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15 May 2013

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Demogate shambles still plague the nation

By Prime Minister, Hon. Henry Puna

Apparently, dimwittedness is spreading in the Demogate camp. The lights may be on but clearly, no one is home in the upstairs department at Teotue.

Not happy with the soloist moaning of their Leader, others in the Opposition mob seem to want to raise their own complaint or two. Unfortunately, the Opposition has gone from single-mindedness to simple-mindedness.

Novice ranting from the Titikaveka MP is a prime example of logical thought gone AWOL. Perhaps she thinks that simply asking a misguided question or two (like she's prone to do in Parliament) is a sign of intellect. Well, sharpen your pencils Opposition; it's time you took notes.

For some weeks, I have pointed out the past blunders of the Demogate administration and among those is the way agreements were blindly entered into without any due process being applied. One such agreement was the 2009 Taxing Rights Agreement. I'm repeating myself of course but for the sake of the Opposition, I will write this much slower so they can catch up.

The Taxing Rights Agreement is NOT the Tax Information Exchange Agreement. No, these are two different agreements. The TIEA is purposely set up to close the gaps on those



who may be exploiting certain loopholes. It is clear that the Cook Islands has and will continue to act responsibly and cooperate on tax matters, with other countries. The TRA on the other hand was entered into in order to capture "certain people" under a taxation regime – either ours or New Zealand's.

The process of administration refined and perfected as 'Demogate' simply ignored the duty to consult, and inform stakeholders.

The jewel in the Demogate Crown however, remains Toagate – a burden that has not shifted since the Opposition foisted it upon the Cook Islands people, without due process.

This burden of around \$1.2 million each year is a major hindrance to our future development, and continues to plague our budgeting process as a legal obligation. That means over a million dollars will never make it to schools or hospitals thanks to Demogate causing Toagate. Over a million dollars won't be available for teachers and nurses thanks to Demogate causing Toagate.

Despite that sour note in the process leading to next financial year, we know that we have the most robust systems in place to engage in priority-setting for 2013/2014. The way has truly opened up the dialogue among the ministries so that we

can all collaborate as one, going forward.

This is not an easy task. Budgeting is never easy and it would be as simplistic as the Opposition to pretend otherwise. Far from shirking the responsibility of fixing the Demogate shambles of the past, we meet it head on.

The Opposition thinks it can run behind the skirts of "it's your job, so do it". But responsible, mature administrators don't run. Intelligent policy-makers find ways to fix the shambles. And the job gets done simply because we owe to our people to fix the Demogate past. That concept is so simple, even the Opposition should grasp it.

A dreadful budget in progress

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

Since this Government came into office in November 2010, it has developed a habit of submitting for Parliamentary approval supplementary budgets. These are either to top up its existing budget to keep the machinery of Government operating or to stretch its hand out for more selfish reasons and that is to top its Ministerial travel budget. Amid the supplementary budgets are the main annual appropriations which we hope to cover a full twelve month of forecast.

As we read and heard from the media, the Government is currently preparing its annual Appropriation Bill for the end of the 2012/13 financial year and the start of the 2013/14 year. This is due on July 1st and hence must be approved by Parliament. There is no doubt that a Government with a majority will pass its proposed Bill but that should not stop the Opposition from commenting on it.

One thing is certain; the Budget for 2013/14 is not going to be a nice one. This is because there is forecast already made in previous budgets and in particular in the 2012/13 supplementary budget passed earlier this year that the deficits run by this Government against revenue is going to continue to increase for several more years. Although previous budgets by the Government has shown surpluses (some just barely making the cut), there has been close calls for this Government's budgets to be called "Irresponsible." That means it was published and passed with a deficit, although one must remember even if the surplus is just one dollar, which could be deemed responsible under the law.

For some time now, budget observers and commentators including myself as Leader of the Opposition has observed Government's "creative accounting" where the actual deficits have been concealed

and yet the facts show that it is in deficit. Because of this trend, the Government will have no option but to cut costs and cutting costs during budget process can be alarming and disturbing particularly for the Heads of Ministries who are tasked with the job of keeping their charges afloat. In the last annual appropriation the cuts across the board for Ministries was a 2% and staff complained but were asked to bite their tongues and make do. This time I hear that the cuts will be at 5% and arguments have already started between HOMs and the Financial Secretary as to how they can manage.

The public should expect further deterioration of public services such as health, education and the delivery of justice amongst others. There will be a further decline in services to the outer islands such as transportation. It may even result in the sacking of a number of public servants in the outer islands and here in Rarotonga. With all of that there will be a continuation of the exodus of people out of our country to greener pastures in countries such as Australia and New Zealand.

To end, I come back to what has become the trademark of this Government; taxation. In analyzing the figures, I discovered that with the decline in revenue and the rise in deficit the figures are characterized also by the steady increase in taxation dollars. It is now a fact that the Government needs to draw out such money from tax payers otherwise it will not meet its expenditure, a large part of that is made up of loan repayments. With regard to borrowings this country has now surpassed the threshold of what should be acceptable borrowings. Creative accountancy as mentioned earlier had been utilized to give respite on book but not in actuality. In fact, I can say



unreservedly that we are Appropriation Bill will not make deep in debt and this next a difference.

PM makes flying visit to Maori Fisheries Conference in Auckland

By Charles Pitt

Prime Minister Henry Puna attended the 2013 Maori Fisheries Conference held on Wednesday in Auckland at the Novotel Hotel at the International Airport.

During last weekend, the PM received an invitation to attend the Conference as an observer and his travel was paid for by the Conference organizers. The PM went alone and is due back today. He was only away for a day.

It was a special invite for the PM to see how the Maori iwi operate their quota system, how quotas are distributed and the formulae used to determine the quotas. He also observed how the quota systems are set up and how they work under the NZ fishing regime.

Conference Report

Iwi owners of commercial fishing quota are having to face some of their biggest business challenges since the 1992 Sealord Deal, the Māori Fisheries Trust, Te Ohu Kaimoana, says.

Important legislative and regulatory changes being worked through Parliament have the potential to shave millions of dollars worth of value off fisheries

quota that iwi received through the Māori Commercial Fisheries Settlement with the Crown. Iwi will need to be innovative and work co-operatively to make their fisheries assets work for them in the future.

Consumers of seafood are increasingly demanding greater proof that the fish they buy are caught sustainably and the quality is as good as fishing companies say it is. As such, there are a range of challenges ahead for iwi.

These will be among the issues discussed by iwi leaders as they converge on the Novotel Auckland Airport Hotel on Wednesday 15 May for the 2013 Māori Fisheries Conference. This year, the conference showcases Australian seafood businesses in which iwi have an interest.

Iwi are looking for further opportunities to leverage their ownership of quota as well as their access to aquaculture space."

New legislation and regulations pertaining to the use of Foreign Charter Vessels in New Zealand's deepwater fishery, however, have the potential of devaluing Māori quota received through the Māori Commercial Fisheries Settlement.



PM Henry Puna.

Te Ohu Kaimoana has assessed the effect of the government's decisions and believes there could be a loss of up to \$10 million per year in iwi income across the country, although the true outcome will depend ultimately on the final legislation and subsequent decisions by other market participants regarding provision of boats.

While it has been a little over 20 years since the signing of the Sealord Deal, iwi are still relatively new to the competitive commercial fishing industry, with allocation of the fisheries settlement occurring only since the passing of the Māori Fisheries Act in late 2004.

