finally 'te iu.' The Herald still doesn't know why Manihiki has constant fuel problems, but we know the Government has a longer term solution for them - renewable energy which has funding approved already - but Government is having trouble getting land to put it on. The Herald had heard that the Prime Minister had to go to Manihiki to iron out problems with land for the renewable energy project.

His office was able to confirm that the Prime Minister had met with land owners especially in Tukao for an alternative site for their proposed renewable energy center. Repeta Puna of the Office of the Prime Minister said that there was a land owner's dispute over the previous piece of land identified and an injunction had been served for the project not to go ahead. So the Prime Minister had to organize a meeting with other land owners to get their support for the project to go ahead.

In contrast, getting land on Rakahanga was a breeze. According to Repeta, the Island Council of Rakahanga had a meeting with landowners and approved the site required for their renewable energy centre. It is now just a matter of them submitting that approval by Island Council minute and Cook Islands Investment Corporation will then commence work to secure the piece of land for the island's renewable energy project.

Government is currently liaising with the Pukapuka island Member of Parliament and Island Council to identify through landowners a possible site for their renewable energy project. The most suitable site would be one next to the power station. This is the case for all islands as the further away the renewable source is from the power station the efficiency rate will drop and will create problems with the energy supply.

The northern group islands is more vulnerable to fuel shortages than the southern group islands because of the irregular shipping service to the northern group. This is one of the main reasons why Government is keen to see the Northern group islands head into renewable energy.

There are funds available to commence the renewable energy project for most of the northern group islands and the islands of Mitiaro and Mangaia. A memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Government of the Cook Islands and an American company according to Repeta to help Government carry out a scoping study of the Northern group islands. This includes voluntary labour to install the renewable energy service. Repeta also reiterated that the Prime Minister who is also responsible for renewable energy does not favour Government to get into any lending schemes but to get grant money to fulfill the renewable energy needs in the outer islands.

by Charlie Rani

In a Flash:

Out of fuel again, Kukupa to the rescue, Chinese Fishing boats share fuel - Manihiki is making headlines for all the wrong reasons. To complicate matters, Government is offering the island a renewable energy solution, but they can't get land. Landowners need to see pass their individual needs and look at the "greater good" for all Manihikians. We are all sick of listening to Manihiki's fuel problems - give the Government some land to help you.



Renewable energy project proposals were discussed at the Donor Roundtable meeting this week and will also be presented at an aid donor's conference for Pacific Island countries to be held in Auckland at the end of March.

The New Zealand Aid Programme have already allocated funds for some of the islands renewable energy projects. And US\$4 million has come from the Japanese PEC fund to be used in the Northern Group.

Landowners giving up their land for renewable energy will be issued with a warrant from the Cook Islands Investment Corporation. This is to allow certainty over that piece of land for the islands renewable power house and as well as guarantee that it is to be used solely for Government's purposes.

The Prime Minister upon his return will have positive feedback from the Tukao exercise.

The Herald notes that 2014 is an election year, and that the Prime Minister would have to play his cards right on the Manihiki fuel issue.

RATE THIS STORY:

How interesting was it to you?



Will we get faster Internet? - submarine cable? how much? which islands will get it? you will just have to wait for the results of this study

You can safely assume that all users want faster Internet. At the moment depending on which time of the day you log on, your Internet connection could be crawling. We still struggle with basic problems like speed and cost, so unless some game-changing happens, we may still be sitting at our computers cursing our Internet connections several years from now although Telecom won't have you believe that but we'll get to them later on.

Basically, the fate of our broadband connectivity is in the hands of Government, or in particular, Minister of Telecommunications Mark Brown. Hugh McGarry of Garnet Consulting in Australia is one of two consultants conducting a feasibility study into the possibility of submarine cable for the Cook Islands. McGarry is carrying out the technical and institutional aspects of the study, while his counterpart will carry out the socio-economic impact and financial viability of the project. This study is being funded by ADB, but was initiated following a request by Minister Brown, at the Finance Economic Minister's Meeting in Kiribati last year, for the ADB/World Bank program on broadband connectivity to be extended to small island states.

