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8 May 2013

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Fixing the blunders of the past

By Prime Minister, Hon. Henry Puna

The key difference of approach between the ruling Cook Islands Party and the Democratic Party Opposition is one of due process. Our stringent management of the necessary procedures for an effective government simply puts that amateurish mob to shame.

As much as the Opposition likes to claim credit for our current project outcomes, it does seem odd that all responsibility tends to be avoided when it comes to owning up to past failures and gaps in management. While these moaners continually lament the highlights of achievements by the present government, they conveniently sidestep their own blunders. Past mistakes are still coming to light more than two years later, including the recent taxation debacle that we are aiming to put right.

The Demos – either by ignorance or by choice – buried the Taxing Rights Agreement with New Zealand under the cloak of international conformity to tax transparency. Buried it. Not a word about how they tied the NZ pension collectors to an agreement – an agreement that would still stand even if the law were to be amended as some have already suggested.

The fact is, the Democratic Party failed big time. Failed to consult. Failed to inform. And here we are today continuing to pick up the pieces of mismanagement. And that's the key difference. We do things right. We put things right.



A good case in point is our present management of the budgeting process. Never before has this process been as robust, contestable, and focused. Priority-setting is challenging but our systems of oversight, negotiation, and vigorous application are setting new benchmarks from which there is no turning back. The bars are being set so high these days that the Demo amateurs would simply be blown away by our modernised methodology.

No matter. We can't wait for these whiners to catch up – or catch on. Financial management and sound fiscal principles will be a whole new language by the time they wake up and smell the tipani.

I am pleased to announce that the Budget Support Group has completed its recommendations on the budget outlook for 2013/2014, and that we are poised to commence work on firming these positive steps going forward.

Cabinet Ministers will be deliberating the BSG

Recommendations Report on Thursday this week, and in the days thereafter until we have reached final endorsement of the directions we need to take in the near future and beyond.

We are one month out from tabling next year's budget and the solid work of the government team will be evident over the coming days. Amateurs beware – the modern process of sound management is upon us. Moaning about the virtues of putting things right will long be forgotten in its wake.

We will remember them

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

The playing of the "Last Post" at the Dawn Parade on Anzac Day is going to be one of my lasting memories for the rest of my life. A talented young local Cook Islands boy aged about 11 or 12 years old, stood on the high steps of the High Court building and blew into a trumpet the tune that echoes all over the world as people remember those that served and died in wars. This young man picked from the local Boys Brigade companies in Rarotonga pitched tunes from his trumpet with such ease and which stirred emotions and probably brought tears to everyone there that morning.

It was the first time my wife and I sat on the front seat at the Dawn Memorial Service on Anzac Day on the 25th day of last month. That honour came along with the position of being Leader of the Opposition. I say thank you to my friend the Deputy Prime Minister Tom Marsters who along with his team of protocol staff ran a very efficient event. After the dawn service, another morning service was held that again remembered those that sacrificed their lives for us. The assemblage of the Cook Islands Uniform Organisations and veterans or their proxies along with members of the public humbled me so much as we honour them.

When I was a child growing up in Tongareva (Penrhyn), I remember vividly the Anzac Day commemorations that were held there and there was one particular veteran known as Corporal Tauvarovaro who served with the New Zealand Army in World War One. He was then a frail old man who lived in a small house next to the beach and many of us then were too young to appreciate what he had done. His name was etched onto the Honours Board in the Tongareva courtroom and I'm not sure whether that board is still there today. His will have to

be an interesting story to tell.

However a story that has now been etched in mind is that of a Cook Island man who I will not name here who served in Vietnam and Malaysia and who was caught under the Agent Orange spray exercise. He described it as like rain and you just got a feeling of being wet. He said, they did not even know what it was and were never told or warned about it being sprayed. The Americans sprayed many tons of Agent Orange to kill off forests to expose enemies hiding in the forest. This Cook Islander, tried with his best Polynesian humor to laugh off a number experiences he had which to us were tragic. His children were born with defects which passed on to his grandchildren. His first born son died as a result of the defects and his life had been a testament of pain and suffering and of course most importantly courage.

Anzac Day is our one and only opportunity to honour our dead soldiers and war casualties along with those that lived to tell their accounts of the horrors of war. As a politician I was quite disappointed to learn that the Prime Minister Henry Puna had left the country and missed several Anzac Day parades, including the last one. I believe it would give the veterans and their families a lot of encouragement if he had been there to address them and certainly to show some assurance that the Government of the day respects them. You see, I believe in the old adage that if you want to be respected, you must respect others.

As Leader of the Opposition and Democratic Party, the largest political party on the island, I and all of us pay tribute and salute these brave people. They came, marched, had lunch and a few beers and disappeared into their normal lives. But as they fade away from the public eye, it is very fitting that "We will remember them".



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BTIB loses six staff, five to Western Australia

By Charles Pitt

Institutional knowledge is a valuable component of any government Ministry and no Ministry can afford to be without it.

Business, Trade and Investment Board (BTIB) CEO Terry Rangi told the Herald on Tuesday morning that recent staff changes had affected the BTIB's institutional knowledge pool and in some cases former staff members had to be contacted overseas to assist with issues arising.

As a small agency of State, the BTIB can't afford to lose any more staff. Four staff have already left for higher paying jobs in Western Australia. A further two staff depart this week, one (Ratu Mato) also to Western Australia where a job awaits.

Two staff are away on maternity leave.

The office has three vacant positions. One new staff member has just been recruited.

All this in an office where the

staff establishment is 11.

Rangi said it was time to re-build BTIB's experience level. He said the workload in the Foreign Investment area was under control but the business development area and trade development area was affected due to Ratu's imminent departure. The plan to run business development workshops in Atiu are affected.

Ratu Mato told the Herald he and his wife had been wanting a change for a while. Ratu said he was offered a job in New Zealand but then he received an offer of a job in Western Australia in the mining sector but the hospitality area.

Financially the rewards will be great says Ratu. He will be getting nearly three times the money he is earning now. Their three homes will be rented out.

Ratu said he has had ten years in the hospitality industry and a further 10 years working in government.

He said he accepted the Australian job offer because he



Ratu Mato

wanted to try a new lifestyle. He has not been the Western Australia before.

In Ratu's case, the loss to Rarotonga is four-Ratu, his wife and two kids. This is the downside when whole families leave.

With the other four former BTIB staff also in Western

Australia, Rangi has suggested Ratu and the others form an Australian branch of the BTIB and persuade Cook Islanders there to invest their money in projects back home. The idea is not as farfetched as it seems given the number of Cook Islanders now earning big money in the mining sector.

PM features in documentary

The Prime Minister was the subject of a documentary interview this morning in the sunny surrounds of Tamarind House. The film is being produced by the Living Oceans Foundation, established by Khaled bin Sultan and based near Washington DC. During his interview the PM was asked about his support to set up the one million sq km Marine Park Area in Cook Islands waters, and what the conservation area meant to the country. Puna said he backed the initiative because of the natural affinity that Cook Islanders have for the sea, and the people's deep relationship with the ocean's resources. The PM added that as a Pearl farmer in Manihiki, he had close personal ties to the marine environment and the importance of conservation to sustainable economic welfare and opportunity. He said the Cook Islands wanted to provide leadership not just to the Region but to the world, especially in terms of achieving



Kevin Iro was part of this morning's filming with the PM. Alison Barrat is the Director of Communications for Living Oceans Foundation, plus soundman Mal Cromie, and cameraman Ernie Kovaks.

a clean and green status as a tourism destination. The Living Oceans vessel Golden Shadow

visited Rarotonga, Aitutaki, and Palmerston Island, conducting research on coral reefs as part

of its six-year global study into the impacts on marine ecosystems.

PM opens workshop for Lay Judicial Officers



The Prime Minister and Minister of Justice Henry Puna addressed a regional gathering of lay magistrates this morning saying that the administration of the justice system requires our highest priority and adequate resources. "We need to stay vigilant and attentive to the needs of the judiciary and ensure that its services are preserved and strengthened where required," he said during the opening of a Lay Judicial Officers and Decision-making Workshop.

The workshop is being run this week under the support of the Federal Court of Australia and the Pacific Judicial Development Programme. Judicial officers

from around the Pacific are participating including several from Rarotonga. The key facilitators are Professor Raymond from the University of Alabama in the United States, and Justice Neil McKerracher from the Federal Court of Australia.

Prime Minister Puna welcomed the delegates and programme facilitators, remarking that he himself was a lawyer – a graduate from Australia. The Prime Minister quipped that he had left the legal profession behind only to end up in an equally unpopular profession: as a politician.

