

# COOK ISLANDS HERALD

13 March 2013

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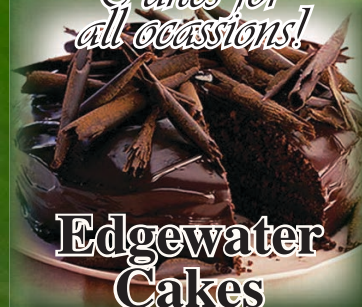


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# Demogate hard act to whitewash

By Prime Minister Hon Henry Puna

Take a walk on the beach and you're likely to stumble upon an apt symbol of the Opposition: an empty shell - an empty shell devoid of substantive ideas, fruitful debate, and healthy vision. As a vacuous shell, the Opposition has the distinction of having perfected an echo chamber of constant complaining.

But unlike some of the shells that one finds on the beach, the Opposition does not resemble the cleanly-polished exterior of a sea-washed gem. As a government, the Opposition was so far beyond the high water mark it had no hope of being smoothed by wave action.

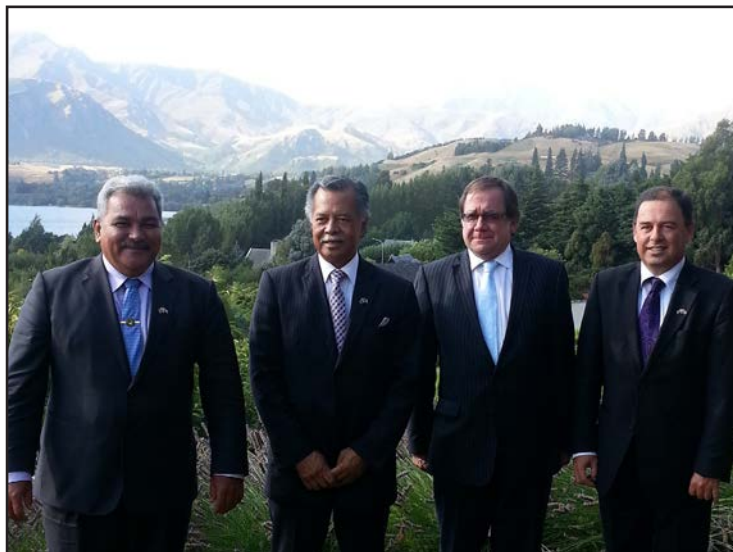
The Toagate scandal of abused process, the doing-nothing approach over Colagate, and the Six-Pack government of Demogate in 2010 are remnants of a failed leadership. Yes, thanks to a series of debacles, the Demogate Party would be hard to whitewash.

Fortunately, a new

gleam on the nation's administration now reflects a revitalized sheen of achievements, which shows no sign of dulling.

Far from it. National gains continue to stem from Government's efforts to sustain momentum on several priorities. High among those objectives is our attention to detail on managing the process of building our capacity to perform and deliver. We have a commitment to ensure public process and procedures retain integrity and accountability in moving forward.

Next week, the Cook Islands has a raft of opportunities to push the national agenda for Energy Sector development. I shall be leading a team to the Pacific Leaders Energy Summit in the Kingdom of Tonga, where renewable energy and the integration of solar power-generated electricity will be of keen interest. Our own progress in furthering achievements in renewable energy penetration will



Teina Bishop, PM Henry Puna, Murray McCully and Mark Brown

be an important part of how the Region must work collaboratively, in terms of strategic planning and encouraging meaningful partnerships.

While Demogate deflated the people's will to pursue ambitious goals for fuel, we remained determined to shift our priorities to reduce our dependency on diesel and crank up the momentum to transform our Energy sector. We have offered real solutions with real support for change.

Much of this change will require external

assistance in the form of donor partnerships and entrepreneurial links with the private sector. This will be a critical factor in our drive to establish renewable power generation across all our islands, and a component of the impetus for Rarotonga's transition to clean and green energy.

These are the efforts of a Government serious about working safely and steadily toward benefits - work that will not abate simply because an empty shell is echoing the sound of the tide going out on Demogate.

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# Minister launches Aquaculture Plan



Minister Bishop, Ben Ponia-Secretary of Marine Resources (MMR),

*By Charles Pitt*

**O**n Wednesday afternoon, Minister for Marine Resources, Hon Teina Bishop announced the release of the first "Cook Islands Aquaculture Development Plan for 2012-2016."

Bishop said the Plan had been in progress stages since 2011, in close consultation with aquaculture stakeholders.

He said the Plan captures the aspirations of Cook Islanders for sustainable aquaculture development. It also contributes towards the NSDP 2011-2015.

The Plan provides:

- Guidance to aquaculture investors
- most development potential aquaculture commodities in the Cook Islands and carry the least
- strategies outlined to forge partnership between the public sector and private sector.

He said the growth in tourism contributes to the increase in demand for fish and that the effects of climate change on our reefs along with the rising cost of fuel, is encouraging the development of new sources of fish closer to home.

Affordable sea food is also necessary if we are to combat the increasing cases of NCDs.

Presently Rarotonga at 25kg per capita, consumes below the 35kg per capita per year of seafood for healthy living recommended by the WHO.

An example of public sector/private sector cooperation is evident in the Aquaponic Project in Titikaveka. It was launched on 29 August 2012 during the Forum Leaders meeting. As a result there has been a request to coordinate a regional training workshop in aquaponics on Rarotonga possibly in September 2013.

The Plan booklet is 44 pages long and was produced with assistance from the SPC. IT covers the legislative and policy framework for aquaculture, the vision and goals, commodity development strategies, strategies for cross cutting issues and contacts.

The booklet also serves as a guide for those seeking more information about aquaculture and sets a framework and process for further considerations regarding what items are potentially viable, marketing, constraints, advantages and disadvantages, environmental considerations, costings and technical capacity.

Copies may be obtained by enquiring with the Ministry of Marine Resources.



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# Agriculture development has serious shortcomings

*By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition*

In my weekly discussion with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition William (Smiley) Heather, a number of important issues emerged. So I write this on his behalf and convey his thoughts on Government shortcomings in so far as crop producers and planters are concerned. Smiley is a planter and spends a lot of his time turning the soil across the length and width of Arorangi making ready fields for planting. When the Democratic Party was in office, he was very closely associated with former Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Prime Minister and Opposition Leader

the late Robert Wigmore. Robert was one of the country's most successful planters and exporters of agriculture products. In his time in Government he initiated some worthwhile projects such as "Te One Kura Project" – an attempt to generate greater volume of crops in the outer islands for sale here in Rarotonga and overseas. It is a fact the Democratic Party Government has a great track record in agriculture.

For the last two years and a bit, and it is for all to see, the record of this Government when it comes to the export of pawpaw is dismal. In fact two times during its tenure, the Minister of Agriculture Nandi Glassie had

promised for the processing of pawpaw and its export requirements to be facilitated by Government ensuring export quality. But nothing has happened from these promises. In the last session of Parliament, Smiley put the question to Minister Glassie again, what is the situation with the export of pawpaw? Initially the Minister responded that his Ministry is about to start exporting but he later apologized saying there is still some way to go for that to happen. In fact there is still work to be done with the heat treatment plant, the securing of a market and of course the maintenance of product supply. This was disappointing because it discouraged planters from planting pawpaw.

With regards to marketing, Smiley reckons that the Cook Islands missed out on some great opportunities to export its pawpaw and indeed other crops to places like Samoa, Fiji and other Pacific places affected by cyclones and natural disasters recently. Had we been ready, planters and the country could have made substantial income. Along with such opportunities gone begging, the droughts and long lasting dry weather conditions could have also been beneficial for the Cook Islands had some effort been made. The Opposition knows that there is a greater demand for vegetables and tropical fruit crops such as pawpaw and bananas in New Zealand and the prices would be very favourable due to shortage of supply of the normal range of agricultural crops New Zealanders produce for its own internal markets. No one in Government that we in the Opposition know has made any effort to explore these situations.

Frankly, planters in the Cook Islands are somewhat outraged as to the delays. Regular pawpaw planters are not planting pawpaw



trees anymore. We see some public relations on chilly export and we saw a similar interest in planting vanilla. Well, as for vanilla it has somewhat fallen out of interest because it is quite labour intensive. The jury is still out for the chilly. We know there is no assistance at all for nono growers. Remember the big huhha over a Chinese millionaire interested in buying nono from the Cook Islands. It turned out he was a crook and there has not been a whisper since then about nono from the Government.