The result of this study will basically give us a green or red light on whether we will be sending light signals into the deep.

According to Pua Ngamata of the ICT Division of the Office of the Prime Minister who is also the local coordinator for the project, this study is particularly for the submarine cable. The previous Government had conducted a telecommunications review of some sort and so the Herald questioned whether it was a useful exercise given the last one did not see the light of day. To that Ngamata replied that a lot has changed since then like the SPIN project which has not gone according to plan, in addition, costs have changed.

Telecom Cook Islands on several occasions has conducted its own feasibility study of submarine cables, the last of which being in early 2010. According to Telecom CEO, Jules Maher, they calculated the setup costs to be in excess of USD20 million. They did not bother to look at the ongoing maintenance cost which involves paying for a repair ship to be on standby, connection into and out of Tahiti, as they were deterred by the high capital outlay.

This cost does not appear to have phased Minister Brown as he is aware of Tonga receiving a grant from the World Bank to put in their own submarine cable at a cost of USD34 million.

And its not a matter of us missing out if we don't join up with a cable network that is currently being put in place because according to Maher, Tahiti is our nearest point of connection, and there is still the possibility to connect into there should it become feasible.

So in the meantime, Telecom is not wasting time with what it can't do but with what it can. The first four O3B satellites are due for launch in May and service to commence in August. So its probably safe to say that we could be using the service in about September which will give customers speeds of 8Mbps (compared to the current top speed of 3Mbps on the Mega Plan). Telecom's contract with O3B is for five years and they are able to expand capacity during that time if need be.

by Jeane Matenga

In a Flash:

Hugh McGarry of Garnet Consulting Australia, is one of two consultants conducting a feasibility study for a possible submarine cable for the Cook Islands. The outcome of their findings will determine if Government will take the next step and look at financing options to fund the project which is expected to cost over USD20 million.



Telecommunications Minister Mark Brown with ADB consultant Hugh McGarry who is conducting the technical and institutional part of the feasibility study into a submarine cable for the Cook Islands.

Unlike O3B which will be accessible to the entire Southern Group, installing cable to the same islands will require far more significant investment than mentioned previously, so it is likely that the Outer Islands will miss out, or a mix of cable and satellite will be needed.

Currently, only Rarotonga has a fibre ring with lots of capacity but the last mile to customer's homes is still copper which restricts the speed to the home anyway, and is another consideration and cost that will come later on.

McGarry departs at the end of this week.

RATE THIS STORY:

How interesting was it to you?



Cut up a mango to find its core is already rotten - it's a caterpillar, its been around since 2007, & there is nothing that we can do about it

I teia au rā, te kitea 'ia nei tēta'i au manumanu i roto i tā tātou au Vī e kai nei tātou.

Te akakite mai nei a Maja Poeschko, te Entomologist PhD, mei ko mai i te Tu'anga o te Tanutanu ē kua kitea mua 'ia tēia manumanu-iroiro i te mata'iti 2007.

Kua irinaki ia e kua tapa mai tēia manumanu ki ō tātou na roto mai i te 'ua vī tā tēta'i tangata i apai mai i te tāmanako'anga, mei Papua New Guinea mai. Ko tēia 'oki te 'enua waitata tei kitea mai e no reira mai teia manumanu tei kāpiki 'ia tōna īngoa e ko te "Red-banded Mango Caterpillar" (RBMC).

Ko te ora'anga o tēia manumanu, ko te mea mua oki, ka 'ānau mai te metua-pepe i tāna au 'ua waitata ki te au vī i runga i te tumu, 'ē mei te 7 rā i muri mai kua tupu mai te 'ua 'ei manumanu-iroiro. Kua kō atu ireira te manumanu i tēta'i ara nōna ki roto i te kiko o te vī, e tae atu ki roto i te 'ua o te vī, i reira kua kai aia i te 'ua-vī, ma te tākinokino atu i te vī 'ē kua riro mai 'e vī-pē. I reira kua tauī mai te manumanu 'ēi metua-pepe 'ōu 'ē kua 'akamata 'aka'ōu i reira te ora'anga o tēia manumanu-iroiro. Ko te tūranga ma'ana katoa 'oki o te reva i konei kua tau tēia ki te ora'anga o teia manumanu.

