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20 March 2013

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*Woman of the Month, Margaret Mary Eileen
O'Dwyer is modelling a necklace from Goldmine.*

PM energised by visit to the Kingdom

The Prime Minister McCully. Henry Puna has arrived in the Kingdom of Tonga, encouraged by a building of momentum by the Pacific Region to promote its ambitious renewable energy plans and targets. Several Pacific Leaders touched down in Nuku'alofa on a mild and clear Wednesday evening after gathering in Auckland for a collective flight to Tonga aboard an RNZAF Boeing 757, out of Whenuapai Air Base.

"The Tonga Summit is an important step forward for us as a region, and one in which we have the opportunity to capitalise on the work achieved thus far in bringing improved energy security to Pacific peoples," the Prime Minister said.

The Cook Islands has been joined by a number of Pacific Leaders, including Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, and Tonga, to back a regional approach under the banner of an Energy Summit. New Zealand is represented by Foreign Minister Murray

The two day meeting this week is the fore-runner to a major international forum in Auckland co-organised by New Zealand and the EU to promote the needs of the Pacific in terms of investing in renewable energy and clean technologies.

"We have a responsibility to translate our national efforts and regional progress into a robust promotional effort that attracts the investment we need in the Pacific, to realise our goals."

A clear message will be shaped by the Leaders this week and the significance of the Prime Minister's role lies in helping to garner the support to demonstrate to the international community that the Pacific can provide the ideal environment in which to build beneficial investment opportunities with private sector and donor interests.

In Auckland, at the Pacific Energy Summit, Puna will be the first major speaker to launch the regional message to the broader international community.

Representatives from all over the world including the Clinton Foundation, IRENA in the UAE, IEA in France, the Caribbean, Head of UNDP Helen Clark, Head of UNFCCC in Bonn Christiana Figueres, the ADB, World Bank, and EIB, will be attending.

The Cook Islands will also be engaged in the Energy Investment Showcase, which parallels the Summit, with the REDD office of the OPM and local clean energy company Te Mana Natura exhibiting displays.

Meanwhile, the Tonga event this week will receive the Royal treatment on Thursday with an address by His Majesty King Tupou VI.

The first day's sessions will feature a contextualising of the Tonga Energy road mapping toward self-sufficiency and Leaders will be in Closed Session for high level talks on the following day. A highlight of the Summit is expected to be a further showcasing of Tonga's solar power plant "Maama Mai" – a major energy project completed by Meridien Energy of New Zealand with the backing of the New Zealand Government.

The Prime Minister and his delegation leave the Kingdom on Saturday for New Zealand and the two-day PES in Auckland.

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TITIKAVEKA

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Less tax for low income earners says Koutu Nui

The main thrust of the Koutu Nui's submission to the Tax Review Committee is to seek relief for low income earners. The main points are set out below. Space does not permit the various tables to be included.

The proposed Tax Review is very timely and we traditional leaders applaud the aim of ensuring that the tax burden is shared equitably but to remain 'revenue neutral'.

Our concern is purely for the welfare of our people and we leave it to the economists and accountants to come up with the actual figures to balance the Tax Books.

Nevertheless, we traditional leaders have made some attempt to provide figures to compare the current system (2011 data) to our proposals (tamanoko).

We are not economists or accountants or tax lawyers so the finer points of balancing the Tax

Books and how to change the policy or regulation or legislation, in order to give effect to our recommendations, we leaders will leave to the specialists in the Treasury Division of MFEM, and IMF and whoever else you have that are coming to assist with your review.

Tax Burden contributing to Outward Migration of our People?

The spirit of our submission to seek tax relief for those on low incomes (up to \$20,000pa) and lower medium income workers (up to \$30,000) to provide a modest rise in take-home pay.

In addition, we recommend a modest lift of the minimum pay

rate to \$5.50 or \$6.00 per hour.

As suggested, at the public meeting called by Minister Brown and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) held on Friday 8 February 2013, we checked the information published on the MFEM website.

We are not sure when the tax rates were set, but on the face of it, we are assuming that the rate of \$20,000 was probably considered a modest but adequate salary rate at the time. That is no longer the case, where such a pay is not sufficient to cover the cost of living.

We feel this burden is yet another factor that has

contributed to the outward migration of our people in search of greener pastures in terms of income and lifestyle.

Declare Tax Amnesty on Back Taxes for Strictly Limited Period

Government could declare a Tax Amnesty on Back Taxes for a strictly limited period. Those who come forward can have the penalty rates cancelled provided they arrange a schedule of payments with Inland Revenue to pay back-taxes owed.

In fact, we feel that in the Cook Islands context of low wages and small businesses have been established in lieu

continued page 4

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: Not available on A320 services. Prices correct as at 03 March 2013. Airfare Travel Period: RAR to AKL/WLG/CHC 07 May to 18 July and 29 July to 04 October and 14 October to 30 November 2013. CHC/WLG/AKL to RAR 13 May to 10 July and 29 July to 25 September and 14 October to 30 November 2013. Deal Ends: 11 March 2013. Fares include \$55 Departure Tax. The above fares include a non-refundable service fee of \$20 per one-way journey for bookings made through our Travelcentre. Travel Agent service fees may apply. Customers who purchase fares using Airpoints Dollars will be required to pay in cash the government and airport charges. These fares accrue Airpoints Dollars but are not eligible for companion tickets. Return airport and government costs will vary. Seats are limited and may not be available on all flights. Cancellation/change fees: General terms & conditions, special fare terms and conditions and Airpoints terms and conditions apply. See your Air New Zealand representative for full details.

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Less tax for low income earners says Kotou Nui

From page 3

of being unemployed, that perhaps penalty rates should be abolished altogether.

In the alternative, Inland Revenue could invoke sections 204 and 205 of the Income Tax Act 1997 (we have not had a chance to peruse the said Act, but it is mentioned in the MFEM website and we envisage that it is legal method whereby Inland Revenue can use its discretion in certain cases of hardship and similar).

Seeking Relief for Low Income Workers

We leaders realise that revenue will be lost to the Tax Books from our recommendations, but we also recommend that the tax rates be adjusted upward on a sliding scale for persons earning \$50,001 and above.

Our recommendations are

along the lines of the Australian model except with different numbers. We are not in favour of the New Zealand model, which appears to have done away with tax free thresholds altogether. We feel the New Zealand model is unfair to the low income workers or pensioners on low fixed incomes on the one hand as against constantly rising prices of the cost of living.

Option 1 - Lifting the Tax Free Threshold to \$12,400

Lifting the tax free threshold to at least \$12,400 would have the effect of an instant pay increase for all tax payers, but especially for the lowest paid workers.

Option 2 - Lifting the Tax Free Threshold to \$15,000

Better still, we advocate that the Government take a bold step and lift the tax free threshold to \$15,000 pa. Such a move would

be a bold step, but would give an instant rise in take-home pay for low paid workers without affecting the viability of the employers because it is not an increase in hourly rate but by virtue of being below the tax free threshold.

If the Government would consider lifting the minimum wage rate to \$5.50 or \$6.00 per hour, that would be even more helpful for the low income workers.

Non Resident Low Income Workers and Tax Free Threshold Benefits

In the spirit of fairness and equality, we traditional leaders recommend that any lift in tax free threshold or higher minimum wage should also apply to Non Resident earners on low salaries of \$12,400 or \$15,000 as the case may be. Our objective is to seek tax relief of low income workers, whether Resident or Non Resident.

Lowering Tax Rate to 22% for Medium Income Tax Payers to \$30,000

A further suggestion would be to reduce the tax rates for tax payers of up to \$25,000 pa to be reduced to 20% which would give the worker a modest boost in take-home pay. The Cook Islands needs to retain their young married couples with children who are in supervisory but not management positions.