"The Māori Fisheries Act in 2004 codified a method of allocation to the 57 iwi, who were able to receive assets once they'd instituted approved management and governance structures. In reality, iwi have only recently been provided with the ability to make long-term business decisions related to their individual transferable quota, some only in the last year," Chief Executive of Te Ohu Kaimoana, Peter Douglas, said.

"The changes to use of charter vessels in the deepwater fishery, which is an important component in the iwi quota portfolio, will have a significant economic impact on iwi."

No alcohol allowed at League playoffs

By Charles Pitt

The Rugby league Playoffs this week from Thursday through to Saturday, will be an alcohol free event as far as league fans will be concerned.

The League has decided no alcohol will be permitted at the National Stadium starting with the Reserve Grade game on Thursday, the Premier game on Friday and the Premier game on Saturday.

Manning the gates will be members of the Masters Rugby League.

The Masters members will be checking all bags and any storage containers for alcohol. Any persons seen with alcohol inside the Stadium will not be allowed in for the semi and finals of the competition. Their names will be recorded and listed at the entrances.

If caught with alcohol, it will be confiscated and the person warned that next time entry will not be permitted.

In a further move to improve security, no persons will be allowed on the track around the field and anyone abusing a referee will be made to stay at least 10m from the field. Repeat offenders will be refused entry.

Power Outage Friday 10 May 2013

There was a brief power cut from 11.45pm to 11.55pm on Friday night. According to Te Aponga this affected residents between Takuvaine and along the Tupapa area up to Matavera. This was caused by a generator glitch.

"Normally, a spinning reserve would have kept the power going", said Apii Timoti, CEO of Te Aponga. "We are today trying to trace why the generator and the spinning reserve failed and aim to resolve the problem as soon as possible", he added.

The Vaimaanga Hotel project>>>

Developers Mirage Group have been given until November to commence construction at Vaimaanga



By Charles Pitt

The Herald learnt on Monday morning from an unnamed source that the Mirage Group who were engaged to build the new Hotel at Vaimaanga for land owner Pa Ariki, has now been advised that unless construction commences within the next six months then their option to build the Hotel will be withdrawn. The Mirage

Group from NZ has been given until November this year. The source says the land owner is concerned there has been a four year delay in commencing construction. Earlier, the Herald advised that following a meeting with the Pa Ariki and her legal advisor, the Mirage Group undertook to commence construction in May this year. Mirage had engaged a

construction company from Fiji which has a base in NZ. The news generated much public interest. However, as yet, no construction work has eventuated. With the local building industry at a virtual standstill and skilled labour seeking jobs overseas, the construction work a major project like Vaimaanga would do for the local economy is invaluable.

It is known that several other groups have expressed an interest in building the Hotel. The Herald has learnt that investor groups from PNG, China and the Tainui Iwi in NZ are among those interested. It is not known if the group from PNG is the same group as that building a new, 200 room, five star resort in Apia, Samoa.

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Our Cover Girl New Consul



The Hon Tom Marsters, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Restituto Tiangco as Cook Islands Honorary Consul to the Philippines.

Mr Tiangco is a very well-respected businessman who is extensively involved in the Philippines fishing industry with diverse business interests in the Philippines and Indonesia. Mr Tiangco has consular jurisdiction in Metro Manila.

In announcing the appointment, Mr Marsters explained that, at no cost to the appointing governments, Honorary Consuls fulfil important roles in promoting social, economic, trade and investment relations with local governments, private sector interests and non-governmental organisations where they live. Government is confident that the appointment of Mr Tiangco will further the interests of developing relations between the



Cook Islands Honorary Consul to the Philippines
Mr Restituto Tiangco

Cook Islands and the Philippines. The Cook Islands is a member of the Asian Development Bank, headquartered in Manila, and the World Health Organisation, the regional headquarters also in Manila. Mr Tiangco will also be able to support our representatives attending ADB and WHO activities in the Philippines.



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The Government building colloquially known as the Raro Fried Chicken building and situated on the Avarua Wharf environs will be available for lease in the near future.

Proposals are invited from anybody interested in leasing, short term, the said premises.

For further details including terms and conditions of lease please make enquiries to the Cook Islands investment Corporation, Attention Lloyd Miles. Tel 29 391 or e-mail Lloyd.miles@cookislands.gov.ck

Our cover girl for issue 666 is Janine Ellis, 18 yrs, who works at Mareko Island Creations. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald



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National Auditorium Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Fri 20th & Sat 21st December 2013



Hula Mania 6 coming in December

By Charles Pitt

Cook Islander Miha Mitchell who based in Perth, Australia, is organizing the biggest dance competition ever to take place in the Cook Islands.

The competition, Hula Mania 6, will be held at the National Auditorium in December from 20-21 and presented by Miha's internationally renowned company Nesian Mana Polynesian Power.

It is the sixth Hula competition organized by the company and it was originally to be staged in Australia. However, Mitchell decided to bring the extravaganza to Rarotonga. The show will culminate in the crowning of the King and Queen of Hula Dance. The last show was held in Sydney in October 2011.

Mitchell was in Rarotonga recently for the second time, to discuss progress with the Ministry of Culture and other interested parties. He also approached prospective

sponsors.

The show will run for four hours on each night and thousands of dollars will be on offer as prizes. Five Cook Islands judges had already been selected; three from the Cook Islands, one from New Zealand and one from Australia.

Miha's business has been in operation for 30 years and is run by his family members based in Perth, Western Australia. Miha's company has its own dancers and drum band and specializes in professional Pacific/Polynesian entertainment. Their shows also include Cook Islands food.

Miha is a proud Cook Islander and has taken his team of performers around the world to perform in countries like Canada, Japan, Spain, Europe, USA (Las Vegas). In March this year, Miha and his company have a six month contract to perform in China.

In all his overseas travels, he



Miha Mitchell

and his team have been tireless advocates for Cook Islands tourism and culture. As such they have been and continue to be good ambassadors for the Cook Islands.

Miha is a New Zealand born

Cook Islander whose family hails from Aitutaki. He first came to the Cook Islands in 1975 at the age of 13 years.

Mitchell will return to Rarotonga in July to firm up on arrangements.

Pacific Islands: leading the way in deep sea minerals legislation

By Cristelle Maurin, University of Stellenbosch 13 May 2013

Cristelle Maurin is Legal Consultant at the Applied Geoscience and Technology Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Fiji, and Associate to the Centre for Chinese Studies, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa.

A decade of sustained upward trends in the market value of metals found in seabed mineral deposits and considerable advances made in subsea technologies have reignited interest for offshore minerals exploration.

Pacific Island Countries (PICs), holding sovereign rights over vast areas of the seabed with promising mineral potential stand at the forefront of this new pioneering venture. With this opportunity also comes a responsibility, ensuring that operations on the seabed under the continental shelf regime are compliant with international law. The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea confers sovereign rights to coastal states over the seabed minerals within their exclusive economic zones (EEZs), as well as an overriding shared responsibility for the protection and preservation of the marine environment. States interested in pursuing this high-risk venture within their maritime jurisdictions will therefore need to elaborate legal regimes to effectively regulate deep sea minerals activities.

Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Fiji and the Solomon Islands are among the first countries in the world to have issued exploration licenses for companies to assess the commercial feasibility of mineral resources development in their EEZs. The potential seabed wealth includes the Polymetallic nodules, found predominantly in the Cook Islands; the seafloor massive Sulphides, in PNG, Tonga and Fiji; and the cobalt-rich crusts in Micronesia — all first identified

in the region in the 1970s and 1980s with high-value strategic metals such as copper, gold, manganese, zinc, cobalt and nickel.

Significant investments in exploration activities across the Southwest Pacific region presage prospects for a long-term source of revenue for PICs. This new economic development potential is enormously attractive for those developing nations seeking to diversify their economies, so far highly reliant on fisheries. But this remains to be balanced against the risks to the marine environment and the potential impacts on other vital industries, such as fisheries, as little is known about the biochemical and physical processes that sustain the ocean's ecosystems.

To ensure effective protection for the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from deep sea minerals activities, while guaranteeing prospective benefits are adequately channeled into developmental outcomes, coastal states will need to set up legal and institutional structures and strengthen their currently limited capacities to regulate offshore operations. Countries in the West Pacific region convened in 1999 a Workshop in Madang highlighting the new opportunities for offshore mineral development as well as the responsibilities of states to ensure such developments are socially and environmentally responsible and sustainable. Principles for the development of national offshore mineral policies were also articulated. This milestone in the development of a regulatory approach to deep sea minerals (supported by the Pacific Islands Forum, the South Pacific Applied Geoscience and Technology Commission (SOPAC) and the Metal Mining Association of Japan) is all the more important that new

momentum is gathering around the exploitation of seabed minerals, with the imperative now to translate the vow into stringent legal frameworks.

The Cook Islands and the Kingdom of Tonga have taken the lead amongst PICs and are currently establishing national statutory regimes to complement the International Seabed Authority's (ISA) efforts at the international level. Tuvalu and Niue are contemplating similar initiatives. The ISA which controls seabed activities in the 'Area', the part of the seabed beyond national jurisdiction upon which non-living resources are recognized as the 'common heritage of mankind', is in the process of elaborating a Mining Code encompassing regulations for prospecting, exploration and exploitation of seabed minerals.

Pacific Island countries can be praised for realising the importance of developing of precautionary policies and dedicated seabed minerals legislation. Nevertheless, it must be recognized that the implementation of such regimes, once established, will be a big ask for small island states with limited regulatory and operational capacities. The imbalance of power in the negotiation and enforcement of seabed mineral contracts is of concern too, and it will be opportune for regional and international organisations to consider how to assist PICs in that respect.

Last month, the Kingdom of Tonga, with the support of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the European Union, hosted a regional workshop on 'Law and Contract Negotiations for Deep Sea Minerals', for the purpose of expanding technical and legal knowledge and strengthening capacities at the regional level. As alluded to by the representatives of 14 Pacific island governments, a collaborative approach for the management and monitoring

of deep sea minerals activities, and a coordinated negotiating bloc of countries, could promote sustainable and equitable development across the region, rather than mere exploitation of non-renewable resources.

Governments in the region could then leave a lasting legacy if they seized the opportunity of devising forward-looking policies for offshore resource extraction, while seeking external assistance to reinforce their capacities and bargaining powers. Resource extraction can lead to national economic development if a range of conditions are met, including effective macroeconomic management and high-quality governance institutions characterised by transparency and accountability. Equally important are consistent, reliable and predictable legal structures to attract responsible foreign investors and sound fiscal regimes that allow for sustainable revenue growth.

Learning from the experience of Melanesian countries with on-land mining, PICs should prioritise a precautionary approach and well-devised strategies to maximise returns to their nations over quick win opportunities. The pooling of resources at the regional level may be one avenue for small island states to strengthen their position to achieve those objectives.

Cook Islands SBM Commissioner Paul Lynch says the Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Authority is pleased that in this Article we have been recognized for the steady development of the regulatory framework related to the potential of Seabed minerals sector in the Cook Islands. We also recognize the related potential risks referred to in this Article. We are implementing an effective and careful approach to mitigating all anticipated risks of Seabed Minerals development in our large EEZ, in terms of environmental, economic and social impacts.



Encouraging smart energy use

If you have the cash, then now is a great time to buy a new fridge/freezer or dryer for your home.

There's a new joint venture involving government and retail stores to tempt you to trade in your old appliances for a new more energy efficient one. Here's how they are doing it.

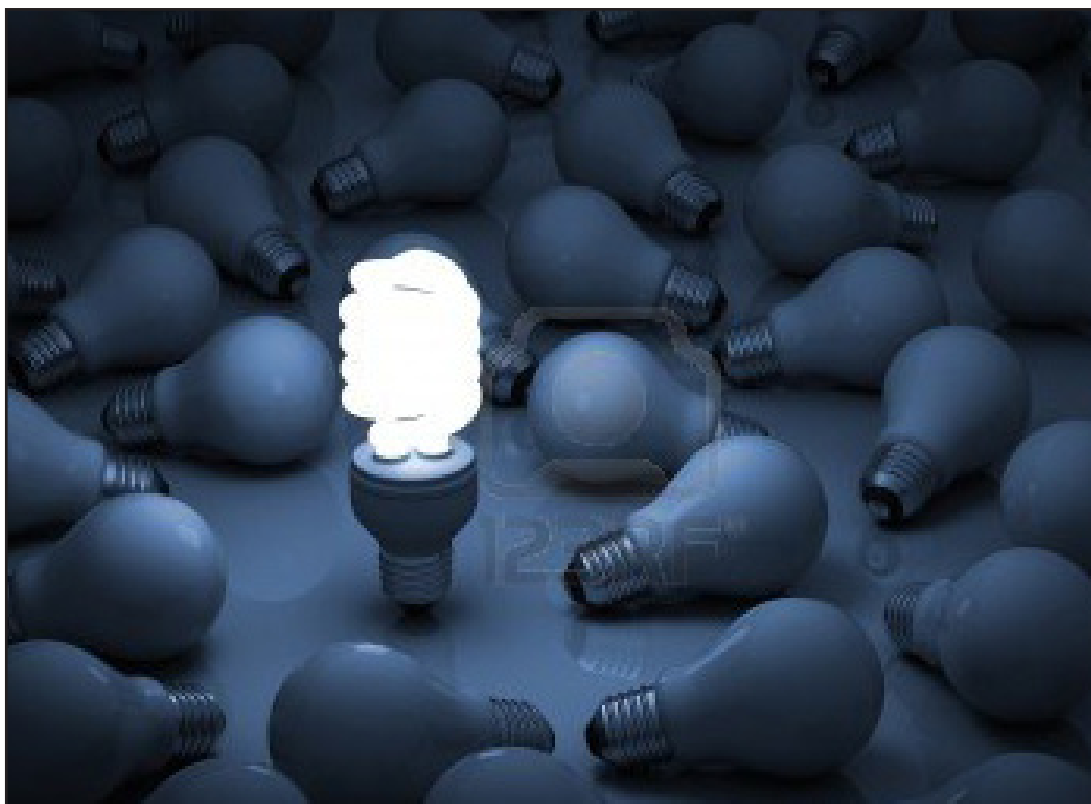
They are using two carrots to entice you to munch.

First, they give you a rebate which could range up to \$500 on your old washer, fridge or whatever.

Second, you know that technology has skyrocketed in recent years which mean the new appliances use way less power. Most are Australian-made and carry an Australian government energy rating label. Look for the stars on each label. The more stars there are, the more energy efficient the appliance is. And the more savings you can make in your power bills.