Kāre katoa 'oki teia manumanu i te mea ngōie 'ua i te kite atu, inara, me kite atu koe i te ta'eta'e tāpou i runga i te vī, ko te 'akakite mai te reira 'e kua kō atu te manumanu i tēta'i ara nōna ki roto i te vī.

Te kimi matatio atu nei rāi te tu'anga o te tanutanu i tēta'i au ravenga meitaki atu no te 'opu, ma te tākore tākiri atu i tēia manumanu-iroiro i runga i te tū o tō tātou 'enua. I roto 'oki i te Kūki 'Airani nei, ko tēia manumanu, kua kitea 'ia mai te reira ki Rarotonga anake 'ua, 'e kāre i runga i te au pā-'enua i tai mai. No reira 'e 'akamatakite'anga tēia kia tātou katoatoa, kia auraka e tari mē kore 'apai atu i te vī ki te pā-'enua i tai mai. 'Ē pēra katoa, auraka e tari mai i te vī ki tō tātou pa-'enua.

'Ātoro atu i te tu'anga o te 'Ākarakara'anga 'Ua-Rakau no tēta'i atu au ui'anga. Tāniuniu katoa atu rāi i te Tu'anga o te Tanutanu mē 'e au manako 'ēkōkō atu tō'ou. Te 'akakite mai nei i reira a Maja kia matakite i tēna Vī mānea nā'au, pēnei 'e mānea 'a va'o, ko 'ā roto ra e Manumanu-iroiro.

by Rutera Taripo

In a Flash:

The Red-banded Mango Caterpillar was first discovered in 2007. It is believed to have come from PNG and is currently only observed in Rarotonga although mangoes in Aitutaki are now exhibiting the pest. The only way to uncover is to cut open a mango and look at its seed. There is currently no solution for this problem. The mango is still good to eat though.



This mango was from Aitutaki. Despite being nice and firm on the outside, the inside was rotten and the seed infected.

RATE THIS STORY:

How interesting was it to you?



News Brief

By Sally Hosking

Seabed sector reveal vision

Senior students from years 8 -10 of Papaaroa College were informed about the Seabed Minerals Sector, its vision, and its future benefits for Cook Islanders.

The presentation was delivered in the hope to spark interest amongst students to pursue a career in the industry, which can start by making relevant subject choices at school. According to Seabed Minerals Commissioner, Paul Lynch, the sector will offer employment for engineers, geologists, lawyers, accountants, and so forth.

With an 'Education and Awareness Building Program' in place, the Seabed Minerals Authority will be visiting various colleges on the island in the hope that the financial benefits will inspire senior students, and to ensure that there is no need to seek employment opportunities overseas.

According to studies, 7474 million tons of nodules containing vital elements – such as cobalt, nickel and copper – are currently enclosed by Cook Islands waters, which is enough to last more than 300 years if mined sustainably. If 2 million tons of nodules are mined annually, \$US146 million will be brought into the local economy.



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Cook Islands

The Business Trade Investment Board invites tender submissions from interested service providers for the cleaning of our office and the maintenance of the lawns (grounds).

Tender for Cleaning Office.

- A description of the services required is available at the BTIB office.

Tender for Lawn Mowing Services.

- Contractors will be required to maintain grounds twice every month.

All enquiries must be directed to the Finance and Administration Manager Sarah Samuel, on telephone (682) 24296 or email sarah.samuel@btib.gov.ck

Tender submission must be submitted to the tender box in the reception area of the BTIB before Friday 15th February 2013.



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UNLOCKING POTENTIAL IGNITING IDEAS EMPOWERING ACTIONS

How God meets our needs his way

Part 1

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

Many people including Christians have a lot of needs and some of these needs are not being met. We must understand that every promise of God has a condition. In Philippians 4v.19 it reads "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Many people including Christians want to take this promise of God in v.19 and apply it to their lives while avoiding the conditions in v.14-18. The "promise" is God's part and the "conditions" are our part. In other words God wants us to do certain things before the "promise" applies. In order to understand and appreciate these verses let us look at the "Conditions" in v.14-18.

