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CIP Conference deferred, Leadership challenge averted

Factions' showdown on hold till 2014

By George Pitt

An anticipated challenge to the Cook Islands Party leadership has been stalled by the deferring of this year's Conference. The CIP last held a conference in August 2011 and is obligated by its constitution to convene one this year. Instead, President Rau Nga said in defence of the deferral a Party conference will be held in 2014. Despite the three year gap, Nga said there was no breach of the CIP constitution.

Nga disputed suggestions the conference had been politically high-jacked by those in leadership who were aware senior positions would be challenged. Nga claimed the correct process had been followed in order to defer the conference. He said MPs were going back to their constituencies for the National Constitution celebrations and they would meet with CIP members while there.

The President also disputed there was any divisive activity within the party and there was no threat to the Leader Henry Puna's position. Talk of Teariki Heather challenging the Leader isn't true Nga claims. "I asked Teariki myself if he was going to challenge Henry and he gave me his word he is in full support of the Prime Minister."

Despite Nga's insistence the CIP is a united front he overlooks the fact the CIP leadership have been divided since the shock loss in the 2006 general elections. In 2006 Sir Geoffrey Henry's successor Henry Puna lost his Manihiki seat to Democratic Party candidate Apii Piho. His Deputy the veteran Tom Marsters retained his Murienua seat but was never promoted to the Party's leadership.

While Marsters was the



CIP President Rau Nga

CIP's Parliamentary leader and Leader of the Opposition, the unsuccessful Henry Puna refused to relinquish the Party Leadership to Marsters. This division has gradually become the faction platform that now has several streams.

This was mirrored by the Democratic Party whose leader Sir Dr Terepai Maoate was the Deputy Prime Minister while Ivirua's Jim Marurai was the Prime Minister.

Teariki Heather's aspirations to be the leader of the Cook Islands Party are no secret from the 2006 CIP Conference prior to the general elections when he stood for the vacancy won by Henry Puna.

Puna was virtually guaranteed to win the vote because with Sir Geoffrey Henry's help delegates had been lobbied. Only two delegates from each constituency and the Party Executive were eligible to

vote. The former leader had considerable influence with the Executive and Puna personally had paid ten outer island delegates their airfares to attend the Conference ensuring he received their support.

The issues that will have a bearing on the factions within the Party will be influenced by, who gets the vacant Cabinet seat, who gets the Deputy Prime Ministers position and how the portfolios are redistributed. But whatever happens any challenges to the Leadership will have to idle in neutral gear for another twelve months.

The logical choice for the vacant Cabinet position is Matavera's Kiriau Turepu who has marginal seniority and gives Takitumu a balancing presence in politics' high court.

If Henry Puna's public connectivity wanes due to frequent overseas travel he can expect a challenge from tag

team Heather and Bishop to boost sagging Party popularity heading into the next general elections.

If a Norman George led collaboration ousts the CIP from Government, the CIP will almost certainly look to a new Leader. Should this happen expect to see Henry brothers Mike, Stuart and Nick if he can be enticed back, inject themselves into the Party engine room.

Many rank and file Party members are frustrated their views will not be aired at a conference. The President, Vice President, General Secretary are three positions expected to be challenged. Long time Party members believe the leadership are more interested in preserving their positions instead of beginning to prepare for the next general elections.

The financial state of the Party is an issue members want transparency and accountability. "There is a lot of talk that the CIP have no money to contest an election nor do we know what is the direction we are being lead," said a long time Party supporter who did not want to be named. "As usual everything will be left to the last minute."

In the past, Party conferences have followed the Maire Nui Celebrations due to the convenience of having outer islands delegates on Rarotonga. While this may have been helpful in the past some members question the validity of basing the conference dependence on the festivities.

"Next time if there is no money like this year to have the Maire Nui Celebrations in Rarotonga does that mean the Party conference is deferred again?" said a dissatisfied CIP supporter.

Cooks to make history at European Parliament in Brussels

Later in June, the Minister for Natural Resources and Minerals, Hon Tom Marsters will lead a small, fully funded Seabed Minerals delegation to the ACP/EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) at the European Parliament situated in Brussels, Belgium.

At the JPA, the Cook Islands team will make an historic Seabed Minerals presentation.

Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Commissioner Paul Lynch told the Herald on Tuesday morning that Minister Marsters has been pushing for years for the Cook Islands Seabed Minerals sector development issue to be a topic of discussion onto the Meeting Agenda of EU/ACP JPA.

This Seabed Minerals presentation is set to take place in the afternoon on Saturday 15th June 2013, during a simultaneous session of the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade and the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment.

Lynch said the Minister considers that the sharing of this new economic perspective, at this EU/ACP JPA meeting, of the Cook Islands experience in dealing with the particular preparatory issues it has encountered relating to developing its national Seabed Minerals sector, which are also

grounded in our own unique historical and cultural context, can be of assistance to other nations in realizing this new economic potential.