So now you know. Here's an opportunity right now to get rid of your old clunkers and replace them with something that works lovely.

The question you may ask is what's the catch? Why is this offer happening? Usually when a deal is too good to be true, it isn't.



One glowing eco compact fluorescent light bulb standing out

The answer is straightforward. Its part of a concerted campaign to get the country, and Rarotonga in particular, to be smart users of energy and that involves burning less imported fuel at Avatiu Power Station to generate electricity.

By the same token, the current free CFL light bulbs campaign should be seen in this very same light.

It may seem weird that Te to buy new machinery and Aponga pays \$38,000 for CFL equipment if the demand had bulbs to essentially give them instead been climbing. away for zilch. But the goal is the same – to get everybody concentrate its plans on using energy efficiently and increasing the proportion of electricity produced from wisely.

And there is a payback for renewable energy sources. TAU in this if it works. And that In doing so, it will achieve Government's wish for less costs in peoples' homes which reliance on imported fuel to then means TAU will not need fire up its generators.



'The CIP's Image Problem' or is it just an astounding lack of self awareness?

"Political Play by Play"

The CIP government have an image problem, and even worse is the fact that they seem to be either in denial or are so out of touch with reality they don't even realize it.

The CIP government did not take long to establish and separate itself from the previous administration largely due to the contrast in leadership styles, from the mostly mute Jim Maruai who was terrified of public speaking at the best of times, to the "charismatic" Henry Puna who seems to revel in the spotlight and tends to show off his vocal talents at the worst of times.

It seems that the party (cabinet in particular) has taken on this personality and it was clear after only 6 months in office, when the new cabinet had blown their travel budget, that a new era had dawned.

Putting it plainly the government has garnered a reputation of being a bunch of jet setting blow hards with little feel or care for matters of local governance, and are more concerned with visions of grandiose and unrealistic renewable energy dreams, rather than improving the lives of average Cook Islanders.

This may not necessarily reflect the reality of the situation (though it might) as we have seen increases in benefits to the elderly as well having money set aside for the water tank scheme (though we have to see any real movement on this). The biggest problem is of course that the CIP government has done nothing to change this perception. They have continued to jet set and carry on this course which of course led to a half million blowout of the civil list budget which required a supplementary budget for the sole purpose of covering our

politician's overindulgence. The government, despite keeping the recent supplementary budget very quiet, seems unapologetic and unrepentant.

One remark sticks out, when in a rare moment of competence, the opposition question the governments travelling habit. It was reported that Mark Brown responded "Do you want us to stay at home and be nothing?"

No Mark, we just want you and your colleagues stay here and be something here to your island and community, we don't give a damn about what these international political cronies at their cocktail parties think of you, and you shouldn't either.

Opposition - What Opposition?

Despite some significant mistakes by the CIP government it seems as if the Democratic party unable or incapable of holding the CIP accountable or providing an opposition.

The Democratic Party opposition is lead by ex- CIP Wilkie Rassmussen. Despite being an intelligent and capable politician, Rassmussen has proven in-effective in rallying support for his fallen party. What is particularly confusing is the criticism that he has leveled against the CIP, picking on random issues such as an "uncaring party" and engaging the PM on "he said she" said petty squabbling, while ignoring budget blowouts and severe mismanagement in the public service.

Part of the Democratic Party's problem and their leadership issue is that in many ways Wilkie seems to be cut from a similar cloth to PM Henry Puna. Both are lawyers when not in power, both are known for sizable and sensitive egos and both seem to enjoy the fun and games of politics. Whatever Wilkie's

message is, it is not reaching the public any longer, it seems tired and contrived.

However beyond Wilkie who else is there? The long tenured Norman George is the politician no one wants to claim and no one, outside Atiu, cares to listen to. He is a gifted opposition MP and still the most articulate MP out there when it comes to critiquing the government of the day. Unfortunately everyone knows he is quite possibly the worst political hypocrite in this country's history, indulging in all the sins and excesses when he gets into power that he so passionately rallies against when confined to the opposition benches.

Looking down the bench doesn't offer much hope either with Demo veterans like Vavia and Mau even older and more tired than Wilkie. There has been some life provided my new MP Selena Matenga, who has been a new fresh voice and is unsullied

and unencumbered by sins of the past, and seemingly unafraid to call out the government. However she has come across at times as inexperienced and uniformed (Titanium, though a strong and extremely useful metal does have the value of rare metal earths often associated with wealth and extravagance such as gold silver or platinum).

It is clear that after spending much of the last decade in power the Democratic Party is in disarray and has not yet adjusted to being vanquished to the opposition benches and being unable to use the public purse to buy votes and support (that advantage is now held by the CIP). There seems little hope for them mounting a credible challenge in the next election. Their best bet at getting back in is that that the CIP government implodes before the next election.... which at this rate actually seems like a pretty good bet.

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Tribute, to our Bowling Mate

By Ben Mose

Bowling communities paid their last respects to one of the most decorated bowling Champions of yesteryear, Denis Tokorangi. As 18 year old Atuan boy he made his name on the International Sporting scene as long distance runner in Athletics at the South Pacific Games, Tahiti 1971. He then disappeared for 20 years, until he joined the Rarotonga Bowling Club at the age of 38 in 1991. This was the start of his great romance with the sport of lawn bowls. His record is set out below.

- National Bowling Titles - 13
 - Gold Medals - 3
 - Silver - 1
 - Bronze - 2
- Pacific Games
 - 1971/2003 Tahiti and Fiji
 - P Mini Games 2009
 - Bronze Medalist
 - International Asia Pacific
 - 2001 NSW, 2003 QLD & 2007 NZ



Members of Bowling communities from the 12 Bowling Clubs lined up outside the main entrance of the St Joseph's Cathedral yesterday morning to farewell Mr Dennis Tokorangi.

- Commonwealth Games
 - Manchester 2002, Melbourne 2006 and New Delhi 2010.
 - World Bowls
 - Champion of Champion
 - Hong Kong 2011
 - Bowls Cook Islands, Inc linking us to the World Bowls, President
- Mr G.Paniani and Executive convey our sincere sympathy to Mou Tokorangi and families.
May Dennis, Rest In Peace.



The Budget>>>

Austerity measures not the answer, grow the economy

By Charles Pitt

The latest indications are that once government's financial commitments are taken into account, such as the payment to Toa Petroleum and the increase for pensioners over 70 yrs of age, a small surplus of about \$600,000 exists. However, once the Ministries' wish lists are matched with the surplus and what revenue is forecast, a deficit is apparent and this is the matter which Ministers and HOMs must deal with over the next few days.

That the country may be facing a budget deficit is not unexpected given current international trends. We have no control over the international mess created by the mismanagement and rising deficits in overseas countries.

Despite a steady growth in tourism, the income this is generating is not enough to maintain the lifestyles we have become accustomed to. Aspects of our economy are beginning to mirror what has occurred in overseas countries. Rising prices, rising cost of living, rising unemployment, diminishing spending power, and so on. Perhaps our blind faith in the growth of tourism to cushion us against the impact of overseas events is misguided and we need a rude dose of reality.