The workshop focuses on a very important role in our

system of justice, the Prime Minister told participants – the skills required as judicial officers and the professional methods involved in the writing and reasoning of decisions taken by the court.

"It is important that your responsibilities reflect the highest levels of competencies in the administration of justice and that confidence and integrity are sustained in the eyes of the public."

Puna acknowledged the dedication and service of the lay magistrates and conveyed thanks to the PJDP for the strengthening of the judicial officers' professional capabilities.

The Cook Islands he said

was facing a wide-range of pressures that are impacting upon the judiciary, as with many other sectors. These included ongoing community-sensitive issues such as burglaries and domestic violence, drink driving and drug use among the youth. The administration of land claims and the extent to which these cases have been taken in recent years is adding to the burdens upon our court services, the Prime Minister said.

"Law and order and the security of our homes are common concerns and the administration of the justice system requires our highest priority and adequate resources."

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Our Cover Girl

Challenging previous views of Rarotongan history



Our front page for Herald issue 665 is Natalia Mills on holiday from Albany, north of Auckland, New Zealand. She enjoys sports. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald

Lawyer Ross Holmes has informed the Herald that the book, “Southern Cook Islands History, Custom and Land Tenure Akapapa’anga, korero tupuna, e te Akono’anga Ture Enuā o te Pa Enuā Tonga i te Kuki Airani.”

Produced by Prof. Ron Crocombe and himself is now available.

Holmes said this book, which has been in progress since 2007, contains Ron Crocombe’s book “Land Tenure in the Cook Islands”, and substantial additional material written by himself, some of which challenges previous views of Rarotongan history.

The online edition is now available for purchasing for \$99.95. It is provided via the mega upload web site in a read only format.

Holmes said as new manuscripts which have not been available to previous authors, are still being made available to him, the on-line edition will be updated, and these updates made available to purchasers. In addition, purchasers will have free access to the research material which he has obtained, including all of the manuscripts referred to in the book. A printed edition is not currently available.

All profits (if any), said Holmes, will be donated for charitable purposes in the Cook Islands which promote research into Cook Islands history, custom and land tenure.

He said the pre-publication on-line edition was a draft only. As it has been substantially improved, and as previously advised contained pre-publication errors, it should be discarded, and should no longer be referred to.

Chinese criminals sentenced to Rarotonga Labour Camp?

The practise of Chinese businesses with political connectivity employing criminals as cheap labour is not unusual in China economics.

Anyone with an observant eye would have discerned the body language of the imported Chinese workers on the Police Headquarters construction site indicated their individual status.

It was noticed some of the labourers squatted rather than stood when idle. Those that did ate like that and were segregated. Further observations revealed not all workers had the freedom to roam around the island after hours, others only in a small group in a supervised manner.

A Sherlock Holmes minded observer could have conducted these labourers were prisoners.

Are the politically connected and endorsed Chinese contractors using convicted criminals as part of their labour force in the Cook Islands? This is a practise that has been carried out in other countries by Chinese contractors funded by their Government. It makes commercial sense for both the Chinese Government and the Contractor, both save money.

The selected prisoners work for their food and board

with no pay as they would do if imprisoned in China. After their overseas work experience they are either freed or continue to work for the company but paid. Any misbehaving while overseas is harshly punished.

A Chinese prisoner would be thankful for this kind of opportunity. They are well screened and considered low risk re-offenders. All in the name of rehabilitation.

Is Immigration informed who the criminals are? How many of them will be among the 80 imported Chinese workers arriving in July to work on the Rarotonga infrastructure upgrade? The workers will be housed in the former Ministry of Works administration building in Arorangi.

In the past, the three Chinese funded construction projects were confined, but the Rarotonga infrastructure project is scattered and spread out, so can the public be guaranteed we and our property will be safe from the Chinese criminals?

Who is going to check and recheck the status of every imported Chinese worker? It is naive and irresponsible of Foreign Affairs not to know this practise exists. Just check with Amnesty International and one will be horrified at the unchallenged

inhumane treatment the People's Republic of China gets away with because of their international economic might.

We can shaft and berate Fiji, but no one dares questions the inhumane violations of China for the fear of an economic back lash.

With China being such a generous beacon coming to the economic rescue of many mismanaged countries such as the Cook Islands, politicians are unable to see the dark side of the Republic. It is a very very dark side that is obscured and blurred by their overwhelming generosity.

When the invited Forum leaders get hosted by the

Republic of China after their gathering later this year they will all leave highly charged, impressed and in wonderment of China and no doubt gratified at the promises of more financial assistance. Each Forum Leader will depart with a sizeable cash gift to shortly follow. China will be heralded as an economic messiah.

Then again in Rarotonga if you need cheap workers one can go to our Arorangi Prison and along with special conditions hire one or more prisoners on a daily basis. On top of that if the village sports team is short of players, prisoners can be recruited on a per match arrangement.

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The Nurses were conducting free health checks on Wednesday at the Are Tapaeanga in Avarua, opposite the Rarotonga Police Headquarters as part of their commemoration of Nurses Week in the Cook Islands.

Arorangi Bowling Club

By Ben Mose

Soon the movement among the top 3 both men and women jostling for position in the quarter final to stake out their claim for the 2013 Women Pairs and the Men's Triple Championship for this year.

Dorothy Paniani the experience international women bowler with the 15year old up and coming junior bowler Colleen Paniani sitting on the top position. Anna Henry and Daphney Maea separated by 2 game points and hard on their heel is U25 Junior Women Champion Cathy Mataio 19yrs with Nooroa Daniels just 1 set point behind 3rd place.

It has been said, that " you have to be at the right place at the right time " Well it certainly applied to the Men's Triples competition last week. Sitting at the top, e pupu aka tae, why not is 2 game points ahead of the more fancied team of Alex the Champion of Champions representing the Cook Islands at the World Bowls in Christchurch end of the year. Further back in 3rd place 4 games point back is the International Single Representatives that kept the Cook Islands at top 8 in 2010 Commonwealth Games, Peter Totoo. Ops ! guess what? They will meet te Pupu Aka Tae of Moi

LADIES PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP (AFTER COMPLETING 3 ROUNDS)

			G Points	S Points	Total
1	Dorothy Paniani	Colleen Paniani	6	3.5	55
2	Anna Henry	Daphney Maea	4	3	53
3	Nooroa Daniel	Cathy Mataio	4	2	31
4=	Linda Vavia	Mariana Powell	2	3	44
4=	Everlyn Henry	Tamoe Tangipi	2	3	44
5	Linda Tera	Ngametua Tera		1.5	24
6	Samakia Ngatoko	Joan Powell		1	27

MEN'S TRIPLES (Completing 2 – 3 games)

	SKIPS	SECONDS	LEADS	GP	SP	Total
1	Moi Robati	Iro Rangi	Ben Mose	6	4	39
2	Alex Kairua	Tere Daniel	Wilson Rani	4	4	50
3	Arama Tera	Peter Totoo	Sydney Enoka	2	3	45
4	Taiki Paniani	Papatua Papatua	Ron Powell	2	3	31
5	Afoo Anthony	Allan Fariu	Larry Tumai	2	2	33
6	Vaine Henry	Lawrence Paniani	Ringo Numa	2	1	27
7	Vaine Tua	Noo Mataio	Tatuava Tou			31

Robati Iro Rangi and yours truly this afternoon.

Next week, I will be visiting from Bowls Cook Islands, Inc. World Bowls and news update Good bowling.

Letter to the Editor

Grey Power launched in Aitutaki

Dear Editor
I sent this article twice to Cook Islands News last week, and I am disappointed that they chose not to publish it; so hopefully, your newspaper wouldn't mind adding this to your weekly editions, on behalf of the Cook Islands Grey Power. This incident will be tabled at our Executive meeting this week.

I called and attended a public meeting on Friday 26th April at Ngapuariki Hall in Arutanga, Aitutaki. The objective for the meeting was to inform our pensioners in Aitutaki about our Cook Islands Grey Power movement here in Rarotonga, how it is structured, from the executives, and including representatives from all regions in Rarotonga. I made it clear with the attendees that our organization is not in any shape or form to be aligned with any political party; we are a stand-alone entity, an independent organization.

I was very encouraged by the turn out, and the positive response that the organization received in Aitutaki, and the immediate election of its executives, covering the 3 regions, namely Nga-Vaitau, Amuri-Ureia, and Are-Nikau was an efficacious coup for our organization. Mr. Boaza Ngaro Tau was elected as the Aitutaki Chairman, assisting him is Mr. Taraota Tom, plus 2 delegates from each region. We are now able to keep them informed with every development within our organization. Thank you atupaka e Araura Enea for your undivided support, "aere taaka ua atu maua ki a kotou, kua akamarino mai kotou i te tai no maua ko te tokorua" kia riringi mai te Atua i tana alkameitakianga takake ki runga i to tatou enua".