This income bracket could remain the same (apart from the benefits if the tax free threshold is lifted).

Retain 30% Tax Rate for \$30,001 to 40,000

Tax Rate of 32% for Income Earners of \$50,001 to \$70,000pa

Tax Rate of 33% for Income Earners \$80,001 to \$110,00

Tax Rate of 34% for Income Earners \$110,001 and above

Low Income Non Residents and the Tax Regime

High Income Non Resident Contractors to pay Higher Income Rates

High income Non Resident tax payers here on highly paid short term contracts are in a different category.

There is anecdotal evidence

that some earn in one month, the same as a person in the low income bracket earn in one year. They can easily afford to pay a modest increase in tax to help balance the books for granting relief to low income workers.

The current regime for such workers of only 20% then 25% over a certain sum, is too low especially when one considers the high pay packages such contractors are able to command. It may even be below the rates that residents have to pay in the same tax bracket.

As per the Australian tax model, but with different percentages, High Income Non Resident Short Term Contractors ought to be taxed at a flat rate of say 30% on all income to \$80,000 and 35% on income of \$80,001 and over. And as per the Australian model, such persons should not be eligible for a Tax Free Threshold.

VAT not be raised

Persons on fixed or low incomes have no choice but to purchase their food, supplemented by a spot of fishing or growing the odd vegetable or two. However, this presupposes that they have land to grow vegetables, or that they have a boat to tau tai outside the reef, given that lagoon fish has been known to cause fish poisoning (as can be seen in the Community Health Services health report published in the media on Monday 18 March 2013).

More Assistance for Pensioners in their 70s, 80s, 90s plus

Pensioners on low fixed incomes over a certain age group are no longer capable of growing their own food as suggested by some.

The Pa Metua are now in their late 70s, 80s and 90s or older and have become frail and some now unable to walk, or if so, only with the aid of a tokotoko or walking frame or other aides. Some of the Pa Metua are leading a life of 'quiet desperation' as famously said by Henry David Thoreau (1817-1882). Their desperate straits are hidden away out of sight of the public and out of mind."

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: Prices correct as at 03 March 2013. The "Seat" option includes a carry-on bag (up to 7kg) but no checked baggage. Airfare Travel Period: RAR to AKL/WLG/CHC 07 May to 18 July and 29 July to 04 October and 14 October to 30 November 2013. CHC/WLG/ AKL to RAR 13 May to 10 July and 29 July to 25 September and 14 October to 30 November 2013. Deal Ends: 11 March 2013. Fares include \$55 Departure Tax. The above fares include a non-refundable service fee of \$20 per one-way journey for bookings made through our Travelcentre. Travel Agent service fees may apply. Customers who purchase fares using Airpoints Dollars will be required to pay in cash the government and airport charges. These fares do not accrue Airpoints Dollars and are not eligible for upgrades and/or companion tickets. Return airport and government costs will vary. Seats are limited and may not be available on all flights. Cancellation/change fees: General terms & conditions, special fare terms and conditions and Airpoints terms and conditions apply. See your Air New Zealand representative for full details.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,
I am replying to the 'flighty' article by the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Wilkie Rasmussen, published in the Cook Islands Herald, of 13 March 2013.

Without doubt his motive here is none other than scoring political points, reflected through his forgetfulness and even barking up the wrong tree.

Here are the facts:

The One Kura Programme initiated by the Democratic Party government was a dreamboat and a campaign gimmick. Their hope, at the time, was to set aside \$3.5 million from an ADB loan for this programme, which was to extend over a period of three years. The plot did not work because ADB made it clear to them that the loan was specifically for infrastructure development and nothing else. Instead, the Democratic government went ahead and made false announcements to the people of Atiu for \$300,000, Mangaia for \$500,000, Mauke for \$350,000, and Mitiaro for \$250,000 for the One Kura Programme. It was a fake and it failed. Furthermore, the CIP's underlying policy is much stronger and more robust. The Demo approach lacked a strong policy platform/basis and frame work and as such their programme was weak and could have left the country vulnerable.

The Heat Treatment Plant became operational again on the 20 December 2012, under the supervision of Dr Williamson, the engineer who built the prototype

machinery. The first of its kind in the Pacific. The plant has been out of order throughout the six years the Democratic government followed by the 'Tight Six' government were in power. They did not see it as priority until I came on board. In my second year, 2012, as Minister the plant was fixed ready for export. But the biggest concern was that there was not enough production in the field to fill a single airplane container. Secondly, the poor management of the pawpaw export by the growers which also included your Deputy Leader, the Hon William (Smiley) Heather, also your adviser, means the numbers were insufficient to re start the export market and sadly, just managed to supply the tourist market.

My key focus, as Minister, is on the 120,000 tourists coming to the Cook Islands. With this view in mind, plus the failure of the growers, I instructed my Ministry to plant pawpaw of these grounds; first, to retain the genetic traits of our pawpaw (Waimanalo) variety (i.e.) the shape, flesh thickness and quality; second, to support production for the growers to fill the weekly local supply and the weekly export quota of 500 cartons. (By the way, under the Democratic government the growers were receiving only 60 cents for the export pawpaw while they get paid \$1.00 on the local market.

Because of the continual difficulty with the growers I have further instructed my Ministry to contract ten good pawpaw

growers to seriously concentrate on producing quality pawpaw so that we have a consistency of supply of pawpaw for export and at the same time meet the local needs of our tourists.

When the Leader of the Opposition started attacking my Ministry for the low budget and lesser priority by my government, I am appalled to say the least that under the Demo government, once again followed by the 'Tight Six', there has never been any 5-Year-Plan done to map the future direction for Agriculture. Both didn't know what to do. Now I want the public to know that the Ministry has now completed the first ever comprehensive Business Plan done with the full participation of all staff over a few days workshop.

During the recent Donor Roundtable discussion the presentation by me and my team on agriculture was regarded and highlighted by donors as the most convincing. The donors left on a positive and supportive note.

Even representatives from NZAid were so much impressed with the presentation and have indicated strong intent to support.

Mauke Nursery Project? Another example of Demo government short-sightedness resulting in failure. Why build a nursery away from Rarotonga? Rarotonga is central, the gateway to international market, and more practical for experts and visiting scientists to carry out tests on pests and diseases. We now have a research laboratory that is near

completion in Arorangi. This lab will further the research work being carried out now by William Wigmore, Director of Research and will be able to carry trial tests on the exotic chillie varieties that are being grown and soon to be exported.

Further it would be somehow ridiculous for an outer island to monitor compliance and protocol assessment of pathways of produce for export to meet importing countries Quarantine requirements. We have Compliance Officers and resources based in Rarotonga to implement our Agriculture trade and Market Access issues in accordance to our Bio-security laws that were approved by the Demo Government but never put into good use.

Furthermore, I as Minister of Agriculture have initiated a low interest loan via BTIB and BCI a total of \$100,000.00 to assist support the growers purchase fertilizers for their pawpaw and their short term crops. I am initiating a further monetary support towards those growers whom the Ministry of Agriculture will contract as main suppliers to sustain supplies to both the local and the export markets.

Did the Democratic government or the 'Tight Six' initiate support to the growers the way I am doing now? I challenge the Leader of the Opposition and his Deputy to find out these facts from the growers themselves.

*Nandi Glassie
Minister of Agriculture & Health*



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Former Optometrist charged with professional misconduct

-Gross negligence and malpractice leads to professional misconduct finding

-Tribal sends warning to optometry profession

Andrea Buckingham has been struck off the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board Register after being found guilty of professional misconduct by the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (HPDT).