First, we must be generous to others. Proverbs 11v.25 reads "A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." When we are generous to others, God will be generous with us. He will bless us! Luke 6v.38, "Give to others, and God will give to you...The measure you use for others is the one God will use for you." If we are mean (karapii) then we are blocking the flow of God's blessings in our lives and our families. The Apostle Paul gives us three reasons why we should be generous:

1) Our Giving Encourages others.

Philippians 4v.14-16 reads "It was good of you to share in my troubles... as you Philippians know, in the early days not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only, for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need." The Philippian church was not a wealthy church. Yet they were a generous and a giving church. Paul said their gift encouraged him. Giving is an encouragement. Both the giver and the receiver, receives a blessing, an encouragement. The Philippians had a reputation for Generosity. In II Corinthians 8v.24, Paul calls them an example for the rest of the world. They gave out of their poverty. The church had such a reputation for giving, that even more than 2,000 years later (now-a-days) we still talk about

the Philippian Church.

2) Our Giving Is An Investment In The Future.

In Philippians 4v.17 Paul said "though I appreciate your gifts, what makes me happiest is the well-earned reward you will have because of your kindness." Giving benefits the giver as well as the receiver. Jesus said 100 fold will be returned to him who gives up for the gospel. (Matthew 19v.29; Mark 10v.29-30) In Philippians 4v.17 Paul says "I want you to receive the reward for your giving." GN Bible "I want to see profit added to your account" We have an account in Heaven. God is recording everything we do. If you don't invest, don't expect a reward! Store up treasure in heaven by giving for the gospel and for those in need! I Timothy 6v.18-19 (LB) "...Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven -- it is the only safe investment for eternity!" God's bank never goes bankrupt.

3) Our Giving is a Sacrifice to God

Paul said in v.18 "I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God." Jesus Christ gave sacrificially! for you and I! When you give sacrificially, generously, or even sharing with others, you are becoming more and more like Christ! And it pleases God. Paul said the gift the Philippians sent him is equivalent to a gift to God. Jesus said, "In as much as you have done unto the least of these, my brethren, you have done it unto Me." (Matthew 25v.40). An act of generosity in our life is seen as a sacrifice to God. That's why Paul said it is important to be a Giver. There are two kinds of people - the Givers! and the Takers! The happy people are the giving people. The condition comes before the promise. You can't claim v.19 unless you're doing v.18. Jesus said, be generous to others and God will be generous with you!

Next week we will look at the Promise of God in Philippians 4v.19. God bless, te Atua te aroa!

The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

Phone 24979 Email: sales@thecomputerman.co.ck

10 things to try when applications won't work with Windows 8

5: Upgrade to the next version

When I made the switch to Windows 8, I discovered that a video-editing application I use on a regular basis would not work with Windows 8. Although I might have been able to resolve the problem using less drastic measures, I ultimately decided to simply upgrade to the newest version of the application. Not only was the latest version certified to work with Windows 8, but it also had some other new features I wanted to try out.

6: Upgrade your hardware drivers

One of the biggest problems I had when I upgraded to Windows 8 was that a program I use every day wouldn't run. The error message I received indicated that Windows 8 did not support OpenGL. However, OpenGL support is provided by the video driver, not by the operating system. It turned out that my problem was caused by an outdated version of AMD Catalyst. When I upgraded to the latest version, the problem went away and I was able to run the application.

7: Let Windows troubleshoot the problem

Windows 8 includes a utility called the Program Compatibility Troubleshooter that can sometimes automatically resolve compatibility problems. You can run the Program Compatibility Troubleshooter by right-clicking on the problematic application and choosing the Troubleshoot Compatibility command from the shortcut menu.

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Setting goals!

By Norma Ngatamariki

My previous article was mainly based on a teen perspective. Now, I'm going to talk about a topic that involves everybody, young and old. As the title may have suggested, I'll be "spreading the word" about how you can set and achieve your personal goals, whether their academic, social, sport, cultural or any other things that you wish to accomplish in your life. I know I have a few of my own that I want to complete this year, so maybe you'll have some in mind as well.

