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29 May 2013

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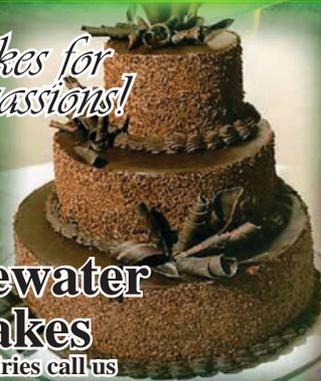


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Our style of government is more inclusive



Prime Minister Henry Puna with Cabinet Ministers in Mauke

By Prime Minister, Hon. Henry Puna

My Government is continuing to make history in the Outer Islands, combining achievements with new initiatives that promote a more inclusive way of administration. I'm really pleased that this is evident in the way we have embarked on this week's visit to Nukuroa and Akatokamanava – Mitiaro and Mauke.

The Cabinet Ministers and I will spend three days promoting the completion of harbour projects and conducting our third only ministerial meeting outside of Rarotonga, since becoming government in 2010.

Unfortunately, this time we are without our colleague Minister Teariki Heather, who had to travel to New Zealand on a personal matter. We have missed our Infrastructure Minister on this mission but wish him our best. He was an instrumental player in driving these projects and sadly, was not with the team to see them officially opened.

The journey to the Outer Islands, however, is a rewarding one for us all. As I always say, the richness of our way of life – our culture and people – can only be experienced by travelling to the Outer Islands and being amongst them. That, we are doing. And we're enjoying every bit of being amongst the people and receiving their hospitality and genuine warmth.

The opening of the Mitiaro Harbour project – Te Ao O Mutu – was held on Tuesday morning with the participation of the whole island. I'm told two weeks of preparations went into beautifying the roadway and surroundings and a tremendous amount of work in gathering and cooking food for the special occasion.

The ceremonial programme was remarkable and inclusive of all the leaders in the community at all levels – the Ui Ariki, the Religious Advisory Council, Mayor and Local Government, Island officials, and MP Tangata Vavia, who

was a very proud man on the day.

The coming together of the whole community is something that Mitiaro is well known for, and is also a reflection of how we have conducted this trip into Ngaputoru territory. From the outset, we sought a balanced assignment without politics, without point-scoring, and without the need for upstaging. We chose to do that.

After all, these harbour projects, which were keenly supported and assisted by the Government of New Zealand, involved the previous government. The Leader of the Opposition is part of our tere party and is included in the official ceremonies to mark this achievement for our people. We have come to Mitiaro and Mauke to join the people in acknowledging the importance of these developments and to share with them the success of a national achievement.

Before we make history in Mauke on Thursday – with

the opening of the harbour rehabilitation project at Taunganui Landing – the Cabinet will hold its weekly meeting at the normal time, but on Wednesday. And that meeting in itself will make history with the first ever such gathering in Mauke. The previous Outer Islands Cabinet Meetings were in Aitutaki and Atiu.

The Cabinet will again demonstrate our strong support for inclusiveness by taking the principles of the governing process right to the people. The Mauke leaders in Local Government will join us for the occasion and witness part of the meeting and its procedures of discussion and endorsement.

As a Government that represents the will of the people, it's only right that the people have opportunities to see it at work – and how it works for them. In Mauke, we want to allow this spirit of inclusiveness to be a measure of how much of difference we can make by standing by what we say and do.

Official Opening of projects begun by Demo Party

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

I write from the island of Akatokamanava, I am here with the delegation of the Prime Minister to take part in the Opening and the Blessing of the Mauke Harbour. The ceremony is to take place on Thursday and it is a project started by the Democratic Party and finished by the current government. The delegation consists of the Prime Minister and his Cabinet, minus the Minister of Infrastructure Hon. Teariki Heather. It also includes the New Zealand High Commissioner John Carter and his deputy along several officials. As I write the Cabinet Ministers are meeting probably to discuss the final composition of the 2013-14 Appropriation Bill. There are other topics they will be discussing because this is considered to be a normal Cabinet meeting day.

As Leader of the opposition, I am staying with the former Speaker of the House and former Democratic member Papa Mapu Taia. However, we began our journey yesterday by stopping in Nukuroa, the island whose seat is held by the current Member of Parliament Tangata Vavia. We stopped in Mitiaro to open their harbour as well. It was indeed a momentous occasion and the hospitality and warmth extended to us was overwhelming and with due respect to the government the Prime Minister acknowledged that this was a project begun by the Democratic Party and completed by the current government.

Both Mitiaro and Mauke are islands affected by depopulation although both islands show promise for development if Government focuses on them. There is plenty of land especially on Mauke for agricultural development. While the other members of the delegation are busy in meetings with the local government, I have been taken around the island and shown aspects that need a lot of

attention if the Democratic Party wins the next election.

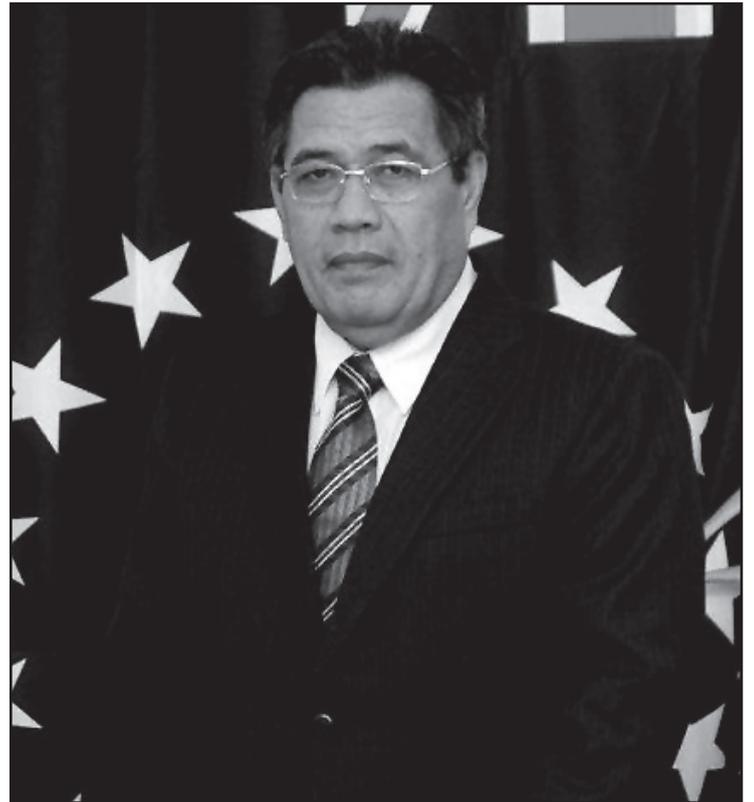
It gives me a lot of food for thought to see firsthand the conditions and situation of the people of the southern group islands. In Mitiaro yesterday, an elderly man sat next to me and commented that the promises by the Government to raise the pension has not been forthcoming. He said further that, he worries about this proposal for taxation of low income workers and old age pensioners from New Zealand. On Mauke today another elderly person said very much the same thing.

I get the feeling and am quietly confident that it is true among the people of these two islands that the performance of the Government needs to improve dramatically if they are to stand a chance of re-election. There are a lot of issues on every day matters some regarding water supply, shipping service, electricity supply, price of goods for sale, etc... A combination of these factors will help to shape Demo policies for the next election.

I am encouraged that my Deputy Leader Smiley Heather and one of the Democratic MPs Taunga Toka will be joining me here in Mauke to boost and to give meanings to the efforts that we will be putting into these islands in the future. In the meantime, I am doing a tiki-tour of the island before we launch into the official programme of the Opening Ceremony of the Mauke Harbour.

It was heartwarming yesterday when both the Prime Minister and the New Zealand High Commissioner acknowledged the role of the Opposition and the previous initiation of this project by the previous government. It was also heartwarming to be received and acknowledged as Leader of the Opposition here on both islands.

It is time to go and enjoy the



hospitality of the people of Akatokamanava and indeed over the next few days to get to know what they really want.

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Cabinet Meeting in Mauke



PM and the Cabinet held a historic meeting in Mauke today (Wednesday), inviting the Mayor and Island Council to sit in on the discussions over a Cabinet Paper. The PM said Government supports a principle of bringing the governing process right to the people and removing the mystery from Cabinet meetings. The Outer Islands Cabinet Meetings have shown Local Government and Ui Ariki how government policy-decisions are made at the highest level while also putting a human touch to the proceedings by lifting the veil of mystique.

Opinion >>>

Transparency is choking on CIP smoke

By George Pitt

Governments ought to be, and will be, commended for doing the right thing and improving the country's systems and processes of governance. Accountability, in particular, is a key area that demands constant attention and various governments over the years have faced many challenges to get things right.

So when a government is genuine in its efforts, they should be congratulated. But that's not the case with this Cook Islands government. The current lot in charge are good at smoke screens. Good at dressing mutton up as lamb. And good at slap dash paint jobs on a car wreck. The new colour looks great but it's still a car wreck.

The Secretary of Finance is the fall-guy for the smoke screens these days. Is the government doing this on purpose? Deliberately putting Richard Neves up to take the knocks for woolly policy and empty intentions? Good idea if you have the type of leader, whose primary concern is a clean, green image and you want the dirt to rub off on

someone else. Or even better if you have the type of deputy leader, who says nothing and hopes someone else puts their foot in it.