Buckingham is now known as Annie Mason and she has set up business in Rarotonga known as the Eye Place at Cooks Corner.

The action came following a charge laid by a Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) appointed by the Board. In its findings, the Tribunal stated that a strong message needed to be sent to the profession indicating that conduct such as that carried out by Ms Buckingham was simply unacceptable.

An article on page 3 of the March issue of "New Zealand Optics" provides some details on her case.

Quote: "The findings against Ms Buckingham were very serious. The Tribunal needed to send a message to Ms Buckingham and to other members of the optometry profession that the established conduct was very serious and would not be tolerated by the profession, "The tribunal ordered that Ms Buckingham be censured, and established an order of cost; \$17,500 in respect of the cost and disbursements of the PCC and \$9,800 in respect of the cost and disbursements of the Tribunal.

Under section 105(a) of the HPCA Act, this order of cost will be a debt due to the Board.

In establishing cost, the Tribunal took into account the fact that Ms Buckingham was 60 years old, had no assets, no money and any job she had would cover day-to-day living and nothing else. The Tribunal said it has very limited financial data from Ms Buckingham and given what the financial circumstances were and her bankruptcy, it did not consider the imposition of a fine as appropriate. The case before the Tribunal alleged that the demise and liquidation of Eyezone in 2011, a group of practices owned by Ms Buckingham, appropriate arrangements to ensure continuity of optometric care were not made. Five particulars of the charge were out including her failure to inform her patients that Eyezone would no longer be providing eye care services, to provide patients with the names and contact details of alternative providers, to take professional steps for the retention and/or storage of patients notes, to make arrangements to allow the transfer of patients notes and/or medical information on the request of patients, and also to notify the Board of her change in address, so that when it received request from patients relating to the whereabouts of their records, it was compromised in its ability to respond. Ms Buckingham did not

attend the hearing.

The PCC called evidence from nine witnesses, six being patients, two provided evidence of chronology and an expert witness gave evidence as to applicable standards. Two further witnesses provided evidence although they were unable to attend the hearing. The Tribunal said that it was satisfied that each of the five particulars of the charge was established. It was further satisfied that the conduct described amounted to gross negligence and therefore constituted professional misconduct. The Tribunal viewed all particulars of the charge stating it was 'a serious matter'. It said the conduct which it had been required to review carried on over a long period and a significant number of patients have been prejudiced by that conduct. "Ms Buckingham displayed no insight or understanding of the needs of the patients. This was evidenced in a document presented to the hearing in which Ms Buckingham stated-'Any patient can go to another optometrist to have an eye exam. Records basically show a previous Rx and any health issues. Any competent optometrist would pick up any abnormalities and any health concerns from the past would have been referred by my optometrist already. Records such a visual field would obviously be helpful, but considering many

optometrists (still) do not have this equipment, it's hardly a threat to a person's sight. The majority of people who move to other optometrist never refer to past records.'" Expert witness, optometrist Grant Watters said in his evidence that this statement was most unfortunate and of significant concern. He considered the breach to a significant departure from acceptable professional standards. The Tribunal's view was that it was 'a somewhat callous statement and illustrates a serious attitude issue in relation to the matters that the Tribunal had had to consider'. "It is generally understood that health practitioners must ensure there is adequate information provided to any person taking over the care of a patient so that there is quality care and continuity of service," said Mr Watters.

The tribunal directed that a copy of its decision and a summary be placed on its website and a notice stating the effect of its decision be placed on the Board's website and in its newsletter.

The full decision can be found on the Tribunal's website: www.hpdt.org.nz, Ref: Opt 12/127P. Unquote.

Comments

The Herald has approached the Ministry of Health and the Business Trade and Investment Board (BTIB) for comments and they have advised they are following this matter up.



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Deep water fishing FAD deployed at Titikaveka

1 3 March 2013 - Titikaveka finally has a deep sea FAD, which was deployed by the Ministry of Marine Resources FAD unit, with the assistance of Captain Moko, Dr Roro Daniel, Ina Tararo, and Ports Authority employees Willie Thompson and Junior Rua.

The FAD is located near Moana Sands Hotel, at 21°18'.479"S, 159°43'.852"W. The site depth is 1,255 meters (refer to map).

The decision to deploy an additional FAD at Titikaveka was made by the FAD committee, following an appeal by Captain Moko from the Avana Fishing Club. The FAD committee is chaired by the MMR Minister, Hon. Teina Bishop.

This makes the total of ten FADs that are now operational in Rarotonga. These FADs will help to retain and increase catches of tuna around Rarotonga.

Two FAD units are being sent to Aitutaki to replace FADs recently lost.

Senior Fisheries Officer, Sonny Tatuava has pointed out that there is an increasing work for the FAD maintenance program. He is requesting fishers to assist MMR where they can and to report any mishaps that are occurring.

Captain Moko said "we are very happy with the FAD deployed at Titikaveka and for what MMR has done; it saves



us a lot of time having to travel to the other FADs. Dr Roro, Ina Tararo and I have been constant fishers at the Avana FAD since it was deployed and just this morning, I caught 20 yellowfin and skipjacks from there."

Reports came through that even though the Titikaveka FAD has only been there for one week, fishers have reported sightings of Mahimahi, and so Captain Moko was off from the Avana FAD to the Titikaveka FAD.

Police Minister presents motorcycles to Manihiki police constables

Police Minister, Hon Teariki Heather in Manihiki with Island Mayor Mrs Ngamata Napara, and honorary constables, Rangi Paulo (left) and Party Johnson (right) after the official handover of two motorcycles for use by the police in the villages of Tauhunu and Tukao, respectively.

The genesis of this initiative was after discussions between Prime Minister Henry Puna and Police Minister Teariki Heather of the request by the Manihiki Mayor that the local police needed transport to carry out their work on the island.

The motorcycles were



dispatched earlier this year and the Minister was delighted to have the opportunity to present the

motorcycles while on an official visit to Manihiki for infrastructure matters. The Minister and his

party arrived on Wednesday 13 March and returned on Thursday 14 March 2013.

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Peeled 300g



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Saving costs is easy as changing a light bulb

The new green light bulbs left. The stock light program on of 10,000 imported CFL Rarotonga was bulbs is expected to run developed to increase out in about one month so the use of compact residents are advised not to fluorescent lights (CFLs) leave it too late or they may as well as to raise miss out on free stock.

While the Prime Minister launched the programme last week to encourage energy efficiency, Te Aponga Uira is also supporting the programme for a practical reason. When faced with the prospect of building new power plant or encouraging Rarotonga power users to conserve electricity, we'd rather opt for the latter.

In the United States the U.S Environment Protection Agency recommends the use of CFLs when compared to incandescent lights for the following reasons. They produce the same amount of light but CFLs use significantly less energy -- 75 percent less energy than incandescent light bulbs and last 10 times longer. CFLs produce about 70% less heat than standard



Prime Minister Henry Puna holds an old incandescent light bulb in one hand and the new CFL light bulb in the other hand. He would like you to use CFLs to save money and energy

incandescent light bulbs technology, saving energy, saving money, CFLs reduce air pollution and protecting the environment is as easy as changing a light bulb.





