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17 April 2013

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We're here to help the elderly

By Prime Minister, Hon. Henry Puna

Last week, I took the opportunity to put to rest the spread of untruths about what your Government is doing in terms of the tidying up work on taxation issues. Taxation and the regulated payment of tax are sensitive issues and to a large degree, there have been delays and shortcomings in past years in reviewing compliance.

As Prime Minister, I needed to broadcast a public statement about the review process and set the record straight on the controversies that had been generated, and the misperceptions about what Government is trying to do. Too many stories had been going around or were deliberately being pushed around.

The Revenue Management Division of the Ministry of Finance has been reviewing our tax system – primarily focused on compliance, making sure that the appropriate tax is being paid by all who are required to pay, and that there is fair and equitable application of relevant taxation. That is normal and the workload on the RMD is considerable.

Unfortunately, that's been a large part of the problem over the years. While many people in the community might think this is a new step by the Finance Ministry, the need for compliance has been applicable over many years.

This is evident from the clarifications that New Zealand pension collectors in the Cook Islands are not part of anything new that's being applied today. On the contrary, our tax rules regarding the NZ pension stem from a 1997 law and a 2009 agreement with NZ that was signed by the previous government.

A resulting time lag in compliance over these years is the problem, and we intend to find solutions that suit and satisfy our people as best we can.



The RMD advises there are at least 200 NZ pension collectors, who are affected in this time lag of some years where the tax people have not managed to keep on top of. While there might be grounds to be bitter over the failure to manage these taxation payments, we need to be mindful that about 60 of these pensioners have complied with the rules. That means 23% of the pensioners have managed to make their required tax payments.

This is an unfortunate situation in which we now need to find a happy settlement – a settlement that is proper. For instance, we especially want to ensure that our pensioners are treated fairly and not penalised unnecessarily. We know that comfort and security for our elders is important and that the measures taken by the Government must be conducted with compassion.

We are not in the business of causing pain or distress but in the business of helping. And we will do our utmost to make our pensioners feel that the Government is willing to play a supporting role where possible.

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Comments not helpful, Tax on NZ Super becomes political

By Charles Pitt

Comments by Finance Secretary Richard Neves in last Friday's daily paper regarding the obligations of people to pay tax on their NZ Super conveniently mask the fact that a government also has a duty to inform and also remind people about their obligations.

Successive governments have known for many years the names and addresses of those who are receiving the NZ Super. The number is small. Less than 300. How simple would it have been to drop each person a reminder letter or a pamphlet reminding them of their tax obligations?

For any government to now turn around and say ignorance of the law is no excuse, is not acceptable

where government has made no diligent efforts over the years to inform the people concerned of their obligations.

We are yet to hear what efforts local governments have made since portability started under the Democratic Party, to inform pensioners of their obligations to pay tax. What pamphlets were printed? What meetings were called? We know from the PM's advice that some 260 pensioners receive the NZ Super with 60 paying tax. It would be fair to say that the Democratic Party government under Jim Marurai did not accord the taxation of NZ Super in the Cook Islands, priority. Payment was never enforced. Perhaps it was because at that time the numbers were too small to justify the cost

of administration. Back then it was clear to government from the documents signed with NZ regarding portability, that tax would be payable in the Cook Islands and if not, the NZ Government may tax the payment. Perhaps there were issues concerning sovereignty and uneasiness about NZ dictating taxation terms to our government. Over the years, the NZ Government has not appeared to have regarded this issue with any priority either. Perhaps they simply turned a blind eye to it. So why, in 2013, after years of government neglect has this issue suddenly become a priority? Perhaps government is facing a deficit and needs cash quickly. This suspicion has turned efforts to get pensioners to comply with their legal obligations, into an election issue. It is unfortunate that Andrew Haigh and his team,

find themselves in the middle of a political sandwich when they are only doing a job which should have been done years ago.

Legal obligations aside, to suggest as Neves did in the media that someone's neighbor may not be happy to learn a person next door is not paying tax, brings to mind the efforts of the East German Secret Police the Stasi, to get people to daub their neighbours in. In raising this comment, is Neves suggesting people start ratting on their neighbours and thereby establish a culture of fear and suspicion in this country? One would hope not.

It was perhaps an unfortunate comment on Neve's part and perhaps it was unintended. However, the fact it was made illustrates the political pressure he must be under.

Rarotonga and Aitutaki in top 5

Trip Advisor, the world's largest travel site, announced the winners of its inaugural Travelers' Choice Islands awards on 26th March. Based on millions of valuable traveller reviews and opinions on the site, the awards recognize the natural beauty of more than 100 islands across the globe, including dedicated lists for Africa, Asia, the South Pacific, the Caribbean, Europe, South America, and the United States.

Two islands in the Cook Islands made the top 10 Islands of the South Pacific list, as voted by the public.


1. Bora Bora, French Polynesia, 2. Moorea, French Polynesia, 3. Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 4. Efate, Vanuatu, 5. Aitutaki, Cook Islands, 6. Taveuni Island, Fiji, 7. Waiheke Island, New Zealand, 8. Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu, 9. Kangaroo Island, Australia, 10. Vanua Levu, Fiji

Halatoa Fua, CEO for Cook Islands Tourism stated that "it is pleasing to see Rarotonga and Aitutaki in the list given Trip Advisor's reach to a large audience. This exposure adds value to the Cook Islands brand awareness and brings out the unique qualities of Rarotonga and Aitutaki".

Trip Advisor recommends


For Rarotonga: Sipping coconut milk while bargaining for handmade jewellery and swaying your hips to live music—just another Saturday morning in Rarotonga. After a few hours of checking out the wharf-side Punanga Nui Market, hit the beaches of this reef-protected volcanic island. There are plenty of picturesque lagoons that allow peaceful swimming or snorkelling, and moonlit strolls along the East Side sands are pure magic. Raro Safari Tours are a popular way to explore the island's vivid rainforest and says - Don't miss Titikaveka Beach, Muri Lagoon, Drums of Our Forefathers

For Aitutaki: This small island encased in a triangular barrier reef boasts incredible lagoons. Relax with a intimate picnic on the alabaster beach of one of Aitutaki's minor islands, uninhabited and lined with swaying palm trees. Despite its heartbreaking beauty, Aitutaki isn't (yet) flooded with tourists, due to its relatively difficult-to-reach location. For off-the-beaten-sandbar vacationing, Aitutaki is a prime destination, especially for those seeking unbridled romantic ambiance and says - Don't miss Aitutaki Lagoon, One Foot Island, Black Pearl Fishing Charters



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Letter to the Editor

Tax on NZ super explained

Dear Editor,
I would like to respond to recent public concerns around MFEM's recent initiative to undertake tax compliance around the payment of the New Zealand Government Superannuation pension (which I will refer to as the NZ pension) to recipients in the Cook Islands.

People are able to receive the NZ pension in the Cook Islands through the Pacific Special Portability provisions. Eligibility to receive the payment in the Cook Islands is based on residency and a physical presence in New Zealand on the date of application and intention to live in the Cook Islands for more than 52 weeks and be resident in the Cook Islands when each payment is made.

Simply put, if the recipient of the NZ pension resides in New Zealand they must meet their New Zealand tax obligations. If they reside in the Cook Islands they must meet their Cook Islands tax obligations.

The administration of tax collection differs in both countries. In New Zealand, the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) deducts the tax and pays a net amount into the recipient's bank account, the tax is then remitted to the Inland Revenue Department.

When someone seeks to have their NZ pension paid to them in the Cook Islands they are required to inform the MSD of their desire to do this. The MSD advises all recipients that tax will no longer be deducted once payments are made a jurisdiction outside of New Zealand. The MSD clearly outlines that the recipient will be subject to the tax arrangements in the country they are moving to. People are advised that they may be liable to pay tax in the Cook Islands and to contact the tax authorities for more information.

When someone starts getting their payments directly here in the Cook Islands they receive an amount which is higher than what was previously paid by MSD into their bank account in New Zealand. This amount is the gross and includes what was previously taxed by New Zealand.

Under Cook Islands taxation law, the NZ pension is subject to tax, there has been no change in the taxation law or in the rates which apply to the NZ pension.

The only pensions exempt from taxation in the Cook Islands are recipients of New Zealand Government Superannuation Fund (GSF) pensions (public servants), the Cook Islands National Superannuation Fund pensions, the Cook Islands Government pension and war pensions paid by any nation.

In the agreement between the Governments of the Cook Islands and New Zealand on the allocation of taxing rights between the two nations it is clear that if the Cook Islands chooses not to tax NZ pensions then the Government of New Zealand may [and probably will] choose to do so.