People should be wary of the spin by the Ministry of Agriculture about efforts to revive agriculture. We know for a fact that the Associate Minister of Agriculture Kiriau Turepu is quite busy with his personal planting for crops to sell at the Punanga Nui market and the Minister Nandi Glassie is too busy explaining about the delays and lack of movement. Yes, indeed agriculture is the backbone of the Cook Islands from way-back and still is but never before we have seen a time of great slackness and failure from the Government on it. Frankly our planters deserve better.

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER  **AIR NEW ZEALAND** 

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## Faulty generator cuts power briefly

**R**arotonga, Cook Islands, 11 March 2013 – A faulty generator was responsible for two brief power outages along a feeder line between Takuvaine and Turangi yesterday.

According to Apii Timoti, CEO, the generator stopped working at 5.02am Sunday leaving residents on the east coast feeder line without power for 3 minutes before backup generators kicked in to restore power. The east coast line is the first to be affected when power is shed, with priority given to lines leading to the airport,

hospital and town area including Radio and TCI.

“After maintenance work was carried out on the faulty generator, it was brought back into operation but cut out again at 1.28pm. Backup generators responded and restored power in 6 minutes”, he added.

Timoti advised that the faulty generator has been taken out of operation pending the arrival of spare parts from overseas and he conveys Te Aponga’s apologies to those customers that were affected.

## Personnel movements in government

**Harriet Kimiora** has moved from the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) desk at the OPM to Foreign Affairs.

**Vanessa Jenner** has now officially started at MFEM as the ADB representative having recently completed her induction course at ADB in Manila.

**Taimata Allsworth** has taken up the UNDP position in MFEM.

## PM to lead Energy team to back-to-back Summits

**T**he Prime Minister Henry Puna is leading a delegation to the Kingdom of Tonga next Tuesday, to attend the Pacific Leaders Energy Summit, being hosted in Nuku’alofa. The Government of Tonga is sponsoring the PM’s attendance, along with his delegation. First Lady Mrs Puna will be accompanying the PM.

The two days summit will be focusing on regional developments in renewable energy and exploring opportunities for further cooperation and investment for driving economic growth. The PM is keen to promote a collaborative approach among the Pacific so that the national cooperative framework can be strengthened with key partnerships.

The Tonga meeting (21-22 March) is being staged back-to-back with the Pacific Energy Summit in Auckland (24-26 March). The PM will be delivering a Keynote Address during the New Zealand Summit opening. The meeting will be attended by Leaders and Ministers, and a range of Heads and Representatives from various key agencies such as IRENA, World Bank, EIB, UNDP, and ADB. A private sector showcase featuring energy technologies and advancements will be staged in parallel to the Summit.

The PM’s delegation is supported by Energy Commissioner Roger de Bray, Head of Renewable Energy Division Tangi Tereapii, and PM Advisor Trev Pitt. Dallas Young, Head of International Affairs at Foreign Affairs will be part of the Auckland team in support of the PM’s bilateral meetings with external partners and agencies.



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# Our cover girl Ikram Elabssi



*Our front page for Herald issue 657 girl is Ikram Elabssi. Check out our website [www.ciherald.co.ck](http://www.ciherald.co.ck) and facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ciherald](http://www.facebook.com/ciherald)*

Our front page girl this week is Ikram Elabssi, who is  $\frac{1}{2}$  Cook Island and  $\frac{1}{2}$  Arab and hails from Arorangi on her Cook Islands side and Morocco, Casablanca (North Africa) on her Arabian side. Ikram is attending Nukutere College, form 5 and attended school in Sydney at Belmore North for a few years before coming to Rarotonga. She has been on and off of the island for the past 7 years, she attended Papa'aroa College, and during her years at Rutaki and Arorangi School, she was a Prefect. Ikram is currently modeling for "idck" and was also doing some modeling for resorts here in Rarotonga. Her hobbies include singing; when she was ten years old she sang at Engara Gosselin's birthday and will be singing at the Easter Music Festival at the Raro Safari Tours beach in Nikao later this month. Ikram is 'lovin it' here in Rarotonga and as for her future, "I'm just going with the flow, surfing my wave" she says.



# New Pope elected

**P**ope Francis, the former Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio was elected as the new Pope of the Catholic Church on Wednesday 13 March. He lives in a small flat, takes the bus and only has one functioning lung.

The newly elected Pope Francis I waves to the crowds from St Peter's basilica. He is believed to have been runner-up last time.

## What we know about Pope Francis

- He likes to travel by bus.
- He has lived for more than 50 years with one functioning lung. He had the other removed as a young man because of infection.
- He is the son of an Italian railway worker.
- He trained as a chemist.
- He is the first non-European Pope in the modern era.
- He claims that adoption by homosexuals is a form of discrimination against children but believes that condoms "can be permissible" to prevent infection.
- In 2001 he washed and kissed the feet of Aids patients in a hospice.
- He speaks fluent Italian, as



well as Spanish and German.

- Until now he has been living in a small flat, eschewing a formal Bishop's residence and cook's his own meal.
- He told Argentinians not to travel to Rome to celebrate if he was appointed but to give their money to the poor instead.
- He is believed to have been

the runner-up in the last Papal conclave in 2005.

- He has co-written a book, in Spanish, called *Sobre el Cielo y la Tierra* (On Heaven and Earth).

You can buy it on Kindle.

- Though conservative on Church doctrine, he has criticised priests who refuse to baptise babies born to single mothers.

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# Earth Hour 2013, Okotai Ora note Ao Kura 2013

The Prime Minister Hon. Henry Puna is pleased to announce that the Cook Islands will join the rest of the world to mark Earth Hour on Friday 22nd March from 12.00 to 1.00pm. In similar fashion to last year, Earth Hour will be celebrated this year with a voluntary lunch-time 'switch off' of all Air Conditioning units and non-essential lights and appliances for ONE HOUR ONLY.

Globally, Earth Hour will be recognized on Saturday 23rd March (Friday local time) from 8:30-9:30pm with over 120 major cities switching off for an hour.

The aim of Earth Hour is to send a message across the globe raising awareness of the fight against global warming by reducing energy consumption for one hour.

The focus and target group this year is on Government departments, the commercial sector, and schools during a normal business day. The midday period is a peak in the daily pattern of energy consumption.

The Prime Minister, as Minister for Energy and the Environment, is encouraging the community to contribute to the effort by participating in this global event.

Te Aponga Uira is expected to provide the load reading for the target hour to demonstrate how much can be saved. The key stakeholders organizing for this year's event includes the Office of the Energy Commissioner, Renewable Energy Development Division (REDD), National Environment Service, Te Aponga Uira, Climate Change Division, The Ministry of

Infrastructure & Planning and International Institute for Energy Conservation(IIEC) and others.

As a handy tip for the lunch-time switch off, the public is being asked to remember to SWITCH OFF non-essential lights and appliances, including air conditioning units, PCs and standby appliances, especially when leaving the building. Also, everyone is encouraged to find alternative transport to work or school on the day – either walk, cycle, carpool, or take public transport. This will help reduce emissions for one day and get your body moving!

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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## Making our Taro more tolerant to disease

By Charles Pitt

In about two weeks from now the first batch of seedlings from the Ministry of Agriculture's Taro Cross Breeding Programme will be ready for planting out by selected farmers.

William Wigmore from the Ministry told the Herald on Tuesday that the programme which started about a month ago involves the cross pollination by hand of 13 selected varieties of Samoan taro with 11 varieties of Cook Islands taro. Tonga is also undertaking a similar programme.

According to Wigmore, the programme was instituted because the Ministry is certain it is just a matter of time before the same blight which decimated Samoa's taro crop some years ago, hits the Cook Islands and also

Tonga. The threat is very real said Wigmore.

Through cross breeding, the Ministry is looking to develop a taro variety which has a high level of tolerance to blight rather than outright resistance. At the same time the taro must retain those features which make Cook Islands taro sought after. That is, good taste, texture and good eating.

The Cook Islands has some varieties of Niuean taro which are the same as that Fiji is exporting to New Zealand. However, Niuean taro is susceptible to disease.

Wigmore advised that one cross breeding can produce up to 1,000 progeny (seedlings).

The Ministry will look to select some outer island farmers to plant out the taro seedlings and to monitor progress.







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# Push for efficient energy



Don't waste energy is the new catch cry today, although, if truth be told, the saying has been around a while.

The difference now is that energy efficiency is seen as an integral part of sustainable energy policy, ranking alongside renewable energy.

What is it exactly? In a nutshell, it covers all the ways to get more work out of less energy.

We have a good understanding of renewable energy due to an appreciation of the potential that lies within the abundance of sunshine the Cook Islands enjoys. It is seen as a way of reducing dependence on imported fuel that impacts negatively on the country's balance of payments.