Really though, the whole of the Cabinet has to wear the feeble attempts of fooling around with important governance institutions, and then trying to justify blatant job creation with principles of accountability. This government is miles away from anything that even smells like accountability.

Where is the transparency that the Prime Minister Henry Puna and his mates keep talking about? Plenty of huffing and puffing over improving the oversight of government but no oversight was ever applied here to a brand new role for the ex-head of the Audit Office nor was lawyer Paul Lynch's over paid Commissioner's job contra ever made contestable.

The Finance Minister Mark Brown should also be concerned about the job levels in the Public Service and the high salaries that go with senior positions in the government agencies. Not to mention the increasing number of expats who are hogging high paying

jobs while 60 MBA graduates wonder why they bothered to study. Onto such a great thing these pushy expat spongers are recommending their friends fill the big bucks vacancies.

It's disturbing how Puna and Brown say they want to improve government accountability but completely ignore government transparency in promoting the principle. Perhaps the grease has finally clogged up the deep fryers this time.

The Official Information Act put the Cook Islands on the fore front of good governance in the Pacific. Highly publicised workshops for public servants were conducted up and down the country promoting the Act and its application. After the international media's accolades had subsided the whole thing did a back flip with anything but transparency being the order of the day.

This window dressing exercise has rendered the OIA redundant, once again protecting the Government's shoddy sovereign management from the prying eyes of the media.

Heads of Ministries shielded by their Ministers and often instructed by them, have blatantly ignored their

obligations under the OIA. As guardians of public information they conceal their self indulgencies by withholding incriminating information and judge it is in our best interests to keep us uninformed.

A case in point is the Ministry of Marine Resources' secretary Ben Ponia and his Minister Teina Bishop. No provision under the OIA prevents them from full disclosure of their collaborated dealings with Chinese fishing investors. Both of them leave us pondering if they have compromised themselves for self interests.

If we ever stop choking on all the smoke that's being blown in our faces, we might get to hear as an example, the government explain how it has revived a role that was made redundant following the economic reforms in the 1990s. Parliament's Public Finance and Expenditure Committee was rendered obsolete as a result of the PERCA Act – the review mechanism over public spending.

With so many cases of non-transparency, is the CIP government really going to take us down the road of becoming a welfare employer all over again?

Mass Immigration an economic priority

Part 1

By George Pitt

Any debate and expressed views on the country's depopulation crisis is healthy and can only stimulate further thought or ideas that contribute towards realistic solutions. The problem is multilayered and not solved by one silver bullet.

The emigration of Cook Islanders is economically driven, rather than for educational purposes. Money rather than a better life is the attraction, for there is no better life than in the Cook Islands, even in the outer islands if one is prudent and lives within one's means. This is something many Cook Islanders have great difficulties with.

Emigration is a calculated and thoughtfully planned decision, not a spur of the moment whim of one's irrational fancy. Many Cook Islanders who leave for Australia are headed to a network of friends or family who have employment preordained for them.

In general many Cook Islanders have a prior familiarity with New Zealand and Australia; they are travel savvy and have connections waiting for them.

Immigration is not natural but immigrants are recruited from New Zealand, Fiji, Phillipines, Australia, Indonesia and Samoa in that order.

While there is no national cohesive coordinating of employee recruitment, the

private sector is serviced by individuals who have acquisition connections. Government vacancies are widely advertised here and overseas targeting Cook Islanders.

Labour for hospitality and tourism related services are predominantly Fijian sourced. This was convenient because Fiji has a Tourism training institute that produces quality graduates plus there was a direct air link with Fiji. Fiji has an oversupply of labour but limited employment opportunities. Base pay rates are a quarter of the minimal rate in the Cook Islands.

What a job in the Australian mining industry is to a Cook Islander, our Tourism industry job is to a Fijian. The estimated number of Fijians employed is 1,100.

About 310 Philippine nationals work in finance related employment, retailing, beauty and hairdressing and domestic duties. Imported Indonesian and Samoan workers are less than 50.

The John Tierney led Economic Task Force's 2011 Report didn't skirt around the dwindling population problem's connection to the economy. But it seems the lazy brained CIP Government hasn't made a prioritised response. The ETF Report was clear the Country needed an injection of up to 5,000 job seekers to

boast, drive and then sustain an economic recovery. Our economic scale is proportional to our work force platform.

The report unrealistically advocated targeting Cook Islanders to return to our pool of workers. Other than that, the report made no suggestions as to how Cook Islanders could be enticed to return. While it was pointed out what was needed the ETF left it to the Government to come up with a road map outlying the how and who.

Time has now elapsed for continued discussions on what we have to do. We have known what needs to be done for the last decade. We have dulled and dallied around while our population has continued unhindered to nose dive.

We have continuously reminded ourselves and talked about the problem for far too long, our immediate and urgent priority is to start encouraging solution emphasised debates and opinions.

If Cook Islanders fail to be responsive to whatever methods are used to convince them to transplant their talents, skills and work experience, then from where and how do we get the needed workers to up root themselves and immigrate to the Cook Islands?

Government is yet to compile a comprehensive list of the skills required to invigorate the economy. In a global context if

we knew the specifics of what was needed, the workers can be sourced from anywhere. There are millions of people in the world who are qualified and unemployed; do we have to limit ourselves from where we receive workers?

There are millions of economic refugees who would immigrate, self funded, to the Cook Islands without enticing incentives but simply for the privilege of working and raising a family in a conflict free and politically stable Christian Country.

Maybe the Government can recall the ETF with the mandate to focus a brainstorming Forum on depopulation and immigration that is solution driven in the context of the economy. From such a gathering of synergised minds the ground work for a timely Population policy could evolve.

Government should also consider transferring the Immigration Division from Foreign Affairs to a new Ministry for Employment as labour market policy should be closely linked with immigration policy. At present the Ministry for Internal Affairs handles employment matters. If it is government's intention to amalgamate like-ministries, then employment and immigration should come under the one Super Ministry and have strong policy linkages.

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Our Cover Girl



Our cover girl for issue 668 is Cook Islander Lydia Simonis-Tariu. A student from Sydney who is a Champion Hula Dancer. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald

News Briefs *By Moana Vaevae Tetauru*

Three agencies unite to eradicate Oriental Fruit Fly

A combined effort between the National Environment Service, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Public Health Department in combating the eradication of the evasive pest, the Oriental Fruit Fly. More traps will be laid in the upper Tupapa area, towards Takitumu, and from Avarua through to Arorangi. The community is also being asked to do their bit in the eradication program by collecting over ripe fruit and digging a hole deep enough so there is no chance of the pest getting out. Officers from the 3 departments have also been laying traps around people's yards and people are asked to allow these staff members to enter their properties to lay these. The evasive species was discovered almost 3 weeks ago and is one of the most destructive pests known, and is thought to have entered our borders through luggage from Tahiti. The ministries involved are again asking people not to take fruit of any kind to any to any of the outer islands.

Bulb eater hungry for your bulbs

CITC has purchased a bulb eater earlier this year for the purpose of recycling fluorescent and CFL bulbs. Individuals are asked to dust their used and old bulbs first before dropping it off at the back of Foodland in town. The bulb eater is a drum with a specially designed machinery and carbon filter which safely extracts the mercury to the bottom of the drum; once this is full it's then sealed and shipped overseas. Used bulbs can be dropped off from Monday's – Friday's between 8am – 4pm.

People are asked not to crack or dispose of their used light bulbs as it contains a small amount of mercury and the safest way for it to be disposed of is to be disposed of by the bulb eater.

Budget briefing for public

The Minister of Finance is next week extending an invitation to members of the public to attend a breakfast presentation of the Budget at a cost of \$15 per head. The presentation will be based on the 2013/2014 budget at the Edgewater Resort next Friday from 8.30am – 10am.



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PM Henry Puna pushes the nepotism button

Blatant tampering with tender process exposed.

By George Pitt

When the Manihiki pearl farmers requested their MP and Prime Minister, Henry Puna to take up their grievances with the Bank of the Cook Islands, after six months they inquired how the discussions were proceeding only to have him admit he had forgotten.

Top marks for telling the truth and another hundred percent for being lazy and preoccupied with feeding his travel addiction.

Now when it comes to family requests, the Puna patriarch is punctual and demanding to the point of being a heavy weight bully. Annoyed no one seems to take our national Elvis impersonator seriously, Henry Puna is beginning to relish in a newly discovered power laced in a raised verbal tongue lash. The PM doesn't ask anymore, he tells.

No sympathy for Richard Neves who was on the receiving end of such a veracious verbal surprise in Cabinet over the budget debacle.

Latest in the Prime Minister's verbal firing line is the Development Coordination Division (DCD) in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM).

After more than a year of processing an India Grant Fund

project application and the technicalities to the point of paper work completion, Puna has intervened and instructed the DCD to reconfigure the process. The Manihiki Island Administration (MIA) had successfully been awarded funds to assist with an \$80,000 project to repair boats in Manihiki.

The MIA's nomination was to have the Hunter's engineering company that lists boat and ship repairs as one of their specialities, as the contractors. According to the MIA the Hunters had done a scoping study and identified close to 100 boats needing repair. As the contractors, Rarotonga Welding and Steel Construction Ltd plan to send two employees to Manihiki for up to eight months to repair the boats plus train others how to carry out the specialised welding technique. The Hunters would leave the special equipment behind for those trained to repair any further boats as required.