In this regard it is unfair to criticise the current Government of the day for what is perceived as a new approach towards taxing the NZ pension. Accusations that this is a new tax or a new directive imposed by the Government are simply untrue.

MFEM is legally required to collect tax according to what is prescribed in the various tax laws of the country. It is only recently that MFEM has had been able to access the full list of Cook Islands recipients of the NZ pension. In absence of this information MFEM has relied on people complying by declaring that they receive the NZ pension in their annual tax returns.

MFEM will now receive the full list on who is receiving the NZ pension and how much they have been paid on an ongoing basis.

Some individuals through a genuine oversight may not be complying with their obligations. This may be a genuine oversight by those who are used to the automated deduction of tax in New Zealand and may have assumed the same

arrangement happened in the Cook Islands even though their payments had increased.

This automatic arrangement does not apply in the Cook Islands, and people receiving the NZ pension in the Cook Islands may have to undertake alternate arrangements such as an automatic payment with their bank to comply with their tax obligations.

If you receive the NZ pension and have not submitted your 2012 tax return then you will need to incorporate the total pension payment you received for the year into box 15 of your annual tax return. If you have submitted your return for 2012 and have omitted that information then you will need to come into MFEM and revise your return, people have until November 2013 to finalise any taxation liabilities which have not been met.

Moving forward recipients of the NZ pension may wish to commence an automated payment arrangement with their bank to avoid end of year liabilities arising, MFEM recommend this approach. Such an action can only be instigated by the recipient of the pension, unlike the Ministry of Social Welfare in New Zealand MFEM does not have the authority to automatically deduct the tax when it gets paid into the bank.

The majority of recipients in the Cook Islands appear to receive either the Single (sharing) at \$377.05 per week or married rate of the pension at \$320.04. Although people in the Cook Islands receive their payments monthly and people may be more familiar with the monthly amounts of \$1,508.20 and \$1,241.36 respectively.

To further complicate things, the annual increase of the pension which occurs on 1 April does not correlate with our calendar year taxation system, but the following table attempts to demonstrate the liability associated with a person in receipt of the NZ pension in 2012 and 2013. This table assumes the recipient has received the NZ pension for the full year at the applicable rates (e.g no backpayments or lump sums which may have occurred) no additional income from other sources such as wages or rent and that the \$10,000 tax free threshold applies to them.

	2012 Total pension	2012 Tax Liability	2013 Total pension	2013 Tax Liability
Single, living alone	\$20,662	\$2,665	\$21,203	\$2,801
Single, sharing	\$18,899	\$2,225	\$19,456	\$2,364
Married, civil union, or de facto couple, both qualify (each)	\$15,617	\$1,404	\$16,034	\$1,509
Married, civil union, or de facto couple, with non-qualified spouse included (each)	\$14,783	\$1,196	\$15,177	\$1,294

The table has been worked out on the rates published by MSD which applied below.

Gross Weekly Payment	Apr-11	Apr-12	Apr-13
Single, living alone	\$389.14	\$400.07	\$410.32
Single, sharing	\$357.40	\$365.45	\$377.05
Married, civil union, or de facto couple, both qualify (each)	\$294.08	\$302.40	\$310.34
Married, civil union, or de facto couple, with non-qualified spouse included (each)	\$278.31	\$286.29	\$293.73

I hope this letter clarifies goes some way to clarifying the situation for people, the staff from Revenue Management Division are more than happy to further assist people with their enquiries.

MeitakkiMaata
Richard Neves

Government shoots itself in the foot

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

The Government of the Cook Islands under Prime Minister Henry Puna must take top award for the category of "disaster-creation". The latest debacle leading to loud condemnation by the public of the Government over the "pensioner's tax" must surely have people scratching their heads and wonder about whether all is together within the halls of power. As of last night a group of pensioners were none the wiser from the explanations by the Financial Secretary, the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister. It has now been several weeks since the start of this "public relations spoof" and an ever increasing number of Cook Islanders are absolutely hot under the collar and with a view to throwing out this Government.

Last week, the Prime Minister was on radio and never before have I heard a PM basically being talked down by callers to the radio station and one caller ended up calling my mate, the PM, a "liar". Believe when you get to that level in politics it is time to get out. One elderly man said to me yesterday, "this Government is out, it is history". I felt his anger and also felt that his dignity was raked over by the Government.

Now, what does it want, the Government that is? A speaker at a meeting of pensioners in

Tupapa on Tuesday night said at that meeting, "the PM on Cook Islands Radio said that the New Zealand Prime Minister John Key had casually said to him that if the Cook Islands Government does not tax the pensioners on NZ pension living in the Cook Islands, New Zealand will." That in essence is what I believe the trigger for the Cook Islands Government to chance its arm here. I think it thought to itself, wow, here's a bonus for us. Let's do it. But when confronted on radio the PM said this arrangement was already in place during the days of the Democratic Party Government. What a cheap shot and it isn't going to work.

If you people have a close look at it you will see a pattern. Since this Government came into office it embarked on a track of taxation. It increased the departure tax which is now of course incorporated in the ticket but it increases incrementally. If \$65.00 now, next year it will rise to \$75.00. It is you the taxpayer that cops it. The Demo Party government under me as Minister of Finance were in fact planning of reducing it back to \$35 per departing passenger and to give that money to the Airport Authority as capital for some initiatives to generate revenue and competition at the airport. It is tax from that revenue that we will take for Treasury. Then we



had the withholding tax which was supposed to be just for investments but it was slammed across the board that the meager savings funds the Matavera Vainetini has was subject to that tax. We also had increased tax for alcohol, soft drinks, etc, and the claim that we must have a healthy life style. And now the imposition of tax for every Cook Islander that earns a living, even the poor souls down at the Punanga Nui Market our symbol of low income people's trading venue. On top of that is the proposal for tax of pensioner's funds.

To be honest with you, I am extremely baffled by this whole drive by my mate and his team. But then again they are doing this because their spending has

exceeded Government's revenue and they are now putting pressure on pensioners because they are a source to extract funds from. This Government has not shown any inkling towards cost saving, instead right from the start it raised the Civil List, the Ministerial Offices funding and so many others. It hired many people in the top six figure mark salary level. Its sending has literally spun out of control.

I spoke at the Pensioner's meeting at the invitation of the people there and I encouraged the pensioners to stand up for their rights and to make it their voice not that of the Opposition. It is our job anyway to criticize the Government and keep it honest. I wish the pensioner's success in your fight.

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Our Cover Girl

A Cricketing sensation



Apii Mamanu and Ronnie Forbes

By Charles Pitt

Cook Islands Cricket is organizing a three day tournament next week where the cricketing talent of our under 19 boys will be on display.

Ronnie Forbes and Apii Mamanu from Cricket Cook Islands (CCI), advised the Herald on Tuesday the event is the U19 Boys Development Cup and it will run from Monday 29 April to Wednesday 1 May at Raemaru Park in Arorangi between the hours of 9am and 4pm. Two wickets will be in use. There will be a free island wide bus put on to pick up persons going to the tournament.

While several teams have already entered, including the National Development Team, more teams are invited to join. CCI are hoping to have six teams entered for what will be a 15 over game. Teams can represent schools or villages. A Wale Team has entered also a team from Turangi/Ngatangiia. While it is essentially a boy's tournament, Forbes said young women could

enter a team.

Forbes said uniforms will be provided for all teams sponsored by ANZ Bank and also water and entertainment.

There will be a prize giving and BBQ on the final day.

Forbes said it is hoped the event which is being held for the first time, will become an annual event. He said there was a need to hold more competitions in order to qualify for aid from the International Cricket Council.

ANZ Bank is the official junior cricket partner and their wonderful support sees great prizes on offer.

Besides the ANZ winner's trophy, there is \$275 cash donated by R&A Stevic (NZ) for the winning team. Other prizes include a Nike cricket bat for the top bowler, an Aero cricket bat for the top batter, an Aero cricket bag for the top fielder and heaps of jackets, shirts and shorts for player effort awards.

To register, teams should contact Ronnie Forbes on ph 72 981 or Apii Mamanu on ph 51 522.

Our front page for Herald issue 662 is 19 year old Charlotte-Anne Kareroa, who enjoys reading, exploring and travelling. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck. and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald



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Finance Minister to headline Climate Finance meeting

Finance Minister Mark Brown will provide insight into the challenges faced by the Cook Islands and other Small Islands Developing States in accessing and managing Climate finance when he delivers a keynote address to an international meeting in Singapore, next week.

Brown will headline a special gathering on Climate Change financing, which is being organised by the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs in conjunction with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The Minister will join a host of special guests and attendees from the Asia-Pacific Region, as well as representatives from the

Caribbean.