I was told that the Financial Secretary Mr. Neves (supported by Minister Bishop) was the main speaker at a meeting that was held at the same venue, a week prior. I was very disappointed for not being able to attend his meeting, just to open up the other side of his presentation. Nevertheless, we managed to illuminate a lot of the dark

corners that Mr Neves chose not to cover e.g. the expected amount that each pensioner is supposed to be paying back to the Tax office, and how much the NZ paid pension is contributing to the Cook Islands economy. We also touched on the unfair bracketing (30%) of an income more than \$30,000.00; may be higher paid workers should pay more tax to alleviate the shortfalls. In fact, France is proposing a 75% tax on very high income earners; so we are not naïve to suggest incomes over \$200,000.00 per annum here in the Cook Islands should at least pay up to 50% in tax. When you consider that \$30,000.00 and a \$200,000.00 gross income, both pay 30% tax this is pathetically ostentatious, very lopsided and unfair.

And in one edition of the Cook Islands News last week, the PM was blaming the Democratic Party for the pension tax issue. That is a sign of a Leader who does not have any solution to this debacle. The Cook Islands Grey Power is already aware of that fact, and what the PM quoted was "stale food" to our organization. At the end of the day, the Demo government did not see any reason to activate it, as they had a reserve fund to cover any unanticipated expenses; and that's very smart governance. The Demo government may have loaded the tax gun, but it took a Henry Puna led CIP government to pull the trigger; and it's a consumed act of trepidation for the PM to elbow the blame onto the Demo government. His imposing accusation onto the former government is a notorious excuse by him, and an overwhelmingly accountable-shy away tactic by his government. Grey Power is dealing directly with Minister Mark Brown's office, and so far, both parties are progressively moving forward in a positive manner.

Cook Islands Grey Power is focused and is determined to consider the welfare of our papas and our mamas, and all the people of the Cook Islands. Now that we have established

ourselves in Rarotonga and Aitutaki, we will soon be introducing ourselves to the other outer islands as well. I am confident that the existence of the Cook Islands Grey Power will be here to stay for many years to come, a perpetuating challenge for the organization.

Once we achieved our immediate (NZ paid pensions) goal, we will try and ask for an increase to our Cook Islands paid pensions, and we have a vision for the same privilege to be opened up to our Australian paid pensioners as well. It is not that straight forward, but it's an attractive and interesting challenge for our organisation, and we'll give it our best shot for that precarious privilege. What a great achievement that will bring to our nation, if we could pave a way for all our elderly (here and abroad), a fantastically humbling honour, to mingle with

them, right here at home, where they belong; "there's no place like home" i na tei reira reo ei, e te tano oki. Furthermore, what a thunderous financial boost their pension will instantly pour into our economy, to add up to the over \$5 million from the NZ paid pensions; that's more than the agriculture and pearl's shallow contributions. You don't need to be a politician to figure that out, just asks a member of the Cook Islands Grey Power?

Our people have been blind folded and misled by a few for so long, the time has now come for us to say that, "enough is enough".

Akaranga ia reo e, "Uriuri ki te tua akaruru, uru'ia ki te poatu akamou, kia akamiraia to pae'ru e...., kia vi te enemi i te rapa i toki".

Te Akarua, te akarua, te akarua.

Teuira Ka

Secretary - Cook Islands Grey Power



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What is net metering?

Last week a community centre in Tupapa installed solar panels to help keep its power bill down.

By connecting a solar power generator to the grid it could take advantage of the savings to be made through net metering.

What is net metering? It is an incentive and a subsidy, provided by TAU and made available to customers that have their own renewable energy generator such as a few solar panels. Under net metering, excess electricity produced by the solar panels is used to offset electricity used at other times.

There are two main reasons TAU is offering net metering to customers. First, it provides an incentive for people who want to invest in renewable energy systems, without them having to install expensive battery storage systems. Second, it encourages the uptake of renewable energy.

What are the benefits? Many, including the reduction of the amount of diesel that is burned to generate power at the Avatiu power station, which benefits the environment and the economy.

The direct cost of net metering is the build up of intermittency within the grid.



Too much intermittency will undermine the stability of the grid and be a problem for TAU. This is why private renewable energy systems are restricted to 2kW and other conditions. It encourages a more even spread of RE generators on the TAU grid and hence minimising the

adverse impacts that may arise from intermittency. The indirect cost associated with net metering is financial: the customer is buying less or no electricity from TAU despite its RE generator solely reliant on the grid for its operation, which means the customer does not

contribute to the operation or maintenance of the grid. This cost is borne by the rest of the customers. The job then for TAU is to work out how such customers will contribute their fair share to pay the fixed costs of the electricity grid.





Ministry of Infrastructure & Planning

Project City Update

Contractors reach Cook's Corner intersection



Trenching at Maire Nui rd and the Cooks Corner intersection on Tuesday.

Work on Project City is continuing on several fronts including the trenching and laying of sub-mains in the inland side of the Avarua central business district around the Telecom, CITV and the Bowling Club St Joseph rd and Cooks Corner area.

This week the contractors reached the main road outside the intersection of Energy Centre and CITC on Maire Nui and inland back to Cook's Corner and environs. Pressure testing of the new pipelines is also being carried out on all pipes to ensure there are no leaks.

Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning engineers have met with the contractor and asked that they ensure that the road is as roadworthy as possible for the upcoming Rarotonga Triathlon Race to be held on Saturday 11 May 2013 from Muri to Blackrock Hospital Hill around Tereora Rd to Avatiu roundabout and back to Ngatangia.

Areas to be swept of gravel

include the main roundabout outside the Court House; the inland and main road intersections of Avatiu and the newly laid area at the Cook's Corner-Energy Centre intersection. The contractor has promised all best efforts for clearing the gravel under the circumstances of laying pipes in order to get the roads ready for the Triathlon race this weekend.

To this end, the contract workers are busy reinstating the road and filling potholes that have appeared in the recent rain outside the Triad petrol station and surrounds on the main road in Panama.

Work on the pipeline is expected to be completed at the end of June after which Project City3 for road upgrades will commence.

The Ministry and contractors apologize for any inconvenience to the public and ask for the continued patience of the motorists because of the disruptions to traffic that are inevitable during this monumental task.



Road Remediation in Panama



Asian Development Bank



Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning

PH 20321 Fax: 24321

Memories of Korea

Paul Allsworth has submitted this account written by his father Ivan Allsworth who went to the Korean War. Ivan, – #207721, was a Gunner in the New Zealand Army's 163 Battery, 16th Field Regiment. He was a member of the Advance Party to Korea in December 1950.

To my knowledge the Advance party was selected after we had finished our manoeuvres which took place from October to November 1950. It comprised 17 soldiers and 6 Officers, including our Commanding Officer, Brigadier Park - a good man. We all did a course on side arms (revolver training) and then took our final leave.

On return from leave we moved from Waiouru to Whenuapai Air Base in Auckland, where we flew in two DC3's to Norfolk Island, refuelled, and then flew on to Sydney. We stayed at an Aussie camp called Marackville for 2 days. We had leave of course in Sydney, very welcome and very enjoyable, and then boarded a Qantas flight for the long journey to Japan.

We flew at night and our first stop after Sydney was Darwin for breakfast – very hot and humid. We then flew off on the long haul to Manila in the Philippines, where we refuelled. We landed at Clark Field, an American base out of Manila. They took us by taxis into Manila where all of us in the Advance Party stayed at the Manila Hotel.

After 2 days leave we flew off again, heading for Iwakuni in Japan. Another long flight.

Iwakuni was run by the Aussies. We stayed there until a decision was made to fly up to Taegu in Korea to set up a base camp in preparation for the arrival of the 16th Field Regiment.

We based ourselves at a school in Taegu and were proceeding to convert the school into a camp when all of a sudden the War caught up with us. There was a big push on, and all the American troops were falling back. We were ordered out and flew back down to Pusan where we set about putting a camp together at an old Japanese camp, in a bay, over the hill from Pusan.

By this time we were a pretty efficient team, and when the

ship arrived carrying the guns, gun tractors and all the other vehicles, we had the camp ready.

Winter had set in and there was plenty of snow around. We had made friends with the Yanks by this time, and to 'supplement' our gear we begged, borrowed or 'stole' their winter gear.