But energy efficiency as a separate endeavour also offers significant savings. Te Aponga Uira has upgraded its generation equipment to reduce generation losses by 2% and replaced high power consumption street lights with savings in power consumption of over 50%.

By increasing investments in energy efficiency, TAU is replicating the efforts other utilities are making around the world.

It may seem strange that utility companies should be trying to get people to make savings in their use of power – to use less power if you will. But to understand this strategy one needs to realise that utilities are in the business of reliable and affordable

power and everyone benefits if power is delivered at low cost in an efficient way.

From the perspective of Te Aponga Uira, energy efficiency is worth pushing because it reduces the cost of renewable energy. With efficiency gains one can shrink the size of the solar panel needed to light a lamp; and, if you stretch this idea, one can avoid investing in infrastructure that is oversized due to inefficient energy production.

The bottom line for Te Aponga Uira is to be in a position to provide a safe, reliable and cost effective energy service and to adopt affordable and clean renewable energy solutions to supplement fossil fuel.





# Is the Government neglecting agriculture?

Agriculture has been a major commercial activity for Cook Islanders for a long time and if measured from the start of colonization in and about the late 1800's and early 1900's, one can see its prevalence in our islands. For instance, copra was a major export crop from the Northern Cook Islands, pineapple was a substantial crop from Mangaia and the Southern Cook Islands and oranges and bananas were lucrative for Rarotonga and Aitutaki. Up to today planting still remains prominent in our way of life and indeed in our economic profile.

There is serious concern as to whether Government is doing enough to capitalise on the value of agriculture. Government has appropriated \$878,330 for the year 2012-2013 for agriculture and at least something thirty five percent of that or more is spent on crop research. But about eighty percent of that goes towards salaries we hear no statements from the Ministry of Agriculture as to where such research is leading us into. We know however that the Ministry of Agriculture copped a twelve and a half percent cut to its budget from the close to a million dollars gross

appropriated for the 2011-12 fiscal year. This is a cut across the board for Government ministries although the percentage cuts varied. For agriculture and planters this is a huge blow, an indication that Government is not rating agriculture with high priority. In fact it maybe that agriculture is seen as a run of the mill operation by Government.

Apart from tourism, agriculture is our second major resource that generates income but so far such income is not from export but from our own local consumption either in hotels or from sales by vendors beside the road and at the Punanga Nui Market. Government has talked about export quite a lot but not a sign of it with regards to pawpaw, bananas, citrus fruits, pineapple and others. Lately however, there's been some export of chilly, a much smaller and relatively easier to package product but that is just one from a wide range of products that should have been already on the market in New Zealand or anywhere else. But how long term is that before New Zealand importers buy cheaper chilly from Asian countries?

Lessons should have been learned when for example Asian countries started to export soya bean oil to New

Zealand as our main market which essentially killed our copra export. And yet copra oil can still be exported for niche markets but we don't and there's no encouragement at all from Government to copra producers. Our banana export was killed off when bananas from the Caribbean's took over the market. They were cheaper and producers in the Caribbean's are heavily subsidized by their Governments to produce.

Here in the Cook Islands we tend to reinvent the wheel and kill off our earlier efforts. What has happened to the Mauke nursery project? There were investments made to create a nursery in Mauke to enable greater production of agricultural products. Government appears by its silence on it appears to have canned it. What has happened to the Hydroponic projects in the Northern Islands? It seems to have been shoved under the carpet.

There is also far too much reliance on funding support from both the South Pacific Commission (SPC) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Both these organizations have progressively reduced money to the Cook Islands raising

questions as to what have we as a country done in terms of food security and ensuring that in the event of major natural disasters that we can still grow food.

Less talk and more action should now take place with Agriculture and less shallow public relations such as the Minister of Agriculture on Television making announcements that are either trivial or superficial. Some serious thinking needs to be done, for instance a seed bank here in Rarotonga needs to be established instead of relying on seeds from Samoa etc.

We are lucky that Cook Islands growers are a resilient lot and many of them plant for the love of it. It is quite noticeable that agriculture is under threat because most arable land in Rarotonga are now being for house construction and that trend will of course continue in future. Has the Ministry of Agriculture devised ways to combat the land shrinkage problem? There are so many questions to ask. One thing is for sure. Our agriculture plans is way behind the expectations of the Cook Islands National Sustainable Plan for 2011 to 2015.

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# Trading paradise for a desert? - Why do Cook Islanders continue to leave? Can we do anything about it?

Many of our overseas families and, visitors to our shore question 'why would anyone want to leave this beautiful paradise, a paradise we all call home.

The answer is simple, an average Cook Islander gets paid a minimum wage of \$200 a week, now when we compare that to what some locals are collecting now in Australia, who wouldn't trade paradise for a desert to chase the 'real' money.

Statistics show that our population has dropped dramatically because of the high cost of living, and the fact that government has done little to retain our Cook Island people.

In the month of January alone, 42 of our Cook Island people, packed up and left to go overseas, with many heading across the ditch to Australia to enter into the booming mining industry. In December 2012, 102 people left, the trend continues on with every month, people making the move to create new lives overseas.

In the last 7-years, many NZ and Australian companies have snatched up Cook Islanders by coming into the country and offering job opportunities into the freezing works and mining industries and most recently, scaffolding.

The CI Herald spoke to one person who asked not to be named, he says, 2-years ago, he was collecting roughly \$1300 a month, this he says is 'peanuts' to what he's collecting now which is hitting \$12,000 not for six months, not for 3-months but a month – and with this, he was able to pay off his mortgage in over 2-years – an impossible task as he would've still been working his 'bu\*\* off' here.

Statistics have shown that since January – December 2012, 492 Cook Islanders left permanently, and in 2011 during the same period, 511 people left, with more to jet set away in the next few weeks and coming months – something government should be alarmed about, and an issue the Opposition has been saying that government needs to urgently address.

OPM's Communication Advisor Trevor Pitt says, "the government plans to continue with investing in infrastructure to create jobs and there are several ideas that are still in discussion like increasing the minimum wage and lifting the tax threshold which will benefit low income earners," he added, "our focus is trying to find ways to bring our Cook Island people back, the Cook Islands cannot retain the young adults to stay in paradise as its natural for them to leave the small pond and discover what other countries have to offer."

The CI Herald understands, about 10-years ago, a documentary was created and Mana Productions producer, Jeane Matenga who travelled to NZ and Australia and interviewed Cook Islanders as to why they left, at that time there were a number of reasons why, these varied from health, education, employment, and family – now when you compare that to the last 3 years, our people are leaving with the main perception being, to earn more money.

Pitt says, "of course the Cook Islands can't compete with Australia, even NZ is finding it hard to retain its people, in 2011, 53,000 New Zealanders migrated to Australia because of the mining and meat-works industry – and there is no way the Cook Islands can compete with either country."

Last month alone, 8 Cook Island families packed up to head to

by **Mona Tetauru**

## In a Flash:

It's all about the money. It's the main reason people are still leaving. \$1,300 per month compared to \$12,000 per month - I would leave.

In the past, people left for a myriad of reasons including health, education, money, family, politics and land. Now they are just chasing the money. Mining, construction in particular scaffolding, and freezing works are offering great pay rates and are luring our people to the other side of the fence.

From 2008-2012 we saw 1936 permanent residents depart, and 1246 foreign workers come in to replace them. The face of the Cook Islands has changed.

Australia, and so did 5 young men who took up jobs to work in the freezing works in both Wellington and Ashburton where a large number of Cook Islanders are working.

The mining and freezing work industries have over the past years recruited locals with many saying is a great opportunity for our people, but at the same time, sad for the economy. According to statistics, in 2012 alone, around 247 people entered the Cook Islands to work, to replace our population decline, and from 2008 – 2012, around 1246 foreign workers entered the Cook Islands for employment, while 1936 of our people moved overseas during the same period.

The CI Herald also spoke to a few young returning Cook Islanders who said they returned home as the lifestyle in NZ and Australia became too fast and were literally like robots, doing the same everyday, and chose to return home to be with family and friends and may plan to head overseas one day, but not anytime soon.

Another sad aspect is whether those that leave for the mining boom will ever return, given that once you set in your roots, that is buy a house, put children through school, it becomes quite hard to up and leave.

## Permanent Resident Departures

**2008: 271**

**2009: 361**

**2010: 300**

**2011: 511**

**2012: 493**

-----  
**TOTAL: 1936 (out)**

**Jan 2013: 43**

**Employment Arrivals 2008-2012 = 1246 (in)**

*Source: Statistics, Migration January 2013.*

**RATE THIS STORY:**

**How interesting was it to you?**





# Saving energy - you still have to do it? - Why? While you have a good time, resources get depleted and the earth gets polluted - that's why?