The keynote address will be delivered at the start of a three day workshop to develop and strengthen cooperation on Climate finance, and to help build capacities of governments to access and manage public and private funding. Brown is expected to focus on the challenges faced by the SIDS across the broad scope of climate finance.

The Cook Islands is part of the global SIDS' efforts to negotiate larger flows of Climate financing to those who need it most – the vulnerable island states, which require increasingly high levels of investment to build resilience to the impacts of Climate Change.

Worldwide, the International

Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that about EUR800 million a year is required to halve global greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Mobilising the finance from the developed countries and private sector interests has become a mammoth undertaking for the benefit of SIDS, which are seriously debilitated by low levels of capacity and resources.

The Cook Islands, as are many SIDS, faces considerable challenges in trying to cope with impacts of Climate Change while trying to also address ongoing infrastructure development and community needs, such as those related to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), energy security and sustainable energy use, and waste

management standards. Smaller countries do not have the support structures and means to meet the demands brought by the larger volumes of Climate financing, and the Singapore workshop is aimed at building closer cooperation and dialogue to assist government bodies.

As Finance Minister, Brown is a key policy maker in the scope of Climate financing and a strong advocate for capacity-building in government, including the requirements for monitoring, reporting and verifying financial flows.

The Singapore workshop is being held at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and runs from 22-24 April 2013.

Emerging nation status for Cook Islands Sea Bed Minerals

A high level international Mining industry magazine, Mining Engineering, has noted in its Editorial on Page 6, that the Cook Islands are now considered a new "emerging nation" by the international Seabed Minerals sector.

This editorial comment followed the Cook Islands presence at the Underwater Minerals Institute (UMI) conference in October 2012 in Shanghai, China.

At that UMI conference, Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Commissioner, Paul Lynch, was an invited Speaker. He presented on the developments of the Regulatory framework for the Seabed Minerals sector in the Cook Islands, based on his Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Research paper.

This Editorial comment is proof of some success being achieved in the drive by the Cook Islands Government to promote the development of our Seabed Minerals sector.

The future economic sector will be based on our unique



Paul Lynch, Dr James Hein, Darryl Thorburn

abundance of Seabed minerals in our Exclusive Economic Zone called Manganese Nodules. The Cook Islands Manganese Nodules Resource is now assessed at 10 billion tones and is known to contain valuable minerals, such as Copper, Cobalt, Nickel, Manganese and Rare Earth Elements (REE).

The REE content of our Nodules (from a 1970's sample held at SOPAC) was only recently

confirmed in the USA, through a fully funded RRE Analysis, organised by Doctor James Hein of the US Geological Service and SOPAC, in conjunction with Cook Islands PhD, Mr. Duane Malcolm (son of Roger and Kura Malcolm of Atiu).

Photo attached shows the presentation at a recent Seabed Minerals workshop of a Gift of Appreciation to Doctor Hein for his high level scientific

work to assist the Cook Islands Seabed Minerals sector. The Gift from the Minister and SBM Authority was a Nodule Display Cube, containing a real Cook Islands Manganese Nodule sample, and Certificate of Authenticity, signed by the Minister for Minerals and Natural Resources, Hon. Tom Marsters.

Release Seabed Minerals Authority

MMR reports 11,000 tonnes of fish catches for 2012; with future quota's to be imposed

Fleet	Catch (metric tonnes)						Value
	ALB	BET	YFT	SWO	OTHERS	TOTAL	NZ\$
Albacore long liners	6,496	940	1,034	56	977	9,503	\$33,500,000
Big eye tuna long liners	363	692	206	38	170	1,470	\$6,400,000
Total	6,859	1,632	1,240	94	1,147	10,973	\$39,900,000

Friday 12 April – The Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) report that the long line catches in Cook Islands waters for 2012 was 11,000 tonnes of tuna worth \$40 million dollars.

According to Ben Ponia, Marine Secretary, “this is actually a milestone for the country, we can now assert our rights to the regional tuna fishery, effectively we have established our ‘catch history’ and ensured that in the future the Cook Islands will be entitled to a share of any fishing rights that may be allocated out on an EEZ basis”

The main long line fisheries which the MMR manages are the regulated albacore fisheries and the big eye tuna exploratory program which are separated below according to catch species (albacore, big eye, yellow fin, sword fish) and landed value.

There is a small locally based long line fleet that operates out of Rarotonga which caught 20 tonnes of catch in 2012.

There was a total of 64 licensed fishing vessels which fished in 2012.

If the catches are distributed according to the flag which the fishing vessels are registered the greatest proportion of

catches are attributed to the Chinese fleet, followed by Vanuatu fleet (which many of the Taiwanese vessels are flagged) and then the Cook Islands fleet has the third largest catch.

According to the MMR the 2012 long line catches are highest level ever achieved. The catches are raw data and after reporting gaps are completed the Ministry expects that the actual catches could as much as 20 to 30 per cent higher.

The catches also do not include the purse seine catches which mainly targets skipjack tuna.

Of the total catches only 400 tonnes of fish was offloaded into Rarotonga with about 80 tonnes sold locally. The majority of catches are offloaded into Pago or transhipped at sea to markets such as Japan and Thailand.

The Ministry has decided that it will now put a cap on the total allowable catches in its waters and move to a quota based system.

This will be implemented firstly in the big eye tuna fishery where the MMR has decided to stop the exploratory fishing and designate the fishery by regulations.

The MMR intend to establish a total allowable

catch (TAC) for big eye tuna and an individual catch quota will be assigned to each fishing license. Additional fees will apply if the vessel wishes to exceed its quota, provided it is within the limits of the TAC.

Says Ponia “We believe that the Cook Islands will be

one the first Pacific Island countries to adopt a zone based total allowable catch, and an individual quota for its licenses, this will be a significant step forward in terms of managing the fishery in a sustainable manner”.

Marine Resources Media Release



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Changes in line for power distribution

The year 2015 is almost upon us and 2020 is not far away.

These dates are significant because they are production targets established by government for electricity generated from renewable energy sources – 50% of electricity produced by 2015 and 100% by 2020.

To date, TAU has generated electricity on Rarotonga using nine diesel powered generators housed in a plant located in Avatiu Valley. This is supplied to a network of cables and power lines (generally referred to as distribution system or grid) which distributes electricity consumers around the island.

How will this picture change, and why, when we turn to renewable sources like the sun and the wind to supply the electricity that we use in our homes? As one might expect, there will be changes. Many changes. One change will be in where we produce it. By 2020, a lot of the power generation will be distributed around Rarotonga from a collection of many sources, including solar and wind installations close to where the power will be used.



The power sources may be quite small, a few rooftop panels putting out 3 to 5 kilowatts, or utility-scale installations adjacent to substations.

What's significant about this picture? Firstly, it has lower environmental impact than centralised generation so chalk up positive benefits to the environment.

Secondly, it can improve security of supply. Renewable sources like the sun and wind are freely accessible so we're not

totally dependant on overseas suppliers for fuel to generate electricity.

Thirdly as more of the power consumed in an area is generated nearby, the need for expensive distribution system is reduced. Distributed generation systems tend to be more robust and with more redundancy a single point of failure is far less likely to cause an island wide outage. Generating power closer to its point of use also reduces distribution losses.

Probably the biggest difference between the system we have it now and a greater reliance on distributed generation will involve TAU's business plan. Up to now TAU has been generating electricity at Avatiu, running it over its own distribution system lines to consumers.

But the increasing take up of photovoltaic installations around the island and the resulting accent on distributed generation promises to undo traditional business model.



People Resourced for Australia

*Rarotonga is in the grip of a mining boom of its own.
Our people are being mined for export.*



Recruiter Kane Amoa holds centrecourt answering individual questions.



Sizing up the interested attendants.

A Radio Cook Islands Talkback Show and a single newspaper advert drew a capacity crowd of over two hundred to the Tupapa meeting house last Thursday night. Ears were attentively tuned to visiting Cook Islander Kane Amoa's discourse on working in an Australian mining environment.

Currently living in Perth, Amoa laid the cards on the table presenting an attractive range of employment opportunities available in the Australian mining industry. It is hard work but the rewards were immense Amoa reiterated.

There was no shortage of quietly excited respondents who filled out an expression of interest form and were weighed and had their height recorded. There were mature men and women plus youth of both genders who soaked up the positives in the midst of a meeting brimming with a sense of expectation. It had the fever of an evangelistic meeting except the conversion response was huge.