Indeed it is hoped said Lynch, that, via this presentation by the Cook Islands, our international friends and African, Caribbean and Pacific neighbours in the EU/ACP may seek to explore the Cook Islands experience in order to progress the establishment of their own regulatory framework in order to successfully develop their own Seabed Minerals sectors in their respective EEZs for the benefit of their national economies and people.

The Cook Islands SBM presentation to the EU/ACP JPA nations in Brussels is also a new opportunity to promote the Cook Islands unique and valuable Manganese Nodules resource to an international audience.

These on-going international promotion and awareness building activities, by the Minister and the Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Authority, is essential ahead of the Cook Islands International Tender of Exploratory Blocks in its large EEZ, preparations for which are on track to take place in mid-2014.

The Minister has invited three important delegates to join the Minister's Seabed Minerals Presentation to the EU-

1. Paul Lynch, Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Commissioner;

2. Prof Michael G Petterson, Director SOPAC Division, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, based in Fiji; and

3. Joshua Brien Acting Head –Economic and Legal Section, Commonwealth Secretariat (London) Special Advisory Services Division.

Minister Marsters will give an "overview" of his background of SBM in the Cook Islands and why its development is relevant and critical to ACP member nations, and deserves EU/ACP support, as a new economic opportunity.

Commissioner Paul Lynch will speak on the development of the Cook Islands SBM sector

and work up to date.

Prof. Petterson will present on SBM issues from a regional perspective and to press for continued EU funding of the 4 year Regional EU/SPC Deep Sea Minerals Project.

Joshua Brien of the Commonwealth Secretariat will present on SBM from an international perspective.

No other nation has been given actual SBM presentation time by the EU/ACP. Lynch says this is probably because it has been the Cook Islands Minister Tom Marsters who has been personally driving this SBM issue onto the EU/ACP Agenda for years and now he has been successful, for the first time ever.

CI Seabed Minerals Authority release

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor,

I am writing to say congratulations on the hiring of the Herald's new, young writer Hareta Passfield.

I think it is important to encourage young Pacific writers, and I have enjoyed reading her columns, they are young and refreshingly honest and I would like to say to the Editor. "Great work!"

You all do a great job and I in particular welcome Hareta's new voice to the Cook Islands Herald.

Kind regards,
Pouarii Tanner

PS: Your TV News team is spectacular! Alex Pere does a great job as an Editor and Maria tanner looks great on camera.

Minister delivers “Good News” Budget

By Charles Pitt

In the House on Wednesday afternoon, Minister of Finance Mark Brown delivered what he termed in his speech, a Good News Budget.

The Minister said: “This budget aligns with the principles we set out in the National Sustainable Development Plan. This budget has demonstrated concrete measures which expand our economic base. We have announced record levels of investment in infrastructure and we are now well on the path to progressing our goal of energy security.

This is a government that is upfront with the public and has been for the last two years we have seen the most open and transparent budget processes ever seen in this country.

This is a government that tackles tough issues and deals with them rather than hiding from them. This is a modern government, a government of the 21st century and the best government in the region.

I am proud of this budget, the Government is proud of this budget, and I trust the Parliament will be proud of this budget, it is a budget for the Cook Islands and our people. I commend this, the Good News Budget to the House.”

Minister’s speech highlights

State of the economy

The prospects for economic growth in the Cook Islands continue to be positive in the short term.

Nominal GDP growth is estimated to reach 4.6 per cent in 2013/14, with some weakness in business investment being offset by growth in capital projects and a return to trend tourism growth.

It is estimated that almost 121,000 visitors will come to the Cook Islands in the year to 30 June. This is anticipated to grow by 2.1 per cent in 2013/14 to a total of 127,000.

Maintaining and diversifying our economy is a key underlying driver for this Government, our policies are aimed at this principle. A stagnant economy does not serve anyone any good.

Revenue

Total underlying revenue, that is the revenue the Crown collects excluding official development assistance for 2013/14 is estimated to be \$118.9 million, an increase of 7 per cent on the estimated underlying revenue which will be collected for 2012/13.

Rescind the withholding tax on interest earned on savings from 1 January 2014. After 1 January 2014 people will no longer pay a withholding tax on interest earned on their savings which accrue after 31 December 2014. This will reduce revenue by \$600,000 in 2013/14 and \$1.2 million in 2014/15. This has not been a popular tax but it was necessary to finance the Crown’s legal obligation to provide a \$1.2 million profit guarantee to Toa.

From 1 January the Government will increase the personal duty free allowance for all people arriving into the Cook Islands from \$250 to \$750. The limit has not been increased in a number of years and this action will bring us into parity with New Zealand reducing the confusion of travellers to the Cook Islands. This will reduce revenue of \$37,500 in 2013/14 and by \$75,000 per annum.