The supply ship 'Ganges' had arrived by now and we started the long haul of the vehicles from the port. We drove them or towed them from the huge docks in Pusan, up over the hills to the camp. This took us a quite a long while as we had to deal with very challenging weather and conditions.

Of course we had time off, and I and my mates would go into Pusan to a huge American Base called 'Hialeah' where we could get coffee and doughnuts, and where there was also a PX and bar area – very comfortable.

There was a lot of troop movement at this time, as both the Yanks and the British troops had started a big advance up the Peninsula.

Our troopship, the 'Ormonde' carrying the 16th Battalion, arrived on the 31st December 1950, and there was a rousing welcome for the troops, including a Big Band, all black Americans, who played the song 'If We Knew You Were Coming I'd Have Baked a Cake'. A lovely, warm welcome on a very cold day.

Our next job was ferrying all the troops over the hill to the Camp. A big job, but by the end of the day we had everybody in Camp.

Next day was New Years day. No time to rest, everybody was busy getting sorted out.

The Advance Party was gradually absorbed back into the Regiment and the 'War' for me and the rest of the Regiment began. On the 29th of January, 1951 the 16th Field Regiment fired its first round... and the rest, as they say, is history."



Ivan Allsworth



Ivan with one of his daughters Eva

The boy who cried wolf

Cook Islander Mata Rakanui is Professor of English at Soongsil University in Seoul, Korea. He has worked in Korea since August 2000.

By Mata Rakanui

Many people are familiar with the famous children's story of the boy who cried wolf. The story goes something along these lines. Once there was a Sheppard boy who informed the villagers that a wolf had arrived and was attempting to steal the livestock. Both times the boy sounded the alarm were false alarms. By now the villagers became increasingly angry and distrusting of the boy. Hence on the third occasion they failed to help him when in fact a wolf did arrive to claim his livestock. A number of international analysts compare this story to the case of North Korea and its brinkmanship. Recently North Korean brinkmanship has involved a number of threats and bluster with generally little action. However, what if there is a real threat?

The North Koreans have been responsible for a number of incidents or attacks in the past. However, those attacks usually came without warning. There was the 1968 attack on the presidential palace in an attempt to assassinate the President. All 31 North Korean commandos were killed. In 1983 the bombing of a hotel in Burma killing 21 people including government ministers. There is also the destruction of a South Korean airliner in 1987 killing 115 people. In 2010 the sinking of the naval ship Cheonan as well as the attack on South Korean islands also in late 2010. The list of further incidents is extensive and furthermore demonstrates the brashness and ability of the North Koreans.

In the last few months tension here on the peninsula and in the international community reached unprecedented levels. After the North Koreans tested a missile in late 2012



the United Nations responded with sanctions aimed at the North Koreans particularly at their finances. Surprisingly the Chinese who are their principle ally agreed with the sanctions. The North Koreans kindly responded with a declaration of war against the United States and South Korea, ceasing all contact and seemingly pushing for conflict, consistently warning the United States and South Korea of their imminent destruction.

The question concerning North Korea is when the wolf will reveal itself or as in the story is it simply a false cry. Like a giant poker game the stakes this time on the peninsula are very high. The South Korean Government has declared that an attack will be followed with an immediate response with an ask questions later approach. There is increasing pressure this time by the local population to respond in kind to any form of attack. The United States has been conducting exercises

here for the last month with an impressive show of its firepower and has confirmed assistance and support should its allies Japan or South Korea face an attack. Although warfare seems unlikely due to the potentially immense destruction and loss of life there is a worry that with tensions so high a small incident could spiral out of control and raise the stakes.

The possession of nuclear warheads and biological weapons by the North complicates the situation. In combination, the location of Seoul does not help as it is within striking distance of North Korean artillery. Some reports suggest that up to 20,000 shells an hour could fall in Seoul.

In Seoul itself it now seems to be business as usual as the local population seems to have become immune to North Korea's threats over the years. There was an initial increase in anxiety, however, there is a belief here that the further

away you are the more intense the worry and paranoia. There is also the realization that you cannot control the decisions at the top.

In order to fully understand what shapes a country like North Korea it is very important that one key fundamental idea exists. That is the idea of survival and continuation of the regime. After nearly sixty five years of dynastic hereditary rule they have mastered the art of survival at any means without self-destruction. Many pundits believe the current leader is under threat internally and must demonstrate his resolve and power by challenging the international community without crossing the line of no return.

A conflict must be avoided at all costs as the price will be heavy in life and damage but should a conflict breakout Allies like New Zealand, Australia, and Canada etc. will have to come together just like they did in 1950 and attempt to resolve the situation.

TENDER



COOK ISLANDS INVESTMENT CORPORATION
Government of the Cook Islands

**TENDER FOR
RAROTONGA HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS – C33/13**

The Cook Islands Investment Corporation invites tenders for the Refurbishment of the Rarotonga Hospital Administration Building exterior.

Tenders are sought on a Guaranteed Maximum Price basis for the supply of all professional services, materials, labour, machinery, plant and equipment to successfully achieve the Project Goal (as described in the Tender Documents).

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

For enquiries contact:
Shona Tekorona
Property Officer
Phone (682) 29391
Email shona.tekorona@cookislands.gov.ck

Tenders close 3.00pm Thursday, 30th May 2013.

PUBLIC NOTICE



NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a General Meeting of the Cook Islands Chamber of Commerce will be held:

Date: Thursday 9th May 2013
Venue: Café Salsa
Time: 5.00 p.m.

Agenda:

- General Business and mix and mingle with Business Mentors
- Guest Speaker the Hon Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition and the Democratic Party

Topic : Economic Development in the Cook Islands

All Chamber Members and intending members are welcome

For further information, please contact the Chamber
Phone 20 925 E-mail: chamber@commerce.co.ck

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Best ever Android Apps

History Eraser Pro

History Eraser Pro makes it simple to delete junk off your phone. The app walks you through all sorts of data, from text messages to browser history to cached files, and then it wipes them in one shot.

Juicedefender

Do you love everything about your Android except its crappy battery life? JuiceDefender Ultimate is a popular app that conserves battery life by disabling the most draining components, specifically 3G/4G connectivity, when your phone is idle. You can get the free lite version, but I'd invest in the Ultimate version which lets you customize when to disable a signal; for example, if you're listening to Pandora you wouldn't want it to go offline simply because your phone went idle.

Nova Launcher Prime

There are quite a few launchers available in Google Play that replace your stock phone homescreen interface with something more customizable. Nova Launcher Prime not only gives you settings to play with, but it's also super-fast and smooth. If you're not willing to part with four bucks, try the free version, called Nova Launcher.



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Or Log-in @ www.thecomputerman.co.ck

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor
I read a sad story in the Cook Islands Newspaper last Saturday 4th May's edition about a disheartened Bulldog missionary man; and I wish to comment on that article.

It is very disappointing when we see supporters condemning the rules that govern the game that we love and enjoy. And to go further and use his chosen career path as a lame excuse for the Bulldogs' management mistake is unchristian like.

I do not see the parallel comparison to God and Moses as per the writer's exaggeration. In my view, it is overwhelmingly depreciative,

and of an intractable character to even weighting a feeble emphasis on the man being a missionary over the rule, that is pathetically naive. That comparison is destructively dumb, and of no substance.

Rugby League is a game open to anyone, whether you are a missionary worker or a prisoner, whether you are an import player or a local player, whether you are a Bulldog or a Shark player, you still have guidelines to comply with, and if you choose to participate in that sport, then you must honour the rules set out by the governing body.

I applaud the Bulldogs for continuing with their games in spite of the unfortunate

circumstance being imposed on the team; that's a great leadership stance for the club, and all league followers including myself are proud of them. There are some talented and skillful players in that team, and I for one admire their brand of football. It would be great to see the Bulldogs drumming your support onto your neighbor "The Sea Eagles", come the finals, why not?

On the other side of the ledger, I am supporting Cook Islands Rugby League for not crumbling to external pressures; they are firm, and at the same time, they are fair. That's what you need at the top of any organization, people with a PhD in common sense.

I am picking the Sea Eagles to be the dark horse when the knockout "kicks off" in a couple of weeks time, and if they play to their potential, I have no doubt, they can go all the way. They will hijack the favourites, through some positional, and strategic offensive focus!!!!.....GO THE SEA EAGLES!!!

Teuira Ka, Ngatangia



COOK ISLANDS TOURISM CORPORATION

Destination Development Initiatives Expressions of Interest (EOI)

Destination Development initiatives are designed to enhance the Cook Islands Tourism product with a primary focus on event development and tourism related infrastructure. Destination Development will also encourage tourism related educational, hospitality, environmental and cultural initiatives.