The gospel of mining proclaimed by mining evangelist Amoa is a timely message for many who are struggling to financially stay afloat in an economy that is in denial and also struggling. He certainly shone the light of clarity on the mining draw card for the uninitiated. Australian mining information that had been filtering through friends and families by word of mouth is now very public and going national.

It would have been hard to leave the meeting disappointed unless you were beyond working age. The unprecedented job opportunities available in this generation never existed for

those over 50.

Assisting with the applicant's processing was niece Pouarii Tanner and her partner Sam Thomas both from Australia. Pouarii explained they were trying to coordinate an orderly structured process by which Cook Islanders could be channelled into mining job opportunities.

At the moment it's done on an individual basis which can be quite daunting for new arrivals. Having prearranged accommodating is very helpful prior to the three weeks stand down before a new immigrant can apply for a tax number to enable them to legitimately be employed plus Medicare registration.

Some Cook Islanders have lost their jobs because they hadn't been truthful regarding their job application details explained Amoa. There are some employers who are sympathetic to those who had criminal convictions and they were placed accordingly. "That's an area we can help them with, in the long run it pays to be truthful," said Amoa.

While Cook Islanders had a very good reputation on the job some left a lot to be desired off the job. By being screened potential workers would be made aware of the disciplines needed to conduct themselves out side working hours. "Excessive drinking was a concern," said Amoa.

The range of jobs on a mining site was extensive. Besides miners there were opportunities for drivers, trades people of all sectors, cleaners, food related jobs, clerical, health, security and the list goes on.

On a previous visit Amoa said he tried to meet with Government to create a process to assist those wanting to work in the Australian mining industry. "I was told in no uncertain terms where to go by Ed Pitman," said Amoa. "People are going to go anyway and its better they have a defined pathway that supports them."

Mines are recruiting workers from the Philippines. "They arrive in big groups and have a system by which they are integrated and processed into the work force," said Amoa. "Something similar would be very help for our own people."

In response someone said our Politicians were selfish along with some highly paid government officials who were just as self serving. Politicians have to realise overseas travel is not exclusively for them and their officials. The likes of the hypocritical \$80,000 a year Ed Pitman have never had to struggle on a low wage yet condemned those who wanted the same level of pay even if it means emigrating.

Chairing the meeting on the Thursday night was the Tupapa MP George Maggie who endorsed the presentation and encourages young people to go. Maggie's twin sons both work steel fixing in the mining industry, David for three years and Apii for a year.

Judging by the public interest and response at the meeting, Rarotonga alone could be 200 currently employed working people less within six months, later to be followed by partners and children.



Ministry of Infrastructure & Planning

Project City Update

Project City Sub Mains on Maire Nui Drive

Project City contractors are working at a rapid pace as they continue trenching and laying sub mains on the inland side of the main road. They are also still making good use of the ground penetrating radar to locate the underground service lines, before they commence trenching each section. As of Tuesday 16 April, trenching work had reached the Ports Authority and the corner of Avatiu Road.

Traffic control measures were in place whereby inbound traffic on the seaward detoured via the Ports Authority wharf frontage and re-entered the main road. Outward bound traffic remained on the main road as they waited for traffic control to allow them through.

The contractors also installed a bulk water-meter chamber in front of Mamas Café which will monitor water circulation from the sub main when the new town water system is operating.

As of this Wednesday, the contractors have reached Maire Nui Drive opposite the Punanga Nui Market, where the trenching and laying of sub mains will continue all this week. That part of the main road is expected to be finished by Friday 19 April, to ensure no disruptions to the Saturday market day.

Maire Nui has 2-way lanes just past the Avatiu Meeting House but single lane from the Avatiu end of the Punanga Nui, thus the public are advised to expect delays to traffic flow until the work has been completed in that particular part of the main road. For safety reasons of everyone concerned – workers and the public – motorists are requested to slow down as they pass the workmen and their machinery on Maire Nui Road.

Incidentally, the main town water supply comes from the



Traffic control in Avatiu and Punangi Nui junction

Takuvaine water intake. Located on Te Kou, and is supplemented by water from the Avatiu intake. In addition, water is piped into the town water network from the Turangi intake located in Takitumu..

Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning apologize to the public for any inconvenience caused while the contractors and subcontractors continue their monumental task of upgrading the entire town water supply

network. Project City2 is due for completion by the end of June 2013 and is funded by ADB and project managed by the technical team from Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning.



Bulk water-meter chamber being installed in front of Mamas Café
Inset: Using the ground penetrating radar to locate service lines prior to trenching



Asian Development Bank



Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning

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Solar training - step towards achieving renewable goals



Tama Short, GSES Trainer Matt O'Regan, Nooroa Tupa, Ngateina Rani. Front: Rupe Hewett and Atiu representative Tutai Simpson Raeputa in the second week of their solar training which involves installing a 2kW system on the Trade School roof.

by Jeane Matenga

The building of local capacity is critical if the country is to achieve the country's renewable energy commitment of 50 percent of islands by 2015 and 100 percent by 2020.

"In order to get the ball rolling on that you really need some local capacity," says Matt O'Regan from GSES who is conducting the two week long training, "you can't really rely on people coming over from New Zealand and Australia and installing these systems for you, so that's what we are working towards."

The training has completed a week of theory where the 14 students, 4 of which are from the Outer Islands learnt about the movement and energy of the sun, positioning of the panels to take maximum advantage of the sun's track, assessing the site, and choosing the equipment to install among other things. The second week involves the installation of two photovoltaic systems, the first which was a 2kW system, like you have installed on homes around the island, on the roof of the trade school in Arorangi, and a smaller one in the classroom.

"For the most part everyone did very well. When you are talking about energy from the sun there can be some quite mathematical work, so we had a bit of a struggle with some of the maths side of things," said O'Regan, "we got people's brains working again, it's been a long time since any of these guys have done any real maths. But they all got back into it and they are pretty confident with doing the work now."

Tai Topa of Mitiaro Energy explained that on his island they can no longer run a 24 hour power service due to shipping issues, and the cost of diesel. He said that the problem was that his people had become accustomed to the life that is lead in Rarotonga. He feels that this training is beneficial in that when renewable energy gets to his island, he will have some know-how about how to do this type of work, also, to assist, and to explain it to his people.

Topa shares that they already had a renewable energy system that was put in around the 1980s by Stuart Kingan, but there was noone that maintained the system, so it failed, plus noone was trained. Topa says at least with this training they have been trained beforehand.

Mitiaro has already been earmarked as the first Southern Group island to get renewable energy.

Nehemiah Kaina from Tauhunu Energy is confident after a week and a half of training and plans to be part of the installation of renewable energy in the Northern Group. He says they have a similar problem to Mitiaro, such as the inconsistent shipping and cost of fuel. Following on from the Prime Minister's trip to Manihiki earlier in the year where he spoke to landowners about land for the renewable energy network, Kaina confirmed that Tauhunu had allocated a space to install their renewable energy system. Tukao landowners are still deciding but he believes that they will not pass up on this good opportunity. The training wraps up this Friday with an exam.

How important are our feet?

*By Teuvira Upokotea
Therapeutic Massage and
Remedial Body Therapies
Punanga Nui Market*

A map of our body

Our feet keep us grounded on Papatuanuku. They transport us to where we need to go. They reflect in many ways the state of our health. They also reflect through the meridians, or nervous system pathways of the body where we may have underlying physical problems in specific organs.

The feet present us with a map of the body. A visit to my clinic can show you and explain this to you. Every part of your body is reflected in your feet. This is called Reflexology an ancient Chinese healing method which in many ways is also reflected in our own traditional healing methods.

What colour are your feet?

Black, bluish or just brown and dirty?

Black is the ultimate sign of diabetes, bluish is a sign of bad circulation, lack of exercise and bad diet. Just brown and dirty means too much time in the taro patch without adequate scrubbing and cleaning. If any of these colours relate to you, what are you going to do about it? Get

tested!

Move more

Get walking and look at what you are consuming foodwise every day. How much water are you drinking? In our Cook Islands climate we MUST keep hydrated. Many of the people I see are dehydrated. Would you not oil or grease your car? If you do not, it will cease up and stop working. If you do not drink enough water the same thing will happen to your body. Water is the great God given flusher, it removes the toxic build ups that can cause restricted movement and pain.

If your feet are just brown and dirty you need foot soaks and scrubs. Many of the people I see have taro patch feet. Brown, dirty and a lot of surplus cracked skin. Through this cracked skin bugs can make themselves at home. In the long run this could seriously compromise your general state of well being.

Reflexology is a non invasive way of treating the whole body through stimulating various pressure points within the feet that relate to the major organs within the body.

I am happy to discuss with you how Reflexology and changes to your diet can have a major and beneficial effect on your general well being.