From 1 July the departure tax will increase from \$55 to \$65, there will be a further 33 per cent increase in tobacco levies and a two per cent increase in levies in soft drinks and alcohol.

A number of prescribed fees have not been increased since 2008, in particular immigration permits. The Government from 1 July will increase the annual permit for a foreign worker fee to \$680. This will add less than a dollar a day to the cost of employing that foreign worker.

Government will change the regulatory requirements around drivers licenses so that tourists arriving in the Cook Islands with an qualifying licence do not have to go and queue up at the police station for hours to get their licenses. So if a New Zealander and an Australian rent a car and they have an appropriate class licence for that vehicle then we accept that.

For local drivers we will be decreasing the current registration fee paid by people driving scooters up to 125 cc, which is the majority of the motorbike fleet in the country. The revenue loss will be made up through increased registration fees for rental vehicles.

Tax review

The Government will focus a two year project to improve compliance in relation to tourism services being sold through wholesalers. MFEM aims to use its tax information exchange agreements with both New Zealand and Australia and other countries to improve compliance in this sector.

MMR has forecast an additional \$1.7 million in fisheries catch revenue collected from operators who wish to purchase unutilized quota from within the total allowable catch (TAC).

Expenditure

Overall spending by the Government in 2013/14 will be \$196.5 million, consisting of \$136.5 million on recurrent spending and \$60 million on capital spending. The total capital spend by the Cook Islands budget is a record.

\$7.3 million has been paid for Toa since we were obliged to make profit guarantee payments - \$7.3 million that could have been invested into tangible benefits for our people.

Health

Government is committed to improving our health outcomes with the inclusion of an additional \$1 million for the Ministry of Health. Government with the assistance of development partners will re-establish the Cook Islands nursing school.

In 2010, the Ministry could not fill 15 vacant nursing positions due to resignations, retirements and low salaries offered. Foreign nurses on contract are now 30 per cent of the nursing workforce. Additionally, a further 30 per cent of our 111 nurses are nearing or over the age of 60 and will therefore soon be retiring.

This year we have had 162 cases admitted since January 2013 up at Rarotonga hospital which are directly related to NCD’s the sad aspect of these statistics are that 4 cases in 2012 and 9 case since January 2013 have had to have limbs amputated as nothing further could be done. Since January to May 2013 there are 2153 cases seen in an outpatient clinic that have NCDs.

Government will provide an additional \$50,000 for patient referrals.

Additionally a further \$25,000 will be made available to ensure availability of drugs on shelves for both patients and clinicians in order to prevent and manage diseases.

Over and above this, the Government will spend a further \$1.265 million in capital for the Ministry of Health, this includes:

- An ongoing \$275,000 for technical medical equipment;
- \$150,000 for ambulance which we are currently negotiating with Ministry of Health in New Zealand; and
- \$840,000 for infrastructure, which includes upgrading the outpatient’s area at Rarotonga Hospital, and a new hospital at Pukapuka.

The Government will spend a total of \$12.8 million in health.

Education

Government will be spending almost \$15 million in education in 2013/14.

From 1 July the Government will provide an additional \$1.295 million in salaries for both public and private school teachers. This increase will complement further strengthening of the performance management system for teachers with all teachers now expected to have or be working towards the completion of a first degree.

In our public schools, 190 teachers, 21 principals, 38 teacher aides and 25 support staff will receive salary increments from 1 July. In addition, teachers, Principals and support staff employed in private schools will receive the same benefits.

Government will also spend a further \$50,000 per annum on youth training initiatives. This initiative is aimed at increasing the

Continued page 6

Community development and transparency key aims for Extractive Industry

By Charles Pitt

Two important, high profile conferences in Sydney last month of relevance to our Seabed Minerals sector were attended by personnel from the office of the Seabed Minerals Authority and Seabed Minerals Advisory Board.

Teresa Manarangi-Trott, Chair of the newly formed Seabed Minerals Advisory Board and Caroline Tiraa, Compliance and Administration Manager at the Seabed Minerals Authority (She also handles all Finance and Accounting matters) attended the Mining For Development Conference (supported by SOPAC) held 20-21 May 2013 and Caroline Tiraa attended the Extractive industries Transparency International (EITI) conference (sponsored by UNDP) held May 23-24 May 2013.

Trott has completed her report on the Mining for Development Conference and her report will be made public once it has been studied by the Minister Hon Tom Marsters.

The Herald spoke with Tiria on Tuesday morning about the two conferences.

She said the Mining for Development conference was attended by over 300 delegates representing governments, NGOs, the Mining sector, Environmental Groups, and groups interested in social structures. She said the Conference provided an opportunity for developing

countries, civil society, the private sector and the international donor community to discuss best practice in achieving inclusive and sustainable development from mining. It will explore the challenges that exist and opportunities that are available to national governments, local governments and the women and men of mining communities to work more effectively with each other.