MFEM has recently put a number of recommendations to Cabinet as to how to achieve a balanced budget. However, the medicine from Cabinet's point of view is probably more damaging to the "patient" than beneficial. The Herald understands one

recommendation was to axe something like 55 jobs. That is not an option for a PM who has stated many times that no-one in the public service will lose their jobs. An all out assault on tax evaders and elderly pensioners is also risky considering the adverse political fallout down the line at election time.

It's also easy to point the finger at MFEM over proposals for austerity measures like cutting costs, chasing unpaid taxes and downsizing government. MFEM's job is to prudently handle the nation's money, monitor its flow and spending. It is not MFEM's task to seek ways to grow the economy. That task falls jointly to politicians and the private sector.

The fact that government has made a political decision to put all its eggs into the infrastructure development basket at the expense of growing the economy is not MFEM's fault. Two task forces involving the private sector recommended growing the economy but government's view seems to have been, build infrastructure and renewable energy facilities first (est. \$400 million) and that will attract investment (amount unspecified). This view may be flawed because it now looks like the economy is in for a crash landing before infrastructure completes the "airport."

Despite an annual growth rate of tourism of around 6 to 7 percent, MFEM has been warning government through the Half Yearly Financial reports, to seek new

revenue streams otherwise face cutbacks in operating costs. Although tourism has experienced increases in numbers of visitors, visitor spending has not increased significantly neither has industry investment. No new hotels or resorts have been built in recent years and we have yet to exploit the four and five star market. The Herald has constantly reported on MFEM's warnings and also advice from the President of the World Bank that the best strategy in a recession, is to grow your economy.

Through the two previous task force reports, government was well aware of the constraints the economy was facing and the causes.

Two constraints that should be removed immediately are;

1. The notion that the budget should be balanced. At this time of international economic upheaval, few nations using the western system of banking have a surplus. Australia is talking about reducing their multi-billion dollar deficit over a period of three years. The NZ deficit is in the billions of dollars. Why is the Cook Islands so desperate to balance its miniscule budget? What is the purpose of a Supplementary Budget if not to adjust the main budget? As the budget is comprised of estimates not certainties and is a forecast subject to outside influences beyond government's control, the MFEM Act should be amended to include more flexibility.

2. The belief we should

restrict loan repayments to a third of GDP. This was only ever a guideline but politicians seem to treat it as Gospel. This provision is counter-productive in that it discourages investment that would increase GDP. Discard it. We've come a long way since this recommendation was made by overseas bankers. Let's have more faith in our ability to manage major developments that will significantly grow the economy, labour market and GDP.

The most important tool government has at its disposal is parliament. Our parliament is under-utilized and used infrequently. Assert the power of parliament to pass new laws to ease or remove constraints to growth or alter tax laws. Why commit valuable time and resources chasing 200 pensioners to pay a tax they have had 14 years of amnesty from? Focus on the major issue which is to grow the economy.

Note: The \$400 million to be spent on infrastructure and renewable energy may make the country more resilient to disaster and climate change but not damage or change "proof." One super hurricane can wipe out a \$400 million investment in a few minutes. In 2005 if cyclone Meena, had struck Rarotonga head on, the damage would have cost hundreds of millions to fix. Meena was so big, the Americans called it a Super Cyclone-the wave height generated was so high that once over 55 feet, the description changed to - phenomenal.

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



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			

The
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Best ever Android Apps

Lookout Premium for Android

Lookout doesn't just promise security, it promises peace of mind on your Android device, which includes recovery solutions in case of loss, theft, or wipeout. The free version offers Find My Phone feature, automatic backup and restore functions. However, I'd shell out for the Premium (\$2.99/month or \$29.99/year, direct) edition which adds safe browsing; remote lock/wipe; app permissions management; and backup for contacts, call history, and pictures.

Speed Test

Is your file suddenly taking forever to download? If it's your network's fault, Speed Test will prove it. Tap to test your network connectivity in less than 30 seconds, showing upload and download times, real-time graphs showing connection consistency, and other detailed reporting to shove in your carrier's face when they try to blame it on something else.

Opera Mini 7

If you're on a data diet, Opera Mini 7 is the fastest, most backward-compatible mobile browser on the market. You won't get Flash support or all the features in Dolphin Browser HD, but Opera's servers compress webpages so much that Mini only requires one-tenth of the bandwidth of a traditional mobile browser.

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Holiday madness

By Mata Rakanui

One of the must see periods if you spend time in Korea is during the holiday season. There are two main holidays in Korea. The Lunar New Year which comes maybe early February every year allowing me to enjoy two New Year's parties. It falls on the day of the second new moon after the winter solstice and is a three day holiday. Right across Asia millions if not hundreds of millions of people hit the road in order to celebrate with their loved ones. Although it is situated right in the middle of winter which can sometimes hit -20 so that dampens the excitement a little.

There are many events and rituals during this period, there is an interesting ritual called Sebae. This custom involves children dressing up in traditional costume and bowing before parents, grandparents and seniors. They are rewarded with an envelope of cash to start the New Year. Wish I had this when I was a kid.

The second major holiday is the Harvest festival or in Korea it is called Chuseok. This celebration has its origins in Confucian traditions and celebrates not only the successful harvest but also the memorial of loved ones that have passed away. This also includes the memorial of ancestors hundreds of years ago. The majority of the population works and resides in the capital city Seoul but this event allows them to travel to their hometown to meet family and carry out the ancestral rights at family tombs.

It truly is a sight to behold as millions of people hit the road and a normal trip of 3 hours to a hometown turns into an exhausting trip of nine to ten hours during this period. As a result of the people leaving Seoul the city closes down during periods. However, it provides a great opportunity for those that remain to really enjoy the city without the constant hustle bustle.

It really is something to see Koreans perform the ancestral rights and remembrance. There is a strict order as to



where each dish is placed also order of bowing and length of the bow. The whole process is regimented and follows a tradition of hundreds if not thousands of years. The dishes prepared for this period are tasty and arranged in a certain way. An example could be the following table setting. On the north, rice and soup are placed and fruits and vegetables are on the south. On the west and in the middle, meat dishes are served and, on the east, rice cake and some drinks such as makgeolli or soju are placed. Dishes include songpyeon or rice cake which can contain anything from honey, cinnamon, walnut, pine nut or a number of other fillings. Chapchae, the very tasty dish which closely resembles our own Chopsuey. Finally, bulgogi which is marinated meat cooked over the Barbeque in front of you.

This period is called by the women of Korea a "hell period" as they are expected to prepare

numerous dishes not only for the ceremonies but also to feed the constant arrival of family members. Furthermore, they are required to maintain a spotless home and surroundings as in traditional Korean society men are not required to do anything during this period except eat, drink and entertain guests.

Tickets for transportation such as intercity buses and trains are booked months before the holiday and flights out of the country are also becoming increasingly hard to find. In recent times the number of single women and families leaving during this period has increased. For single women there is the extended pressure of family members asking them why they are not married and when they intend to tie the knot. Increasingly prevalent are the travel companies and marketers targeting this group as a new hugely untapped developing market.

Koreans really look forward to this period as according to research they are ranked among the top countries in the world working the most hours. In 2010 they worked 44.6 hours per week the most hours among the 34 OECD nations. However, their productivity does not reflect this as they only ranked 23rd in productivity.

The same madness involving transportation and long travel times also exist during the New Year period. In Korea an estimated 75% of the population is on the road traveling to their hometown, considering Korea's population totals about 50,000,000 that is just mind blowing. During the New Year period or as Koreans call it Seollal an astounding 220,000,000 people in China are on the road in some form.