Feet assessment

Stand in bare feet and pay attention to the pressure of the body's weight against the floor. Stand upright and gaze forward not down at the ground.

Do you feel more pressure on your heels or on the front of your feet?

Do you bear more weight to the outer edges or more to the inside?

Does one foot feel deeper set into the floor, as if it's bearing more weight?

Observe yourself walking.

Where does your heel meet the ground-squarely, in the centre or to the outer or inner heel edge?

Are both heels the same?

Consider the middle region of your foot, the arch. Are you aware of sensation there when you walk?

Do you push off from your toes with a sense that they are active in your stride or do you passively roll over them or scrunch them when you walk?

Do you feel the most pressure on the ball of your big toe or can you feel other toes working as well?

The toes pushing off from the ground completes the action of the hip, knee and ankle to propel your body forward. Rigidity and collapse in the mid foot area is the primary cause of foot problems and compensatory imbalances elsewhere in your body.

Rehabilitating the feet often alleviates knee and lower back problems.

The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

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Smartphone Security Tips

Mind Your Mobile Apps

With such a wide selection of smartphone apps available -- most of them free or low-cost -- it's tempting to load up on anything and everything that catches your fancy. That's not a good idea, because you can't really be sure what an app is going to do once it's on your phone.

For example, malware-laden apps were recently discovered (and removed) from the Android app marketplace, and federal prosecutors recently began investigating whether numerous app makers are, in violation of privacy laws, collecting and transmitting personal data (often to advertising networks) without users' knowledge or content.

There's not too much you can do to protect yourself from unseen app behaviour, other than to keep the number of apps to a minimum, and if possible, use an anti-virus app.

Beware of Text Message Spam

Text messages seem innocuous enough, but just like a Web page or an email, they can be used for mischief. Especially if you don't/can't use smartphone anti-virus protection, never respond to or follow any links in a text sent by an unknown party. You could find yourself with unwanted software on your phone or unexplained charges on your bill.



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From Auckland to Milan to Paris

by Jeane Matenga

Not everyone can say that they have graced the cover of an international magazine. And if you think you've seen this face before you probably have as she was here earlier in the year, she's a familiar face at New Zealand Fashion Week, and appears in the Farmer's fashion catalogue.

Olivia Lemerfe, 18 years old, is the daughter of James Keenan of Takitumu, and Johanna Lefebre of Aitutaki.

Proud dad James Keenan who is a Police Inspector/Metro Shift Commander currently based in South Auckland says that his daughter gets her looks from her Takitumu side - the Turepu family.

Olivia's mum is Johanna Lefebre who is an International Flight Attendant with Air New Zealand, who has an Aitutaki mum Tereau Pakoti, and Dutch father Wim Lefebre.

Olivia is currently in Paris with big wig modelling agency, IMG until June where she is currently on option for Le Coq Sportif and Garnier Fructus just to name a few.

In 2011, while at school, she spent a month in Milan with agency THE FASHION MODEL MANAGEMENT, who when saw this picture of the Fashion Quarterly Winter edition, said that they were brassed off that they couldn't get her in Milan this year because IMG has first call on her.

Olivia was discovered at St Lukes Mall 2010 while only 15 years old by a freelance photographer who forwarded her photos to 62 Models who in turn signed her up.



The Winter 2013 edition of Fashion Quarterly. According to her NZ agents 62 Models a New Zealand girl only appears on this cover once every 2 years 'with a push'.



In this candid looking shot, you can truly see the Turepu/Keenan looks.



Olivia has taken part in New Zealand Fashion Week over the last two years, and Australian Fashion Week last year.

KIA ORĀNA, ORO MAI, TŪROU KI RAROTONGA NEI



Taeake no runga mai i nga waka tapu o Aotearoa ko Te Aurere e Ngahiraka-mai-Tawhiti

tātāia e Ruter Taripo
Mei te ta'inga'uru (10) rā i te 'akaruke'anga i te 'enua ko Mo'orea, kua tae mai ki Tumutevarovaro nei, ngā Waka Tapu o Aotearoa, ko Te Aurere 'ē Nga Hiraka mai Tawhiti.

I te ora 11i te pō Ru'irua o 'Āperirā rā iva (9) oki i tae mai ei, 'ē kua no'atu ki roto i te rima marino o Tuitui-kā-moana i te tiaki i te 'itingā rā o te Ru'itoru no te tomo mai ki te maru o te 'enua. Kia pōpōngi mā māiāta ake kua tae mai to Tumutevarovaro nei ki te ava o Avarua no te 'akate'ate'amamao i te tūoro mai i te au taeake mei runga mai i ngā vaka 'e rua.

Kua tangi o te pū, kua tangi o te kā'ara, kua 'o'ora mai a Tuitui-kā-moana i 'ōna rima, no te tuku mai i 'eia ngā vaka ki roto i te ava o Avarua i Te-au-o-tonga nei, 'ē kua uru mai ki te pae one-tea i te tapa-ta'atai i te Traders Jack .

Kia oti te au 'akono'anga tei rave'ia 'e te tu'anga o te Immigration, kua eke mai te au 'aonga o ngā vaka ki roto i te tai no te kake mai ki runga i te 'enua. Kua kā te a'i i te pae tai no te 'akairo 'akono'anga Māori o te 'kiriti'anga maro tai' Kua tangi o te pū, kua tangi o te kā'ara 'ē kua kake mai tō tātou au teina ki runga i te 'enua ko Tumutevarovaro nā roto i te reo tūorooro a Anautoa rangatira i te 'ārikiriki'anga atu 'iā rātou . Kua tūoro katoa 'ia mai rātou 'e te 'Āpi'i Nukutere na roto i te pe'e ' Tūoro, tūoro'ia ra'. Kua 'āravei i reira, te au taeake ki te taeake na roto i te 'ongi, te 'ei-tiare 'ē te 'ei rau-tī.

Kua 'ārikiriki 'ia rātou nā roto i te reo tū'oro'oro 'e ngā tu'anga 'e toru o te 'enua, mei te evangeria, au 'ui ariki o te 'enua te kavamani o te 'enua 'ē pērā katoa te putuputu'anga o te Cook Islands Voyaging Society. Kua 'āriki katoa 'ia rātou e te 'iti-

tangata o Aotearoa 'ē pērā katoa te 'iti tangata o Tahiti e no'o nei i Rarotonga nei.

I reira katoa, kua rave mai te 'Āpi'i Nukutere 'ē te 'Āpi'i Tereora i tētai ngā kapa no te 'āriki atu 'iā rātou ki runga i te 'enua. Kua rave katoa mai rāi te au 'aonga o ngā vaka i tētai haka.

Mei reira, kua 'aere atu rātou ki te paepae o Dame Margaret Makea Karika Ariki i Ngaru-rutu no tēta'i 'āngai'anga 'iā rātou.

Kua 'akakite mai a Jacko Thatcher, 'ē ka 'akangāro'i rātou i Rarotonga nei no tēta'i ngā ra i reira kā 'oki atu (pēnei 'ā te Ruirua rā 16 'Āperirā) ei rātou ki te ipukareā i Aotearoa No reira Tūrou,tūrou,tūrou.



How to be saved God's way

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

During the first quarter of this year there have been several deaths – some were young people who died because of traffic accidents; some because of heart attacks; some due to other causes. Families and friends were devastated at the loss of their loved ones. Friends, when we die, we will either go to Heaven or to Hell. And the Bible is very clear on this.

This article will give you some Biblical lessons on how to be saved from going to Hell. Our main Bible reference is Acts 16v.25-34.

The verse I want to draw your attention to is verse 30, the jailer brought Paul and Silas out of their prison cell and asked them “..what must I do to be saved?” Friends, this is the most important question in your life while there is still breathe in you. “What must I do to be saved?”

The title of this article is “HOW TO BE SAVED GOD’S WAY”. According to our reading, in order for you to be saved, these are ‘conditions’.

1. BELIEVE ON HIM and be saved. Verse 31 of our reading says “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” In Matthew 9v.27-31 two blind men came to Jesus and wanted their sight restored, and Jesus asked them whether they believe He could do this? They said “Yes Lord”, then, Jesus touched their eyes and said “According to your faith let it be to you.” The problem with some people, including some who claim to be Christians is that, they believe in too many things. Some believed in some ‘blessed water’ and ‘five gods’ for them to be saved. But the Bible is very clear “Believe on him and you will be saved!”

2. RECIEVE HIM and be saved. John 1v.12 reads “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.” Romans 6v.23 reads “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

in Christ Jesus our Lord.” It was never God’s plan for you to be separated from Him through sin. That is why God sent us His beloved Son Jesus Christ that we may Receive Him and be saved.