The two day Conference included sessions on the gender dimensions of mining, conflict mitigation and resolution, effective agreement making, building sustainable local enterprise, employment and capacity development. The Conference also looked at the factors that comprise good governance, including transparency, and the importance of building strong and effective local and national governments.

Tiria said the sector was now more mindful of "people development" for the time when mining operations ceased and companies moved on to other locations. The aim was to foster business development, create employment, upskill and empower people.

Following this conference, Tiria attended the Extractive industries Transparency International (EITI) conference.

Tiria said around 350 people from 69 countries attended this conference. It was attended by

people who were in positions of authority and who could make things happen, such as CEOs, government Ministers, Leaders.

Tiria said there had been no discussions yet about the Cook Islands becoming a member of the Extractive Industries group but there would be advantages in joining. For example, the group had built up some 150 years of experience that we could tap into.

This conference was about taking the initiatives from transparency to accountability.

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) sets the global standard for transparency of revenues from natural resources. The EITI Conference was seen as another milestone in the evolution of EITI and its steps toward ensuring that natural resource wealth leads to development.

What is now known as the EITI process evolved from the first statement of the EITI Principles at the EITI Conference in 2003. The Validation methodology was finalized by the EITI Board in 2007. Still, the EITI Principles and EITI Criteria are the most concise statement of the beliefs and aims of the Initiative. These beliefs and aims are endorsed by EITI stakeholders, supporters and implementers alike.

The EITI Criteria Implementation of EITI must be consistent with the criteria below:

1. Regular publication of

all material oil, gas and mining payments by companies to governments ("payments") and all material revenues received by governments from oil, gas and mining companies ("revenues") to a wide audience in a publicly accessible, comprehensive and comprehensible manner.

2. Where such audits do not already exist, payments and revenues are the subject of a credible, independent audit, applying international auditing standards.

3. Payments and revenues are reconciled by a credible, independent administrator, applying international auditing standards and with publication of the administrator's opinion regarding that reconciliation including discrepancies, should any be identified.

4. This approach is extended to all companies including state-owned enterprises.

5. Civil society is actively engaged as a participant in the design, monitoring and evaluation of this process and contributes towards public debate.

6. A public, financially sustainable work plan for all the above is developed by the host government, with assistance from the international financial institutions where required, including measurable targets, a timetable for implementation, and an assessment of potential capacity constraints.

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Our Cover Girl The good news



Our cover girl for issue 669 week is 17 year old Abigail Selam. Abigail was born in Tahiti and raised here in Rarotonga, and loves to surf. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck. and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald

From page 4

participation of our young people in training and employment. It will aim to lift the skills of young people and provide opportunities for them to gain valuable work experience.

In addition Government will be spending \$671,000 on school infrastructure in 2013/14.

Looking after our elderly

As of 1 July the Government will increase the monthly pension to those over 70 years of age to \$500 a month. Government will be spending \$9 million paying pensions to the elderly next financial year.

Outer islands

In line with their increased responsibilities, Mayors, Deputy Mayors, and Councillors have been provided pay increases; at a cost of \$156,000 to the budget.

Almost \$20 million is spent by the Government in the Pa Enea. These include:

- \$6.8 million in bulk funding for the operations for the island governments;
- \$6.3 million in the operations of the major agencies; and
- \$6.3 million in welfare payments to people in the Pa Enea.

Public Debt

Our debt at the end of 30 June 2014 will be projected to be \$100.1 million and against this we will have a \$15 million in our loan reserve and we anticipate that we will have around \$10 million in unencumbered cash reserves.

Overseas Development Assistance

We anticipate that around \$60 million of ODA will be dispersed in the Cook Islands during 2013/14, some of this are the result of activities that have slipped from 2012/13. Our ODA schedule is outlined in the Budget papers.

Infrastructure

Government has committed to funding of approximately \$60 million in capital plans for Budget 2013/14 which is funded through depreciation, cash reserves, lending, State Owned Enterprise (SOE) dividends and Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Government will commit almost \$9.3 million over 2013/14 and \$7.3 million in 2014/15 for various capital projects from our own Treasury. These are record levels of investment and coupled with the assistance from our development partners will considerably advance the economic prospects of the nation.

Government will be spending \$2.5 million from our Treasury on improving five major bridges around Rarotonga, a further \$2.8 million on improving the harbours in Manihiki.

Additionally we will be committing \$5 million in 2013/14 to undertaking the remaining road work for project city, which will improve the road from the Airport through to Tupapa.

Cook Islands Party the Lazy Government

Parliament and Democracy Dysfunctional

During 2011 Parliament sat for just 20 days. This was of little concern to the Cook Islands Party government whose Leader, by contrast, made 13 overseas trips in 2012, spent over 100 days travelling overseas and spent just 14 days in the House dealing with matters of importance to the country.