Before the MIA and the Hunters could formalise the project with a signed contract, Puna intervened to have the tender process reopened so Tai Herman from Aitutaki could make a bid. The Hunters were dispatched a letter informing them of the change with no

reason given. This is absurd as the Hunter's tender quote has been exposed to public consumption.

Not happy just to stack his offices with relatives who don't seem to do anything productive except breathe, Henry Puna is now pandering to pressure from his niece Repeta to give her out of work partner Tai Herman access to aid funded projects.

It is no secret that when the PM is on the Aitutaki golf course the Herman is his caddie. Herman prefers to call himself the Prime Minister's swing advisor.

Puna's interference smells of nepotism in the first degree. Now on good terms with Herman, all is forgiven that the former Aitutaki mayor was embedded in the Democratic Party camp in the 2010 elections.

It is understood DCD are reluctant to participate in the tender process high jacking as the MIA has already communicated its preference to the Hunters and any tender process is usually part is not part of the India Grant Fund process.

This is the second occasion the PM has taken up the bat for Herman. In 2011 Puna stuck his neck out and nominated Herman for a Board position only to have it rejected by

Cabinet.

We need no reminder that Herman has stubbornly refused to respond to requests by donors as to where funds gifted for the Aitutaki cyclone recovery have been spent. Despite his memory loss it is known that he travelled extensively during that period.

Where is the Minister of Finance Mark Brown? It's about time he had words with his Prime Minister to stop interfering and meddling with his portfolio. Then again does the Ministry of Finance really belong to Brown? Puna has regularly publically over ridden him and pulled rank as if Brown is only a cut out card board Minister.

Brown ought to step in and do the right thing before the Hunter's Takuvaine business gives up in disgust and takes their skills to a welcoming Australian mine.

We've seen this all before. Remember when Papa Mama Pokino was Sir Geoffrey's Claytons Minister of Finance? Need we say anymore out of respect for the Sir's family?

The Cook Islands Party is not a family business and the sooner the power blinded Henry Puna can grasp that, the sooner the country may have a chance of surviving even if by the slimmest of margins.

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The key to development

There was a story over the weekend about a visiting woman diplomat from the United States Embassy in Wellington who had strong views on sustainability.

She told a local news reporter that sustainability was the key to development in the Pacific in many things, including energy issues. What did she mean by this?

She indicated a broad range of things. She said without sustainability you can't make the economy soar. Sustainability has consequences for us so you have to root out anything that puts it at risk like for example an oriental fruit-fly in a pawpaw plantation. She noted the benefits to be had from sustainability in climate change, in fishing treaties, in migration, and even in China.

The message she gave was one of sustainability providing a solid foundation for development over the long haul, like say your lifespan and that of your children and grandchildren.

But our interest here is energy issues.

Sustainability is worth thinking intensely about. After all, we're about to step into the deep end with renewable energy in Rarotonga. TAU has three or four photovoltaic projects; each budgeted at around \$1million each, ready to leave the drawing board this year and venture out into the light of day.

The obvious implication of renewable energy is that it will allow



Solar Panel Installation at Oasis Energy, Nikao

us to cut back on diesel fuel. TAU imports over 7 million litres of fuel a year just to fire up the generators at the Avatiu Power Station and get electricity flowing so that you and I can turn our lights on at night.

Yes, we know that burning fuel is bad for the health of the planet but more to the point when fuel is expensive it can be bad for the health of your ATM account. The fact here is that desert sheiks and oil barons will decide how much they want from us for their fuel

and it is always more and more. That kind of arrangement is hardly sustainable to your purse or wallet.

So we look around for something more sustainable. And that's when the sun shines brighter and the tropical breeze soothes, if only because you know the sun and wind is accessible, abundant, and, best of all, free.

Unfortunately, the transition from diesel to renewable generation will not be easy. It will involve investment

of at least \$117 million between now and 2020. Some of that will be funded by TAU and some by donors or banks. Because costs have to be recovered and loans repaid, it may take awhile for electricity prices to really come down.

The lesson about sustainability here is that while it may be the wise path as suggested by our visiting diplomat, it will also involve some sacrifice in the short run before we can enjoy the gains over the long run.



More than \$30,000 donated to Rotary

PR - Last week's lunchtime meeting for the Rotary Club of Apia welcomed Robert Skews from Rarotonga, who is here visiting family.

He took time out of his holiday to make a special presentation to Rotary from the Government and People of the Cook Islands.

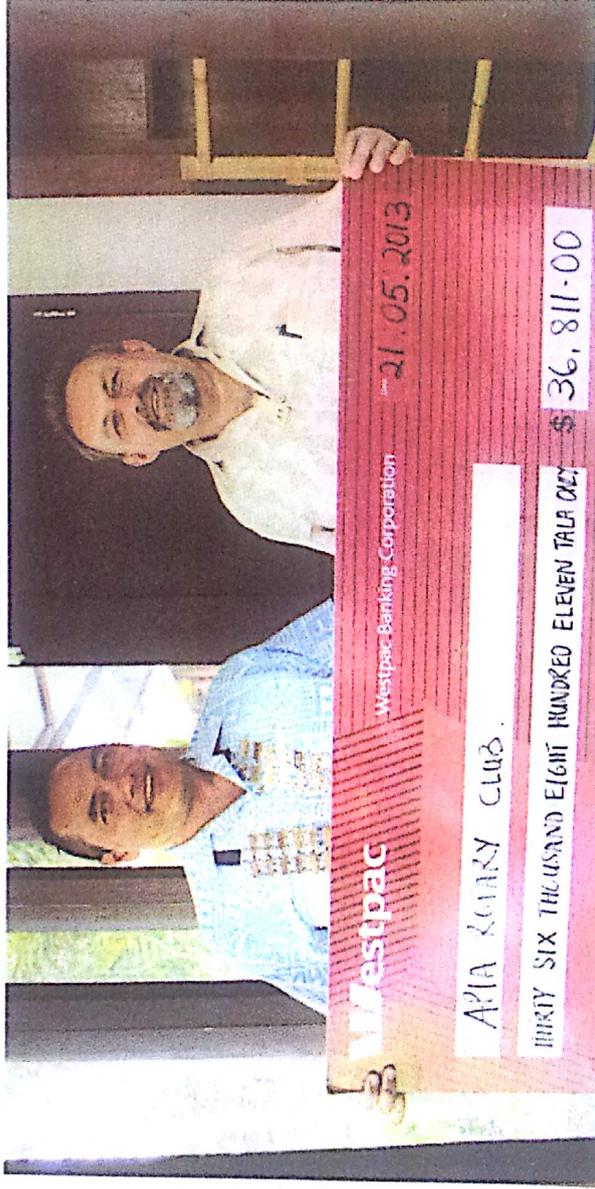
"This presentation is on behalf of the Honourable Prime Minister Henry Puna and Government and the People of the Cook Islands," he said.

"The donation is effectively NZD\$10,000 raised from a Fundraising Appeal by the Samoan Community in Rarotonga, plus a matching NZD\$10,000 contribution from the Cook Islands Government pledged by the Honourable Prime Minister."

Mr Skews said the fundraising project was managed with much love and thoughts for Samoa from the Samoan Community in Rarotonga.

"Initially an impromptu concert was put together on December 22 by Henry Taripo and Sisi and Mann Short of the Staircase Restaurant and included a performance by Cindy of Samoa, who had coincidentally just arrived on Rarotonga, it raised \$1006," he said.

"This was followed by a nationally broadcasted Radiothon Appeal on December 28 which



Rotary President Douglass Creevey accepting the donation on behalf of his club.

brought in pledges from around Rarotonga and all the remote islands, culminating in the pledge from the Prime Minister.

"It was the express wish of the community in the Cook Islands that this money went to a project that would benefit the communities in Samoa, and they decided that the current Rotary project to build Water Tanks in Schools and Villages fits what they wanted."

The converted \$36,811 Tala was handed over to the Apia Rotary Club President, Douglas Creevey.

Mr Creevey expressed his

appreciation to the Prime Minister, the Government and people of the Cook Islands for their humanitarian donations and also the Samoan Community in Rarotonga for entrusting the funds to the local Rotary Club.

"Immediately after Cyclone Evan, Rotary's international support systems reacted quickly to fly in over 100 Emergency Disaster Relief Kits aboard the first flights into Samoa, which were distributed to displaced families in the worst affected areas," explained Mr Creevey.

He added that further air and storage resource for communities in

sea shipments of the Emergency Kits followed, while the Rotary Club of Apia had applied for and been awarded emergency grants from New Zealand's Foreign Affairs Ministry and the Rotary NZ's World Community Service to fund a new Club project now underway.

This project plans to deliver a large 10,000 gallon concrete water tank erected centrally at a selected school within each of 19 rural districts around Upolu and Savaii.

The intention of the Water Tanks is to provide both an alternative water storage resource for communities in

times of severe water shortage as well as the beneficiary school utilising the water supply during the school year.

Several Rotary Clubs in New Zealand and Australia also made donations into the local club's 2013 Community Water Tank Project Fund.

The contribution from the Cook Islands has now been included into the total budget for the Water Tank Project, which will now ensure that all the 19 Water Tanks will have sufficient water catchment guttering and necessary plumbing materials included.