The Cook Islands Tourism Corporation Destination Development Committee seeks expressions of interest from interested parties to submit proposals to:

- Develop a suite of suitable events (individual or a series) designed to improve the economic impact of tourism and enhance visitor experiences. Event Development will focus on marketable events that stimulate visitor arrivals to the Cook Islands particularly during the November to May period and enhance visitor experiences including cultural, sporting and other relevant events.
- Develop tourism related infrastructure. This is designed for visitor convenience and to connect areas of environmental and cultural significance which will improve the economic impact of tourism and enhance visitor experiences. Tourism Related Infrastructure will focus on hiking and walking trails, access to Beaches/Caves/Forests/Lakes etc (viewing platforms, paths and steps, signage etc), historical sites, and public toilets and amenities (shelters, rest areas, tables and chairs, BBQ facilities etc).
- Develop tourism related education and training. Education and Training Providers will be tasked with delivery of the courses and achieving targeted pass rates and numbers of graduates for both Rarotonga and the sister islands. Tourism Education and Training investment will take place in the following areas; Secondary level - NCEA Tourism courses; Vocational level - WTTTO standard Tourism and Hospitality Courses; Other Tertiary levels - Tourism courses at certificate, diploma or degree level etc.

Proposals will be assessed where applicable on the strength of a business and project delivery / management plan. Emphasis is placed on a projects return on investment (ROI) calculated by increased visitor arrivals, improved length of stay and increased related spend, and enhanced and expanded visitor experiences. Proposals will be further assessed by their appeal, engagement of the community, partner resourcing, delivery team expertise and experience, and future sustainability.

It is also imperative that these proposals tie in with existing Cook Islands Tourism marketing strategies.

A detailed EOI guide for each project area and a submission and assessment template is available to download via the Cook Islands Tourism website. All EOI submissions close 20 June 2013.

www.cookislands.travel/DestinationDevelopment

The Destination Development Strategy and related initiatives are supported by NZAID. For more information contact Noeline Mateariki, Destination Development Coordinator, Cook Islands Tourism Corporation via noeline.mateariki@cookislands.gov.ck

Trends in NZ tourism sector

By Charles Pitt

Tourist figures available from New Zealand's Ministry for Economic Development for the period, last two weeks in March 2013 to the first two weeks in April 2013, show that the number of New Zealand residents traveling to the Cook Islands was down by 16 percent. The Ministry reported that total NZ trips abroad were down by 14.9 percent compared to the same period in 2012.

The data shows the number of Kiwis traveling to the UK in the same period were down by 25 percent compared to the same period last year, to Australia, down by 17 percent, to the USA, down by 12 percent, to Samoa, down by 8 percent.

However, the number of Kiwis traveling to China, was up by 13 percent and to Fiji, up by just 1 percent.

As to the number of visitors traveling to NZ, Japanese were up by 28 percent, Chinese up by 17 percent, Singaporeans up by 11 percent, Americans, up by 10 percent, Canadians, up by 6 percent, Koreans, up by 5 percent, Australians, up by just 2 percent.

Total visitor arrivals to NZ were up by 4.9 percent.

Government consolidates office space

Cabinet has ordered Ministries to consolidate office space to save costs.

The Ministry of Transport has been instructed to shift from its office at Avatiu Harbour. Taio Shipping which occupies the ground floor of the same building is to move to its new shed on the wharf. The Chinese fishing company Luen Thai is expected to take over the building formerly occupied by Taio Shipping and Ministry of Transport. It is thought the fishing company will use the upstairs as an office and the downstairs for operations including a lab.

The Ministry for Infrastructure has moved back to its former premises at Arorangi. These premises are said to be marked for partitioning so part can be occupied by the Chinese arriving next month to work on the roads/water upgrade. Some 80 Chinese are expected and all will be housed in the building. The Ministry recently shifted to the building behind Ministry of Agriculture.

The ground floor of the three level government building in Avarua behind the old Post Office is to be renovated to house other government Ministries. Ministries currently occupying this building have been asked to consolidate space to create room for other State agencies.

TENDER



PORTS AUTHORITY

CIPA-8: DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SHED 3

- 1 The GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS has received a Loan from the Asian Development Bank towards the cost of the AVATIU PORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. Part of this loan will be used for payments under the contract named above.
- 2 The COOK ISLANDS PORTS AUTHORITY ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction and completion of:
CIPA-8: DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SHED 3 ("the Works").
- 3 National Competitive Bidding is being conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage, One envelope Bidding Procedure and is open to all eligible Bidders.
- 4 Only eligible bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:
 - Access to, or availability of, financial resources to meet the cash flow requirement of the project. As a minimum the Tenderer must show that his resources, in terms of at least his latest year's working capital and lines of credit, will be adequate to cover his Tender Price and current work commitments.
 - Evidence of past experience covering the scale and types of works required under this Project.
 - The Tenderer must demonstrate that it has ownership of or secured access to the following key equipment listed below:

No.	Equipment Type and Characteristics	Min. Number Required
1	Crane	1
2	Excavator	1
3	Truck	1
4	Cherry picker or manhoist	1
5	Compressor and concrete breakers	1

Further Eligibility and Qualification Criteria are outlined in the Tender Documents.

- 5 Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Cook Islands Ports Authority from 8 May 2013 from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday at the address indicated below.
- 6 To purchase a hard copy of the Engineering Drawing documents (in English), Bidders should apply to the address below and pay a non-refundable fee of NZ\$20.00 made payable to the Cook Islands Ports Authority. Alternatively, Bidders may obtain a copy of the bidding documents free of charge by providing a flash drive to Cook Islands Ports Authority for the bidding documents to be downloaded to.
- 7 There will be no Pre-Bid meeting. Bidders may arrange with the Employer to visit the site.
- 8 Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00 PM on the 5 June 2013. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Securing Declaration. (Refer ITB 19.) Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 2.30 PM on the 5 June 2013
- 9 The Cook Islands Ports Authority will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

ADDRESS DETAILS

Mr Bim Tou
General Manager
Cook Islands Ports Authority
Ara Tapu
Avatiu
Rarotonga
Tel No.: +682 21921
Fax No.: +682 21191
E-mail: bim.tou@ports.co.ck

VACANCY



CUSTOMER SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE

Telecom Cook Islands is looking for a dynamic person to join our Customer Services Team.

This provides an exciting opportunity for someone who is wanting to start a career in the Telecommunications Industry. If you have a strong customer service and communication skills, a positive person who is open and honest, and confident to go after your goals, then send a covering letter and your CV to: Mere Moeauri, Customer Services Manager, Telecom Cook Islands, PO Box 106, Avarua.

Email: mmoeauri@telecom.co.ck

Applications close 4:00pm Wednesday the 15th of May 2013



PERSONAL FINANCE ASSOCIATE

BCI has a position available for an ambitious person to start your CAREER in Lending.

We're looking for someone who is responsible with professional work ethics, and has great interpersonal and communication skills, to join our dynamic and energetic team. Experience in banking is a plus but training will be offered to the right candidate.

Reporting to a Personal Finance Advisor, you will support the administration of a high quality credit portfolio and deliver outstanding customer service.

If this opportunity is for you, please submit your application and current CV to Ron Patia by midday Friday 17th May 2013. Applications citing "Vacancy-Personal Finance Associate" may be emailed to ron.patia@bci.co.ck; or delivered to Ron Patia, BCI House, Avarua.

A copy of the job description can be obtained from Ron by email.

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PUBLIC NOTICE



PRICE ORDER 03/2013

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 03/2013 and shall come into effect on the 08th day of May 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 02/2013 is hereby revoked
- 5 The prices herein set are the maximum that may be charged although less may be charged if so desired

Brian Terrence Hagan
Chairman for the Price Tribunal

Given under our hand this 06th day of May 2013.



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	3.75	5.03		May 8, 2013
LPG 9kg - 20lb	-	45.27		
LPG 13kg - 30lb	-	65.39		

APPRECIATION



LITTLE James Joseph (Jim)

On behalf of Greta and the family I would like to thank our many friends for their kind word of condolence and support following the loss of our beloved husband and father. Your kindness has helped carry us through a difficult time.

Te rauka nei iaku i koia a Greta Little e pera te au taeake, te au 'oa tei aere mai ki te pure akamaara'anga i toku 'oa akaperepere ko Jim. Na te Atua kotou e tauturu mai no ta kotou akapuma'ana mai 'ia matou. Te Atua te aroa.

We would like to acknowledge Bishop Paul Donagheuy and Fr. Freddy Kaina for helping us to farewell Jim with peace and God's blessing. Our heartfelt thanks to you all

**ADVERTISE WITH THE
COOK ISLANDS HERALD**

TE REO MĀORI KŪKI AIRANI



tātā'ia `e Ruterā Taripo

“E tutū ē, tutū!”
“Stand fast, stand firm!”