First things first: You shouldn't be ashamed of setting your goals, no matter how personal they are. You see, I've made it a goal/mission/resolution to lose a couple of pounds within a time frame of seven to eight months (It would actually be nice to fit in those pretty Billabong clothes). There we have it, the first step:

Establish your goal. Once you know what you're trying to achieve, then you can gradually work your way up from there. There is absolutely no way that you can give up. Sure, you're allowed to deviate once in a while, but don't make it a habit, you hear?

They don't even have to be huge goals. Taking baby steps is fine because the short-term goals are just as important as the long-term ones. Things like "Cleaning your room twice a week" or "Completing your homework each night" can be considered as goals. Once you've accomplished a few of these, you'll feel good about yourself and it'll prompt you to move on to the bigger things in life. You'll also gain confidence from this, which is a plus. By then, you would have felt as if you'd grabbed "the bull by the horns"

or in other words, taken control of your life.

I'll tell you about my goals from last year, as well as this year. In 2012, I wanted to come first placing in all of my subjects. (It's true, I was quite ambitious back then) I kinda strayed from this goal every now and again, but I was determined. At the senior prize giving, I came first for Digital Technology and Media Studies and third placing for Commerce. Not quite what I was aiming for, but I wasn't disappointed. It just gave me the courage to try harder in 2013. This year, I want to come first in at least three of my subjects (with the exception of Math. I'm too dumb to get any placing in that subject) and top it off with a Merit or Excellence endorsement. I also want to get a part-time job to pay my own way through the year and,



as I mentioned before, drop a few kilos before October. Yeah, I want to learn how to be independent of my parents.

Some people may need help in obtaining their goals, while others wish to do it by themselves. Whatever the case, you can make a start today!

Always give yourself three chances



By Dante Numa

I have a new motto (was fully just singing Drake's motto song in my head) but back to the point, yeah! I have a new motto, "Always give yourself three chances" So if I try something new, and it doesn't go so well the first time, I will give it a try two more times and if it still doesn't work, then it's probably

just not meant to be! For example, if you try out a new sport, and you're not quite the best at it the first time round, remember that it is only your first time, so give yourself a few more go's at it and things could turn around! You could start learning how to play properly, make a couple friends in your team, actually start to get pretty good at it, but you'll never know if you only try it once and give up straight afterwards if things aren't going exactly how you planned.

So "Always give yourself three chances" I'm going to pack this little motto into a tiny suitcase in my head and carry it with me to AUT! If for some reason I'm completely failing at a paper, I will try to pick myself up, sort out what I'm stuck with and try again, and then maybe I'll pass! It's a healthy motto to live by! In other words it's telling you not to give up! But more on the lines of, don't give up because

things could turn around if you try just one more time!

But, there are exceptions to a few things! If you're truly passionate about something, like...(ok classic example) if you're completely passionate about becoming an actor, and things just keep pushing you back, because of how passionate you are, DO NOT GIVE UP AFTER THREE TRIES!

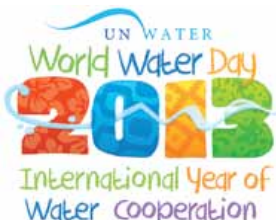
Always keep working to achieve your dreams, no matter how many setbacks you get! But still always give yourself three chances at first in everything you do, or even more! If you don't and just completely give up after not giving yourself the chance to see how things could have turned out, you may start regretting things. So guys, "Always give yourself three chances" I'm going to keep mentioning this through my whole article until its ENGRAVED into your head! So THREE CHANCES guys, THREE

CHANCES!

Now, to go completely off the topic, thanks to a workmate of mine and her fabulous idea of having a Garage Sale to raise money for University (I'm not being sarcastic or anything!) MY lovely mother has decided to have a Garage Sale as well before we both relocate to New Zealand. (I'm finding things I want to keep, but I have to sell them! Sad life) Anyway, our Garage Sale is up at home in Tupapa this Saturday! COME ALONG! (We should have a big sign saying, 'Send my daughter to University').