We take for granted that we can turn on the power and light appears, or our cellphone starts charging and the TV starts playing. But our luxuries has serious implications on the planet.

This week we have seen the launch of two activities that will see a general reduction in our overall consumption of energy for the year. The first is the 10,000 CFL lightbulbs that will be distributed throughout Rarotonga homes. The second being Earth Hour which is set for next Friday 22nd March. Why in this age, and as we approach the dawn of renewable energy for the Cook Islands do we have to conserve energy.

The most obvious answer is your pocket. According to the Prime Minister Henry Puna whom the Office of the Energy Commission falls under, the new CFL project will see a reduction of your home power bill by about \$30 per month. This is quite a significant saving.

Earth Hour on the other hand saved Te Aponga Uira about 48 litres of fuel last year according to figures reported by the Earth Hour committee last year, or the environment 130kg of extra carbon dioxide to deal with. Rarotonga consumes about 7.2 million litres of fuel per year (electricity wise) and with all things being equal puts consumption at 822 litres per hour. So 48 litres of 822 litres is only a saving of 6 percent. We can't tell you what that is exactly in dollar figures as how much Te Aponga pays for its diesel is subject to contractual obligations but if we use the retail price of diesel being about \$2.40 per litre this equates to only about \$115. It doesn't seem like a lot on the local scale but globally with all other countries involved the savings are enormous. And really the point of earth hour is not the savings in itself but the awareness as to the overuse of non-renewable resources and the resulting damage to the environment.

The CFL program is timely in that it coincides with the week of Earth Hour. In addition, the Prime Minister is set to attend the Pacific Leaders Energy Summit, being hosted in Nuku'alofa leaving next Tuesday. Following on from that to the Pacific Energy Summit in Auckland (24-26 March) where he will be delivering a Keynote Address.

Fortunately, the bulbs have arrived. And Government has contracted a number of electrical contractors to commence the project next week. The target installation is 100 bulbs per day which will allow the project to be completed in one month, given that there are about 3,000 domestic houses on Rarotonga. The project is simple too in that homeowners don't really have to do anything just give a nod and electrical contractors will turn up, take out 4 incandescent lamps and put in 4 new CFLs. All of this is at no cost to domestic homes.

As for the Outer Islands, the Prime Minister says they "are crying for these energy saving lightbulbs and a recent census shows that 50 percent of homes are still using the energy sucking lightbulbs. The Energy Commissioner [Roger De Bray] will be working hard to ensure this initiative is extended to the Outer Islands where he believes it is needed the most.

This is the second time a CFL replacement program has taken

by Jeane Matenga

## In a Flash:

CFL Project: Each home gets 4 new CFL lightbulbs installed free of charge. Savings \$30 per month.

Earth Hour: Switch off your lights and appliances for 1 hour on Friday 22 March 2013. 2012 savings 48 litres, or \$115, or 6 percent of Te Aponga's hourly usage. Do your part for the earth's resources and our environment and make this year's savings better.

place. The first project was held in 2009 that saw 12,000 bulbs distributed to Rarotonga and another 6,000 to the Outer Islands. Although, the distribution was somewhat different in that people had to take in their bulbs and swap them.

So while these two projects help us to be aware of our habits and watch our pocket, in the renewable energy age it is also important as improving our energy efficiency reduces the size and cost of the renewable energy system that we have to install - the investment cost. So it's important that you give your nod of approval to have your incandescent bulbs replaced with CFLs, and its important that you participate in Earth Hour. Because its your habits that helps destroy/damage the planet.

## RATE THIS STORY:

How interesting was it to you?



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## Administration Manager

The New Zealand High Commission in Rarotonga, Cook Islands is seeking an experienced Administration Manager to be responsible for the overall administration of the High Commission.

In this busy managerial position, you will lead a team of administration and consular staff to support the delivery of the Post's strategic outputs. You will ensure office processes and systems run smoothly, take charge of budget forecasting and management and ensure compliance with all process guidelines and internal controls. You will oversee management of property and facilities service providers ensuring cost efficient contracts run smoothly. You will also provide HR guidance and administration assistance to our Head of Mission and management team.

You will have significant experience in office administration and team management, and be comfortable leading a team. You will also need to demonstrate strong English communication skills, relationship building skills, customer focus and attention to detail. In particular the ability to build working relationship with off shore teams will be key.

If this sounds like you, please contact Sarah Calnon on [sarah.calnon@nz.manpower.com](mailto:sarah.calnon@nz.manpower.com) for the application form and full position description. All applications must be made in English. Applications should be sent to [sarah.calnon@nz.manpower.com](mailto:sarah.calnon@nz.manpower.com) and need to be received by 22 March 2013.

The successful applicant will be employed on local terms and conditions and must have the right to work in the Cook Islands. Any offer of employment is subject to the grant of a work permit by Cook Islands Immigration. In addition any relocation to Rarotonga is to be undertaken at the expense of the applicant. The salary range for this position is between NZ\$54,000 – \$75,000.

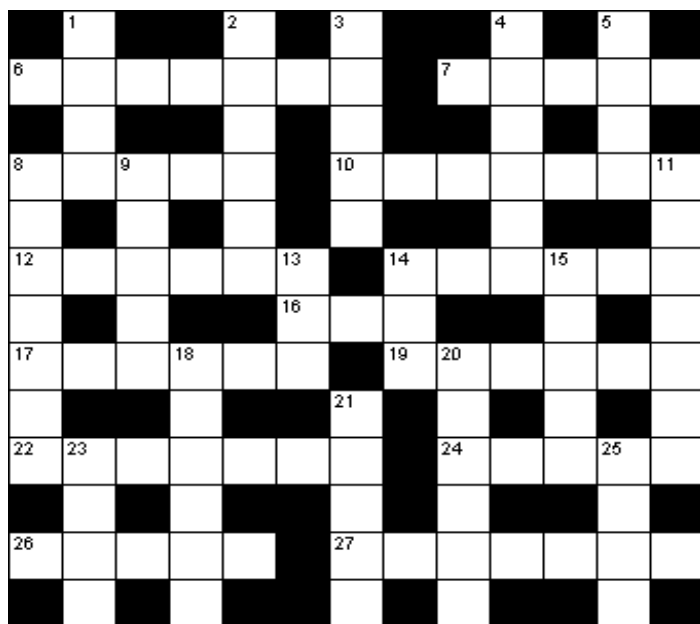
The successful applicant must be able to obtain and maintain appropriate New Zealand Government security clearances.



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## CROSSWORD



### Across

6. Luggage
7. Female horses
8. Run away
10. Performance of music
12. Antiaircraft fire
14. Heavenly body
16. Before
17. Wretchedness
19. Mind
22. Long curl
24. Like musk
26. Departing
27. Covering

### Down

1. Torch
2. Manoeuvre

3. Swerves
4. Boat basin
5. Second letter of the Greek alphabet
8. Prison
9. Finds pleasing
11. Method of raising money
13. Lock opener
14. Vigour
15. Narrow joining pieces
18. Locomotive
20. Ask to come
21. Severely simple
23. Image of a deity
25. Compassionate

## The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

Phone 24979 Email: [sales@thecomputerman.co.ck](mailto:sales@thecomputerman.co.ck)

### Smartphone Security Tips

#### 3. Backup or Sync Your Data Frequently

We hope you never find yourself missing a smartphone or having to issue a remote data self-destruct, but if you do, you'll want to be sure your phone's data exists somewhere else. The same is true in the event your device becomes incapacitated due to physical damage or some other malfunction. Whatever the case, having a backup of your data is critical.

Depending on the smartphone, you may have the option to make a comprehensive backup of your device to a computer, or at least maintain a redundant copy of the most critical data and settings by syncing with online storage (a.k.a "the cloud") -- either via a vendor-provided service or a third-party app. (You can't generally backup the complete contents of your smartphone online due to bandwidth and storage limitations.)

How to backup or sync your smartphone data:

**Android:** There's currently no option for a soup-to-nuts backup, but Android smartphones running version 2.2 and above have the capability to back up device settings and application data to Google servers. (Third-party app data may or may not be included in the backup, depending on whether or not the developer takes advantage of the feature.

Android's backup option should be on by default, but you can check by going to Settings > Privacy > Back up my data. In addition, the nature of Google's services means that most of the ones you use on an Android device, e.g. Gmail, Contacts, Calendar, etc., are automatically kept in sync for you.