Kia Orāna `e te katoatoa i tēia `epetoma `aka`ie`ie tikāi

`E `anga`anga **mātau** nā te `enua-tangata Ma`uke i te rave i tēia `anga`anga tū-ava nei, mei **pō-kerekere** mai. E rave `ia ana tēia `anga`anga nei, i te tuātau ngaru; koia `oki, i te tuātau ē, `e ngaru ā raro i te **ava** `ē ā runga i te **akau**, kāre `e vaka e rauka i te **uru** mai ki **uta**, `ē te uru atu ki **tua**.

Ko te **rāvenga** `ua rāi e **peke** meitaki mai ei te vaka ki uta, ki runga i te akau, māri rā, kia tū atu tēta`i, mē kāre ra, ngā tū-ava ki runga i te akau, ki te pae o te ni`a-ava. Nā te tū-ava i reira e tauturu atu i te vaka-tangata, kia tae meitaki mai tō rātou vaka ki runga i te **pātiki**, koia `oki, te ngā`i **para`ā** o te akau, ka nekeneke mārie mai ei te vaka ki te pae **kirikiri**.

Ko tēia i reira te tu`anga o te **tarotaro** nā te ta`unga o Ma`uke ki te tū-ava

Te Tarotaro (The Chant/Incantation)

E tutū ē, tutū!

E tutū `e taku ta`unga ki te kōutu
I `Ingatū.

`Oro`oro i te pātiki nui!

Taka`ia i te pātiki ra`i!

Roua te vaka o te ti`a-mumura,

Kia pae te ika i te akau

Tākina`ia mai ki kiri makariri,

Kia kai i te kakara o Maketū

`Iri`iri rau roa ki Tōreā-`iva,

E pue`u te papa i Maketū!

E pue`u i kaui, e pue`u i katau,

E pue`u te papa i Maketū.

Stand fast, Stand firm!

Steadfastly take your stance my brave
Upon the flats at `Ingatū.

Edging along the great landing-place!

Trample upon the great landing-place!

Grapple with the canoe of eminence,
That the fish may land on the reef.

Allow them rest and respite

To savour the abundance of Maketū

Disclosing affinities back to Tōreā-`iva,

The foundation at Maketū is ramified!

Scattered left, scattered right,

The foundation at Maketū is ramified.

Kia Mātiketike! Kia Mārangaranga!

Be alert and prepared at all times!



A fisherman in `Akatokamanāva (Ma`uke)

How to be successful in life

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

It is human nature that we want to succeed in life – in our jobs; the schooling of our children; to have a successful family; and so on! I have never met anyone who want to fail in life. In the Bible in II King 18v.1-8 is the story of King Hezekiah who was a successful King during his reign in Judah. He was a 'God fearing' person! His father King Ahaz before him allowed the people to do things not right in the sight of God. People turned away from God! Hezekiah's mission was to redirect the people back to God!

In v.5 it reads "He trusted in the Lord God of Israel..." The first point to note is that, King Hezekiah TRUSTED GOD! Although many people were used in doing things not right before God, King Hezekiah maintained his trust in God and through God's divine interventions King Hezekiah managed to redirect people back to worshipping God and to maintain a righteous attitude and ways of doing things. Nothing is impossible when we put our trust in God! Jesus said in Mark 10v.27 "With men it is impossible, but not with God, for with God all things are possible." Psalm 2v.12 reads "Blessed are those who put their trust in Him." If you want to succeed in life TRUST GOD!

The second point is found in the first part of v.6 which reads "For he was faithful to the Lord and never disobeyed Him..." The key word here is "faithful". Although many people were worshipping idols and doing things not right in the sight of God, including his father the King before him, Hezekiah held onto his belief and was FAITHFUL to God! His faithfulness was such that nothing could separate him from the God he believed in!



Psalm 31v.23 says "...for the Lord preserves the faithful..." Psalm 101v.6 says "My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land..." To illustrate God's attitude towards those who are faithful to Him, Jesus spoke the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25, in v.23 Jesus said "Well done, good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord." Jesus spoke the word faithful twice to indicate to us how 'important faithfulness to God is!

The third point is found in the last part of v.6 which reads "...but carefully kept all the commands that the Lord had given Moses." In spite of the many distractions surrounding him, King Hezekiah OBEYED GOD'S COMMANDMENTS! Now-a-days there are so many distractions affecting our lives, our families, our children, and the youth. Micah 4v.5 reads "For all people walk each in the name of his god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever."

Because Hezekiah TRUSTED GOD, and was FAITHFUL TO HIM, and OBEYED HIS COMMANDS, the first part of v.7 reads "...the Lord was with him, and he was successful in everything he did..." King Hezekiah experienced God's blessings. v.5 says, that there was no other King like Hezekiah either before or after him. What Hezekiah did for God, was that he separated himself from doing things not right in the sight of God. Psalm 1v.1 (GN) reads "Happy are those who reject the advice of evil

people, who do not follow the example of sinners or join those who have no use for God." Hezekiah succeeded because he TRUSTED GOD, he was FAITHFUL TO GOD, and he OBEYED GOD'S COMMANDS. v.7 reads "...the Lord was with him, and he was successful in everything he did..." Friends, Nothing Is Impossible When We Put Our Trust In God!

May you have a God blessed week, te Atua te aroa!



Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) Project Manager & Pearl Biologist

Applications are invited for two project positions funded under the EU-SPC Global Climate Change Alliance project implemented by the MMR. The project aims to improve the resilience of pearl farming and inshore fisheries to climate change, focusing on vulnerable atolls of the Cook Islands.

(2) Project Manager: based in Rarotonga with responsibility for overseeing the daily work program and including:

- Administration and coordination of project related activities.
- Communication tools and public awareness strategies for stakeholders.
- Feasibility studies of future livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities.
- Resource management plans and compliance structures.
- Special projects as directed by the Secretary.

(1) Pearl Biologist: based in Manihiki, with the responsibility for monitoring of pearl farming activities and providing technical advice:

- Multi-disciplinary climate related sciences, coral reef monitoring, GIS surveys, water quality, coastal hydrology and oceanography and pearl biology.
- Advising pearl farmers on environmental management and husbandry practices.
- Participate in public awareness programs, training and outreach, liaison as needed.
- Special projects as directed by the Secretary.

This position will be for a 2 year term contract basis. Please contact Uirangi Bishop for further information and a job description, email: U.Bishop@mmr.gov.ck, Ph 28730. Provide a CV with the completed application, addressed to the Secretary, P.O Box 85, Rarotonga, email: rar@mmr.gov.ck. Applications close on Monday 20th May 2013.

Picnic at the Beach!

By Norma Ngatamariki

How was your school holiday, y'all? Good, bad, fabulous or extremely boring? Some of us didn't want it to end while others couldn't wait to get back into school. Well, people, it's the beginning of a whole new term (which will run for another treacherous twelve weeks. Ugh) so we best get out of the "holiday mode" and start fresh. If things didn't work out for you in Term One, what's stopping you from changing that in Term Two? Absolutely nothing. My advice to you is, change that Not Achieved grade into an Excellence and work even harder!

Anyway, back to the matter at hand. It was the last week of the school holiday (Boo hoo!) and the Ruatonga Mapu had planned for a little picnic after the Avarua CICC Youth Week. I was all for it

and so were the others. Before the picnic, there was a camp that I was unable to attend, but from what I heard, it was really cool. The leaders used the prize money to buy the food (chops, sausages etc. The normal "picnic" food for locals) and prepared a little spot in Nikao, at the beach right next to the Parliament building.

Because this happened on a Saturday, it was the perfect time to kick back and chill. I arrived at the beach at round about one in the afternoon, where the whole gang was gathered. I felt a sense of belonging as I seated myself between Dean and Tongia (another fantastic member of the Ruatonga Mapu). They were just talking about random things, so I sat and tuned in on their conversations. The music was blasting and, although it looked as if it were going to rain, we

still enjoyed the "harmonious atmosphere". If you minus the crazy laughter of Dean and the shouting of the boys.

And then it was time...TO EAT! The ladies called us to the table. I ran as fast as I could (which isn't very quick, mind you. Lolz) and pushed myself to the front of the line (the things we do when we're starving!). After the prayer of thanks was said, the kids were on that table like a pack of wolves. I claimed my chops and sausages (the most filling part of the meal) and ran back to the table to grab some salad (which only consisted of three lettuce leaves. Lolz) I sat under someone's gazebo and ate joyously, savouring each bite. We had watermelon and vanilla ice cream for dessert, which was the perfect finish to the meal.