Anyway, to wrap up my last column, for what might be a while. I want everyone to remember to stay true to who they are, to never give up on what you love, to always remember that time will heal and to not forget to always give yourself three chances at everything! (Oh and don't forget my Garage Sale on Saturday, k thanks) Stay amazing!

You can make a difference! Do Your Part



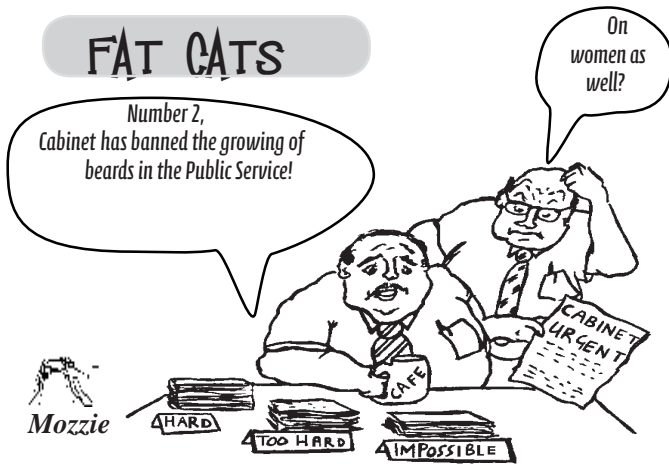
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COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



According to the Daily Phews, Chartered Accountant Mike Carr called the Herald a "nonsense paper" at the tax review public meeting because it ran a story saying secondary tax was 30 per cent and not 20 per cent! Phew! Sacrilege! Would Carr call Minister Brown a "nonsense Minister" if Brown happened to get the Budget estimates wrong? We can't all be as brilliant as you Mike! Watch this space as we watch to see who or what Mike labels as a "nonsense" next. The Herald may even offer Mike his own "Nonsense Column."



Oh dear chooks! Dear oh dear! Word is a hydroponics project out east funded by big bucks from Kiwiland has collapsed after the NZ High Commissar pulled the plug on the dosh! Too many bugs in the project it seems!



Oh dear chooks! Is the CIP in the throes of early rigor mortis? Two wisps of information picked up by Big Red's highly sensitive radar apparatus indicate a cunning idea to bring in 1,000 foreign workers to get the economy going. How will they do this? Where are these workers coming from? China? Fiji? Philippines? Samoa? Indonesia? Where are the jobs? Working on government projects? There is another cunning plan to reduce the number of outer island MPs! With outer islands numbers sinking fast, who needs three MPs on Mangaia?

CHOOKS CORNER

WITH BIG RED



Both cunning plans are a dying political party's answer to depopulation! Put 1,000 foreigners on the outer islands?



People fleeing the country chooks for the green, green, pastures of Western Australia! One lass off to Uni in Aussie, reports 9 couples booked on her flight, on one way tickets! Last week a report came into Big Red of five families out west, all set to take off for Aussie! And reports came in of four people from one government agency all off to Aussie! And, another report of a major sportsman heading off to Aussie! His starting pay? \$2,400 a week! All going to seek their fortune in Western Australia! And chooks, the latest report is of people lining up to go away to the freezing works in Aussie for big dough!



What's the point of tinkering with the tax system just to put a few extra dollars a week in the pay packet when the cost of living will just chew that up? Will te Minita o te dough rey mee,

please explain?



NZ High Commissar Fon Darter is announcing his resignation in order to prepare to run for office. This was to be expected as he already began his run months ago. Yes Fon Darter will make an excellent Prime Minister of the Cook Islands!



Why is Tapi's boat not visiting the outer reaches more often these days? Well the answer is simple chooks. With depopulation there is not enough freight being ordered! Now, the solution? A fast ferry would do the trick! Although mainly for tourists, the ferry could also serve to pick up and deliver smaller amounts of freight to the outer reaches! Tapi's boat could be used for the bigger, heavier stuff like machinery. Why won't our government transfer the \$13 million it pays Air NZ to buying a fast ferry which could be contracted to Tapi to operate? Answer? That's too simple!