3. COME TO HIM and be saved. Jesus said in Matthew 11v.28 “Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” He further said in John 6v.37 “I will never turn away anyone who comes to Me.” The sick came to Jesus and were healed, the blind came to Jesus and their sight was restored, the sinners came to Jesus and were forgiven. Friends, Come to Jesus and be saved.

4. TRUST IN HIM and be saved. Psalm 2v.12 reads “Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.” Our friends, even best friends, do fail us. Even our brothers, sisters, relatives, even our bosses at our work place. But the good news is Jesus never fails us. Even on that Cross, He never fails us. So Trust him and be saved.

5. HEAR HIM and be saved. God said in Matthew 17v.5 “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” God Jehovah did not say ‘hear Bahaulah, or Buddha, or Tangaroa, but rather “This is My beloved Son Jesus Christ whom I sent to bring you back to Me, and in whom I am well pleased, Hear Him and be saved!”

6. LOOK UNTO HIM and be saved. In Genesis 19 the angels of God said to Lot “Arise, take your wife and your two daughters, because the Lord will destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, and escape to the mountains otherwise you will be destroyed.” But the love of the things of the world was so great for Lot’s wife that she looked not unto God but rather to the things of the world and she was destroyed. The challenge for you is, ‘To whom are you looking unto, to



be saved? Are you looking unto the things of the world, or unto Jesus Christ.’

7. SUBMIT TO HIM and be saved. Romans 6v.13 says that we are to “..submit ourselves to God..” The one we submit to, is the one we serve. I encourage you to submit yourself to the Lord Christ Jesus and be His servant, rather than submitting to Satan and being his slave. Verse 33-34 of our reading says “And immediately he and all his family were baptized...and he rejoiced, having believed in God with his entire household.”

This is the turning point in the life of the jailer and his household.

Rather than continuing to serve Caesar, a symbol of Satan in the world, he decided to serve God through Jesus Christ and to live in submission to Him, and Him alone. This is ‘how you are saved’ in the context of our reading in Acts 16, if you Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and Receive Him in your life, and Come to Him, Trust Him, Hear Him and obey His command, Look unto Him, and Submit to Him, your Lord and Saviour.

May this article of encouragement help you decide to be saved Gods way. May you have a God blessed week. Te Atua te aroa.

Toku hokihanga ki Tongareva, toku hipukarea

(My return to Tongareva, my ancestral and spiritual home)

I was extremely anxious the night before our Air Rarotonga “bandit” flight was to take off for Tongareva (Penrhyn) Island. As my wife and I packed my luggage and gather together all the goods I have to take home for relatives from their relatives here, it dawned on me that this trip is probably my most important trip home since I became a Member of Parliament in April 2002. I am in fact returning home as the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and the uncontested Leader of the Democratic Party, which I believe is the biggest political organization in the Cook Islands. In other words, I was going home as the alternative Prime Minister if Government was to change or if we the Democratic Party win the next general elections.

I was born in Omoka, on a Sunday morning in 1958 and grew up there with some intervals of living in Rarotonga. I left the island in earnest when I was 16 years old for Auckland to go to school. As it so happened, I lived my life in Auckland, studied, worked, romanced but had always come home to Tongareva every second year or so. I did so because it called me back. It was the home of my tupuna’s (ancestors) and the place where my soul gets recharged. The soulful and mournful songs, the chatter and poetic language were all the things that drew me back but most of all, it beckoned me home because I knew who I was with my connection to the land, the people and the other world.

I regarded myself very lucky because a young promising woman leader of the Cook Islands Mii Matamaki of Environment Services and her boss Vaitoti Tupa granted me a space on their chartered flight to the island. There are no more regular flights to the island as it was in the past where you can get every Saturday. Instead, today you take your chances when available either by boat or plane. Last time I went over on the Maritime Police Patrol Boat “Te Kukupa”.

My trip there was also an extra blessing for me because my son accompanied us on the trip as a



Leader of the Opposition Wilkie Rasmussen on his return visit to Penrhyn

staff member of Environmental Services. He was also on Tongareva and had visited the island once before when he was about 12 or 13 years old. He was also moved by his return home. I see in him continuity of our lineage connections to the island.

We were in the air for nearly four hours when we sighted a thin line of islets and eventually we were filming and taking photos of the lush reef, coconut palms and lagoon we were flying over. On arrival we were met by the Mayor, the Island Secretary and many other people and we were shuttled to the community/administration center for a feast of “pasua”, fish, crayfish, bananas, breadfruit and so on. While eating, we were entertained with traditional songs in the Tongareva way. The program was then read out to the public and the first of a series of meetings started about an hour later after a brief rest for all.

The Environment Services were in Tongareva to assess the vulnerability of the island amidst the impact of climate change. Meetings were held with the leaders of the island, women of the island, youth and these were held on both villages Omoka and Te Tautua. Some years ago, I have

heard of Tongareva people reject the notion of climate change as nonsense and they view Tongareva as God’s creation and will be there forever. However I was very surprised with their versions of how they saw the coastal areas being eroded away or certain species of fish disappearing due to changing temperatures. The people also responded well to the survey’s being conducted to gather information about the island and its people and of course about the way they live in these times.

On this return of mine to Tongareva, there was a prevailing spirit of co-operation and kinship. There was also open discussion about the problems the island has with regards to shipping, transportation and energy supply. There were informative stories about flora and fauna of the island and the changes experienced by the people there and there was also a great sense of belonging to the island. Food was plenty for all to eat and in particular for the guests. Everybody else got to go fishing except myself. In fact I spent the entire four and a half days there doing my home visits to each and every inhabited home on the island, discussing relevant issues. This is a practice I do every time I go home.

I had my one on one talk with the Mayor Papa Tini Ford and with my committee and indeed with the councilors of the island. I also held discussions with womenfolk about craftwork and indeed their and their children’s welfare. I went to church on Wednesday and Friday morning and was reinvigorated by the singing and by the memories of the church. I literally saw the faces of many of my ancestors and people that had died passing before me. It was very emotional.

The island recently received its new aluminum barge and it had just saved the life of a young man and his son whose outboard motor conked out while they were fishing in the ocean. They were floating several miles away from the island when the alarm was raised and the barge dispatched to search for them. On Friday morning, this barge took us across the northern coast lagoon side of the island to Te Tautua village where we were received with great enthusiasm. After the presentation on climate change we were again treated to a feast and were given gifts before we dispatched for Omoka village.

The island has good supply of electricity via diesel generators and has enough fuel supply

Continued next page

Arorangi Bowling Club competition underway

A Member of Bowls Cook Islands, Inc (1928)

April 2013, and the Arorangi Bowling Club Championship went off with a bang last Wednesday at the Rarotonga Bowling Club. But before the members went on to the green, the normal rituals to open the season were undertaken with our invited guests.

Heading the list was the Prime Minister Hon Henry Puna and Mrs Puna, Representing Mama Tinomana Ariki Club Patron, was Archer Hosking Jnr and the Tauturu Patron, Kaumaiti ote Are Ariki, Tou Ariki. The Club Vice President Iro Rangi welcomed everyone and the PM declared the 2013 Club Championship, open. He and the Kaumaiti went on to the green to demonstrate their skills in rolling the first ball of the season towards the jack with pinned point accuracy.

While the VIPs enjoyed a late lunch, members made their way to the green to commence the competition with the first discipline for men, Triples and women, Pairs. It was a fantastic turnout for the members with



PM Henry Puna at the Rarotonga Bowling Club

their colourful uniform of Red, Black top and white. Winners

and Losers for round one need to improve this week as round

robins continued this afternoon. Look Luck Bowlers.

From previous page

for the next three months. Shortage has often been a problem because of poor shipping that carts fuel across. Houses have solar facilities too but only for light after the power is turned off at 11 pm every night. The island has good telecommunications with almost every home on the net either on skype, facebook and general email. I formed a Facebook Page called "Te Soasoa Club" for Tongareva people to dialogue and has been growing stronger as it gets into its third year. Having water tanks built for each household by aid is almost complete but most houses have their own private water tanks. Shortage of water is sometimes a problem.

I bought about \$3000 worth of hats and fans for my sister to sell here in Rarotonga, a thing I do to inject money into the island. Along with hats and fans, fish were packed into chilly-bins for me, the other passengers and families here in Rarotonga. These were to

put pressure on the pilot who however managed to calculate the kilos and got everything and everyone on the plane. That included Father Fred Kaina, a Tongareva catholic priest who was there for the re-opening of the Catholic Church rebuilt after being hit by strong winds several years ago. An extra passenger was an Iraqi Australian called Isam who had been living on the island for a few weeks buying "golden lipped pearls", another injection of cash into the Tongareva economy.