At around about four o'clock,



Anau and Nadia arrived. They were just in time for the ice cream, but had missed out on the feed. We played a round of Dauphin (which means Dolphin in French). It's a ball game which is kind of like tag, but you instead of touching them to get out, you throw the ball (which hurts more. Lolz) That was the "awesomest" picnic ever.

School rules

By Hareta Tira Passfield



Well it's back to school. I don't know about you guys but my holiday was awesome to say the least. Went to the beach like so many times. It was two weeks of getting my tan on, catching up with mates and just chilling out. I would just like to say a big congratulations to all the winners

of Dancer of the year 2013

Going back to school has been a major let down. I was just starting to really enjoy not having to do any work, but you know what they say "all good things must come a end".

Being a new term our school has enforced a new rule and it's that girls HAVE to plait their hair. I know for some people it's fine but when you have hair like mine it makes it impossible to plait. I just don't understand why they would have such a rule. If your hair is neat and not in a messy bun on top of your head then it should be fine, but no.

Our hair styles don't effect our learning in anyway whatsoever. They are worried about the image of our school but quite frankly the only thing they should worry about is our education. Some girls just can't plait their hair.

Along with that rule, other

rules such as NO painted nails and NO jewelry. I just find these rules difficult to accept. To an extent I understand the ban on jewelry but they won't even let us wear simple necklaces. Once again I don't understand how this effects our education.

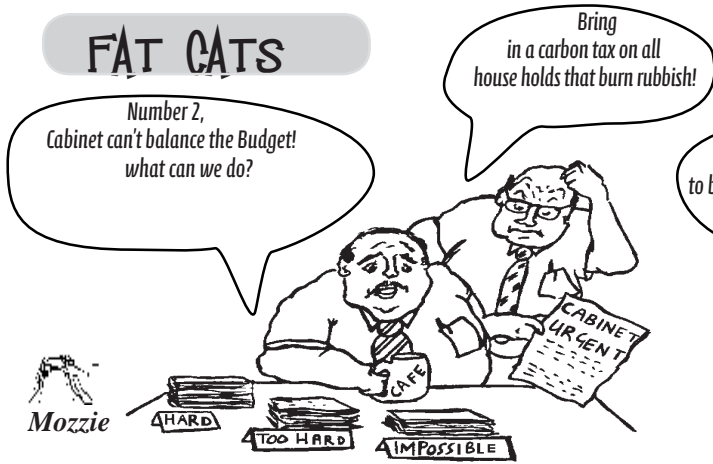
Is some ways I understand why we have these rules but then again I don't. I understand that they want the school to have order and not be chaotic. I just don't think some of the rules are going to change much.

I also think that the school should also ask the students about what they think. The more rules they make the more rebellious we become. Most school rules are good like, no smoking or drinking alcohol. Those school rules I understand but hair, nails and appearance I just don't think they play a major rule in our education. An example

to show that our hair styles don't effect our education would be school's in New Zealand. They have no regulation hair styles, yet some of them are the best schools around.

Another rule I find puzzling is the NO other jackets apart from school jackets. If you a caught with any other jacket but the school jacket it will get confiscated and won't be given back till end of term. I know we live in Rarotonga but sometimes it get's cold and there are people out there who can not afford the school jackets. Also what happens if it's a cold rainy day and you don't own a school jacket. Are you supposed to just freeze? Or if you're sick and it's cold. What are you supposed to do then? None of these rules have anything to do with our effort in school or how we act in school.

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Oh dear chooks, word just to hand of a major, military boo boo at the ANZAC Day dawn parade! Seems two VIP cars plus two police escort bikes were parked right where the old soldiers were to march off after the ceremony at the Cenotaph! On the command, "Fall out!" the old troopers turned then went to march off only to find their path blocked by the vehicles. The front ranks halted but the ranks following stumbled into the back of their comrades! And whose vehicles were they? The QR and the DPM!



Chook traveling with the Cookies soccer team to the recent big tournament in Vanuatu said the Kiwi team beat everything in sight by big margins and spread the word they were going to thrash the Cookies by 25 to nil! As it turned out the Kiwis won by 9 to nil and were heard to comment that the Cookies team had actually improved!



Local small business reports the Tax police were disgruntled when his cheque for tax owed, bounced! Small businessman said no wonder it bounced because government was spending the money faster than it was coming in!



Judging by Rube's epic epistles to the media mourning the diminishing of fish stocks, one could draw two conclusions. Firstly, Rubes does not know how to catch a fish or secondly, the fish are not there

CHOOKS CORNER
WITH BIG RED



to catch! However, other fishermen seem to have no problems bringing home a fish or two so perhaps Rubes needs to re-examine his whole approach to the art of fishing.



More than one local is jacked off. After working overseas and returning a lot wiser and experienced they can't get a job in Government. It seems these days, the jobs go to those in the system who already have jobs or are expats on holiday who want a transitional lifestyle. Has this Government had a brain explosion? Come home, we want to ignore you! Just ask any returning retiree with a NZ pension who feel like they are being mugged. It's time to clean out the expat leeches clinging on in MFEM and the politicians who think returning locals are fodder for dicking around.



Moolah woes in the Halls of Power are again being disguised by restructuring which sees locals being dumped or their pay lowered so expats can be hired at higher rates. Do the Lord High Mandarins think we don't get enough sun because

it seems they think the sun shines out of an ex-pat's sphincter! Watch the Head of Learning hire yet another expat pal at the expense of locals who will have to all reapply for their jobs but at a lower rate. The cosmetic, nod, nod, wink, wink, interviewing process for the top job under the pretence of contestability is a waste of time! Especially when the job has already been offered to a life style expat. No wonder there is a booming trade in suitcase sales and more produce going out of the country with fleeing residents than through normal export channels!



When is a conflict of interest not what it is chooks? In the Cook Islands no such thing exists, well not in our great Halls of Judgment. Local observer of laws says our lower bench Chief Beak may need a rap over the talons from the fourth estate or the Lord High Chief of Decisions for refusing to distance himself from a case involving a chook known to him. The Cone of Silence was activated, the best legal eagle was retained and names evaporated. Rumour

is it's not the first time the accused has conveniently appeared before the Chief Beak. When all is over, will the Chief Beak have his integrity challenged and the biff from the bench? Will his dumping mean the wolf pack scrapping for his lucrative \$200 a pop tourist wedding sideline he had cornered? Without access to the dosh once pouring into his pockets, lets hope he knows how to plant taro and catch fish.



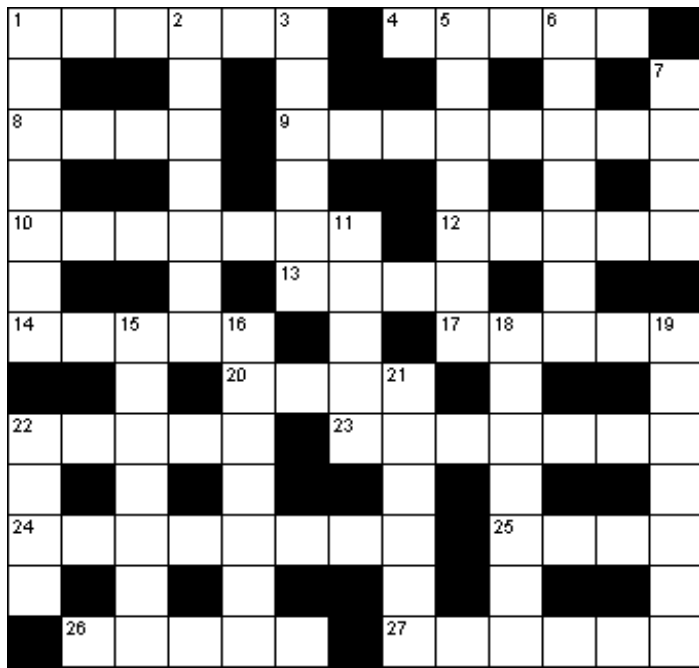
You've heard of Hollywood, LA, USA and you've heard of Bollywood in Mumbai (the old Bombay), India. Now about to hit the movie world map is "Coconutwood!" Where is Coconutwood? It's in Rarotonga, Cook Islands! In Coconutwood, everyone is an actor! Anyone anywhere could find themselves at any moment, in a movie! Just don't expect to be paid! If you thought Bollywood was cheap, Coconutwood is two dollar shop material! Foreign film makers just love it! What sort of films are made in Coconutwood? In production right now is a mega starring, blockbusting, multi-dollar movie about a teenage school dropout who picks his nose at nightclubs!