The Rotary Club of Apia is continually running Community Projects each year in its primary focus areas of Education and Literacy, Health and Sanitation, Water and Alternative Energy Supply, and Youth Development.

Just over the past three weeks over 100,000 donated library books, Rotary Children's Dictionaries and brand new bookshelves were fabricated and delivered to over 100 Primary Schools all around Upolu.

Any expressions of personal interest to join the local Rotary Club or find out more information to participate or assist with its Community Projects would be welcomed by writing to the Rotary Club of Apia, Box 1007 in Apia or emailing to apiarotary@yahoo.com

I would like to acknowledge again Hon. Prime Minister Henry Puna and The Government of the Cook Islands for supporting us on our Radiothon, also The People of the Cook Islands here in Rarotonga and the Outer Islands for your individual donations on the day. To Aunty Nga Teao-Papatua and Papa Tamarii Tutangata for getting all our Pledgers going on the day without a break, and lastly, to Jeanne Matenga and Pitt Media for your continuous support to our Community. We will continue to update you in regards to above Project in Samoa. Fa'afetai, Fa'afetai Tele Lava. *Mousie Skews*



Ministry of Infrastructure & Planning

Northern Group Infrastructure Updates

Northern Waters final inspections

Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning technical teams have visited the Northern Group to carry out final inspections of various infrastructure projects.

The first island to be visited was Pukapuka where on-site assessments were carried out of the residential water tanks installed under the project. On-site inspections were to determine the condition of the roof catchments, quality of workmanship and to assess the remedial work, if any, to be carried out by the contractors.

The project is funded by the New Zealand Government and dependent on a good report,



Contractors carrying out remedial adjustments on residential water tanks in Pukapuka the second phase of the project. The assessment team included Wichman from the Ministry and senior consultant engineer, Tere William from the Pukapuka community water tanks. Tenga Mana and Simiona Island Government.

Infrastructure Projects in Rakahanga and Manihiki

The following week, a separate team was sent to Rakahanga and Manihiki to inspect the condition of community water tanks in order to gauge what is needed for stage2 of the Northern Waters programme aimed at refurbishing community water tanks there. Team members were Paul Maoate (engineer) and Wilson Rani and Pat Tangapiri from the Ministry survey team.

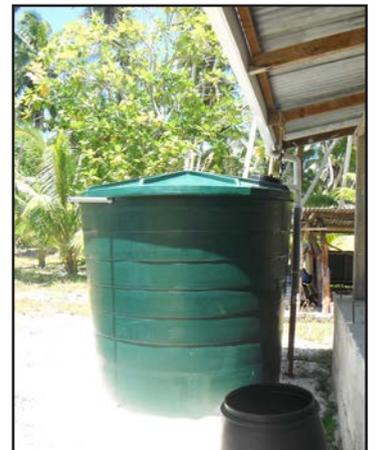
They also inspected the Rakahanga residential water tanks (Manihiki was not part of the residential water scheme). A reassessment of the scope of work and costs to upgrade the Rakahanga harbour to ensure that budget allocation will be adequate to fund the proposed project. Meetings with the respective Island Councils were held to brief them on the condition of all the infrastructure projects inspected and harbour project, in the case of Rakahanga. In addition the team carried out scoping for the renewable energy (REDD) solar panel projects on Manihiki and Rakahanga.



Community water Tank in Rakahanga



Rakahanga wharf.



Residential water Tank in Rakahanga



Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning

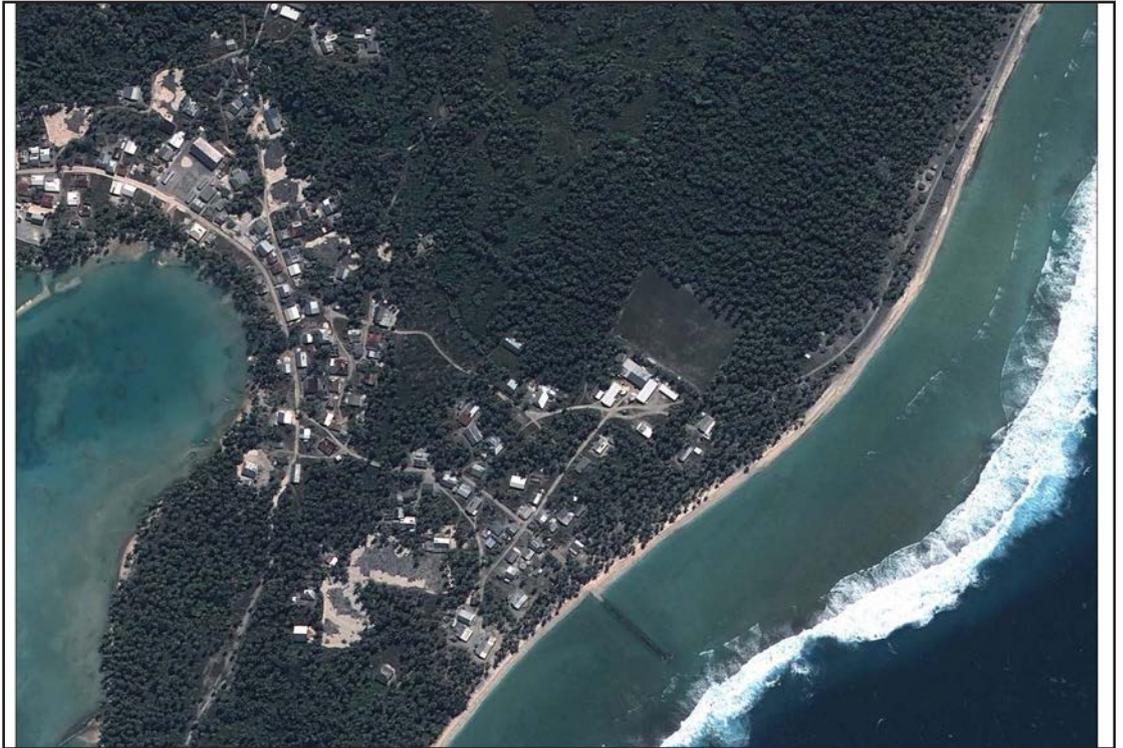
PH 20321 Fax: 24321

Scoping for Solar Panel Renewable Energy Project in Ngake village, Pukapuka

Scoping for the renewable energy (REDD) solar panel project was carried out on Pukapuka. Much of the work involved inspecting the land allocations to ensure the suitability and location and accessibility and so on.

Pukapuka land is held under a customary land system and thus has never been surveyed and several sites within the general vicinity near the power station and a football field. An area of 100 x 82 metres is needed for the project and the team advise that once the site has been finalised by the landowners and Island Council, the land will be pegged to identify the exact location.

In the case of Pukapuka, Ngateina Rani from REDD at the Office of the Prime Minister was also on the island with the survey team of Wilson and Tangi from Ministry of Infrastructure & Planning. After the survey work was carried out, the team held a



Satellite image of Ngake Village in Pukapuka - Proposed site of REDD Solar project

meeting with the Island Council and Konitara to advise them of what work had been carried out

Pukapuka Cyclone Shelter



Inside the Pukapuka Cyclone Shelter

In addition, the team carried out the final assessment of remedial work carried out on the Pukapuka Cyclone Shelter by contractors from Landholdings Ltd over a three day period.

The team also held a meeting with the Mayor, Acting Executive Officer and Council Member from Nassau

to discuss the results of the assessments and to answer any questions raised in the meeting. The shelter was funded by the European Union and the assessment is the responsibility of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning and to be reported back to the Development Coordination Division of MFEM.



Cook Islands Technical Assistance Fund – Supporting Government to Achieve Results

The New Zealand funded Cook Islands Technical Assistance Fund (CITAF) is supporting the Cook Islands Government with \$3million over three years to help achieve priority technical assistance projects and training. CITAF is administered by the Cook Islands Office of the Public Service Commissioner (OPSC) and was established to be a flexible mechanism for responding to capacity and capability development needs of the Cook Islands Government in order to help improve financial management, service delivery and administration. The \$3million is available for the period 15 December 2011 to 30 June 2014 and to date has provided support to 26 priority projects across the Cook Islands Government. Of these 26 projects, seven are now complete and have contributed significantly to improving and strengthening the Cook Islands Government. Some of the key successes of these completed projects have included:

- Commencement of an independent expert inspection of tank integrity to store dangerous goods to international standards at the Triad bulk terminal in Panama, through the Ministry of Internal Affairs, resulting in a strengthened regulatory framework and assurance that public safety is not compromised.
- Completion of the Employment Relations Bill by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, allowing for modernization of employment laws in the Cook Islands.
- Implementation of a Quality Management System and Quality Assurance within the Cook Islands Meteorological Service to achieve full compliance with the International Civil Aviation Organisation.
- A capability analysis of the Cook Islands Public Service by the Office of the Public Service Commissioner, identifying the capacity and capability requirements in line with the government's strategic ambitions and operational plans.

Although there are 19 CITAF projects still being carried out by technical assistants across the public service, many have already delivered improvements and achieved great results, such as assisting with major government reviews across Tax, Banking, outer islands funding and the education curriculum. CITAF also continues to provide a mechanism to source and retain technical expertise not available within existing government resources for vitally important roles within the government, including the Financial Secretary, Solicitor General, Senior Tax Auditors, Economists and Surgeons.