In the euphoria of the CIP's victory celebrations, reality was abandoned for reckless rhetoric which included boasting of their promise to sit for 100 days in Parliament. The fact is House sittings can be measured in hours. Given the benefit of doubt after the first year, there's no doubt after the second year the CIP Government continues to confirm they are big on talk but small on delivery.

This CIP Government is now being characterised by their laziness that extends to their own house keeping. So preoccupied with everything except what matters, the Cook Islands Party is ignoring their own constitution and for the second year deferring their conference for another year. That is another story in its self.

New members of parliament from both sides of the house are becoming frustrated at the lack of sittings where they can develop and learn the subject of Parliament. Being a MP, much of one's learning curve is by doing. It comes from the experience of being in the House while parliamentary debate and activity is in session. The rules of parliament, the art of debating and its culture are learnt and absorbed by engagement.

The likely result of this government's term is the lack of opportunity for MPs to become

competent, capable and skilful Parliamentarians.

In the late 1990's when the CIP under Sir Geoffrey ruled, up to 100 days at a minimum of 4 hour sittings were spent locked in robust debate in the House. It was not unusual for sittings to be held during nights when debates were stretched. It was unheard of that some politician's voices were never heard over the popular broadcasts that had listeners from Mangaia to Penryhn riveted to their radios.

Cook Islands governance has now become compromised in that only six MPs, the Cabinet, dominate our democratic process. The actions of the

By refusing to have Parliamentary sittings the CIP Government is in a way elevating themselves above the law in that they are beyond democracy's reach.

CIP government are not being scrutinised in the House, nor is the Government allowing themselves to be subjected to the principles of good governance.

This has put the media in the precarious position of being the means by which government is publically challenged and held accountable. If there were regular sittings of Parliament, the Opposition could fulfil its traditional purpose instead of doing it predominantly through the media.

By refusing to have Parliamentary sittings the CIP Government is in a way elevating themselves above the law in that they are beyond democracy's reach. Parliament is the arena for Government

to ensure public inclusiveness through their representative's participation in the governance of the Country.

The media then becomes vulnerable as it does not have Parliamentary privilege; therefore the Opposition is limited in what it can publically say about the Government.

This copy cat trend cleverly adopted by Prime Minister Jim Marurai out of survival is not needed by a majority Government who had criticised and condemned Marurai for his actions.

MPs are supposed to represent and express the voice of the people in the House of

participate in the review by presenting their views orally or in writing. If changes are to be made the SC report back to Parliament and amendments are made for the third reading before being passed as an Act.

By the number of Bills piling up waiting for presentation in the House for debate there could be enough work for three select committees to work five days a week. But the CIP Government is lazy. One SC could be working constantly on reviewing every Act more than 40 years old either to amend them or simply have them repealed. One for example, the Religious Organisations Restrictions Act of 1975 should be abolished.

Recently a High Court Judge suggested some of our aging and irrelevant Family related laws could be reviewed. Public concern about our 40 year old Crimes Act, a copy of an old NZ Act had lost disparity due to a lack of reviews. This is bread and butter work our MPs could be engaged in.

The about to be introduced Health Bill contains some controversial proposals that need to have public consultation. This is work for our unemployed MPs. SC work is valuable experience for MPs as it provides them with the opportunity to dialogue with the public and learn the Bill in depth giving them confidence to debate it in the House.

In February 2012 a SC was appointed to review the Judicature Amendment Bill. It sat five times from February to May then suffered a "stroke." The Chairman, PM Henry Puna has not convened a meeting since.

- By George Pitt

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir
I was greatly impressed by James Webb's letter in the CIs News (Tuesday (21 May) and his grasp of the issues and problems confronting any effort to increase primary production and would like to add some of my own thoughts to his.

The reality is that there will be no increase in production until policies change and the people so engaged, or potentially so, can see that such pursuits will be worthwhile and rewarding and some of the barriers removed and incentives installed.

Mr Webb rightly observes that locals are reluctant to work the fields for the basic wage as there are too many more appealing, better paying and less onerous opportunities in the workplace. And the fact of the matter is, in Rarotonga at least, there is no unemployment to speak of. Those who whine about foreigners taking the jobs are just exposing their own ignorance and xenophobia because every foreign worker is testimony to the absence of a local to fill the position and the more they bleat this tired old refrain the more our impressionable immigration officials think there is some truth to it and tighten the procedures. Those in Rarotonga who have no job are either unemployable or don't wish to work (or find burglary more lucrative).

Ask any businessman and he would tell you that he would much prefer to employ a Cook Islander but invariably receives zero or impossibly unsuitable applicant response to local advertising (now required to an absurd extent), and is then compelled to run the gauntlet of recruiting from overseas. Advertising again, draconian medical requirements, police clearances, airfares, accommodation issues, contracts, uncertainty as to what you are getting and then the immigration tax. Immigration likes to call it a fee but a fee is generally to recover actual and reasonable expenses. It is a tax and Immigration wants it every year so it goes way past fee.