Congratulations to the Woman of the Month of March **Sister Margaret Mary Eileen O'Dwyer**

This month's woman of the month, Sister Margaret Mary Eileen O'Dwyer, has been specifically requested by the inmates at the Arorangi Prison to be the Woman of the Month, March. Sister Margaret has been nominated for her contribution towards rehabilitation of prisoners at the Arorangi Prison over the last 2 years. With her remarkable passion for what she does, she always seems to find time to sit and listen to the inmates as she always wants the best for them. Due to her background as a lawyer, she has been very effective in a counseling capacity. Our Woman of the month is half Irish and half German, with a touch of Welsh and was born in the USA. She has three brothers who all live in Michigan and three sisters who live in Virginia and North Carolina, USA. Her father was a tax collector and her mother was a maternity nurse.

Sister Margaret is the Prison Chaplain for the Cook Islands Catholic Church here in Rarotonga and is also the coordinator of the Voluntary support group (Daughters of Charity) to the Prisons Rehabilitation Program, which she has been doing for the past 8 years. The Support program has provided an education program for the inmates which has seen the inmates excel in their studies at the Trades School Centre in Arorangi and the gradual change of attitude for the better. She is a strong Catholic and a member of the Sisters Community called the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, their focus is service to the marginalized society.

Sister Margaret belongs to St Pauls Parish in Tikioki, her community organization involves prayer every Thursday evening to inmates, she has coordinated tutors for Thursday morning education sessions on Tuesday at the Prison and has also advocated books for inmates. She has offered many retreats to high school students and teachers and she volunteers to assist Remedial and English as a Second Language to students at Nukutere College. Sister Margaret has worked with Sister Mary Ann Szydlowski to get books catalogued for the Nukutere College Library and continues to update it. She also runs an after school programme on Tuesdays on the Grounds of St Pauls. She has also belonged to the PPSEAWA, serving as a past Literacy Chair. Sister Margaret has attended some sessions of a local writers group, however has been too busy to attend lately. She is also licensed as an attorney in three states in the US, which has been inactive because she hasn't lived there for over 8 years.

Sister Margaret graduated from Lumen Christi High School in Jackson, Michigan, received Bachelor of Arts in History with a minor in English from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan. She earned a Juris Doctor from Thomas M Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan in 1985. Sister Margaret attended Seminary for the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul in Emmitsburg, Maryland, completing it in 1995 and making her vows for the first time in 1999.

From her involvement in

organizations and community work, she has a few memorable moments she would like to share "A boy came up to me in our after school programme in early 2012 and told me he was sad because he didn't win a prize at the 2011 end of year school awards ceremony, then at the end of 2012, he told me with a big smile that he won a prize for being the most improved student!" Sister Margaret says. She goes on to say that it's always a memorable moment when a remedial or inmate student grins with delight having mastered an educational concept or recognize they can do it. Another major memorable moment for her was the opening of the Prison's Rehab Centre, Tango Akarangatira on December the 7th. "It symbolizes that they can change their lives and it challenges us as a community to find ways to support them and make that happen" she says. The opening of Nukutere Colleges Library in 2011 also represented a landmark moment for the school and for Sister Margaret herself, which was another highlight moment of her work. Another unforgettable moment of Sister Margaret, was the making of her vows for the first time in Indiana in 1999 which is renewed annually, as well as grabbing the opportunity to visit her ancestral home in Ireland before being missioned to the Cook Islands. Last but not least of her memorable moments is when the traditional vakas sailed into the Avana Passage a couple of years ago, "it was a WOW" Sister Margaret exclaims.

To Sister Margaret, "doing it whole-heartedly" is important to her, "my community is precious



to me, I have been mentored by many wonderful sisters who did extraordinary ministry and I am inspired by the four with whom I serve on the Islands", she says. Her family is also very important to her, as well as forming young people for the future, her connections with Prison Services, Nukutere College and the after school programme. Most importantly, God is comes first and foremost, "I thank God and ask that I may continue to be an instrument of the Spirit" Sister Margaret says.

Apart from the community work she is involved in, not short-changing herself; Sister Margaret enjoys gardening, reading, journaling, movies, listening to 60s music, watching a sports match and the occasional coffee with friends, which she takes pride in using her favorite 'Reef Side' coffee mug.

Women of the Month Sponsors 2013

1. Apii Ulrich flowers/Eis Aunty Larry **2.** Pitt Media Group CITV/CI Herald, **3.** Bank Cook Islands \$50 & Wall of Fame, **4.** Aquarius - \$100 voucher, **5.** Temu & Lesley Okotai / Farm Direct Manihiki Black Pearls \$250, **6.** FujiImage/Cook Islands Printing Services Colin Burns- production of photo, **7.** Staircase Restaurant -Sisi & Mann Short - \$50Voucher, **8.** Nga Nelio - Massage Therapist, **9.** Lydia Sijp- Foot massage pamper pack, **10.** Flame Tree Restaurant \$100 Dinner Voucher, **11.** Martha Makimare -Tivaivai & pareu sponsorship, **12.** Aunty Kafos's- Lunch for 2 at Kafoteria, **13.** Aunty Mii at Punanga Nui Markets

Zumba on Earth Hour 2013

Zumba session planned for 2013 earth hour event

Earth Hour is scheduled for this weekend, Friday 22nd March with a lunch-time Switch-off from 12.00 noon to 1.00pm.

Government ministries have pledged their support with some taking this time to organize activities for their staff.

Event for the day will involve a Zumba from 12.00 to 1.00pm. This will be held at the Atukura ground opposite Telecom office, Parekura. Both Government ministerial staff as well as Private sectors are requested to attend & participated, there will be NO cost to attend this event.

It is also timely, with the initiative of Office of the Energy commissioner & TAU, a Green Light program currently underway, this program involves replacing ALL Incandescent light bulbs with an higher

energy efficient bulbs. These replacements are conducted by Electrical contractors.

Remember it is about switching off non-essential lights and appliances and for an hour only and to always remember to switch off when leaving the room or office or when it isn't necessary.

Some Earth Hour tips include:

- Use natural air and light for cooling and light where possible

- Turn your air conditioning unit temperature 'up'. Use it only if really necessary!

Switch it off when you don't need it.

- Switch off lights in rooms that are not in use

- Shut-down PCs at the end of everyday AND weekends

- Switch off and pull out mobile chargers, etc from the wall when finished with it.

Appliances on 'standby mode' still use electricity

- Choose energy-efficient appliances and still use less to reap the benefits

- Switch from incandescent to Compact Florescent Light (CFLs)

- Check appliances. Eg. Defrost fridges and freezers and increase efficiency

- Plant around your office

- Proper waste practices – recycling and composting – NO BURNING!

- Initiate a 'No emissions day' – walk or ride to work if possible. Carpool or take public transport.

- Aim to use less energy,

save power, save money and save our environment.

The Cook Islands wants to be a leader in the environment stakes and being informed and participating in environment activities both organized by others and of your own is the right pathway to a better future.

Earth Hour is a global voluntary activity which started in Sydney, Australia by WWF and this is the fifth year the Cook Islands will be participating. This year it is organized by the Office of the Prime Minister's Renewable Energy Development Division (REDD) with the support from Office of Energy Commissioner, Climate Change Unit of OPM, National Environment Service, Te Aponga Uira, and the International Institute for Energy Conservation (IIEC).