It was sad to say goodbye to my people there but as soon as we were in the air I realized immediately how much I missed my family in Rarotonga, in particular my grand-daughters. Coming home to Rarotonga, I felt re-energised and ready to take on the challenges of my position wherever it may lead me in future.

In Tongareva we end our sayings with these phrases and I do so accordingly, "Kia mau te Selenga, Kia mau te napenga, E te ra e hi!".



Travel Tou Ariki at the Rarotonga Bowling Club

School Holidays are almost upon us!

By Norma Ngatamariki

Yes, that's right, people! The school holidays are near. Some of us (like moi) are already feeling the vibe, while others are still "in the zone" for school (those are the crazy people). I've already got my holiday sussed, working for money, sleeping in etc. That kind of thing. After twelve weeks of writing 1000-word essays, notes and presentations, I can assume that the majority of students will be glad to see the upcoming holidays. This week means finishing up on internals (internals that were long past due. Lolz) and rushing through last-minute notes in preparation for Term Two, so it's going to be pretty hectic.

I know for a fact that most of us are just waiting for the moment where we can throw our school books up in the air and scream,

"Hallelujah!". Then we'll do a little victory dance around our desks in celebration for the end of term. It may sound ridiculous, but really... You know you'll want to join in the fun .Lolz. Here's something I learned from experience: When school's on, everybody can't wait for the holidays. Then during the holidays, kids are whinging and moaning about how they miss school. They miss the noise, the lunch breaks, the gossip sessions they have with their friends. If you're one of these kids suffering from the "Holiday Blues", there are options to choose from. You can either a) get a job and earn some money (this will definitely please your parents and give your bank account a boost) or b) join a holiday activity. There are bound to plenty of those happening, whether it's volleyball, quiz teams

etc. One thing is for sure: You won't be bored for the rest of your school holiday.

As I mentioned above, I have my holiday figured out. I'm hoping that I'll be working at CITV, following up on stories, typing out articles and that sort of things. I've also got a bit of homework to get through (Bleh!) but it doesn't bother me. I know I have to fit in some school work in my schedule, or else I'll get "Holiday Side-Effects"; can't write notes properly, suffering from drowsiness because you're not used to waking up at seven in the morning, crumpled uniform etc. I'm also looking forward to the pay, so I'll work hard to earn it.

I still can't get over it. Just two more school days before school's out. I'm starting to wish that the week would go by faster (don't lie, I know you're wishing it too) But, I



guess I should make the most of this week while I'm still with my mates (because, for some reason, I hardly see them around during the holidays). You should too. Another thing to do is to complete all your Term One school work so that it doesn't come back to haunt you in Term Two (Words of Wisdom from a senior student)

End of term



Hareta Tiraa -Passfield
Hareta, 15 yrs old, is a year 11 student at Tereora College. Last year she came top in English and Drama.

Only two more days left! Finally this school term is coming to an end. I have completed my first term of NCEA level one and all I can say is that it was harder

than I expected and I'm sure I am not the only one who thinks so. It's been a term of up's and down's, good's and bads. One of the down's would have to be the amount of homework and assignments we've gotten, I've never had so much homework and even if I have I'd never actually done it, but this year is important and my dad made sure I did ALL my homework. Some of the up's would have to be last week's Vaki iti, which even though we didn't win, we had an amazing day. (But it would not have been possible without all the amazing volunteers, thank you all for your help) We all had so much fun. Another bad would have to be the stress that I and probably a lot of others have gone through with all the assessments we have received. I never thought NCEA level one would be this hard. We've already had 4 essays for English along with having to read

"Of mice and men". A good thing would be had to be the amount of new things I've learned this year. Like for example did you know there is muscle called Gastrocnemius? Cause I didn't.

The first term has gone pretty fast, and I only just realized we are more than a quarter into the year, this year has gone so fast. I guess that's a good thing though, the sooner this year is over the sooner we have a 6-week holiday.

I don't know about you guys but these holidays I plan to do nothing to do with school until the very last night. I just want to have maximum time to do anything other than schoolwork. Why would you do school work during the holidays, I've always thought the idea of homework during holidays was absurd. The reason for holidays is so we can have a break from school. Our teachers obviously don't, know that. I already have like two

assignments due back during the first week of school. But it's all right I have a cunning plan. I don't really have any other plans though. My best friend is coming over, so I'm pretty excited. But other than that I've got nothing, which is actually kind of depressing. I'm sure all of you have some awesome things planned.

If you don't have anything planned, don't worry I'm sure you'll think of something to do, maybe your homework? If your going overseas, you don't know how lucky you are, I would do anything to go to New Zealand but no, I'm staying here. Bring us back some chocolate?

Just a piece of advice, don't do anything stupid. Stay safe at all times because we all want to see your beautiful faces back at school next term. But other than staying safe I hope you all have a fun filled two-week holiday.

You can make a difference! Do Your Part

got water?
Do your part, be water smart!

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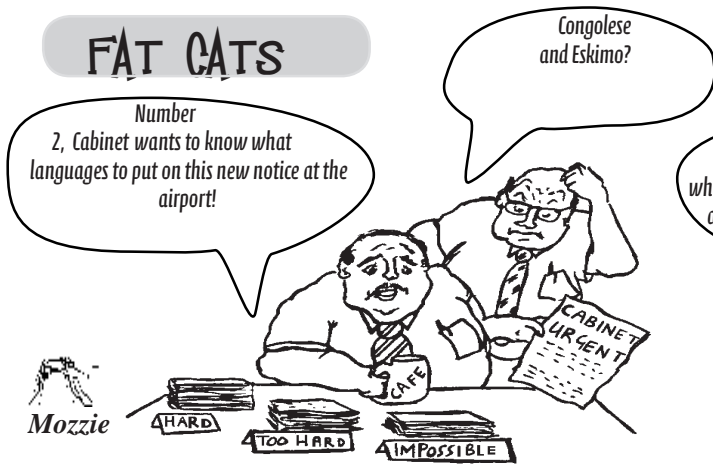
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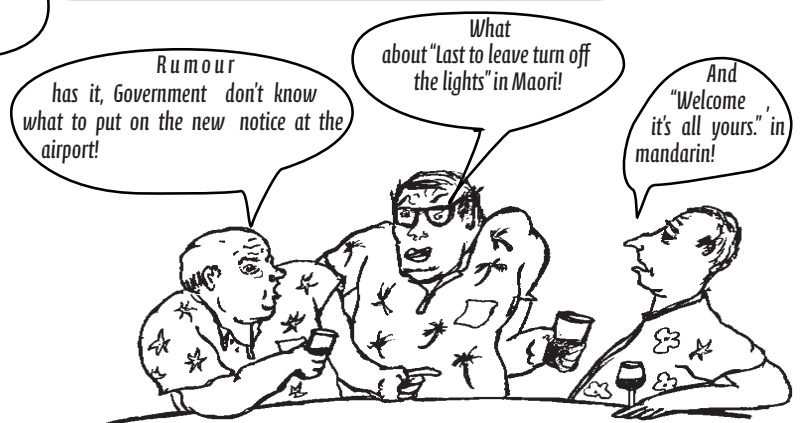
MINISTRY OF
INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

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

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Surprise! Surprise! CITY's Koka in the outer islands programme by Shona Pitt was seen on TV in England by a Cookie on holiday! The Cookie had not seen the programme when it aired on CITV on Rarotonga and it took a trip to England to see it! Another Cookie reports seeing the same programme in Asia! Wake up Tourism Corp! This little programme is certainly doing its bit!



Spot the differences in the daily papyrus photo of the HSLU-Holy Six Line Up gas bagging with the GWG-Great Wall Geezers at the GTD-Great Table of Decisions? Five of the Holy Six were there, where was the sixth? Two were outfitted for the beach which must have surprised the GWG.



What does the FFF-Flying Fish Fraternity have to say about taxation during class early on Saturday morning at the Market? Not only is the fish is flying but also the tongues! Government MPs watch out! Duck!



Oh dear chooks! Important agency of the State afflicted with the "Monday-itis" disease! The older generators drown their sorrows all weekend then can't front in a fit state for their shift which has then got to be filled with the younger, lowly paid generators who are already worn out from working their shifts! When will

CHOOKS CORNER
WITH BIG RED



the management of this outfit wake up and deal with the issues? Or are they waiting for everything to come Crashing down in a ball of Fire?