Korean holiday madness, sometimes a spot on Muri beach will do me just fine.

Kia Manuia
Annyong e Kaseyo

Fast bowlers step up

By Charles Pitt

Cook Islands Cricket is looking for Rarotonga's fastest bowler in secondary schools. Boys and girls.

Ronnie Forbes and Apii Mamanu from Cook Islands Cricket advised the Herald on Wednesday afternoon that this competition which is being held for the first time is an ANZ programme supported by Cook Islands Police Department. Its message is an important one, which is for youth to save their speed for on the field not on the road.

The event will kick off this Friday with a corporate event opposite the Banana Court at 3.30pm.

This will enable the organizers to trial out the speed radar gun.

The competition proper will begin on the following Monday 20th at Titikaveka starting at 12pm.

On Tuesday at 10.30am the event will move to Tereora College and will continue there



Apii Mamanu and Ronnie Forbes for Cook Islands Cricket.

on Wednesday at 11am.

On Thursday it will be at Nuketere College's turn, starting at 12.40pm.

According to Ronnie, bowlers will bowl at a wicket with a keeper. They must deliver a proper over arm bowl not a throw.

The organizers will be looking to pick say the top three at each school. The final bowl off will be held on Friday opposite the Banana Court. Corporates will also take part.

At the finals there will also be a BBQ for everyone.

On offer will be monetary

prizes for the finals and also ANZ products.

Ronnie advised there will also be an under 19 girls competition on 3 June. This will be an 8 a side, 10 over match. The venue and time will be confirmed later. This event is also supported by ANZ bank.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Te Marae Ora Ministry of Health Cook Islands wishes to advise the following confirmed schedule of visits by Health Specialists for the period 20 – 31 May 2013.

Programme	Date	Location
Orthopaedic	20 – 31 May 13	Rarotonga

If you are experiencing the following symptoms/diseases:

Orthopaedic

- Fractures
- Arthritis
- Joint problems

Please come and see the General Outpatient Doctor at Rarotonga Hospital immediately, Monday to Friday from 8am to 4pm.

All patients will be screened and prioritised for specialist appointment.

Standard Protocol: To be seen by your General Practitioner, Outpatient Doctor and Clinic Doctor first before referral to visiting specialist.

Please note that not everyone will be seen within the two week period. Further specialist visits will be in future.

Meitaki maata

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Hurry deals end
20 May 2013

Prices are one way per person from Rarotonga

ONE WAY AIRFARES	Seat	Seat + Bag	The Works	Works Deluxe
Auckland (all inclusive)	\$300	\$325	\$355	\$435
Wellington (all inclusive)	\$380	\$405	\$435	\$515
Christchurch (all inclusive)	\$380	\$405	\$435	\$515

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Visit www.airnewzealand.co.nz

ON SALE FROM 12-20 MAY 2013 FOR TRAVEL FROM RAR TO AKL/WLG/CHC 02 SEP - 08 DEC 2013. CLOSEOUTS APPLY 23 SEP - 13 OCT.
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: Prices correct as at 12 May 2013. The "Seat" option includes a carry-on bag (up to 7kg) but no checked baggage.
Airfare Travel Period: From RAR to AKL/WLG/CHC 02 Sep - 08 Dec 2013. Deal Ends: 20 May 2013. Fares include \$65 Departure Tax.
The above fares include a non-refundable service fee of \$20 per one-way journey for bookings made through our Travelcentre. Travel Agent service fees may apply. Customers who purchase fares using Airpoints Dollars will be required to pay in cash the government and airport charges. These fares do not accrue Airpoints Dollars and are not eligible for upgrades and or companion tickets. Seats are limited and may not be available on all flights. Cancellation/change fees: General terms & conditions, special fare terms and conditions and Airpoints terms and conditions apply. See your Air New Zealand representative for full details.

AIR0724

Letter to the Editor

Sea bed minerals mining

Dear Editor
I read the Herald on the internet every week and see you have the PM's ear.

I have spent most of my life in the bush as a prospector for mainly gold and copper. In 1971 I met my wife who was from the Cook Islands. She was the youngest Henry-Cowan given away as a baby to the Queen of Mauke whom she was with until 13 years of age. She then finished her schooling back on the main land (Rarotonga) where she remembers the PM and Tom Marsters.

Last October was my first time in the Cook Islands. I was told about the sea bed minerals about 35 years ago. I have many friends who are Geologists and what I was told was that Manganese was only part of the minerals present and that oil and gas may be in the Manihiki Plateau. In Western Australia gold is always present around Manganese.

My wife now has many relatives in Australia who have done very well. We have two sons. One has worked in gold and copper mines for close on 15 years. He works 8 days on with 6 days off, fly in, fly out. His wages are \$3,000 a week so you can see why Cook Islanders are coming to Australia. Unless the Cook Islands starts mining in 20 years, the outer islands won't have many people left. Sure, some will be against mining but in W.A. we have a million people dependent on it.

I also hear the PM's wife is a relation.

Best of luck dear Cooks.

R (Bob) Towart, PO Box 383, Rockingham, Western Australia

P.S. The Cooks should target old age pensioners from Australia in winter months for islands like Atiu-Mauke. The single pension per fortnight is \$800 and the married pension is \$1,300 per fortnight.

Editor's note: The Sea Bed Minerals Commissioner Paul Lynch has previously advised that commercial mining of our sea bed may start in 2020, just 7 years away. Also, there is no significant gold content in our manganese nodules. However, exploration activities expected to commence about 2015 will determine if there is any significant gold contained in the sea bed around the nodules.



Roger and Mary Evans of Cooks and wife Jane Kura Towart.
(Mary's younger sister)



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 or 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 – WTO 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

TE REO MĀORI KŪKI 'AIRANI



tātā`ia e Ruter Taripo

Kia Orāna `e te katoatoa. I tēia `epetoma, ka `ākara `aka`ou atu tātou ki tēta`i tūranga kē atu o te `akapapa`anga o tēta`i au kai tē kā anoano`ia. Tē pē`ea nei tā`au tuatua Māori?. Aruaru i tā`au tāmoumou`anga i tēta`i au tākiato-kōrero. Komakoma atu ki tō`ou ngutu`are-tangata `ē tō`ou taeake. Kia manuia, inē!