Continuing Education Course Schedule updates



COOK ISLANDS
Ministry of Education
Maraurau o te Pae Api'i

Course	Dates	Venue	Time	Cost	Tutor	Cut off date	Spaces
Film Raro	11 March – 27 May <i>Cut off date extended to 29 March</i>	Tereora College Performing Arts room	5pm-7pm	\$100.00	Stan Wolfgramm Lennie Hill Julie Smith	01 March	Yes
Creative Writing	02-06 April	USP	5pm-8pm	\$50.00	Miria George	26 March	Yes
Tattoo – Health and Knowledge	16,17,18 April	Pa Ariki Palace	5pm-8pm	\$50.00	Tetini Pekepo	09 April	Yes
Foundational Studies in Drawing and Painting	23 April – 09 May Tues & Thurs only	Tereora College Art Room 4 or 5	5pm-8pm	\$50.00	Ani O'Neil	16 April	Yes
Screen Printing Workshop	<i>Is now FULL</i>	Nukutere College	4.30pm–8.30pm	\$50.00	Rennie Peyroux	13 May	Yes
Photography Workshop	<i>'Limited spaces available'</i>	Pa Ariki Palace	5pm-7.30pm	\$50.00	Mahiriki Tangaroa	08 April	Yes
Creative Communication 2 nd intake	TBA	TBA	TBA	\$50.00	Victor Bond	TBA	Yes

For information and enrolments, contact Michelle Williams ph-29357 or email - mwilliams@education.gov.ck



EARTH HOUR

EARTH HOUR 2013

Okotai Ora note Ao Kura
2013

Switch Off unnecessary
appliances...Think global but
act local.

Friday 22nd March 2013
12.00 – 1.00pm

Join us for Zumba, Atukura
ground, opposite Telecom.

We will be replacing old light
bulbs with new CFL bulbs

Our Organising & Funding Partners



IIEC

International Institute for Energy Conservation



OEC

REDD



TUANGA TAPOKOPKO
COOK ISLANDS

Climate Change

OPM

OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER



COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Te Ipukarea Society (TIS) is a non-profit, membership-based environment organisation. TIS core functions are biodiversity conservation, ecologically sustainable development, waste management, greening the economy, and environmental education of youth. TIS has been given the directive to manage a Marine Park project on behalf of the Cook Islands Marine Park Steering Committee and are in need of a Communications Coordinator to develop and implement the CIMP Communications Strategy.

Applicants must have:

A relevant tertiary qualification, or exceptional relevant experience

Excellent verbal and written communication skills

Proven research ability

Established regional/global media networks

Reporting skills and database management

Excellent relationship management skills

Extensive public relations and media engagement experience

Experience facilitating press conferences, meetings and workshops

Advanced social media knowledge

Experience maintaining websites

Demonstrate awareness of Cook Islands culture and customs

For a full position description and application details at www.teipukareasociety.com. Interested applicants should address selection criteria in their covering letter and attach their CV to tis.cookislands@gmail.com. Applications close 03 April 2013.



MARINE PARK PROJECT MANAGER

Te Ipukarea Society (TIS) is a non-profit, membership-based environment organisation. TIS core functions are biodiversity conservation, ecologically sustainable development, waste management, greening the economy, and environmental education of youth. TIS has been given the directive to manage a marine park project on behalf of the Cook Islands Marine Park Steering Committee and are in need of a Marine Park Manager to co-ordinate marine park activities within this project.

Applicants must have:

- A tertiary qualification in the field of marine conservation and biodiversity management preferably at a post-graduate level, or exceptional relevant experience.
- Experience managing staff and consultants.
- Project management experience.
- Excellent time management and reporting skills.
- Demonstrated fundraising ability.
- Advanced conflict resolution skills.
- Excellent relationship management skills.
- Demonstrate awareness of Cook Islands culture.

For a full position description and application visit www.teipukareasociety.com.

Interested applicants should address selection criteria in their covering letter and attach their CV to tis.cookislands@gmail.com. Applications close 03 April 2013.

The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

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Smartphone Security Tips

4. Apply Operating System Updates

From time-to-time, your smartphone OS vendor, hardware manufacturer or mobile carrier will make operating system updates available for your device. Although these updates are usually promoted as providing new feature x or y that you may or may not be interested in, they typically carry security-related improvements as well, so it's a good idea to apply updates regularly.

How to apply operating system updates:

Android: Go to Settings > About phone > System updates. If one is available, you'll have the opportunity to download it OTA (over-the-air).

iPhone: Connect to your computer and run iTunes, which will notify you whether an update is available.

5. Turn Off Bluetooth Discovery Mode

People often leave a smartphone's Bluetooth discovery mode turned on at all times (sometimes it's on by default), but you should disable discovery when you're not trying to pair a device. Failure to do so will continuously advertise your phone's existence to other Bluetooth-equipped devices nearby (albeit within Bluetooth's limited range of about 30 feet), which can result in an unauthorized connection to the phone.

In fact, according to AVG's survey, a paltry 10 percent of smartphone owners turn off their mobile device's Bluetooth discovery feature when it's not in use.

How to turn off Bluetooth discovery mode:

Android: Go to Settings > Wireless and networks > Bluetooth settings > Discoverable, and make sure it's not checked.

iPhone: You can't explicitly turn off the Bluetooth discovery, but the iPhone is only discoverable when you're on the Bluetooth settings page – Settings > General > Bluetooth.



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Ministry of Infrastructure & Planning

Project City Update

Project City Sub Mains work at Taputapuatea

Project City contractors continue their trenching work in the Taputapuatea area from around Rarotonga Printing, Sinai Hall and Beachcomber and past Taputapuatea itself. They expect to reach the Court House by the end of this week.

The public are asked to be patient as the contractors carry out their 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 Takuvaie Valley.

Pictured Left: Trenching work outside Taputapuatea vicinity on Tuesday morning



Road remediation work around the Punanga Nui precinct

The work has been fast-tracked to address issues raised by the manager of Punanga Nui market as to the dust affecting stall holders.

The Ministry apologises for any inconvenience caused to the public and ask that they continue to be patient while this very important work is carried out.

Road remediation has been subcontracted to Triad Pacific Ltd.



Road remediation on Maire Nui Drive around the St Josephs Cathedral, South Seas and Punanga Nui Market area being carried out from last week and continuing this week.



**Asian
Development Bank**



**Ministry of
Infrastructure and
Planning**

PH 20321 Fax: 24321

People want to pay their taxes - this is the view that MFEM is taking and so they are out to educate the public about it

One of Revenue Management Division's (RMD) role is to inform you on how to comply with your tax obligations. According to the Financial Secretary of MFEM Richard Neves, this year's compliance program will focus on, amongst other things, people in receipt of the New Zealand Superannuation payments and market vendor incomes. The emphasis here is to ensure they are including this income on their tax returns.

This information according to Neves has recently been posted on their website. It is part RMD effort to start getting out in the community and being more proactive about tax and ensuring that people meet their obligations from the start rather than waiting till later when a big tax obligation has accumulated and becomes a problem for everyone concerned including RMD.

We take the attitude that people want to meet their obligations. So it is a matter of understanding what should be included on the tax return and being honest with our income. Those selling plates of food on the side of road for cash and one selling his second hand motorbike for \$3,000.00 to name a few incidences - would you show this as an income on your annual return?

And for people in receipt of superannuation paid by the New Zealand Government, it should be noted that if recipients are receiving this payment in New Zealand it would be taxed before they received it, a bit like the pay as you earn system (PAYE) we have for employees in the Cook Islands.

The current arrangements for those people in receipt of the payment in the Cook Islands is that the gross amount of the superannuation payment, that is the full payment, is not taxed by New Zealand and then paid to the recipient in the Cook Islands. The recipient of the payment in the Cook Islands is then expected to pay the appropriate amount of tax to the Crown. But, I thought one's superannuation is non taxable and why do they have to declare this on their annual return?

Generally speaking, income is taxable regardless of where it's earned, whether you are in a physical shopfront or fronting a stall at the market you are still obliged to pay tax if you are assessed as requiring to do so.

MFEM wants to be proactive and would like to ensure that people meet their statutory tax obligations on time.