If other government departments operated on the same principle we would be paying exorbitantly for what are essentially basic services.

And that is how Immigration should interpret its role. It is a basic service. The economy is desperately short of workers. Immigration while obviously needing to protect the sanctity of our borders urgently needs to review its role in the scheme of things and get with the programme.

Apart from the obvious (Police clearances, simplified, cheaper medical requirements) Immigration's role should be one of facilitating the fulfilment of genuine needs by streamlining procedures and speeding up the process and dropping the inane notion that they are the guardian of the country's morals and the steward of its wellbeing and better able to assess the qualification and suitability than the long suffering employer who they have jumping through all these hoops and who have to wait ridiculously protracted periods of time to get any action.

Immigration needs a total revamping to convert it to a user friendly agent of a government allegedly bent upon moving the economy forward with enlightened policies in concert with the mantra of the National Sustainable Development Plan because 'words are nothing without actions' and to this writer the NSDP mission

statement is just so much rhetoric because this instrument of the State which should be welcoming and helpful works hard at portraying an image of being difficult, frustrating and uncooperative. Admittedly there has been a recent change in the ranks so we hope for better things. So much for labour and immigration the first of the stumbling blocks that Mr Webb identified.

The second is land. As Mr Webb reports there is an abundance of unused fertile land in Rarotonga. Even more so in the Southern Group.

I made a suggestion in the letters section of the CIs News (26.01.11) on how to get production going in the outer islands. Not a peep out of anybody ! It was radical. It was new and it has never been tested and as Mr Webb says the problem will not be fixed using the same set of policies. Serious agricultural development requires serious, economically manageable tracts of land. Half acre or one acre plots are fine for the part time grower who has a primary job but they are not serious tracts. Sure they will generate product and an income but not at the level we wish to see. What is required is bold leadership and sometimes that means going against the flow for the greater good. Working against that however is the natural conservatism endemic here. People hate change. Any disturbance of the status quo and all the negativity pours out of the woodwork. I will give you just two examples. One, the trimming of the ironwoods through town. Two, moving the cenotaph to its new position. Uncalled for, irrational criticism. How can we ever progress with such attitudes? If this is what greets such inconsequential matters imagine the reaction to something really radical but meaningful and necessary. Politicians lack courage in the face of such reactions which lends support to that aphorism that 'the opposite of courage is not cowardice it is conformity'. There is heaps of conformity out there and precious little courage so the first thing we need is to change the mindset.

The next is to recognise that something over 75%% of Cook Islanders already live overseas and given the best will in the world most will never come back to live. Yet they retain land rights which tie up otherwise useful productive land which then lies idle because of the fragmented, multiplicity of ownership and the difficulty this presents in obtaining consents.

In 1966 a Short Term Crop Leases Act was passed whose purpose was to enable a grower to enlarge his holdings and

increase production. Whatever he planted however had to be sown or planted, grown and harvested within five years. Overseas resident Cook Islanders did not need to be consulted. A majority of owners resident in the island concerned was sufficient. Strangely though one did not hear of many short term crop leases. Clearly five years would be inadequate where tree crops were concerned nor would it justify heavy investment in machinery, buildings or irrigation. How then to facilitate the longer term development with larger tracts?

For a group of owners the Land Facilitation of Dealings Act of 1970 provided the answer and it was this I referred to in my 26 January 2011 letter but again one hears little of its use. This procedure would be brilliant for the Southern Group islands where there is plenty of land and few people. Meanwhile one hears nothing from the authorities promoting these two opportunities. Plenty of talk about import substitution. Little action.(remember 'words are nothing without actions'!!)

Back in the 1950s when just 12 and a half per cent of the landowners were living abroad economists* were speaking of a mechanism where individualisation of ownership giving permanent rights could be secured. Occupation Rights for the citrus replanting scheme were running into the difficulty of increasing numbers of owners of each block and absentees. Agreement by persuasion, public relations and education was recommended to be the official approach but there was recognition, even then, that some reserve powers of compulsion might need to be resorted to if owner multiplicity and absentee owners became too overwhelming an obstacles. That was the opinion then in the 1950s when just 12 and a half percent of Cook Islanders were overseas. How much more relevant are these observations now? ! Obviously hugely so but are we going to wait until 95% of

Cook Islanders are permanently living overseas before finding the courage to do something about it? By then of course it will be too late.