**iPhone:** iTunes creates a backup each time you plug in your iPhone to sync content. If you're willing to ante up MobileMe's \$99 annual price tag (no free ride for iPhone 4 owners here, though there is a 60-day trial), the service will syncs key data both with online storage and with any Mac and/or PC you choose.



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# Ministry of Infrastructure & Planning

## Project City Update

### Project City Tupapa works are a top priority

After consultations between Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning and the contractor, Landholdings Ltd, it has been decided that schedule of works in Tupapa is a top priority.

The public are asked to continue to be patient because the Tupapa works are very extensive with ring-mains already laid on the seaward side which has led to unavoidable damage to the road.

The potholes will be repaired but the proper reinstatement cannot begin until the sub-mains are laid down on the inland side of the road in Tupapa. Furthermore, the cross connections from one side of the other need to be installed and all such work is commencing right now.

Once all the sub-mains and cross connections are done, reinstatement on the seaward side of the Tupapa road can get underway and restore the road to a reasonable condition.

The public are asked to be patient as the contractors carry out their monumental work plan which is to completely



replace the entire water supply network in all four sectors of the Project City area: Panama, Avarua central business district including the areas on the Ara Metua, Tupapa to Tepuretu Rd, and all of the Takuvaine Vallley.

For those wondering why

the waterworks were laid in the middle of the Tupapa road rather on the edge of the road. Apparently, the data generated by the ground penetrating radar revealed that there was such a tangle of service lines in Tupapa, that if the work had been carried

out according to the original plan, that telephone and power lines were likely to be affected. The option of encroaching on private property would have been problematic, so the only viable option was to lay the pipes under the road.

### Avatiu work represents the completion of the ring mains

Project City contractors, hard at work in Avatiu (opposite the Ports Authority office) on Monday afternoon. Infrastructure and Planning technical staff advise that the Avatiu section represents the last of the 200mm ring-mains to be laid.



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# German dental students visit



*By Maria Tanner*

An elective volunteer program with the Te Marae Ora Dental services has seen a number of international dental students pass through its doors and this year five elective students from Germany will spend four weeks in the Cook Islands volunteering.

The five students are in their final year of dental studies coming from Bavaria and Cologne, while here they have been based at the Tupapa Dental Clinic gaining work experience alongside Chief Dental Officer Danny Areai.

Running in excess of 20 years the elective program has benefitted the Cook Islands says Areai with gifted material supplies from volunteer students, "When students are based here they bring with them materials and they are left here

for the use in the Cook Islands."

Te Marae Ora Dental services also concurrently run the elective program with varying international universities and have had students from both Otago University in New Zealand and medical establishments in England grace the clinics.

Areai has had the pleasure of working alongside the five students and says that not only is this a great way for students to gain work experience outside of their homes but a cultural gain for them also.

With only one week till the completion of the program the student group will continue to work from the Tupapa base however for student Felix he heads to Atiu for his final week where he will work with the schools dental clinics offering free dental services for children.

## ***LIFE***

*A Poem by Kathleen Heather*

An echoing voice  
That's the wind blowing  
Teardrops that fall  
That's the rain pouring from the clouds above  
A smile we see  
That's the sun that shines in the morning sky  
The beauty of each person  
That's land covered in green  
Each death it brings  
That's the loss of one tall tree  
Life is beauty  
Life is hard  
But as it seems  
Life is perfect  
Why aren't we?



# A Bear a Tiger and a Prince

By Mata Rakanui

Every culture has a story of origin and Korea is no different in this regard. Although like many cultures it is very elaborate it is however, an interesting story of how people and cultures derive their origins and beliefs.

In Korean mythology, the Korean people traditionally believe that they originate from this mysterious character named Dangun. A quick summary of the story goes something along these lines. Once there was a tiger and a bear who both wished to become human. Following instructions from a heavenly Prince they were told to take a bundle of mugglewort, twenty bulbs of garlic and go to a cave for one hundred days. After this they would reach their dream and become human. However, the Tiger could not stand the situation and fled leaving the Bear alone to try and reach the goal. Finally, after twenty one days the Bear transformed into a beautiful woman who eventually became queen. Somehow she gave birth to the man they call Dangun, who later reigned as the first human king of Korea. Every child in Korea is aware of this tale and in fact there is a day dedicated to this story of origin whereby previously the population was rewarded with a day off work.

The symbolism in the story involving garlic is concurrent in present day Korean society. It is prevalent at every meal. Used to marinate meats and dishes and of course used to ward off colds and flu. Before my arrival I thought I was accustomed to the consumption of garlic. However, the method and size of garlic consumption here is probably unrivalled. In restaurants Garlic usually comes out in its full shape or in half sized bulbs. It is usually placed on the barbeque in this form or put into lettuce leaves with assorted meats and salads ready to be eaten like a sandwich but without the bread. Yes that's right without the bread! The



Korea-Goheunggun-Garlic harvest

prevalence of this food in Korea which originated out of central Asia and has been used for over 7000 years is so prominent that the garlic farmers of Korea hold considerable political sway whenever they see fit to voice their opinions. This includes large scale opposition to trade deals which could affect their livelihood.

The Korean peninsula between what is modern day China and Japan was inhabited sometime between 400,000 - 700,000 years ago. Korea is known for its many kingdoms and monarchical reign. Its recent history reflects its role as a colony of Japan from 1910-1945 finally ending when Japan was defeated by the allies during World War Two allowing Korea to return to a short period of independence. This colonial era contributes to the ill feeling that still persists between the two countries today in regards to sports, diplomatic ties and the debate surrounding the naming of the sea shared by the two and the ownership of what the

Koreans call Dokdo islets and the Japanese call Takashima. The hatred and banter between Kiwis and Aussies is similar on the sports field but in other realms it is something else. The Koreans blame the Japanese for the attempts to destroy Korean language, identity and artifacts to name a few areas. Actually, during the colonial period of 1910-1945 Koreans were forbidden from using the language and were even forced to use Japanese names. Today resentment is still high and the whole country gets great satisfaction defeating Japan in any activity.

Once known as the "Hermit Kingdom" for its approach and refusal to accept outside influence. The arrival of Americans in 1866 aboard the merchant Marine steamer General Sherman caused resentment and the eventual death of the crew and destruction of the ship. Korea is well known for walling itself off from the rest of the world and

only after the destructive Korean war 1950-1953 did Korea start to slightly open its doors.

Modern South Korea is now more open and attempting to become part of the globalised society. In contrast rival North Korea is the classic example of the Hermit state in that outside influence is restricted and it attempts to survive and function generally by its own means. Although support from its main ally China in relation to 75% of its fuel needs I'm sure helps. Its hereditary leadership has effectively created what is called the most isolated place on earth. Where information is restricted to the elite and the majority of the population is unaware of the outside world and even the existence of things we take for granted such as freedom of speech, 24 hour fast food and basic human rights.

A Bear a Tiger and a Prince, who would have thought that such a combination, would create a place that I currently call home.

## TE REO MĀORI KŪKI 'AIRANI



### tātā'ia e Rutera Taripo

I teia `epetoma, i roto i teia tu`anga no Te Reo Māori Kūki `Airani, ka `ākara atu tātou ki tēta`i au ingoa ngā`i, `ē pērā katoa tēta`i au ingoa tangata. I tōku `irinaki`anga, kā riro katoa teia `ēi tauturu i tēta`i pae `iā tātou kia tītau atu i te kimi ma te ranga i `ēta`i atu ingoa tē kā iri mai ki runga i tō tātou `ē tā tātou au tua-tāpapa, i te `akamātūtū `uātu rai i tēta`i au tu`anga kē atu ō to tātou Reo Māori.

*This week, in this section of The Cook Islands Māori Language, we will look at some place names, and also people names. I hope, this will encourage some of us to persevere, in searching and researching names that connect to us and to our history, which would no doubt continue to strengthen other areas of our Māori Language.*

I roto katoa i teia `epetoma, i raro ake i te `akateretere`anga `ā te Tauranga Vānanga, te rave `ia nei ki roto i te Rūnanga Pākau o te Tauranga Vānanga, tēta`i `iri`iri`anga-kāpua pu`apinga nā te au upoko-rānūnui, te au kau-ta`unga, te au mata tei pati `ia. Ko te `akakoro`anga, kia kimikimi matatio `ia `ē kia tukuna atu te ingoa o tēta`i au ngā`i tau, pu`apinga `ē te rongonui kia iri atu ki runga i te `akapapa`anga o te Au Paepae Rongonui o teia nei Ao. Consequently this week, in the National Museum of the Ministry of Cultural Development (MOCD), the MOCD is running an important workshop for traditional leaders, experts and various representatives invited. The objective, to carefully look at, discuss and decide the most appropriate site or sites that will be put forth a nomination on the list of World Heritage sites(WHS).