`Akakite`anga~ Statement

1. `Aere mai ka kaikai tātou
Come, let us eat
2. E puaka ta tātou kai
Our dinner is pork
3. Kua pou te tuka
There is no more sugar
4. Kāre `e miti toe
There is no more salt
5. Kua maoa te taro
The taro is cooked
6. Kā tunu `a Māmā i te kai
Mother will cook the food
7. Kare te vai i pupū ake
The water has not boiled yet
8. Te mātipi nei `a Māmā i te kuru
Mother is peeling the breadfruit
9. Kua `āriki `a Tu i te kaingākai
Tu has set the table
10. Kua pakapaka te pītete
The potatoes are burnt
11. Tei roto te raiti i te pāni
The rice is in the pot

`Akaue`anga~ Commands

1. Kāpiki `ia atu te au taeake
Call/Invite our friends
2. E mātipi koe i te kūmara
(You) Peel the kūmara
3. Tikina `ia te nu
Fetch/get the Nu (drinking nuts)
4. E tunu koe i te kai
(You) Cook the food
5. E tīpūpū koe i te nītā
Slice the pawpaw
6. E ta`u koe i te a`i
(You) light the fire
7. E ta`u koe i te meika
You cook the bananas
8. E ma`ani koe i te pūrēni
You make the pudding
9. E riringi koe i te vai ki roto i te karāti
You pour the water into the glass
10. `Auraka koe e kai i te tārāti
Don't eat the lettuce
11. `Auraka e inu i te vai-venevene
Don't drink sweetened-water

Au Kupu

puakatoro	-	beef	kai	-	food /to eat	pou	-	all gone/ no more
tuka	-	sugar	miti	-	salt	tunu	-	to cook, to bake
maoa	-	cooked	vai	-	water	pupū	-	boiled, to boil
mātipi	-	to peel, a knife	kuru	-	breadfruit	`āriki	-	to cover
pakapaka	-	burnt	pītete	-	potato	pāni	-	pan/pot
tiki	-	to fetch, get	ta`u	-	light fire / to cook in a Māori oven			

How to stay away from trouble

Part 1

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

Many of our young people now-a-days are being lured into activities or to do things that will bring harm to them. As responsible citizens of this nation we should do what we could to help them. Therefore this article of encouragement is written with the aim of assisting our young people, and also offers some guidance to help others on HOW TO STAY AWAY FROM TROUBLE.

In John 10v.10 Jesus said Satan comes "...to steal, kill and destroy, but I have come that you may have life, and that you may have it more abundantly." Furthermore, Isaiah 59v.19 says that "...When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him." The main scripture reading for this article is Psalm 1v.1-3 (GN) which reads "Happy are those who reject the advice of evil men. Who do not follow the example of sinners, or join those who have no use for God, instead, they find joy in obeying the Law of the Lord, and they study it day and night. They are like trees that grow beside a stream, that bear fruit at the right time, and whose leaves do not dry up. They succeed in everything they do." From these three verses, I want to show you three important lessons on How To Stay Away From Trouble!

Lesson 1. SEPARATE YOURSELVES FROM THE WORLD v.1 reads "Happy are those who reject the advice of evil men. Who do not follow the example of sinners, or join those who have no use for God." Although we are in this world, we do not belong to this world! Jesus said in John 14v.2-3 "...I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

you may be also." The apostle Paul said in Romans 12v.2 "...do not be conformed to this world..." I John 2v.15 and 17(b) "If anyone loves the world and the things of it, the love of the Father is not in him." James 4v.4 reads "...whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes an enemy of God." Anyone who continues to remain in the world, and does what is not right in the sight of God, is committing a sin before God.

In the story of Sodom and Gomorrah; and the great flood during the days of Noah, people refused to repent and to separate themselves from the things of the world, so they perished. Romans 6v.23 reads "...the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Noah and his family were saved! Lot and his daughters were saved! But for Lot's wife, the love of the things of the world was too strong on her, so she was also destroyed!

Jesus said in John 16v.33 "...in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Some people might say, 'I can't get away from my old habits of drinking, smoking, partying, and so on. I can't change my ways!' Know this, 'if God can change a murderer like Saul into a new person, then God can do the same for you!' James 4v.7, v.10 says that if you "...submit to God and resist the devil, and the devil will flee from us... and if we humble ourselves in the sight of God, He will lift us up.", and out of our negative situations.

Remember that God never allow us to be tempted beyond

our ability to overcome those temptations. But He provides a way of escape for us! The apostle Paul in Romans 8v.31 said "If God is for us who can be against us." In order for us to stay out of trouble, Lesson 1 is we must SEPARATE OURSELVES FROM THE WORLD! Next week I will continue with Part 2 of this article on How To Stay Away From Trouble. 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.

Dance Practice!

By Norma Ngatamariki

Hello, my fellow readers! Did everybody survive the first week of school? I hope so. Now that students are settled into the normal routine of waking up early, excessive amounts of homework (Bleh!) and gossip sessions during the lunch breaks I think it's safe to say that we're all pretty much...chilled at school. Tereora College is back into its usual chaotic schedule, with all of the kids back. Oh, and we had a visit from an Olympic and World-Champion rower, Mahe Drysdale. He gave an inspirational speech about ambition and the importance of setting and achieving goals.

Anyway, back to the matter at hand. I had to summon all the courage and strength that I possessed in order to attend

this ONE dance practice. Why? Because I would be surrounded by all these confident, professional dancers. I just wanted to see what it would be like and it was pretty cool. Justin (one of the most talented dancers in the group) gathered the "troops", which originally consisted of Nga, Robyn, Dean, Nadia, Jamie, Steph and Maejo (Anau and I decided to tag along) and told us to meet up above Topshape, 6 o'clock sharp.

Before the actual practice, Justin and Maejo wanted to hang out at my place, since they had nothing to do. I did a quick tidy up (And by tidy up, I mean chucking my stuff into a place where it wouldn't be seen. Lolz) and waited patiently. A mixture of excitement and anxiety was building up and we could

wait no longer. I think Justin already had some dance moves choreographed in his mind because he looked prepared (I, on the other hand, had no water bottle, no towel and no shoes. True FOB, right?) We hopped on our bikes and zoomed away.

On our way there, we saw Anau and Nadia pulling out of Zumba. We waved them down to follow us to our "designated location". Of course, we were the first arrivals, so we just kicked back for a bit. Next to arrive was Robyn (who I admire, since she had to drive all the way from Titikaveka), then Michael and Dean. Jamie was nowhere in sight, so we had to go on without him. Maejo and I stuck together. I'm sure you all know who Nana Hirata is (yes, the awesome dancer who did the performance last year for

the Sevens), since she was the one who's running this thing.

We all sat down in a circle and introduced ourselves (It kinda looked like an Alcoholics Anonymous session lolz) and about three-quarters of the dance group was our friends. Nga arrived a little bit late (and she's the closest on in town). We did a warm up session, which was actually taken from one of Nana's hip hop classes (for kids. Lolz) but it was still awesome. Justin, Michael, Nga and Dean got their chance to shine with their Dancehall moves, while the rest of us were free styling it. Nadia was showing off her mad "locking" skills and Robyn moved with real swag. Maejo, Anau and I were doing out thing (even though I totally felt out of my league). All in all, it was a fun night.

Looking for opportunities



By Hareta Tiraa Passfield

We've only been back at school for a week and a bit and I'm already sick of it. I want the holidays back. I miss being able to wake up at 11am and doing whatever you wanted for the rest of the day. I reckon we should have longer holidays and less school days. That'd be paradise.

I've never actually realized this before but being a teenager on Rarotonga, you get a lot of opportunities. Teenagers reading

this are probably thinking "what? No we don't. What is this chick on about?" If you are thinking that then you obviously haven't gone out and looked for these opportunities. I know looking for these opportunities sounds hard but it's not. Just this year I have gotten an opportunity to write for the Cook Islands Herald. I've gotten the chance to be part of Film Raro and at the end of the year I'll be attending a youth and sports conference in New Caledonia. How did I get these opportunities? I applied to opportunities I heard about!!

All of these things will help me in the future. They will look great on a C.V. and they may end up getting me a job in my selected work field. I know many students from Tereora that have come to the realization that there are these opportunities. I have friends that are traveling

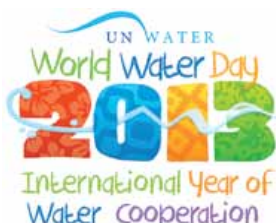
all around to conferences and workshops. Some of them are as far as Bali and some are a little closer to home in New Zealand.