Businesses in established premises often argue that they believe they are at an unfair disadvantage when competing with stalls at the market who have a lower cost base and whom they perceive are not meeting their tax obligations. That is a perception, it does not necessarily mean that is what's actually happening, but taxes should be applied equitably and fairly.

The effort by RMD is a common form of outreach which signals to the community and businesses where their upcoming tax compliance efforts will focus.

"I am quite happy to outline what RMD will do, and I am aware that they are trying to organise to meet with the market vendors shortly to outline their approach."

Firstly, RMD have been actually identifying the vendors and

by Charlie Rani

In a Flash:

If you are selling plates of food by the side of the road, at the market, selling your second hand motorbike, or collecting the New Zealand superannuation, this has to be declared on your tax return. RMD are currently meeting with respective people to explain how to meet their tax obligations.

making them aware of their tax obligations. This step began recently when one of our officers requested a full list of the vendor names from the Market manager. RMD will then identify those vendors who are complying with their tax obligations, and those that are not. If vendors are not complying then we will work with them to assist as best we can to ensure that they comply with their tax obligations. Furthermore, those businesses that have a turnover of greater than \$30,000 per annum are required to be registered for VAT purposes and those with employees will be required to meet their employer obligations.

This effort is really about ensuring that people comply with the tax laws of the country and don't get into a situation where later on they have large amounts of tax to pay. Revenue Management would welcome those people who feel that they may not have fully met their tax obligations to contact them for assistance.

REACTION:

Dora Evans:

That is expected of Government to emphasize vendors at the Punanganui market to start including their daily income in their tax returns. It is probably an indication the we are not doing well as a country that we need money to come from somewhere.



Papa Kimi Teau:

Why is Government so desperate for those little pennies we the vendors get as income from the market? On average what I get is about \$50.00 a day and I still have to pay all my expenses. As for those collecting their New Zealand Superannuation here, I find this totally unfair. They have already been taxed overseas and now our Government wants to impose more tax when they add their monthly super on their tax return.



RATE THIS STORY:

How interesting was it to you?



Assistance available for disabled and elderly - rails, ramps, walking frames, wheelchairs & toilets.

It is easy to ignore Lito Tinokura's condition. If you aren't observant you'd just pass him off as an old person. But he's not that old at all, the heave in his stride is the result of a stroke.

Tinokura who is the Deputy Mayor of Pukapuka, and an Assistant Deacon for the CICC of Pukapuka maintains an active role in the community, but living with his disability is difficult.

Speaking to CITV on a recent visit to Pukapuka, he said that he needed some assistance to get a flush toilet and asked that he be shown on television so that whoever could help him would see his need.

His current toilet requires a bucket of water and he says that he falls every day when he carries his bucket of water with him to the toilet which is outside his house. Furthermore, in the night with the island's lack of a continuous and reliable electricity source, he has to use a flashlight which complicates matters. He added that what money he made was necessary to help him feed his children.

To the average person, this may seem like an odd request and you would wonder why anyone would make such a request, but as the Herald soon discovered, it is actually quite common and that disadvantaged people often struggle with the most basics of needs.

According to the Director of Welfare at the Ministry of Internal Affairs Ngatuaine Maui, they have a Special Assistance Fund to help the elderly and disabled with putting up railings in the home, ramps if they use wheelchairs, assistive devices like walking frames and wheelchairs and also to install better toilets that increased their safety.

Pukapuka is the last island on the list to receive this funding, and has already been earmarked for this financial year. At the moment, the Ministry is waiting for the Island Secretary Lewu Katoa to complete the list of households that require assistance, and a plan as to how best to utilise the funds to cater for sanitation and toilets. One suggestion they have already discussed with architect and consultant Romani Katoa is to use cluster toilets that 2-3 homes share due to the lack of space to install toilets. Many of the homes are within a meter of each other.

Last year, the Ministry conducted a similar project on Atiu where they put in toilets for 22 homes at a cost of \$3,000-\$5,000 per household with labour supplied by the Island Administration. In Atiu's case some of the toilets were 5-10 meters away from the house and were on a slope posing a risk to the elderly and disability especially in the night. New toilets were placed near the back door of the house or in a spare room of a house where it existed.

If the implementation plan and costings for Pukapuka are not ready before the end of this financial year, the project will be implemented in the next year.

As for the consistent and reliable electricity, Pukapuka will not see this for another year or two under a project by the Renewable Energy Development Department.

There are currently 18 people living with disabilities in Pukapuka, and about 20 elderly.

RATE THIS STORY:

How interesting was it to you?



by Jeane Matenga

In a Flash:

What may seem practical to an able person may not necessarily to a person living with a disability. When Lito Tinokura said he wanted to go on TV in Rarotonga to ask for a flush toilet, we thought that was an odd request until he explained that he had suffered a stroke and that his toilet is the type where you pour water down it. He explained that he fell everyday when carting water to his toilet and it was worse in the night as Pukapuka does not have proper electricity. Plus, he needs what money he makes to feed his children. So we told him that we would put him on TV, and in the newspaper, and we would let the Ministry of Internal Affairs know. His wish is already on the Ministry's to do list, so he will be pleased when he finds out about that.



Lito Tinokura asking for assistance to get a flush toilet



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Building code gets reviewed 20 years later - building materials, standards, practices all under review

The Herald has been doing a number of stories that point to the failure of building regulations. There was the termite problem that has plagued houses that were built around 2005. Then there were the house fires some of which were electrical faults. The issues within the building industry itself of unqualified, unregistered builders, alterations to plans without the correct approval, choosing cheap labour instead of paying the proper people, or else homeowners overseeing the projects themselves, the resulting disputes over incomplete homes, and the lack of work which is now seeing our able tradesmen laying water pipes instead.

At a meeting held in Pukapuka in early March to request land for a renewable energy project, a papa got up and requested that any construction in Pukapuka should only have quality products and with that he said that several houses in the recent re-roofing project had already rusted on the edges. The papa exclaimed that the contractor got paid a lot of money but the quality of his materials were not suitable for the Pukapuka environment.

In the latest house fire, the homeowner was surprised at the speed at which the fire engulfed their home. They had left for a meeting at about 6pm, and returned home at close to 7pm to find they had no more house. The home was built of timber. These are isolated cases but get talking with your neighbours and you will realise that everyone is basically familiar with the building issues, and how to get around it (so they say).

So the review of our National Building Code is long overdue - 20 years in fact. Our Building Control and Standard Act was enacted in March 1991. And our Building Control and Standard regulation was endorsed in July 1991. To be effective and up to date, the Code has to be revised frequently.

John Tagilima, projects engineer at the Secretariat of the Pacific Communities (SPC) Disaster Risk Reduction Project is currently here doing a scoping mission. Basically, at the end of his mission he will be creating a Terms of Reference (TOR) to encourage consultants to bid for the job of conducting the actual review. He is looking at 2-3 months before the TOR is ready.

The actual review will look to update the standards for a range of things from structural performance, fire safety, health, hazards including wind loading so that houses can sustain wind speeds of 180-216km/hr, surrounding environment including alteration to the ground water, design issues such as the number of storeys a building can have, corrosion protection given our salty environment, quality of materials, methods of construction, meeting construction standards, registration of builders and other tradesmen.

The review will be quite extensive and will incorporate that all donor funded projects will comply with local regulations. As well as, encouraging the conservation of traditional buildings, use of local materials, as well as, the proper demolition for ruinous and dilapidated buildings. The Code will also look at pre-cut homes that are imported and ensuring they meet local standards.