What I suggest for Rarotonga is a land use survey to identify idle land suitable for cultivation. Find out who the owners are, how long it has been idle and why. Then determine whether any members of collateral lines are interested in planting it. It will of course be claimed that that land is for such and such a member of the family overseas but if there is a reasonable presumption that residence away is permanent this claim should be ignored and powers instituted to effect a compulsory lease over it with strict conditions as to how the land should be used. This will naturally require a law change so it will be interesting then to see whether our parliamentarians are followers or leaders because this would constitute a serious change and as I have noted people here hate change. They would rather see land remain idle than have someone earning money from it and helping the economy. For the Southern Group islands I stand by my earlier proposal for incorporation.

We have the capability of producing economic quantities of a vast number of products. Back in the sixties we used to regularly ship to NZ anything up to 24,000 cases of tomatoes at one time (that's over 200,000 kilos or 200 tonnes people ! Ask Harry Napa . He used to coordinate these shipments). Citrus was a thriving industry as were bananas and pineapples. To a lesser extent coffee, peanuts, pepper, cattle and others. By air we shipped capsicums, egg plant, beans, snowpeas, chilli,

courgettes and pawpaw. Only pawpaw remains. I am not advocating any particular crop but making the point everyone was growing. Those that had regular jobs devoted their free time to this pursuit. There was a keenness and enthusiasm and a stronger work ethic. Not so now. What has changed? Firstly I think people are more affluent but to put the lie to that why then are we seeing these mortgagee sales? So have people grown lazy as has been alleged (remember the outcry when the late Robert Wigmore said so) or is it that they cannot see the rewards otherwise, why is it that there are now so few serious growers? The energy is there as evidenced by the gatherings after 4pm on the football fields and netball courts. That energy could be channelled into generating extra income for the family, to pay the mortgage, to counter the ever increasing cost of living, to purchase insurance for your home so you were not a burden on the community when it burnt down. Why isn't it? Mr Webb has identified land and labour. Others I suggest are financing and the taxation disincentive.

There has been much written recently about depopulation and growing the economy. It is easy to be critical and identifying the problems. Coming up with solutions is the hard part. How often have you heard those in government say we have to get the people back. Plenty of times but what policies do they have to achieve that? Making primary production attractive would be one step in the right direction. Brian Baudinet (CIs News 1/06/13) had several others as have various economic forums but as this article

is focussed on primary production I am not venturing there. As Brian wrote however much of the good advice falls on deaf ears. Sometimes I wonder whether this deafness is symptomatic of the fault politicians have of rejecting anything coming from a perceived hostile source (see my letter CIs News 25/02/13- A little less sensitivity). Other times I wonder whether it is simply a case of an intellectual vacuum and those in office just not being up to the task. I addressed that difficulty in an earlier letter in the CIs News (see The Story of Philosophy 31.01.13). So the challenge emerging here is first to put aside the bias and prejudice and self serving interests and take a long hard look at where the Cook Islands will be in another ten years if we fail to take the bold decisions.

Politicians need to review their own personal agenda and address the common good. If the politicians had the choice of doing the right thing and possibly losing their jobs experience has proven job security is their uppermost consideration. Why else has political reform ground to a halt? And find me a politician who would be honest enough to admit it. This is why voters need to take a serious look at the calibre and dedication of their representatives in Parliament. A popular village person is not necessarily possessed of the knowledge, talents and ability that we need in Parliament. He might be perfect material for an Island Council but on national issues likely to be out of his depth. If we want to achieve for the Cook Islands all that we aspire to then with a general election looming we should be thinking seriously now who can we trust to do the

job well and put the Cook Islands first.

Finance- For the Southern Group islands if my proposal were to ever be adopted initial funding would be by the State and provision would need to be made in the appropriation for Agriculture.

For Rarotonga however cheap loan funding would be needed and I see a revolving fund under the management of the Agriculture Department with funds voted by Parliament but with officers being held responsible for irresponsible lending to avert any tendency to favour friends or relations or succumb to interference or directions from their political masters.

Taxation-The Punanga Nui Market vendors taxation saga gave a clear indication of the resentment that attended Government's announcement to capture these people within its taxation net. I believe the whole idea was misconceived. On the one hand government is talking import substitution and urging increased primary activity and before it is even off the ground is hitting the pockets of those who conceivably might respond.

People need incentives to rise to such challenges. Taxing them is not the way to go. Quite the reverse in fact. Long before the current talk about lowering the rate of taxation on secondary employment I proposed (again to those who would not listen) that there be a flat rate of 10% on secondary employment. Such a proposal, which is now gaining in popularity, is more meaningful now than then because of the acute labour shortage and to those so concerned about the

Continued page 14

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The renewable energy home

How do you get people to switch to renewable energy homes?

That's the dream of environmentalists who acknowledge that while burning fuel is a good way to create electricity, it also causes pollution. Furthermore, Pacific Islands Governments have a great incentive to have their populations go renewable because the country will then save big time on fuel imports.

But to persuade people to take up renewable energy and energy efficiency is something else. How can that be managed?