Cook Islands
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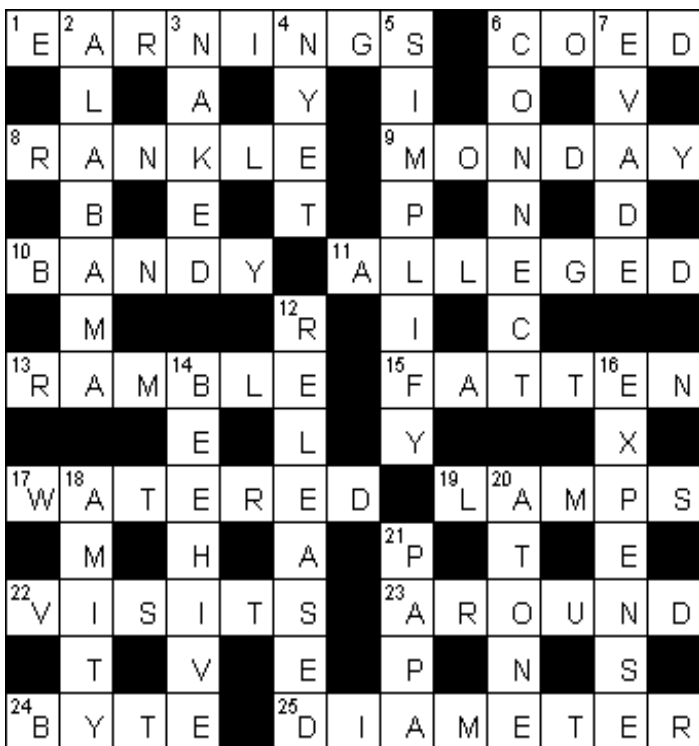
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CROSSWORD



1. Period of the year (6)
4. Eject (5)
8. Fly (4)
9. Diminish (8)
10. Betrothed (7)
12. Worry or cause anxiety in a persistent way (3,2)
13. Separate by a sieve (4)
14. Seductively beautiful woman (5)
17. Fenced areas (5)
20. Exude slowly (4)
22. Wharves (5)
23. Longed for (7)
24. Tubular pasta (8)
25. Dell (4)
26. Gel (5)
27. Souvenirs (6)

- Down
1. Nuns (7)
2. Superficial area (7)
3. Pokes gently (6)
5. Kind or sort (7)
6. Division of a book (7)
7. Incline (4)
11. Giddy (5)
15. Adapt for new use (7)
16. Opening of the nose (7)
18. A coming (7)
19. Makes sorrowful (7)
21. Weirder (6)
22. Dulls (4)



VACANCIES



MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

Manager, Development Co-ordination Division (Closing Date Extended)

This senior role of Development Co-ordination Division Manager (formerly known as Aid Management Division or AMD) heads the Development Co-ordination Division (DCD) within the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management. The Manager will be responsible for providing operational leadership in national co-ordination of aid related activities across the Cook Islands. This is excellent opportunity for an experienced manager to be involved in programmes of national importance, driving improved outcomes for the progression of the Cook Islands. The Manager will be responsible for effective co-ordination support to key national authorities, development partners and implementing agencies. This is achieved through strengthened secretarial services, sound financial management, robust information management systems, quality policy advice and effective monitoring and reporting on all ODA activities and funding mechanisms.

To be successful in this role, you will have:

- A minimum of ten years relevant senior public sector management experience including a combination of the following:
- Policy development, implementation and monitoring
- Development and aid effectiveness related mandates
- Strategic programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation
- Substantial management and planning skills and experience with demonstrated ability to develop and manage partnerships with donors, government counterparts, the private sector and civil society
- Previous experience in identifying and mobilising resources in international development context
- Proven team leadership skills with a performance and results focus
- Strong analytical skills with demonstrated ability to analyse, interpret and make sound judgements

Develop Co-ordination is a dynamic, changing environment with a focus on outcomes and delivery. We offer flexibility and a team atmosphere where your professional development is taken seriously.

To apply for this position, or to view a position description, please go to the government website using this link: <http://www.mfem.gov.ck> or send your CV and covering letter to: Etuatina. Drollett@cookislands.gov.ck

Applicants must address in their application the skills, knowledge and competencies as listed in the Position Description.

The Closing Date for acceptance of applications has been extended to 4pm Friday 10 May 2013 to provide sufficient time to allow more candidates to submit their applications.

VACANCY



**GOVERNMENT VACANCY SECRETARY
HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS**

The Office of the Public Service Commissioner invites applications for the following Heads of Department positions:

Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Immigration
Secretary of Marine Resources
Secretary of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning (MOIP)
Chief Executive Officer, Office of the Public Service Commissioner

The Secretary as the Executive Head of each Department will need to champion innovation in service delivery while efficiently and effectively delivering each Department's functions towards achieving the vision of the Public Service in "Public Service of Excellence".

The term of employment commences 01 July 2013 up to the end of June 2015. Applicants will be required to have a management or relevant Degree and over 5 years senior management experience (leading an organization, division & staff) at the minimum.

The application form which can be downloaded from the OPSC website www.psc.gov.ck and must be fully completed and received prior to 4:00pm, Friday 10 May 2013 with a covering letter, indicating the skills and qualities you bring to the Position and a copy of your CV.

Address applications to:
Public Service Commissioner
Re: (position applied)
P.O. Box 24
Rarotonga
Cook Islands

You may apply via email submitting your application in pdf format to rangi@psc.gov.ck



**MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC
MANAGEMENT
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS**

Vacancies exist in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management in the Statistics Division for a Statistics Officer and Statistics Clerk. Key duties will be the collection of statistical information by way of surveys, censuses and administrative records and the processing and dissemination of this information using in-house built systems or MS Access and Excel.

Job descriptions are available on our website www.mfem.gov.ck under vacancies or call in to our office and pickup a copy. Applications can be sent to Ministry of Finance, Statistics Division PO Box 41, Avarua or hand delivered to our office in Avarua or email to vacancy@cookislands.gov.ck. Applications are to be received by close of business on Friday 10 May 2013.

TENDER



The Government of the Cook Islands is embarking on a multimillion dollar upgrade of the water supply system on Rarotonga, with the goal of "delivering potable water, reliably, to all properties connected to the existing water supply network, by 2015". The CI Government has formed "Te Mato Vai" – the Cook Islands Water Partnership with the governments of the People's Republic of China and New Zealand to fund the upgrade.

The Water Supply upgrade will involve rehabilitation of water intakes, creation of additional storage capacity, construction of treatment plants and replacement of all trunk mains, ring mains and local distribution to the boundaries of all properties served by the current network.

The project will involve a number of requests for proposals for different elements of the upgrade. The Cook Islands Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) invites responses to this request for proposals (RFP) in relation to two projects, namely: (1) developing a Water Supply Master Plan for Rarotonga; and (2) establishing a Project Management Unit (PMU).

Proposers may submit proposals for either or both the Master Plan and PMU projects.

A hard copy of the tender document including specifications can be collected during work hours from the MFEM/DCD office in Avarua. For hard copies of the RFP, a non-refundable fee of \$100.00 per copy is to be paid prior to the receiving of the RFP, this fee does not apply to electronic copies of the RFP.

Electronic copies of the RFP are available from the following website for this tender. Notices to tenderers and any further documentation or information in regard to this tender will also be issued via this website: <https://apmtools.mwhtools.com/sites/ciwp/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

If you wish to receive the notices and any further documentation issued for this tender you will need to be registered to gain access to the website. To do this you must request a log-in through the website or respond to this email: Peter.s.white@nz.mwhglobal.com, providing the following information:

- Contact name
- Email address
- Company name
- Company office address

You will then be forwarded a username and password that will allow you access to the tender website. Only one username and password will be provided for any one company. You will then be advised by email when any additional information or notices are posted, and will be able to download these directly from the tender website. Written requests for further information or clarification may be submitted to the tender website. These requests will not be accessible to other Proposers but responses may be sent to all Proposers in line with the conditions of the Request for Proposal.

Tenders close at 3pm on 24 May 2013 (Cook Island Time), and must be submitted to the MFEM office in Avarua. Tenders must be submitted in hard copy inside a sealed envelope addressed to: Financial Secretary

Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
PO Box 120, Rarotonga

and clearly marked with "Te Mato Vai – Rarotonga water upgrade (TMV001/13)" and the Proposer's name.

Enquiries to: Peter White

Contract Lead, MWH NZ Ltd

Email: Peter.s.white@nz.mwhglobal.com

Phone: +64 (0)3 474 3994 F +64 (0)3 477 0616