The Code will also be tailored to incorporate the conditions and locations of each of the Outer Islands noting that there are very few qualified tradespeople in those islands, and materials are difficult to get. So multi-skilling for Outer Islanders will become

by Jeane Matenga

In a Flash:

John Tagilima of the SPC is currently here to conduct a scoping study and create a Terms of Reference for the building code.

A review of the Building Regulations will allow the Code to cater for the changes in building practices and satisfy the changing lifestyle of people, as well as, to allow it to be aligned with other legislation that involves building such as the sanitation requirements with the Ministry of Health, and environmental protection, as well as, imports.



John Tagilima - creating a Terms of Reference for the Building Code review

critical.

Another aspect of consideration is for a Warrant of Fitness for buildings to ensure that they continue to be safe for its occupants. Consideration will be given to building for person's with disabilities.

Water tanks may also become compulsory after the review, as will fire safety devices like extinguishers, detectors and hoses. Then there will be other issues like parking of which we are familiar especially with some commercial outlets having insufficient parking.

Climate proofing of homes will be a consideration as well as introducing smart homes that are less energy reliant given the Government's vision of 100 percent renewable energy by 2020. The review will also look at some protection for customers over their investment and to ensure that they get the proper advice in order to minimise their financial risk.

Finally, there is the issue of over-design which has put strain on people's finances. Designs have to be made affordable. One only needs to look at current mortgage rates (about \$432 weekly repayment on a 3 bedroom home) and the standard long-term market rental being \$250-\$350 to know that the cost to build a house is totally mismatched with what the rental market can pay for it.

RATE THIS STORY:

How interesting was it to you?



Hand-over of \$154,000 funding assistance to the Mangaia Island Fishing Association Facility by Japan



The Mangaia Islands Fishing Association refurbishment

Saturday 16th March 2013- The Mangaia Islands Fishing Association (MIFA) celebrated the completion of a grant funding of \$154,000 dollars provided by the Government of Japan under the Grass Roots and Human Security grant.

The MIFA is an affiliated member of the Cook Islands Fishing Association (CIFA).

Six months after receiving the monies the MIFA has completed the project on time and without any major variations, a major accomplishment.

The funds have contributed to extensive refurbishment and extensions to the MIFA facility, a mobile ice machine, walk-in fish refrigeration unit, solar panels for providing electricity, a training area and fish handling and processing equipment.

On hand were representatives from Government and the Cook Island Fishing Association including the Minister of Marine Resources, Hon Teina Bishop, MMR Secretary, Ben Ponia, MMR Director, Kori Raumea, CIFA President, Don Beer, and CIFA Treasurer, Papa Ina Kaukura. CIFA Administrator and also the representative of the Japanese Government, Vaine Wichman.

The Master of Ceremony (MC) Poroa Arokapiti entertained the large crowd that participated.

The Mayor of Mangaia, Teremoana Atariki, praised the occasion as a milestone and specifically requested the Minister in his capacity for marine and education to "support our students at school to be trained in fishing methods, fish handling and also managing our marine limited

resources". He pointed out that there is still room for others to supply the market and this is an opportunity for the youth.

The Minister re-confirmed its commitment by this government to its on-going support to the MIFA, CIFA and to its various affiliated members through the Cook Islands. He noted that the MMR has provided its inputs to the MIFA through its regular programs as well as under the Fisheries Development Facility which the Ministry funds from licensing revenue.

The MMR Secretary commented that the MIFA facility "will be the envy for other fishing association elsewhere in the Cook Islands" and he thanked the association for setting a high bar for others to achieve.

The land owner, Mama Tako,



Hon Min Teina Bishop in Mangaia

reiterated her support for the development made on their land. She encouraged the people of Mangaia to become active members of the association, 'kua kite au aore e ravaanatemangaika note okookoatuite Tangata, no reira, kariroteia are eingaiakaanumangaika e perakatoaei, ngaiapiianga note teangaangatautai'!

Vaine Wichman delivered a key note address on behalf of the Japanese Government and reconfirmed the commitments made by the Japanese Ambassador on his visits to the Cook Islands.

After the official function a site visit and *kaikai* was on hand, which includes, crayfish, pork, goat meat, snake mackerel, taro.

The Mangaia Fishing Association has over 126 members.



Ministry of Marine Resources
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

Our Community, Our Youth

By Norma Ngatamariki

On Thursday evening, my friends, Dean, Justin and I attended a meeting which was held at the Pukapuka Hostel. The main purpose of this meeting was to discuss the various issues concerning today's youth and how we could approach this problem. There were a lot of "famous and important" people present, such as the NZ High Commissioner, John Carter, the Secretary of Education, Sharyn Paio and even the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, Henry Puna. It was an amazing turn out. I think we were the only teens who attended this meeting and it made us feel special.

Bishop Tutai Pere was the acting "Master of Ceremonies" and made a brief introduction to us. It felt good, being "in-

the-know". There were opening speeches done by the High Com and House of Ariki Speaker, Travel Tou Ariki. A representative of the police force, Rebecca Ellis, started us off with a presentation of statistics, showing the number of thefts, burglaries motor vehicle accidents which are youth-related. The numbers were quite shocking, especially the crimes committed in the Te Au O Tonga area. Rebecca advises the public to ensure their houses are locked up or, if you are a constant victim of these crimes, to have a security system installed.

Another point brought up in the meeting is how to deal with the troubled youth. Secretary of Education, Sharyn Paio, had her say on this. Specialized programs, such as the Rakei Toa and Tumanava, have made an initial

start within Tereora College. These programs are created so that kids who are finding it difficult in the normal school system develop the necessary life skills (such as basic numeracy and literacy skills), to assist them in furthering their education. This was supported by my principal, Mr. Bali Haque (I have to admit, we were a bit nervous seeing this fellow at the meeting) Another shocking fact that was discussed is that parents don't care about the welfare of their own children, which drives them to do commit these crimes.

Other alternatives popped up while the meeting progressed. Nga Mataio, a local planter, said that agriculture was another possible pathway that youth could consider. Although it may not be the most popular option

because it is labour intensive, it does have its advantages. It motivates young people to provide the food on their table and you could earn a little money on the side. One brave mama took the stage and said that we could offer kids courses, which do not have to be academically based. They might have a passion for cooking, art or carpentry.

June Baudinet, a local businesswoman and a member of the Juvenile Committee, expressed her feelings about troubled youth and the problems they cause. As a victim, I can sympathize with her point of view. Contribution from both the community and the government is both important if we're to tackle this problem. I believe that this is possible, if we just put our minds to it.

How to make successful decisions *part 1*

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

The purpose of this article is to assist you in making wise, sound and successful decisions that will benefit you, your family or your household. Success is largely a matter of making good decisions. The problem is, with every decision there is an element of risk -- "Did I do the right thing? ... Did I make the right choice? ... Was it the wise thing to do?"

The Apostle Paul was a professional at decision making and also at taking risks. Acts 15v.26 reads "Barnabas and Paul are men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Because he took risks he accomplished amazing things in life. Many of us have great dreams. Dream to begin a business, to start a new career, to go back to school and get a degree, . But we're afraid to get started because of the "risks" involved. For this article I want us to look from the Book of Proverbs at eight principles, eight steps, or lessons on How To Make

Successful Decisions.. This article will cover 4 of these principles or lessons, and next week's article will cover the other 4.