With only a year of funding remaining many more successes of CITAF will soon become apparent, and will undoubtedly have contributed towards the vision of the OPSC to be 'A public service of excellence' and the achievement of the National Sustainable Development Plan 2011 -15.

The OPSC would like to acknowledge the New Zealand Government and thank them for the support provided through CITAF.

For more information please contact Emma Ferguson, CITAF Manager, Office of the Public Service Commissioner on Phone: 29-421 or email: Emma.Ferguson@cookislands.gov.ck.

The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

Phone 24979 Email: sales@thecomputerman.co.ck

Best ever Android Apps

X-plore

X-Plore is a great way to look at an Android's file system, and its many added features are solid bonuses. Use it to perform file operations like copy, rename, or create new folders. With X-plore, users can access Picasa albums, browse SQLite database files, zip and unzip files, and explore shared folders on Windows servers and PCs.

BaconReader for Reddit

BaconReader delivers an appealing, Android-only interface for checking and participating in Reddit, the popular social news site. It includes features like subreddit grouping, keyword filtering, and direct photo uploads.

BBC

Any Radio 1 fans out there? The Beeb is perhaps an all-time favourite general news source. Its mobile app doesn't disappoint, letting you watch video reports, listen to live radio, clip articles for offline reading, and read the latest updates on the fly.

CNN

Regardless of your take on CNN's editorial content, they do know how to deliver it on a mobile device. Their Android UI is intuitive and buttery-smooth, serving the latest stories by category, embedded videos, and plenty of sharing options. You can also listen to CNN Radio within the app.



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Rats routed

By Hareta Tiraa Passfield

When you're thinking about what kind of job you want in the future, here's one to consider that you may have never even known about. Steve Cranwell along with 4 other people arrived back to Rarotonga from Suwarrow on Tuesday afternoon. They spent 5 weeks on the island. The whole purpose of going to Suwarrow was to help the sea bird life to continue and grow. The main reason that the sea birds number have dropped is because of the rats, they eat the eggs and the babies. There are 14 different species of sea birds in Suwarrow and the rats affect all of those species. The rats weren't only eating the sea birds they were also eating reptiles, and turtle hatchlings

These guys spent days clearing the vegetation so they could make tracks to put down the rat bait, which would kill the rats. They had to put down two lots of rat bait just to make sure that they killed every last rat, they put the second lot down after about 7 days later. After about 2 weeks they managed to complete this task Nick Hayward, a camera man who has worked with



National geographic was along among the 5 people who went to Suwarrow, said that one of the contributing factors to the laying of the bait would be the weather. The weather had to be dry in order to properly lay the bait. "The heavens have opened, bringing rain to Motu Tou. After only one evening on the ground, the rain has almost certainly spoiled the rat bait" he said. Hayward is making a documentary about his time in Suwarrow and the mission to save the sea birds. His plan is to

From left, Dan, Nick, Steve, Mia, Ian and Sia

show the world what the Cook Islanders are trying to do.

There were only 3 motu's that had rats on it, which were Motu Tou and Motu Kena, and Anchorage

"Motu Tou and neighbouring Motu Kena have been successfully treated with their first application of rat bait. There will be a second in seven day's time. If we miss a single rat the whole operation and two years of careful planning could be wasted" said Hayward

They went up to Suwarrow

on the Southern Cross and came back to Rarotonga on the traditional sailing vaka Marumaruatua, along with 10 others from the Voyaging society.

You all are probably wondering why I chose to write about this, it seems like it doesn't have anything to do with us teenagers, but it does. We are the future of the Cook Islands, we need to protect our plants and animals, and we should be willing to do anything to help our country. Suwarrow is famous for its bird life, and it is ours!

Bowls Cook Islands, a day on the green

By Ben Mose

Bowls Cook Islands (BCI), Inc is the National Authority of Lawn Bowls in the Cook Islands. As such, Bowls Cook Island's Constitution accommodated several Objectives from World Bowls to remind us of our responsibilities.

- To frame, and from time to time alter and revise a code of rules or laws of the game generally in accordance with the World Bowling Board rules, for the proper conduct of all the games played under the jurisdiction of Bowls Cook Islands.

- To maintain membership of the World Bowling Board and to cooperate with that body and with other National Associations in membership therewith and with kindred bodies.

Membership to Bowls Cook Islands is by application only and most importantly you must be of 'good standing'. I believe this is new and I also believe this is the way to go to bring discipline back to sport in today's modern world of sport. There are 10 local clubs affiliated to BCI.

The Controlling Body of Bowls Cook Islands, Inc is elected by the Councilors from each of the affiliated clubs. The 2013/2014 Controlling Body is; Patron: Sir Fredrick, SecGen : Anna Kairua, President : George Paniani, Treasurer : Tonina Browne, Vice President : B. Mose, Asst : Lucia Mahia, Committee members: Arama Tera, Dorothy Paniani, Nooroa Pita & Daphne Maea

Selectors : G.Paniani (Chair) Vaine Henry, Pita Tootoo, Dorothy Paniani and Philip Tangi.



Bowls Guernsey, member of World Bowls, on their Bowling visit to the Rarotonga BC hosted by the Arorangi Bowling Club 2012.

Bulldogs will be back next year hungrier and stronger

Rugby league has always been a strong sporting code in the village of Titikaveka with the whole community involved in supporting the players of all age grades. The club has always encouraged non-Cook Islanders to play for the club and have benefited from the talent and finesse these players brought to the game. From the flying Fijians to the strength and passion of the Samoans, Titikaveka has always embraced players from all cultures as brothers, for a code they love to play.

At the beginning of the 2013 season, Titikaveka included 3 non-Cook Islanders that had played for the village in 2012 in their 2013 line-up. When the CIRL brought in a new rule for the 2013 season, that stated non-Cook Islanders were required to reside in the Cook Islands for 12-months, suddenly 2 out of the 5 non-Cook Island players that the Bulldogs had registered, were no longer eligible to play, even though they were residing in Titikaveka and had been playing rugby for the Titikaveka Village in 2012.

With the support of the Bulldog executives and team members, the club decided to challenge the CIRL on the basis the rule had not been introduced in accordance with the CIRL's own rules of due process and that it discriminated against non-Cook Islanders. The Bulldogs were advised by the CIRL the extra non-Cook Island players could always play for another club - effectively removing their right to play

for the village of their choice. Discussions with CIRL regarding this rule began as early as the last week of February and continued to do so on a weekly basis. When these discussions with the CIRL resulted in the Bulldogs Premier team having its points stripped, the Bulldogs tried once more to correct what they believed was a serious mistake but when this failed the Bulldogs decided to seek a declaratory judgment on the matter.

The Bulldogs argued that on the day of a Special General Meeting just prior to the season kicking off, when the CIRL claimed the rule was amended, the minutes did not record any discussion on 12-month residential requirement and the amendment was never formally put before the executives to properly consider or approve. A Bulldogs representative, present at the same meeting confirmed the matter was not discussed, evidenced by the fact it was not recorded in the minutes. Although other amendments for the 2013 season were recorded in the same minutes, the Bulldogs argued that it did not make sense, that the most important amendment for the season was not on the formal record, that it had not been amended in accordance with the CIRL rules and therefore, the rule could not be applied. The person assigned to take minutes on the day confirmed the amendment was not recorded, however he claimed it was a mistake. Other executives also

claimed the matter was discussed and amended.

The Bulldogs also argued in a lengthy and well written submission, that the rule discriminated against non-Cook Islanders and their right to play sport. Although the Bulldogs believed they had a strong case, Justice Potter ruled in favor of the CIRL, based on information provided by the CIRL.

Rob Matapo, President of the Titikaveka Rugby League said he was extremely disappointed with the ruling, not only for the players, coaches and managers, but for the whole Titikaveka community, who have always been the best supporters. He said the Executives agonized over the decision to stand up against the rule, knowing how it might impact on the club, and sought support on the decision from the players themselves. He still believes the decision was the right one, not only for the Titikaveka players but also for non-Cook Islanders who move here in the future.

Matapo argues that the Arorangi Bears decision to

formally request the CIRL fine the Bulldogs \$20,000 and remove them from the 2014 season if the fine is not paid is further punitive measures on top of the CIRLs decision to remove the Bulldogs points and an attempt to discourage anyone from complaining against the CIRL or taking them to court. Matapo said it is the right of any club to challenge the decisions of the CIRL, and clubs should not be discouraged from doing so. He still hopes to see an amendment to the 12-month residential rule and is pleased to hear the rule will not apply to the lower grades.

He sincerely thanks all players and supporters for the season and is deeply disappointed that the Bulldogs will not be able to defend their premiership title. On behalf of the Bulldogs, he wishes all teams in the finals the very best. The Bulldogs will be back next year hungrier and stronger than ever before and will now focus on supporting their under 16's in their bid for glory where it counts - and that's on the field!

News Briefs *By Moana Vaevae Tetauru*

Amendment to Ariki Day

Parliament is set to resume its sitting on Tuesday, that's according to Clerk of Parliament, Puna Rakanui. He said today, parliament is looking at tabling the Public Health Bill and a possibility of a further 3 Bills including that includes the Public Holiday's Amendment Act making a change to the Ui Ariki Day. Initially, Ariki Day was set for the 6th July, and last year this fell on a Friday, and this year it falls on a Saturday - so the amendment will see this fall on the first Friday of July. There is some indication that the tabling of the 2013/2014 Appropriation Bill will be tabled next Wednesday. When questioned how long Parliament will sit, Rakanui says, at this say he cannot say but the Standing Orders say, that the Appropriation Bill sit with the committee of supply for 10-days unless guillotined.