Government could pick up a good

second hand fast ferry for about US\$10 million. With 120,000 tourists calling at Rarotonga, this is the market for a fast ferry. Get some of those tourists to the outer islands. Think of the return! Think of the boost to outer islands economies!



Earlier this week Finance Guru Fitchud Seves was spotted sporting a neatly trimmed beard! Why? Rumour is it sprouted overnight due to undue stress! The stress of having been badgered constantly by overbearing politicians seeking funding for every pet project under the coconut tree! Then, on Tuesday the facial hair was gone! He appeared at the Donor oblong table the sun reflecting off his clean shaven dial! How did that happen?



Word is the evening affair at the Hotel for the Donor lot did not attract the crowd expected. While around 100 were expected to turn up, the final number was more like 60 odd. Bet that saved a penny or two!

Cook Islands
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Join the dynamic hardworking team at Cook Islands Tourism Corporation! With the mandate to lead the nation in tourism, destination development and marketing, our team is looking for a bright, energetic, passionate individual to make a difference and help cultivate continued success in this economic sector.

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Applicants must have the following expertise:

- possess a Tertiary degree in a related field or studying to its completion
- OR have 1 year work experience in the tourism industry or alternatively a new graduate in tourism studies
- experience in Tourism sales and marketing
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- multi-task and able to manage many projects at one time
- have sound knowledge of general office and administrative procedures
- have excellent organisational skills and ability to prioritise work and meet tight deadlines
- have sound knowledge of the industry, activities and service personnel
- have advanced knowledge in the use of Office software – Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access

A detailed Terms of Reference is available at www.cookislands.travel/jobs

Applications with a CV should be addressed to Executive Assistant, PO Box 14, Cook Islands Tourism Corporation, Rarotonga or emailed to applications@cookislands.gov.ck

Applications close 4pm, Thursday 28 February 2013

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If you want to know more, please email Damien@telecom.co.ck for a full position description and if you think you're up for the challenge and you have the right credentials please send your application and CV to the Sales & Marketing Manager at the same email.

Applications close 4pm Friday 16 February 2013.

TENDER NOTICE



**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
OFFICE OF THE ENERGY COMMISSIONER**

**TENDER AND CONTRACT NO. OPM-02/2013
PUKAPUKA-NASSAU RENEWABLE ENERGY AND
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS PROJECT**

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in conjunction with the Office of the Energy Commissioner (OEC), invites sealed Tender Submissions from suitably qualified contractors for the supply and delivery of all requested Goods including the construction of the Pukapuka and Nassau Islands photovoltaic and low-voltage distribution systems co-funded by the Japanese and New Zealand Governments.

Hardcopies of the tender document will be available from the Renewable Energy Development Division's office of the OPM at a non-refundable fee of NZ\$100 per set. Electronic copies will however be made available free of charge.

Only hardcopies of the Tender Submissions will be accepted and these must reach the tender box located at the REDD's office no later than 1.00pm on Monday 11th March 2013 (local time). All Tender Submissions must be addressed to:

Chief of Staff
Office of Prime Minister
Private Bag
Avarua
Rarotonga
COOK ISLANDS

All tender enquiries must be directed to the PEC Fund Coordinator Ngateina Rani, on telephone (682) 25494, mobile (682) 54433 or email ngateina@pmoffice.gov.ck.

Tukao fishing competition

Nga Taio displays why she took top honours in the Tukao fishing competition at the weekend with this fine specimen of a Tenu (Red Cod) (Photo Inset). Nga won the Heaviest Lagoon Fish with a Tenu, which weighed in at 2kg. A total of nine fishers – four men and five women – took part in the Tukao Fishing Club's comp, setting off at 7am and returning at 2pm with their catches. There were four divisions in all – and the winners were: Heaviest Reef Fish – Kaina Karaponga with a 5kg Napoleon wrasse (Tuputupulahi); Most Reef Fish – Kura Piniata; Most Lagoon Fish – Ben Viavica; and Nga for Heaviest Lagoon Fish. The Prime Minister Henry Puna and Mrs Puna attended a prize-giving and kaikai in the evening, to award the victors with their spoils.



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