It seems like a lot of work but you gain so much experience and you learn about different things. On these trips to other countries or outer islands you'll make some great friends and that is always a good thing; you can never have too many friends. If you're interested in going to conferences and workshops but have no clue on how to hear about them, I'll give you a few ideas. Ask the teachers at your school, if they hear of these, to tell you. Sometimes they are read out in the school notices; also you can ask the Ministry of Education. They send out emails alerting people about these workshops and conferences. Sometimes they are even in the paper. Just ASK!!

If you're not into workshops and conferences you can still travel with sports teams and dancing teams. Or if you're connected with a youth group, they also travel all around the world.

It's not just conferences and workshops that are available to us here in the Cook Islands, it's also scholarships. If you move to New Zealand or Australia you won't be able to get a scholarship but here in the Cook Islands it's much easier. You don't have to compete against that many people for the scholarships. All you have to do is do well in school and you're in with a good chance. Taking part in conferences and workshops will also help your chances with getting a scholarship. Living on such a tiny island has its perks. It's time to take your future in to your own hands.

You can make a difference! Do Your Part



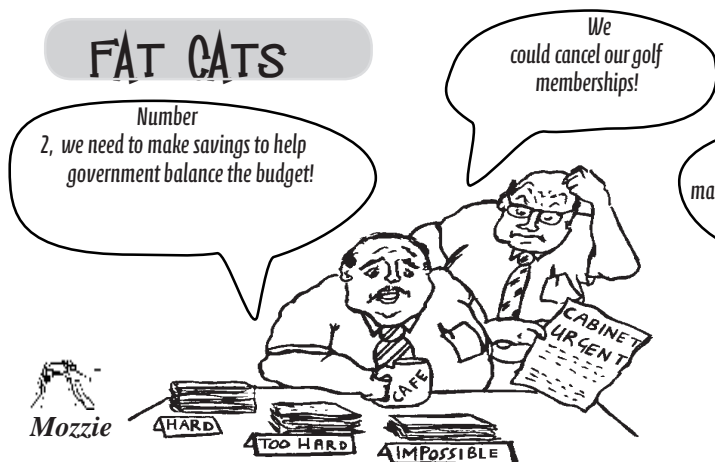
OFF THE TAP!!





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


MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING


FAT CATS



Get our Tahitian cousie bros to work here? Has the pearl man had a brain explosion? Check out the wage rates matey. Our legal minimum is \$5 an hour. What do they pay in Tahiti? If the incoming Tahitian government can pay their pensioners \$800 a month, what does that tell you? 

Word is the Airport's High Wallah and the Lord High Mandarin of Transport were truly blessed to go a round at Scotland's Holy ground of little white balls and iron sticks -St Andrews! 

Seen Telecom patting itself on the back, gloating about its great affordability service in the Pacific? That's great but when it comes to attending to faults, their service is, well, phooey! One tourism accommodation has been waiting since last Thursday for Telecom to fix a fault with its Wifi so the tourists can access their laptops! That's four working days plus the two weekend days. When the Motel manager went in to complain, she was asked the same questions she was asked when she went in on the Thursday! C'mon Telecom, pull your finger out and get on with improving your faults service! Wake up Jules and take note of what's going on in your own Faults Service Division! 

And speaking of Telecom's woefully slow faults service, a snail could move quicker than its broadband service! Downloads take ages to perform. C'mon Telecom, get with the program, get into the 21st Century before the 22nd Century is upon us! 


COCONUT ROUNDTABLE




CHOOKS CORNER




WITH BIG RED


Tried getting into MFEM's office lately? They've fitted a new security lock to the door and you have to punch in the code number! Is it MFEM or MIS? Since this could be a controversial budget, MFEM's going to extraordinary lengths to keep the nosey busy bodies out! Perhaps the real reason is they don't want locals to see all the ex-pats now working in MFEM! And, what's worse, is that even when you have the security number right, the door still won't open! 


Speaking of ex-pats hanging around the corridors of MFEM, it seems another ADB position is up for grabs and the ex-Warehouse, ex-holidaying, ex-pat holding down the other ADB job has personally recommended another ex-pat, the wife of an ex-pat at the High Com, be appointed pronto! Good grief! Now we have ex-pats who are not PR's recommending other ex-pats! Whatever happened to the go local policy? 

And aren't some of the pay packages for ex-pats sky high! Big Red has seen some figures through the mist in his crystal balls and the Lord High Keeper of the


Books and the Lord High Mar  Laws certainly sleep well at night!


Parliament comes together on the 4th of June chooks to table the Budget but don't expect the budget debate to last the required 10 days! Big Red predicts three days and the debate will be guillotined! You see this will be a controversial set of figures so the ruling cabal will not want the opposition to make hay while the sun 


Oh dear chooks! Lord High Keeper of the Books is going all out to create an empire for himself! Centralising all the money bags, security locks on doors, surrounding himself with like minded ex-pats! Has the Pooh Bah returned? 

With Tom, Tom being appointed the next QR, two questions emerge. Will he be granted a Knighthood by the Palace? Also, will Mrs Tom Tom be called "First Lady?" What about the other First Lady? 

\$19,000! That's what it cost the tax payer to pay for the politicians to party up at the opening of Aitutaki's new FIFA funded soccer

facility. The PM even had a police escort from the airport to Vaipae! Terrorists hiding in the bushes? And the VIP from Singapore who was instrumental in putting up the funds to build the new facility, was not even met at the airport! 

Whoops chooks! Big Red is receiving reports over the taro tom toms that the Lord High Madam of Laws is not happy with the way the Ruling Cabal wants the new telecom legislation worded! Hence delay, delay, delay! 

Word coming in over Maniota Radio advising that our House of Pills in the hills has no medicine man capable of working the ju-ju while patients sleep it off! The sick in the meantime have to make do with the lowly bone throwers and tea leaf readers until the Head Medicine Man in Bananarama Land sends over another ju-ju Doktah with knives. 

People with BA degrees are a dime a dozen but on a foreign speck in the middle of nowhere such a bit of paper will get any unemployed bod on holiday a high paying jobbie with a foreign bank!

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Nicholas takes out “2013 Challenge for life”



2013 Challenge for life
winner Lorna Nicholas and
2nd place winner Nancy
Matapuku

The Top shape Gym held its Awards presentation night last Saturday for the Challenge for Life 2013 competition at the Staircase Restaurant and Bar.

The Competition started in March this year with a total of Forty nine participants. Over the eight week challenge period the participants slowly declined to fifteen completing the challenge.

Of the Fifteen to complete the challenge, six semi finalist were chosen, which was later narrowed down to only three finalist.

Placing third overall was Aisaki Maifua, coming in second place was second year competitor Nancy Matapuku who was more than delighted to get the award.

Lorna Nicholas took first placing. Nicholas, who was overwhelmed with award and the support of her family as they cheered her on.

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.

PUBLIC NOTICE



Cook Islands General Transport is pleased to advise our valued customers & suppliers that all of our administration & operations will be relocating to our new premises at Rao Ariki Rd behind St Josephs School Tutakimoa from Monday 20th May 2013. For enquiries please call 24441 or 55242. Meitaki Maata.

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