Kua tae mai rāi oki te au ta`unga `akateretere o te putuputu`anga o te WHS no te tauturu mai ma te `akamārama mai i te au rāvenga `ē te au kaveinga te ka anoano `ia no te tuku atu i te ingoa o te Kūki `Airani ki runga i te `iki`anga no te Paepae Rongonui o teia nei Ao. Kua tae katoa mai ngā mata tumu-kōrero mei Taputapuātea mai i Ra`iatea no te `ora`ora mai i tō rāua `akakoro`anga `ē te umuūmu`anga kia `akairi`ia atu `a Taputapuātea Marae Nui ki runga i te Au Paepae Rongonui o teia nei Ao.

*From the organization of WHS, experts and representatives also made invaluable presentations on the WHS and also in assisting our people with the necessary path that they may make towards the listing for the WHS. Also present at the workshop are the representatives from Taputapuātea in Ra`iatea. They also shared with everyone their longing to have Taputapuātea Marae Nui to be incorporated in the listing for the WHS.*

**Kia aite tātou ki te naea, i te `imene kapipiti`anga `iā rātou i roto i te ngaru**

*Let us be like the dolphins, sharing the same songs as we brave rough seas*

**Be united**

Kauraka Kauraka 1991

### AU KUPU

Tauranga Vānanga - Ministry of Cultural Development kau-ta`unga - experts

Rūnanga Pākau - National Museum tumu-kōrero - orators

Au Paepae Rongonui o teia nei Ao - World Heritage Sites

Taputapuātea Marae - the sacred mother Marae in Ra`iatea

marae - sacred stone temples `iri`iri`anga-kāpua - workshop

tua-tāpapa - story, history kaveinga - direction, path

ūpoko-rānūnui - leaders paepae - site

Ara Nui o Toi - the old inside road on Rarotonga built in pre-European time – by Toi

Avana - the passage in Takitumu where the voyaging canoes departed to go to Aotearoa

Maungaroa - the mountain in Puaikura used as a fort of settlement by Tinomana & his clan

Tuoro - also known as Black rock, the place where spirits leap into the sea to return to Avaiki

Makea Vakatini - one of the three Makea High chiefs in the district of Te Au o Tonga

`ui-tupuna - ancestors

Kia rapa-tū, rapa ki te `itinga!  
Kia rapa-tū, rapa ki te `opunga!  
Ei taku rima te rapa i taku `oe! (No Mauke)





# How to break out of an old habbit

## Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

This article is intended to encourage us to break out of our habits that prevents us from moving forward in life, or from achieving things for ourselves, or from moving to the next level. James 2v.17 says "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." Successful people are people of action. They know how to get things done. The question is "What does it take to get you moving? To get you to do something about your life?" There are many different things that motivate us but there are three very common ones: 1) Pain. When we feel the heat, that's when we get moving! When we get desperate, that's when we get moving! In the story of the prodigal son, when he realised his difficulties, he came to his sense, & went back to his father! We rarely change, until we get desperate. Many people hate going to the dentist until they couldn't bear the pain anymore, then they go to the dentist. Proverbs 20v.30 (GN) "Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways." 2) Pressure motivates us to get out of a habit that hinders our progress in life. You go to the doctor and he says, "Lose 50 pounds and quit smoking or you're going to die!" Your boss says, "Improve your performance or you're fired!" That's pressure. The problem is, once the pain and the pressure subside, or go away, we go back to our normal ways. We go on a diet until we loose the weight but that doesn't permanently change our eating habits. The fact is God often uses our

situation to push us in a new direction. 3) Perspective (point of view; perception). Paul, on the road to Damascus, got an inspiration, a new vision. Acts 9v.3-6 reads "Suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice 'Who are you Lord?' Paul asked. 'I am Jesus now get up and go into the city and you'll be told what you must do.'"

The question is "HOW DO WE BREAK OUT OF OLD HABITS?" I am going to talk about 5 steps to get us moving. i) We must be responsible for our own lives. Some people their favorite phrase is, "It's all your fault!" They want to blame everybody else for their failure. Some people they have excuses for everything. But there are also people who accept responsibility for what happens to them, and when they make mistakes they admit it. Proverbs 28v.13 "A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful, but if he confesses and forsakes them he gets another chance." ii) Believe you can change. Stop saying "I can't" and start saying "I can". Philippians 4v.13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Reprogram your mind. Romans 12v.2 reads "Let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of mind." Success starts in our mind -- how we see ourselves. It is typical when God wants to use somebody the first thing we do is come up with an excuse saying, "I can't! You've got the wrong guy. I can't do it!" Mark 9v.23 "Everything is



possible to him who believes." Mark 10v.27 "...With men it is impossible, but not with God, for with God all things are possible." iii) Clarify (make clear) what you really want. Make sure that you are clear in your mind of what you want to change! James 1v.8 reads "A double minded man is unstable in all he does." James is saying that the problem is, a lot of people can't make up their minds. Decide what you want and then commit yourself to it, and start saying, "Lord, change me!" Not, "Lord, change my wife/husband/kids, but me." The only way we can change other people is by changing ourselves. iv) Don't wait for ideal circumstances. Ecclesiastes 11v.4 (GN) "If you wait until the wind and the weather are just right, you will never plant anything and never harvest anything." The Living Bible says, "If you wait for perfect conditions, you'll never get anything done" If you want to spend quality time with your wife, children or family, - do it now! Because if you're waiting for the right time then it will not happened.

v) Exercise our body. I Timothy 4v.8 "Physical exercise has its value". Most people are simply too tired to change. The fact is God made our bodies for movement. He made us for activity. Successful people are people of action. They know how to get things done. Proverbs 27v.1 (GN) "Never boast about tomorrow. You don't know what will happen between now and then."

Have you been telling yourself, "I'll never change! That's just the way I am! I can't change!" Begin by allowing God to transform your mind. The worst mistake a person can make in life is to delay committing him or herself to the Lord Jesus Christ. I Kings 18v.21 "How much longer will it take you to make up your mind? If the Lord is God, worship Him!" II Corinthians 6v.2 "Today is the day to be saved!" not tomorrow. Today is your day! Give your life completely to Christ then He will give you the power to make all those other changes that you need to make. May you have a God blessed week!

# Tereora College Prefect's Investiture

By Norma Ngatamariki

On one particular Thursday afternoon, I had to sacrifice my free time (do you know how difficult that was?) to go and pick flowers for my friend's ei. Now, there was a special reason why this friend was receiving a beautiful ei created by me (Otherwise, I wouldn't have wasted my time and effort) Michael Tangimetua (Yes, I stated his full name) was given the honor of being the Head Anau Leader of Maungaroa. He's a special case too, being the only Year 12 prefect (I am NOT jealous of him. I'm not!)

After all that back-breaking work sewing those eis, I looked upon my beautiful creation and thought to myself, "Man, this guy should be grateful for this work of art". I also thought of charging him for it, but

I didn't want to be sad. Especially when it was his day to shine. I carefully placed my fabulous ei in a plastic bag and put them in the fridge for the next day.

Friday came along with a big bang. My group of friends had brought their eis' along with them (and to be honest, mine kinda looked worn out in comparison to theirs). We only had first period, since the Investiture would supposedly take at least three hours. I had Math, but everybody was so busy preparing for the event that it was decided that we'd chill out. All the excitement was building up, because Michael was giving a speech to the entire school.

Unfortunately, Nadia and I had to film the event as part of our Media Studies, which meant standing up and

shaming ourselves in front of the crowd. Hopefully, it was all worth it because much-needed credits were at stake. Invited guests consisted of the NZ High Commissioner, John Carter, Secretary of Education Sharyn Paio, Auntie Nga from the Nikao district and Chairman of the Parents & Teacher's Association, Tere Taio. So yes, this was a very important event for all of us.

After a few lengthy speeches, the blessing of the badges had taken place. It was now time to present the badges to the honoured prefects. The students came from their respective Houses: Tauwi Tere, Rangī Piri, Lilani Fua and Elizabeth Bryson from Red Te Kou. Charlie Charlie, Victoria Erika, Tiaina Urirau and Lisiane Messine representing Yellow Ikurangi (yup, that's my House). Moeroa Nootai,

Ridge Ponini, Nooroa Heather and Karalani Matenga from Blue Te Manga. Finally, Michael Tangimetua, Tokoa Van Dongen, Tarita Willis and Mary Manea from Green Maungaroa. Those were the students whose responsibility was to keep the school in check.