I. STEP ONE: PRAY FOR GUIDANCE -- this is the Principle of Inspiration (motivation or encouragement) Proverbs 28v.26 (Living Bible) "A man is foolish to trust himself. But those who use God's wisdom are safe." Don't just depend on your own opinion. Proverbs 2v.6 "It is the Lord who gives wisdom." You start in any decision making by getting God's perspective. How does He see it? The Bible says, there is a way that seems right to us but it messes us up; it ends in death. James 1v.5 says, "If any man lacks wisdom, let him ask God" and he went on to say that, "...the reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask God for it." (James 4v.2[c])

II. STEP TWO: GET THE FACTS. Proverbs 13v.16 "Every prudent (wise; careful) man acts out of knowledge." Don't make a

decision out of ignorance. Find out all you can to help you decide. Don't assume that what people say is true. Proverbs 18v.13 reads "What a shame -- how stupid -- to decide before knowing the facts!" Think before you act. Proverbs 23v.23 reads "Get the facts at any price" When in doubt, check it out. Whatever it takes! Find out the facts! before you get started. The Bible says knowledge is more important than strength.

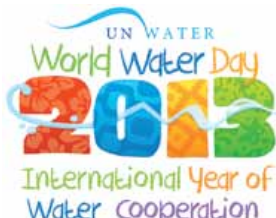
III. STEP THREE: ASK FOR ADVICE Talk to somebody who has already taken the risk. Proverbs 24v.6 "The more advice you get, the more likely you are to win." Proverbs 20v.18 reads "Get good advice and you will succeed." Learn from the experiences of others. Proverbs 20v.5 reads "Counsel in the heart of man is like a deep well but a man of understanding will draw it out." You can learn from anybody if you learn to draw it out by asking the right questions. Proverbs 18v.15 reads "The intelligent man is

always open to new ideas. In fact, he looks for them!"

IV. STEP FOUR: SET YOUR GOAL Proverbs 17v.24 (GN) "An intelligent man aims at wise actions, but a fool starts off in many directions." Do you know anybody like that? They're going everywhere. You cannot chase two chickens at the same time. You've got to select. In life, if we want to succeed we need to be clear in our minds what to do. Make our "Goals" clear. We need to have a clear cut purpose. Never take a risk simply to prove ourselves. If you're going to make a decision, you've got to know what you're aiming for.

"An intelligent person aims at wise actions but a fool starts off in many directions." Remember 1) Pray for guidance, 2) Get the facts right, 3) Ask for advice from experience people, and 4) Set your goals. I hope you will find these 4 steps or lessons useful in making successful decisions. May you have a God blessed week. Te Atua te aroa.

You can make a difference! Do Your Part



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

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

FAT CATS

Number
2, as part of the Tax Review
Government wants to bring in a walking tax!

What
about "jogging"?

COCONUT ROUNDTABLE

Rumour
has it, Government is considering
a walking tax which does not apply to
"jogging"!

So if we
run everywhere, we lose
weight!

And
the ministry
of Health saves
money!

Mozzie

HARD
TOO HARD
IMPOSSIBLE

Trash alert chooks! The stretch of road along from Black Rock-cans, litter, rubbish, the works! What an eyesore! How about a scheme like they have in Aussie says one chook? Get schools to adopt a section of road and they keep it clean! How about schools adopting a section of road during the road works and keeping it watered to keep down the dust!

What's to become of the Jetty at Arorangi? When will the smaller cruise liners start tying up alongside Avatiu wharf?

Word is government will soon make a move on the water tanks for homes proposal!

If PM Puna really wants to impress, he needs to extend an invitation to the new Pope to visit the Cook Islands! Now what outfit can TAVs prepare?

Diabolical at the Theological! Traffic diversions that is-around Takamoia Theological College grounds! Tuesday, cars and bikes were everywhere but no "pointsmen!" These are the people assigned to control traffic flow! As a result, chaos!

Oh dear chooks! Brand new section of water pipe running along a small bridge in Takuvaine has burst due probably to pressure. It shows the thickness of the pipe is very thin! Some say the pipe is an old

CHOOKS CORNER

WITH BIG RED



one! Not so say those who have seen it! The pipe is still there with water in it!

Tremendous downpour Monday night did nothing to improve water pressure in Takuvaine or Kii Kii chooks! In Kii Kii those homes in the stretch just before the Motel, have had little or no water for months! One household has to wake up at 2am because that's when the water trickles in-in order to bathe and shower! From 6am onwards, there's no water until 2am the next day! On a small island 19 miles around there should be no such problems!

Amazing how overseas consultants chin wag with all and sundry to find out what is going on! Strange that none of these consultants ever make a bee line for the media. In a small country the media is where much information about what is going on, is stored-in the brains of the journalists.

Another depressing sight chooks! Yet another foreigner here on big bucks to ask our experts what it is we need! When

will this Peacock parade of consultants end chooks? Are we that dumb? And another thing, looking at the attendees on the goggle-box, it's always the same people! A smart consultant would firstly figure out who were the people worth talking to-and just talk to them, forget the rest!

As the rest of the world edges closer to the "Fiscal Cliff" Europe's spies are out looking for gullible countries to be sucked into their banking fiasco. If you go down blazing, you may as well take everyone else down with you! We should ditch the West and look North to the East! Instead of rubbing the belly of Midas, let's rub the belly of Buddha!

As you recall chooks, Big Red tipped you off some days ago that the \$100,000 donated by Korea would end up being used to buy cars for government and that is exactly what has happened! There's enough dosh to get three cars, even our Cookie High Commissioner in Kiwiland, Tiki gets one and so does the Auckland Consulate Office! Perhaps Bernard needs it

to pick up referrals from the airport! Pity the dosh could not have been spread out among the cash strapped NGO's!

Watch for four more senior civil servants of Cookie descent to be leaving soon for higher paying jobs overseas. Government is already reeling from the prospect of losing these talented Cookies who will most likely be replaced by, yes, you guessed it, Ex-pats on high pay!

Speaking of political hari kari, if the Lord High Chief Beak rules in Big Norm's favour, where will that leave Wilkie? Wilkie must get away from the small time pokie machines and into the big players poker school! Start calling the shots!

Great to see an advert promoting tourism on the goggle-box. Happy, smiling faces! But check out the opening shots which feature a happy, smiling papa'a then a happy, smiling Fijian! Well, that's the way our tourism industry is going is it not? All those happy, smiling natives — about to board the plane for high paying jobs in Western Australia!

Cook Islands
HERALD
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PITT MEDIA GROUP

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Te Riu Woonton

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				

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 Tirení 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 poiri 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



TO ALL WESTERN MARINA USERS

A meeting will be held on

Date: 22 March 2013

Time: 4pm

Venue: Marine Resources Workshop; Avatiu

Further enquires contact Harbour Master

21921/75462

VACANCIES



Business Trade Investment Board
Cook Islands

MONITORING & COMPLIANCE OFFICER

The Business Trade Investment Board(BTIB) has an opening for a Monitoring & Compliance Officer. The ideal applicant must be hard working with a tertiary qualifications, above average analytical skills, outstanding communication skills, and the ability to network with a broad cross section of people. A background/ experience in a regulatory, policing or enforcement role would be useful.

It is crucial that the succesful applications posses the following:

- Understanding of Companies and Companies shareholding,
- General understanding of due intelligence requirements,
- Understanding of processes and project management,
- Database and the file management Client coordinator and administration,
- Microsoft computer software experience,

Applications with CV's should be addressed to:

The Finance Administration Manager

Confidential:

Monitoring & Compliance Officer position

Business Trade Investment Board

Private Bag

Avarua, Rarotonga

Or submit your Application and CV via email addressed to sarah.samuel@btib.gov.ck

Applications close 3pm Friday 22 March 2013

**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 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 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.



Manpower®

What do you do?

TENDER



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.

777

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Grasscutting & Lawnmoving Jobs

BIG or SMALL

call or text 78 283