Spotted before 9am this morning, a proud Cook Islander, staunch nationalist, strolling along main street, shopping bag in hand and wearing a lava lava! A what?! A lava lava! How can this be? Has he adopted a new persona? Is this the latest fashion? Has he become a fashionista? Or has he become one of those "Le Sapeurs" from Brazzaville in the Congo?



Tourist spotted last week during afternoon rush hour, racing up the main drag through Tupapa at speed, overtaking cars willy nilly, dodging the traffic cones, back wheel of the bike swinging from side to side because of the loose gravel from the road works, but did he think to slow down and drive according to the road conditions? Hell no! The faster the better! More exciting! What's more, his pals were in

tow behind him-doing the same thing! And they were all laughi



Oh dear chooks! Big Red hears boisterous, angry people attended a meeting in Tupapa on Wednesday night to discuss government taxing NZ Super! It was the third such meeting to be held after Muri and Arorangi. Government's sudden urge to apply the law in an area largely ignored over the years has aroused much anger. Not confusion, anger. Remember the old saying, "Let sleeping dogs lie?" Well government has woken a sleeping dog and it's snarling, growling and liable to bite someone! Soon!



It is only since the Tax Review was announced that the issue of taxing NZ Super came to the fore. If as a result of this review, government changes the tax free threshold to ensure those receiving NZ Super no longer have to pay tax, then why not declare an amnesty until the review is over? Even before the review has got "warm" government is

chasing the oldies to cough up back tax! Will government refund this money of the tax laws change? No. It will have long been spent on overseas trips.



So we hear it won't be long before small cruise boats come right into Avatui harbour and tie up alongside the wharf. Some 600 passengers and 300 crew could be expected to get off and pump much needed dosh into the local economy! What if the boat comes in on a Sunday or public holiday? Will the Market open? Imagine, 900 people strolling around town doing what?



In a very small country, a speck on the map, of less than 16,000 residents and a government budget of less than \$160 million, do we really need a Finance sherrang on \$300,000 plus? Surely a Chartered Accountant would do just as good a job, part-time? What about the top student in Book Keeping at Tereora College? On say \$5 an hour, four hours a day, during the school holidays?

Cook Islands
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Te Riu Woonton

TENDER

VACANCIES



**TENDER FOR RAROTONGA HOSPITAL
OUT PATIENT DEPARTMENT UPGRADE- C32/13**

The Cook Islands Investment Corporation invites tenders for the Rarotonga Hospital OPD Upgrade Project.

Tenders are sought on a Lump sum basis for the supply of all professional services, materials, labour, machinery and equipment to successfully complete the project (as described in the Tender Documents).

The specifications of works include renovating, construction and installation of a new OPD building.

Tender Documents are available from the Cook Islands Investment Corporation, MFEM Building, Avarua, Rarotonga from Friday.

For enquiries contact: Shona Tekorona Property Officer
Phone(682)29391

Email: shona.tekorona@cookislands.gov.ck

Tender close Wednesday 1May 2013 at 3.00pm



**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER:
PA ENUA GOVERNANCE UNIT**

Executive Officers – island Governments

The Pa Enua Governance Unit of the Office of the Prime Minister invites applications for the positions of Executive Officers (Administrative Head) for the Island Government of the following islands.

Aitutaki	Manihiki	Mangaia
Rakahanga	Atiu	Penrhyn
Mauke	Pukapuka/Nassau	Mitiaro
Palmerston		

A hard copy of the job description can be uplifted from the Office of the Prime Minister, Teatukura, Avarua, or an electronic copy of the Job Description and Application Form can be emailed to you upon request to jtangi@oyster.net.ck or to otheniel@pmoffice.gov.ck. Otherwise, you can download the Job Description and Application Form from www.pmoffice.gov.ck

Those interested, please apply in writing by 1.00 p.m. Monday 22nd of April 2013 to;

The Chief of Staff,
Office of the Prime Minister,
Private Mail Bag,
Avarua,
COOK ISLANDS,

Re; Position name and Island

For enquiries contact Otheniel Tangianau on 25398 or John Tangi on 25498 or on the emails above.

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**MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR – RAROTONGA WATER
TANK SUBSIDY PROGRAM (2 Year Contract)**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified individuals to manage all aspects of the Rarotonga Water Tank Subsidy Programme (RWTSP). This is a 2 year contract role with the possibility of a year extension.

The RWTSP is designed to increase Rarotonga's water storage capacity by ensuring all domestic dwellings and nonprofit NGO's have a water tank installed by 2015.

Ideally this position would suit someone who has;

- A diploma in Project Management or similar qualifications
- A minimum 5 years in a professional role
- Excellent communication skills
- An ability to work in a multi sector environment

To apply for this position, or to view the Terms of Reference, please go to the government website www.mfem.gov.ck or send your C.V. and covering letter to George Turia, at george.turia@cookislands.gov.ck.

Applications close at 4pm on Monday 22 April 2013.

VACANCY



**SITUATIONS VACANT
MINISTRY OF MARINE RESOURCES (MMR)**

DIRECTOR, POLICY & LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION

Applications are invited for the above position to:

1. assist in policy development providing for sustainable management of marine resources and a vibrant marine sector;
2. advising on legal matters including legislation, fisheries prosecutions, negotiations and contracts;
3. develop partnerships with communities, industry, and regional and international organisations;
4. manage the Policy and Legal Services Division;

This is a senior position, reporting directly to the Secretary with challenging roles and responsibilities. Applicants should have tertiary qualifications in legal, public administration, resource management or relevant fields.

Please contact Uirangi Bishop for a job description, U.Bishop@mnr.gov.ck), telephone 28730. Address application and CV to: The Secretary, Ministry of Marine Resources, P.O Box 85, Tutakimoa. Closing date is 4:00 pm. Friday 3rd May, 2013.

VACANCIES



VACANCY – QUALIFIED MECHANIC

This position requires a person who has the relevant qualifications and demonstrated experience in working with engines. The successful applicant will be required to undertake all duties associated with the maintenance and repair of TAU's diesel engines and auxiliary equipment.

Vacancy - Operator

This position requires a person who is able to perform duties associated with the daily monitoring, recording and operation of TAU's generation systems. Shift work is a requirement of the role.

Vacancy – Electrician

This position requires a person who has the relevant qualifications and demonstrated experience in the electrical trade field. Consideration will be given to applicants with partial qualifications whom are undertaking studies towards qualification completion. The successful applicant will be required to carry out duties associated with the maintenance of TAU's Distribution system.

Applicants can uplift a copy of the job description from the office of Te Aponga Uira, or by contacting Bettina Akania on (682) 20054 or email bakania@electricity.co.ck.

Applications close 3:00 p.m, Monday 22nd April 2013

VACANCIES



**MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING
CIVIL ENGINEER**

The Ministry wishes to engage the services of a qualified Civil Engineer to assist with design and implementation of numerous infrastructure development projects and will be part of the Ministry's Project Team in Design and Planning that oversees the successful delivery of the respective projects.

Key Responsibilities include:

- Preparing project documents for tender and contract purposes
- Supervise execution of the construction works
- Ensure approved work plans are progressed according to agreed timelines
- Co-ordinate with other stakeholders with matters relating to the respective project
- Liaise with other Project Team members to ensure a holistic approach to the successful delivery of the respective project

Applications can be sent to Ministry of Infrastructure & Planning, PO Box 102 or hand delivered to our Arorangi office or by email on brownnoeline@gmail.com Enquiries regarding the position and requests for a detailed job description can be made on 20321.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) TECHNICIAN

The Ministry has a vacancy for a GIS technician in the Land & Asset Management Unit of the Policy, Planning and asset Management Division.

Key duties will be able to provide support for country-wide GIS mapping in Sustainable Land Management, Land Resources, Infrastructure Asset Management and other mapping functions as assigned by the Manager of the respective unit. Excellent GIS and ICT qualifications and experience required for this position.

HEAVY PLANT OPERATOR

An operator of heavy machinery is required for infrastructure works, water supply and general project support. Work involves road surface preparations, sealing, pot holing and general road maintenance works. The job involves operating the Sealing truck, bobcat, tractor and broom, rollers, grader, road sealing truck, compressors and associated rigs. Applicants must produce heavy machinery license for the position.

MULTI SKILLED OPERATOR

The road sealing division requires a Multi-Skilled Operator for road surface preparations, sealing of pot holes and general road maintenance. The operator will also be required to operate the sealing truck, bobcat, tractor and broom, grader and light trucks when required. Applicants must produce the licenses necessary for the position.

Applicants for all the above applications to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning on 20321.

Please apply to Ministry of infrastructure and Planning on 20321. Applications for the positions are to be received by close of business on Friday 19 April 2013.