I reckon Michael gave the meanest speech out of the whole lot (Mind you, maybe I'm being a bit biased because he's one of my mates) I'll never forget these words, "When I say Maungaroa, you say Yeiya!" It was very powerful and uplifting. For a moment, I wanted to be in Maungaroa because of that speech.

After taking lots of vain photos, we headed down to the usual hang out spot: Palace. There, we ate our fill and talked. It was one of those memorable days.

# Cashing in on Chinese invasion of Samoa

By Charles Pitt

**N**ews that the Chinese funded, 500 room five star resort with casino, in Samoa, will be up and running in 18 months time, should be sufficient to motivate government to prepare the Cook Islands for an increase in Chinese tourists. However, it is not known what government intends to do in the face of the Chinese "invasion" of Samoa.

For our country to increase its income from tourism, it needs to take the opportunity to cash in on the higher spending five star visitor. Our economy will never receive the boost it needs if we continue to cater mainly for the low spending budget visitor from NZ.

The Samoan government has already revealed discussions have taken place with a Chinese airline to provide a direct service to Samoa. This will avoid the

necessity for Chinese tourists to travel via NZ and the need to obtain transit visas. The Samoan PM has already revealed Samoa will be amending its laws to make entry easier for the Chinese traveler.

Our Tourism Minister has already been informed by the Chinese that there is a good possibility some of these Chinese visitors will be able to travel on to the Cook Islands for a stay of 4-5 days. However, there is a shortage of accommodation in the Cook Islands especially at five star level.

Any increase in visitors to Rarotonga will translate into an increase in visitors to Aitutaki. Aitutaki itself will need more accommodations.

There is no reason why the Chinese tourists should not visit other outer islands, the islanders and accommodation permitting. Some of the outer islands have five star class attractions.

The plan to boost agriculture especially in the outer islands comes at an opportune time considering the potential increase in tourism numbers.

What needs to be considered is that the five star visitor from China will demand top class service and facilities. They will insist on fresh fish and fresh vegetables, caught and picked on the same day as they sit down to eat.

Increasing the variety of sea food on Rarotonga to meet Chinese demand is only possible by bringing in shell fish, paua, tururi, crayfish and other finned fish, from the outer islands.

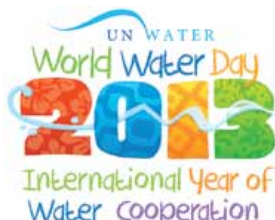
With a rapid sea transport service such as a fast ferry, it will not only be possible to transport more day trippers to say Atiu, but also possible to transport fresh fish and vegetables and fruit from the outer islands to the markets and hotels on Rarotonga. A fast

ferry could travel from Atiu or Mauke, or Aitutaki or Mangaia to Rarotonga in less than 4 hours. This means for example, that crayfish from Mangaia could be caught in the morning and be on a tourist's plate in time for lunch. Tourists will pay big money for such an efficient service.

Government should now be considering how to take advantage of the developments in Samoa but any plan devised must be an integrated plan linking accommodation growth, agricultural growth, the establishment of a rapid sea transport service and a regular air service.

If government does not undertake any planning now and instead elects to wait for 18 months to see what transpires, the Cook Islands could very well "miss the boat." Tonga may step up and seize the opportunity to boost their tourism industry.

**You can make a difference! Do Your Part**



**OFF THE TAP!!**

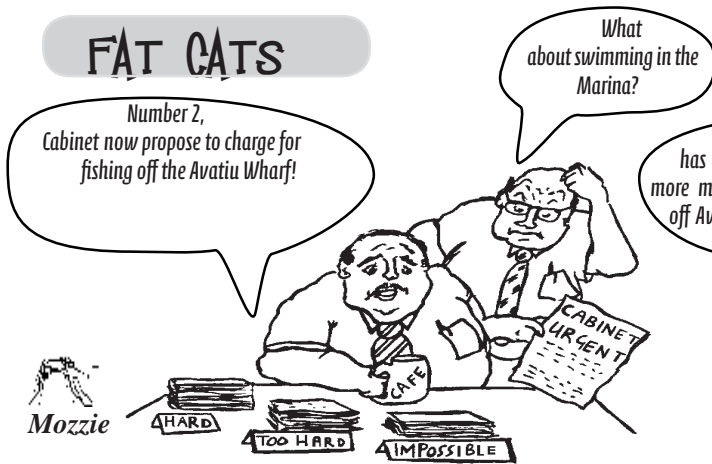


MINISTRY OF  
INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

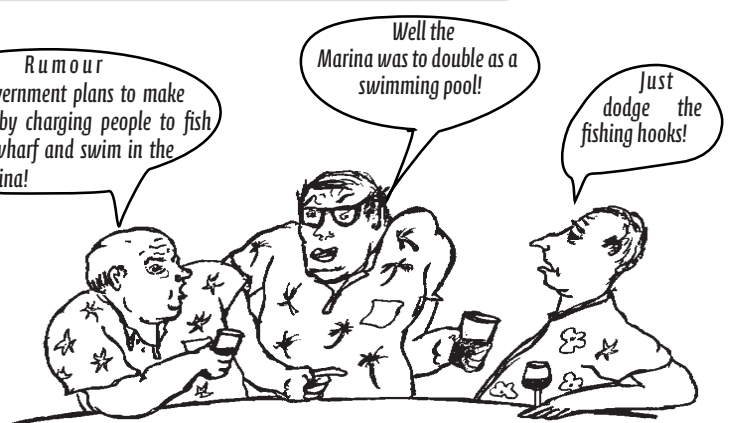
**WATER EMERGENCY PHONES: Ph55-663 W3 Ph54-097 W4 Ph54-017 Office Ph20-321**



## FAT CATS



## COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Two weeks ago a team of high powered Chinese officials arrived for key discussions with our government. However, there has been no public announcement about that visit, who the team comprised, what was discussed and what the outcome was! Where is the transparency? Why the secrecy? Big Red decides to consult the ancient ones and peering into and rubbing his big crystal balls, sees through the mists six people getting off a big bird on a Monday, led by a woman with Fangs, they get on a smaller bird and go north for the day! Big Red sees a sermon by a Bishop on crystal clear waters. Next day, their chins are seen wagging with officials. The numbers, 3 and 25 appear from the mists and a voice whispers, five years! Five years! There the vision ends.

And in another vision, after rubbing his big crystal balls, Big Red receives a vision of a gathering of MPs and the voice of a woman at the front speaking after MPs in a different tongue. She is watched over by a Bobby and is seen moving under the wing of a Poona bird Racking his brains with her assistance! From the rear of the room a voice is crying out, "Helen! Helen!" There the vision ends.

During the recent attack by two sharks in Kiwiland, did you notice how the Police were shooting at the sharks? Would the Police do that here given we have a shark sanctuary? What if

# CHOOKS CORNER

WITH BIG RED

a member of the Shark Sanctuary Committee was being attacked by a Mako shark? Do we attempt to kill the shark?

Who was the Arab gentleman nicked by our gallant lads in the FIU for not declaring the \$18,000 he sent to himself via a local currency company? His explanation was he was to buy some black pearls from a prominent pearl farmer! What was the man thinking? That we are all asleep in this sleepy hollow of the Pacific?

Oh dear chooks! Boo boo on the airport maintenance front! Government's failure to carry out much needed maintenance to Mitiaro airport saw the stoppage of flights last week. Ministers went into an urgent huddle on Thursday to drum up some dosh for the work!

Spotted in Monday's Daily Phews, a photo of Minister Bark Frown shaking hands with a USP graduate! What was Bark Frown saying? "Good luck in

Aussie?" Because that's exactly where that graduate is off to-Aussie and all them Aussie dollars!

Oh woe chooks! For the sake of a few quid our pearl industry could have got a giant leg up but thanks to a giant balls up and no dosh, a world renowned pearl expert from the Land of the Great Wall, faced with no flight north to train our desperate pearl brigade, turned about and flew home! Now government has a pocketful of dosh, the same expert is no longer available! Why? Because he is now assisting Vietnam develop a billion dollar pearl industry which no doubt will eventually push us off the world market!

Some goggle-box viewer, obviously a disgruntled ex-pat slams the local emitter and says thank God for other TV channels! What other channels are these? If you like cartoons all day, 40 year old programmes and no local content, sure, ogle at the other emitter. Sky TV? They are coming off air this April, then what? Yes, you're back to the local emitter with

its warts and all! Disgruntled ex-pats? Go read a book! A big book! Or pack your bags and get out. This nameless, whinging, cowardly, ex-pat should understand that locals want more programmes produced by locals! The Cook Islands for Cook Islanders!