Prime Minister's Daughter-in-Law Shares Life and Love in New Book

Author Helen Henry publishes a riveting memoir, titled "My Kotuku of the South Seas"

Helen Henry, daughter-in-law of the late Sir Albert Henry, Cook Islands' first prime minister after the country became self-governing in 1965, publishes her remarkable life story, in *My Kotuku of the South Seas*.

Helen's memoir depicts a simple life in a much simpler time. Helen's memoir is rich in her descriptions of friendship, harmony and love. She weaves a simple tapestry of the life of her family as they follow their dreams and aspirations.

Helen grew up in a sheltered and happy home in a leafy suburb of Auckland, New Zealand. She was only 15 years of age when she fell passionately in love with Hugh, a Pacific Island boy, at a time when multi race marriages were

frowned upon. Hugh's father, Sir Albert Henry, advised Helen of the problems and disillusionment she might encounter, but she was not deterred. In fact they were both more than ever determined to continue their relationship. Their romance blossomed and in 1961 they married.

Rarotonga, the capital island of the Cook Islands, was a tropical paradise for Helen, Hugh and their family of four sons and one daughter. The lifestyle was a far cry from the sheltered upbringing of Auckland, where family and

friends were only a phone call away. They struggled to make ends meet, but every day was a new challenge and adventure. Together they created a home where their two cultures and traditions intertwined. Above all, their household resonated with love, laughter and chaotic carefree days, as they brought up five barefoot children.

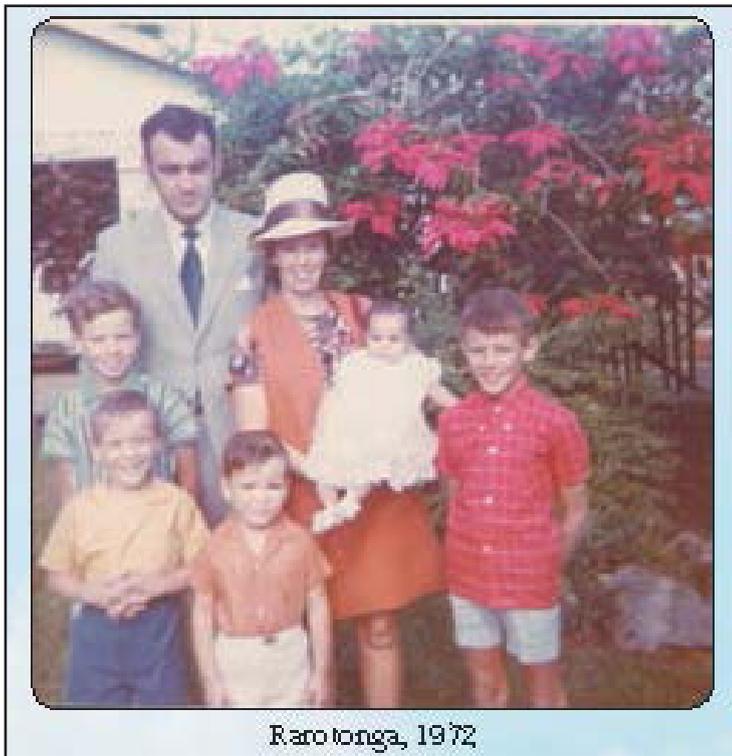
There were moments of drama when they were caught up in the political turmoil of a small nation forging its own destiny. Helen experienced deep sadness and despair when Hugh

suddenly and unexpectedly passed away. She was left to continue her journey alone. Out of the blue, Helen finds a second love and marries John Hay, an environmental scientist and Nobel Peace Prize winner. They share a love of traveling to exotic and exciting places around the world. However, most of all they enjoy relaxing on the verandah of their home in Rarotonga.

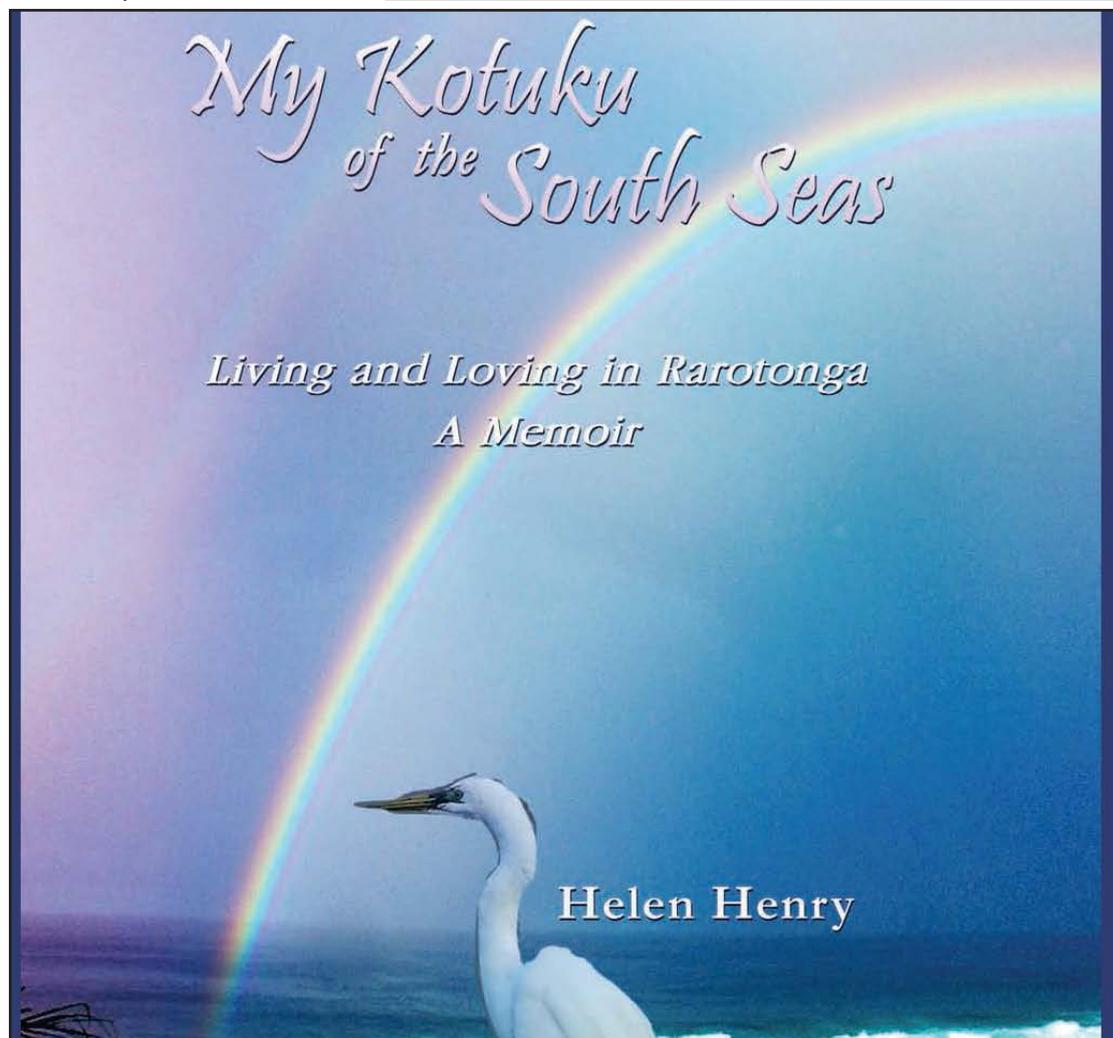
My Kotuku of the South Seas is one woman's remarkably inspiring journey with strong threads of family, harmony and unity. In all her trying times, Helen finds constant solace in the appearance of 'The Kotuku' the beautiful bird

she loved as a child and which she now recognizes as a symbol of enduring comfort.

For more information on this book, log on to www.helenhenryraro.com



Rarotonga, 1972



KAPA IPO 2 ...e ta`i toe

Tātā`ia e Rutera Tariipo

I Rarotonga nei i ko rāi i te Staircase Restaurant & Bar, i te pō Ru`itoru 22 o Mē, kua rave`ia te tu`anga rua o te tārērē`ura 'Kapa Ipo'. Kua ma`ata te au tangata tei tae atu no te mātakitaki `e pērā katoa kia kite i teia tārērē`anga `ura-pātana. Kua tae katoa atu i te mātakitaki tēta`i au au mata rongonui, mei te pupu nene`i teata o te Raro Film nō Paratāne mai, nō Marike, nō Autirēria, tā tātou Mā`ine Kūki `Airani, Patifika a Joyanna Myer, `ē pērā `a Mere Taio te aito `ura Kūki `Airani o te National/International `13 `ē pērā katoa `oki a Lydia Tariu (no Atiu), te tamā`ine i Sydney tei ō atu ki roto i te tārē`anga o te au mata purotu o Sydney i te tu`anga koia e *model* .