Where will the \$150,000 odd donated by the Nippon Ambassador end up? Probably on chockie biscuits and cups of tea for our hard working MPs! And what of the \$100,000 donated by the Korean Ambassador? Probably on a new luxury car, a Lexus, for the new QR, Tom Tom!

Big Red has received more visions courtesy of the ancients. Through Big Red's large crystal balls, the mists of time clear to reveal a battle of wills among the great four in the room of the long table! The one with skill at the theory of figures is sitting uneasy in his chair looking at an empty seat in the room of the Kingdom's great Treasury while at the Royal Palace, clowns are not performing!

Cook Islands  
**HERALD**  
**PMG**  
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PUBLIC NOTICE



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Eye Program**

The Ministry of Health would like to advise the next Eye Screening Program by Visiting Specialists from New Zealand will be held - April 2nd to 24th 2013 at Rarotonga Hospital and the following outer islands:

Rarotonga – April 2nd – 24th      Aitutaki - April 4th – 5th  
Atiu - April 8th – 10th      Mangaia - April 10th – 12th  
Mauke - April 12th – 15th      Mitiaro - April 15th – 17th

Therefore, if you are experiencing or have any of the following eye diseases or symptoms to please phone 22664 for appointment from Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm.

Poor or partial loss of vision

Blurry vision

Double vision

Severe eye pain

Light or colour sensitive

Diabetes mellitus

Dry eye

Squint

Frequent changes in eyeglass strength

Proper prescription for eyeglasses

For any further enquiries relating to the programme, please contact Dr Teariki Faireka and Registered Nurse Hiawhata Kapuvai on telephone 22664 Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm.

Meitaki maata



**PRICE ORDER 02/2013**

**PURSUANT** to the Control of Prices Act 1966 and the powers delegated to me as provided under section 30 of the said Act, I hereby make the following Order:

- 1 This Order is cited as Price Order 02/2013 and shall come into effect on the 06th day of March 2013
- 2 Maximum wholesale & retail selling prices for LPG sold on Rarotonga shall be at the rate specified in the schedule below
- 3 Value Added Tax is included in the prices herein set
- 4 Price Order 01/2013 is hereby revoked
- 5 The prices herein set are the maximum that may be charged although less may be charged if so desired



Given under my hand and seal this 05th day of March 2013.

Brian Terrence Hagan  
Chairman for the Price Tribunal

Tatiana Burn  
Member for the Price Tribunal

**SCHEDULE OF PRICE ORDER**

ITEM	WHOLESALE PRICE AND RESELLER PRICE	RETAIL PRICES			Effective Date
		Rarotonga			
LPG per kg	3.59	4.87			March 6, 2013
LPG 9kg - 20lb	-	43.83			
LPG 13kg - 30lb	-	63.31			
Bulk Refilling Fee	\$0.25 per Kg				

Government of the Cook Islands

TUATUA AKAKITE



**TUATUA AKAKITE NO TE KATOATO A RAVA.**

**TEIA TE POROKARAMU NO TE AKARAKARA ANGA I TE MATA, I ROTO IA APERIRA RA RUA E TAE UATU KITE RA RUA NGAURU MA A.**

Te anoano nei te Marae Ora o te tua Rapakau Maki, I te akakite atu kite iti Tangata e, ka tae mai te au taote no te rapakau mata no Nu Tirenai mai I roto ia Aperira.

Teia te Akanooanga. Ka akamata teia porokaramu no te akarakara e te rapakau anga ite maki mata i roto ite ra rua, e tae uatu kite ra rua ngauru ma a o Aperira 2013, ki te Are Maki i Rarotonga nei, e pera katoa ki te au Pa Enua. Teia te au akateretere anga.

Rarotonga      Ra, 2nd – 24th o Aperira  
Aitutaki      Ra, 4th – 5th o Aperira  
Atiu      Ra, 8th – 10th o Aperira  
Mangaia      Ra, 10th – 12th o Aperira  
Mauke      Ra, 12th – 15th o Aperira  
Mitiaro      Ra 15th – 17th o Aperira.

Te pati iatu nei, me, te kite nei koe I tetai tu paruparu ete kinokino I toou mata, e taniuniu mai ite tereponi 22664 mei te Monite mai ki te Varaire, ora varu i te popongi ki te ora a i te aiai, kia tapao ia tetai taime tau noou ki te Taote. Teia tetai au akamarama anga. Me te kite nei koe I tetai o teia au akairo i runga i toou mata.

Kare e marama roa ana te mata, me kore te piori atura.

Aveave te mata kare e marama meitaki ana.

Me akara koe I toou tokorua, kua takirua te tanagta ( double vision )

Mamae kino te mata

Kinokino te mata me marama ia e te mori, me kore ra me marama ia e te ra.

Toto vene toou

Maro ka, me kore, kare e vai mata e tae akaou ana.

Uriuri ua te mata

Maata roa taau tau anga i toou titia mata no te mea kare e tano ana kia koe te vaito, me kore te ririnui o te titia.

Me, e, uanga taau no teia porokaramu, e taniuniu atu koe I te taote ia Teariki Faireka e te neti ia Hiawhata Kapuvai i runga i te tereponi

22664, mei te Monite mai ki te Varaire, ora iva i te popongi ki te ora toru i te aiai.

Meitaki Maata

**TIARE MOANA V6 SAILING**

Due to unforeseen delays to our sailing schedule, Cargo acceptance to the Northern Group Islands has been extended.

Cargo Cut off is now the 27th March 2013 for Dry Goods & General Cargo

Frozen Goods – only Accepting Cargo from the 25th March with final Cut off on the 27th March.

Please ensure all your cargo is in by the 27th as No Cargo will be accepted after this date.

We apologise for the inconvenience that this delay may cause.

PH: 27185 for further information



PUBLIC NOTICE



The Hospitality and Tourism Training Centre (HTTC) is offering the following accredited courses in partnership with Wellington Institute of Technology (WELTEC) for 2012:

CITY & GUILDS CERTIFICATE  
AND DIPLOMA IN FOOD & BEVERAGES

(International) Level 3, 4

When: 25th March 2013

Duration: Full time one year course

Closing dates for application is Friday 15th March 2013

Customer Service

Unit Standards 57

When: 18th March 2013

Duration: 3 Days

Tutors: WELTEC - NZ

Closing dates for application is Friday 13th March 2013

Limited space available pick up application form from HTTC or

Contact Pam Solomon for more details on phone: 22628 or

email admin@httc.edu.ck



**MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS  
SOCIAL IMPACT FUND (SIF) PROJECT FUNDING**

The SIF provides combined Cook Islands and New Zealand support to Cook Islands Civil Society Sector to meet the needs of those most vulnerable in the community and is focused on 6 priority areas:- Gender equality, Children & Youth, Disabilities, the Elderly, Domestic Violence and Mental health.

The SIF Board now invite proposals for Project Funding in the following eligible project areas

Community Education projects

Training

Workshops

Awareness raising activities

Income generation

Organisational Strengthening

Please Note: infrastructure projects and international travel are not encouraged, but will be considered on a case by case basis.

For further inquiries please contact the SIF Manager on telephone 29378 or email [sif@intaff.gov.ck](mailto:sif@intaff.gov.ck), Ministry of Internal Affairs. The deadline for submission of your project funding application is Wednesday 20 March 2013. No applications will be accepted after this date.

PUBLIC NOTICE



**AITUTAKI GAME FISHING CLUB**

**Tenders for Refurbishment Project**

The Cook Islands Tourism Corporation and the Aitutaki Game Fishing Club Incorporated advises that tenders are invited from suitably qualified tenderers for the following contract for work on the refurbishment of the Aitutaki Game Fishing Club headquarters in Arutanga, Aitutaki.

**Turnkey Contract No. C01/2012 - Aitutaki Game Fishing Club Refurbishment Project, Arutanga Harbour, Aitutaki for the supply, installation of materials and construction of the existing Fishing Club Building.**

The contract requires the contractor to provide insurances at specified levels.

Suitably qualified and experienced tenderers should apply to the Aitutaki Game Fishing Club or Cook Islands Tourism for tender documents, including a brief statement of their experience and qualifications. During the tender period any queries regarding the tender document shall be made to:

**Mr Michael Henry, Chairman, Building Committee, Aitutaki Game Fishing Club in Aitutaki or to**

**Mrs Nane Papa, Executive Assistant, Cook Islands Tourism Corporation in Rarotonga.**

The tender shall close at **2pm on 28 MARCH 2013 (Cook Islands Time)** at the Aitutaki Game Fishing Club headquarters in Arutanga, Aitutaki.

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