No reira ko te au taure`are`a tei ō atu ki roto i teia tārērē`anga no te Kapa Ipo, ko Vaineritua Koteka `ē tōna pātana ko TJ Masters, ko Mii Andrews `ē tōna pātana `ē ko to te Rautī pī ko Joyanna rāua ko Ricky. Kua riro te tu`anga no te mata-`akaariari ki te purotu kiā Mere Taio `ē tōna pātana `ē pērā katoa ki te mata-purotu o Sydney ko Lydia Tariu rāua ko Alex Nicholls. Ko te tu`anga `openga i reira o teia tārērē`anga ka rave`ia te reira a teia pō Ma`anā kai e tū mai nei, rā 1 o Tiūnu ki ko rāi i te Staircase Restaurant & Bar. I reira ka kite `ia āi `e nā`ai e apai i te korona o te mata`iti 2013.

Kia manuia `e te kātoatoa i roto i teia tārērē`anga KAPA IPO 2013 ā te rā 1 o Tiūnu.



Vaineritua `ē tōna pātana



Mii Andrew `ē tōna pātana



Jovana `ē tōna pātana

Ngā 'Mata-akaariari' no te Pō



Mere Taio `ē tōna pātana



Lydia Tariu `ē Alex Nicholls

How to live a positive life in a negative world

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

The world we live in is negative in attitude, confessions and behaviour because that's how many people live life. But God did not want us to be like this. I believe God wanted us to live a positive life in this negative world! The Apostle Paul in the New Testament encourages us to rise above the negative things of this world. In II Corinthians 11v.24-31 (CEV) Paul recounts some of his hardships. Yet there is no where in the Bible where Paul is seen complaining. Sometimes our circumstances are beyond our control, they are unavoidable. The solution is not to change the circumstances, but to learn how to live above them. The question is "What does Paul do, despite his negative circumstances?"

First we see him **Focusing On Jesus Christ And Not His Circumstances.** It is no use blaming others, or running away, or moaning! In fact we can make our circumstances worse by being negative about them. As for Paul, his confession is on Jesus Christ and not his circumstances. Paul was imprisoned; received 39 lashes of whip; beaten with a big stick; stoned; shipwrecked 3 times; robbed by his own people; he worked and struggled and spent many sleepless nights; hungry and thirsty nothing to eat; he was cold because not enough clothes to keep him warm; and so on. But does he become negative about all of these? No! Paul said in II Corinthians 11v.28-29,v.31(CEV) "Besides everything else, each day I am burdened down, worrying about all the churches. When others are weak, I am weak too. When others are tricked into sin, I get angry....God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, knows I am not lying. And God is to be praised for ever!" Paul in Philippians 3v.7-8 (NLT) said, "I once thought all these things were so important, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have discarded everything else, counting it all



as garbage, so that I may have Christ..." Paul was able to see beyond his circumstances. If we talk negatively about our circumstances, the worse they become in our minds. But if we focus our confession towards God concerning our circumstances, the smaller and insignificant these will be! We begin to live a positive life in a negative world by getting our focus off the circumstances and on to Jesus Christ!

Secondly, Paul has his **Focus Upon The Sovereignty Of God And Not The Will Of Man.** Man's will was to stop the Gospel being spread by restricting Paul's movement. It is God's will that none should perish. So if one man is put down, God will raise up another. Man's plan to destroy Paul's mission in life turned out to benefit God's kingdom. Paul said in v.12 of Philippians 1 "But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel." We got to learn to see God at work in the big picture of life. Paul said in Romans 8v.28 "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to his purpose." In the context of the Sovereignty of God, nothing happens to us unless God has permitted it! God knows every part of our lives. Sometimes God can only achieve His purposes through us when we go through negative circumstances. God will use this negative world to engineer the fulfillment of His positive plans and purposes and He wants you and I to be involved.

Thirdly, Paul **Focused Upon The Positive Results And Not The Personal Pains.** God knows how to cause your worst circumstance to make a tremendous spiritual impact upon others. Paul does not complain, he does not blame anyone for his circumstances! Paul lived a positive life in

a negative world spiritually impacting people around him. We need to be focusing upon the opportunities in our circumstances. We may not be able to change our circumstances, but we can change our focus. We don't have to live a negative life in a positive world! We don't have to live under our circumstances unless we choose to! By altering our focus, positive attitudes will rise up within us releasing positive emotions causing our spirit to lift above this negative world. Psalm 125v.1 reads "Those who trust in the Lord are steady as Mount Zion unmoved by any circumstances." May you have a God blessed week!



PUBLIC NOTICE



PRICE ORDER 04/2013

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 04/2013 and shall come into effect on the 18th day of May 2011 for **TRIAD PACIFIC PETROLEUM LTD.**
- 2 Maximum selling prices for fuel imported into the Cook Islands shall be at a rate specified in the schedule below except the island of Aitutaki.
- 3 For the Outer Islands, prices established have been reviewed and updated to include freight, wharfage, boating, reefing, drum/container cost, evaporation and cartage costs.
- 4 Value Added Tax is included in the prices herein set. Import Levy is exempt for Outer Islands excluding Aitutaki as per Exemption Order 03/09/2010.
- 5 All previous references in any Price Order as to the selling prices listed in this Order are hereby revoked upon effective dates above.
- 6 The prices herein set are the maximum that may be charged although less may be charged if so desired.

Given under our hand this 16th day of May 2013

Brian Terrence Hagan
Chairman for the Price Tribunal

Madeilene Sword-Tua
Member for the Price Tribunal

SCHEDULE OF PRICE ORDER

ITEM	WHOLESALE TO Retailers/Bulk Users	RETAIL PRICES TO CONSUMERS IN			Effective Date
		Rarotonga	Southern Group	Northern Group	
PETROL	2.25	2.53	2.80	2.86	May 18, 2013
DIESEL	2.00	2.28	2.59	2.65	May 31, 2013

The premiere for Film Raro!

By Norma Ngatamariki

It was a Saturday night that everyone was waiting for, even though the weather wasn't too promising. Five short films were shown on the big screen at the National Auditorium (the original venue was the BCI Stadium, but since it was raining...). My friends and I had already made plans to attend this 'grand event', two weeks before they started selling tickets. The tickets were distributed out to schools, and the schools would receive half of the proceeds (thanks to the Film Raro crew!). I got my good friend, Justin, to buy mine since it was only two dollars (Meitaki maata, Kuzzin).

There was a reason why everyone was getting so worked up over it. We had some local 'celebrities', making their debut in some of the short films. My fabulous work buddy, Hareta, was

among these celebrities (no doubt, she'll be writing all about her thirty minutes of fame. Lolz) Heck, I almost recognized every single character in those movies, which was so cool. My dad let me have the car for the night, so I was extra careful not to crash it into anything.

When I pulled up onto the Auditorium/Library road, it was chock-a-block! I tried looking for a parking space near the Auditorium, but it just wasn't possible (not to mention, the car was huge), so I had to park really far away. I was really peeved, because it meant that I had to walk even further but I had no choice. I was texting away (you know how it is when you go out with friends. Everybody texts anybody) trying to locate someone. The first thing I notice was Dean's panda ear muffs, so I head towards that direction. Sure enough, I find them all huddled up in a group.

To be honest, I wasn't expecting a huge turnout. But I was wrong on so many levels. I reckon almost half the island showed up at the auditorium, which shouldn't have surprised me at all (I mean, the tickets WERE two dollars for school students and four dollars for adults). When we finally made it inside, I couldn't believe it! All the seats in the Auditorium were taken, so people started sitting on the floor! And even that was starting to get full. Not long after we got in, they started turning down people. Lucky us.

Stan Wolfgram was the MC for the night (he's a very talented person who works in various areas of the media industry, such as producing, acting etc.) He introduced five different directors and crews hailing from all over the world, such as our neighbouring countries (New Zealand and Australia) and from afar (America,

England and Hawaii). It was an awesome feeling, knowing that your island was a movie hot spot, even for directors from Hollywood! The five films were: Mou Piri, which was almost like a documentary about our cultural elements (also starring Hareta Passfield); Little Girl's War Cry, which was based on domestic violence; The Seed, which dealt with a young, troubled boy and his issues; Islands-this short film was interesting because it had no dialogue so it was really up to the actors to give it that 'Wow' factor (starring Heiarii Ioaba, former Miss Cook Islands) and Offshore Pirates, directed by the Hollywood duo (also starring another former Miss Cook Islands and Miss South Pacific, Joyanna Meyer) Each and every one of them were spectacular in their own right. It truly was a night worth waiting for.

Students being taught to make ukuleles

Over the next few weeks, Master Carver Mike Tavioni will be teaching a group of students from Nukutere College, how to make ukuleles. Working across the road from Mike's Atupa workshop for about an hour each day, the students will make their Ukes, learn from Mike how to play them and then they will perform a concert at the College. There are 26 students involved. The area across the road from Mike's workshop is the proposed site for his new Art Gallery and School for teaching various crafts such as screen printing, carving, painting and also language.



Nukutere Students: Geomar, Johnathan, Reynold, Naboua, Dylan, Jade, Bobbie Joe learning to make a ukulele.

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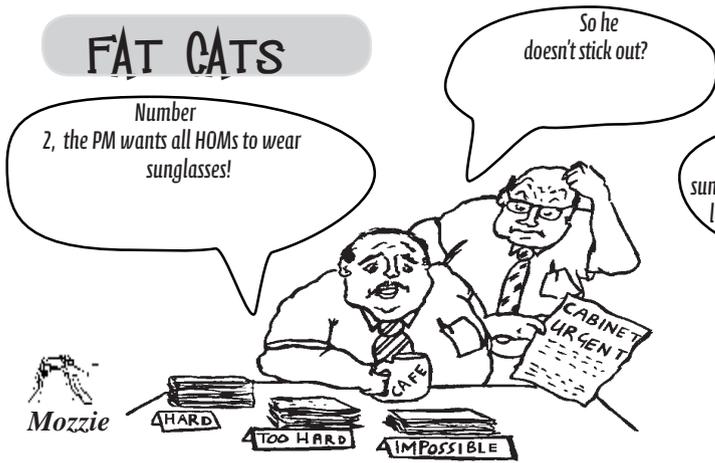
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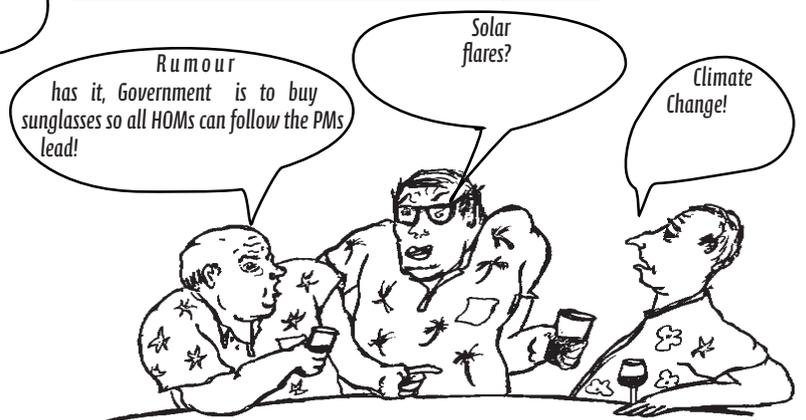
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FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Why did the PM show up at the Nansen chin wag at the water's edge last week, wearing big, dark sun glasses?



Film Raro went down well but the true test is whether the euphoria and initial efforts can be sustained. Who will take on the jobbie of keeping the interest up and encouraging further development? Tourism has no money neither does Culture so what now? Remember how the Survivor programme was going to put the country on the map? Didn't happen!



Speaking of Film Raro and the world premier in the Auditorium on Saturday, we all know every event in the Cookies begins and ends with a prayer but that did not happen! But someone remembered to do so on the Sunday! Also, with all the big wigs sitting there, where were the traditional leaders from Puaikura to support Wolfie?



Cabinet minus Teariki has gone to Mitiaro and Mauke to open the upgraded harbours. Did they arrange for the Patrol Boat to go to make the grand sail in and tie up? The Patrol Boat is not in port so where is it? Does the Captain have secret, sealed orders to be opened at sea? Word is Mauke has a new sea side swimming pool for the kids! Every man and his dog has gone for these events and

CHOOKS CORNER



WITH BIG RED

there will be a Cabinet meeting on Mauke on Wednesday! The QR however has business elsewhere.



Man of the cloth has a solution to depopulation. Borrow \$300 million from China and raise the pay of all public servants and pensioners! When asked by a bewildered Minita O Te Moni just how such a loan would be repaid, the reverently clothed one replied, give ten percent to the Church as a tithe! The Almighty, in keeping with his instructions to the Old Testament prophet Malachi, will open the windows of Heaven and pour out his blessings. So much so, that not only will the big loan be repaid but the country will not need to borrow again!



Go to the fish markets in Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa and Tahiti Nui and what do you see? Stall after stall of different kinds of fish, shell-fish and sea food. All brought in from their outlying islands to sell at the big, central fish markets in their main towns. Visit the one stall fish market

in Rarotonga and what do you see? Well if you come after 9am, nothing! No fish! Come earlier and you may be able to fight off some tourists for a \$5 plate of Maroro. Some days there might be a sniff of some tuna around. Maybe later there will be some mud-fish, tilapia. How hard is it for someone to arrange for fish, shell-fish and crayfish to be flown in from Atiu, Mauke and Mangaia? Too hard it seems! You hear some chatter about sustainability but that's just a feeble excuse for avoiding a bit of hard work. This proves a long held theory, that no-one in the Cook Islands wants to be a millionaire. In fact a Cook Islander will work tremendously hard to avoid becoming rich.



Do you think the fearless Samoan PM is a tad worried about keeping their loan repayments within one third of GDP? Samoa's debt is \$1 billion. Do you see the Samoan PM waking up in the middle of the night in a cold sweat? Samoa's forging ahead. Why? Because their leadership

has iron guts and big, big, balls to invest BIG in their tourism industry, unlike a small group of 15 islands to the east of them run by a bunch of timid, committee bound, ditherers. In Samoa, a PNG Group is putting up a 200 room, five star resort, a Chinese group is to build a 500 room, five star resort with Casino. Samoa's visitor numbers have soared to well over 130,000. Unless that small group of 15 islands to the east of Samoa wakes up, it will be left in Samoa's wake!



A new sport is to be registered with CISNOC, called "Air-point Hunting." No further details available until the spokesman is back from overseas.



Here's a question for you chooks! Will the wily wee Willy John stand for Penrhyn in the next election? It seems wee Willy's support base is returning! With Australia's economy cooling down and jobs being harder to find, there's reports up to 200 Penryhnites may soon be heading home!

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PNG
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Te Riu Woonton

VACANCY

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - CIPA

The Cook Islands Pearl Authority (CIPA) invites applications for the position of Chief Executive Officer.

CIPA is a Crown Agency responsible for promoting and encouraging the development of a sustainable and commercially viable pearl industry in the Cook Islands.

In recent years, its main task has been focused on rejuvenating the industry by developing and carrying out strategies aimed at reversing the decline in production and increasing exports.

CIPA is seeking a capable and experienced Chief Executive Officer (CEO) with a proven record who can manage CIPA's organization and operations effectively and deliver its stated outputs and outcomes in an efficient manner.

The CEO will be responsible to a Board of Directors and will provide sound advice, relevant management information, and develop strategies for CIPA's operational success as well as the pearl industry's long term sustainability.

The CEO will develop and build strong relationships with industry stakeholders, monitor the industry, market and trends, and undertake development and marketing activities which will rejuvenate the industry.

This is a varied and challenging role which will require a person with outstanding leadership qualities, as well as interpersonal and communication skills.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Minimum of five years experience in a senior management role
- Tertiary degree or qualification in a business management or relevant technical area
- Proven record of successful commercial and/or organisational background
- Demonstrated capacity for strategic thinking, planning and problem solving
- Strong leadership, interpersonal & communications skills
- High level of business development and marketing skills
- High degree of commercial & business acumen, strong understanding of financial management and budgetary controls
- Excellent organisational skills, multi-tasking capability and literacy in Office and relevant ICT software
- Have a sound knowledge of the pearl industry (local and international context)

Written applications with a CV are to be forwarded to:
Chairperson,
CIPA (Ref - CEO)
C/- Brown Harvey & Associates P.C.
PO Box 429, Rarotonga
or emailed to: tina@browneharvey.co.ck

A job description is available from the CIPA Office or by emailing: info@pearlauthority.co.ck

Applications will close 4.00 pm on Thursday, 6 June 2013.

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.



COOK ISLANDS INVESTMENT CORPORATION
Government of the Cook Islands

**“GOVERNMENT PREMISES FOR LEASE
AVARUA WHARF**

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”

Proposals, in writing must be received on or before Tuesday 11th June 2013.

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MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

TENDER
PURCHASE AND SUPPLY OF TIP-TRUCK PROJECT -
AITUTAKI
CONTRACT No. C13/10

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning seeks tender proposals from Contractors for the purchase and supply of a Tip-truck.

A copy of the Tender Document including specifications can be collected during work hours from the MOIP office in Arorangi. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 will be required before the tender document is issued.

Tenders close at 3pm on Friday, 7th June 2013, and must be submitted to the MOIP Office in Arorangi and in accordance with the requirements of the Tender Document. Tenders must be submitted in two sets hard copies inside a sealed envelope labeled "CONFIDENTIAL" and addressed to:

The Acting Secretary
Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning
Arorangi
Rarotonga
Cook Islands

and subsequent markings below to include the following: Tenderers name, contact person, and contact details; Purchase and Supply of Tip-truck Project - Aitutaki; Contract No. C13/10; and closing time and date being 3.00pm Friday 7th June 2013.

Enquiries to: Tenga Mana
Project Engineer
Email: tenga@oyster.net.ck
Phone: +682 20321

PUBLIC NOTICE



PUBLIC INVITATION
BUDGET 2013-14 BREAKFAST PRESENTATION

The Minister of Finance and Economic Management, the Hon. Mark Brown, is extending an invitation to the public for a breakfast presentation on the Budget at the Edgewater Resort Conference Room on Friday 7 June 2013 at 9:00 am.

Date: 7 June 2013
Time: 08:30 am – 10:00 am
Venue: Edgewater Resort Conference Room
Cost: \$15.00pp

Please contact Etuatina at MFEM on phone 22878 or etuatina.drollett@cookislands.gov.ck for registration and payment as space is limited. A designated MFEM official will be at the Edgewater Conference Room at 8:00 am on Friday 7 June to process late registration.



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.

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