Here's the theory. It's called Maslow's hierarchy of needs and is studied by psychology or management students in their first year at the University of the South Pacific. Essentially, people have two basic needs they have to satisfy before any other needs. One is physiological (like food, water, shelter, sleep) and the second is safety (like protection from the elements, security, law, order, and stability). The point is that electricity can help to bolster needs at these basic levels (as well as higher) and that drives the demand for electricity in the community.

But demand for electricity is affected by price. If you feel power is too expensive then you might choose to hand wash your clothes and hang it up to dry rather than turn on the washing machine or clothes dryer.



: Home in Rarotonga with solar panels on roof

Or you might take advantage of some of the incentives available like installing free CFL light bulbs ("hey if it saves you money, why not!") or trading in your old fridge or freezer for a new energy efficient one. Or you might use some of your savings to buy a simple solar system that will lower your power costs now and in the future.

Another method is where Government requires utilities to get renewable energy generated electricity. This is the German tactic

and it's now ours. TAU will over the next 18 months install solar arrays on the roofs of at least three government buildings and one ground mounted solar array at a cost of \$4million. It's also spending a lot to strengthen the Avatiu power house and the electricity grid in anticipation of growing loads of renewable electricity.

The point is there is real commitment here in Rarotonga, particularly at the leadership level; to the creation of renewable

electricity although a lot of it is still to be expressed beyond planning documents and design drawings. But clearly, our preparation is more advanced than some of our neighbours.

A report this week in Cook Islands News said the Tuvalu Electric Corporation was using donor funding of NZ\$312,250 to build a demonstration fale (traditional house) just for the purpose of showing Tuvaluans the benefits of living in a renewable energy home.



New Born Allowance Government's quiet achiever

By George Pitt

The winning tender for future votes did not go to the highest bidder. In the 2010 General Elections chase for votes, the Democratic Party's copy cat tender of \$1,500 for every new born baby was by passed for the Cook Islands Party's lower offer of \$1,000.

By the end of this financial year up to 500 babies will have been recipients of the new born allowance (NBA) of \$1,000 since its inception. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, for this financial year, up until the end of April, 253 babies have been born and the estimate of 267 will be overtaken. There is an average of 25 births a month.

That's a lot of happy parents who are grateful to the CIP Government for the hand up at an expensive occasion in parenting.

How that will translate into votes at the next elections remains to be seen.

In keeping their electioneering promise it is costing the tax payer around a quarter of a million each financial year. This allowance could become the CIP Government's quiet achiever if voters can be reminded who initiated the allowance.

One set of parents who have no doubts from where their blessing has come is Eugene and Nane Tatuava from Atiu. On Saturday 1st June at six minutes past five am their second child a healthy baby girl was born.



Uncle Nandi Glassie holds 7 hour old baby Tatuava while dad Eugene looks on.

When questioned seven hours later what they planned to do with the \$1,000 Nane happily said they were going to buy baby things.

When asked if she would vote for the CIP she gave the thumbs up. Then how could she not, because uncle, the Minister of Health Nandi Glassie had arrived to see the new baby who was unnamed at the time. Nane said they would wait till they returned to Atiu so the family could have a say in naming their

new daughter.

With baby Tatuava being the only new arrival in the Maternity Ward visiting family were creating a pleasant celebratory mood.

In discussing the NBA with Glassie he raised his concern that the allowance was spent for what it was intended.

"Eugene doesn't drink so I know the money won't be used to buy alcohol," said Glassie. "We might have to look at a safer way of dispersing the NBA. Australia's NBA is \$5,000 and they give it

out in a way that ensures the money is spent on the child."

After presenting the Ministry of Internal Affairs with a birth certificate the NBA application is processed with the funds deposited into a bank account within a week.

Glassie also congratulated the parents on helping the country repopulate. Jokingly, he said as Minister of Health he might have to introduce a 'have a baby' campaign to give the declining population a kick start.

Torea Radio Show ready for Rugby season

The popular Monday 7.30pm Radio Cook Islands Torea Show hosted by Teuira Ka squeezed the last news and views of Rugby League during a live post-mortem of the weekends Grand Final won by the Tupapa Panthers.

Next Monday Rugby comes under the spot light with guest President Lara Sadaraka and CEO Ben Koteka from the Union giving listeners the run down for the 2013 season. Calls to the show can be received on 20100 or 20101.



Sean Willis, host Teuira Ka, Inangaro Tupuna (Love), Brian Morgan and Albert Nicholas doing a live post mortem of the Rugby League Grand Final.

Ministry review of building permit fees after 20 years

Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning have carried a review of the schedule of fees for services carried out for the public under their purview including building permits. Building controller, Louis Teiti noted that the review is well overdue given that fees for building permits have not been reviewed for the past 20 years.

Prior to the review of fees, the Ministry had also carried out a review of the building code for the Cook Islands earlier this year conducted by SPC-SOPAC consultant John Tangiilima. John has also reviewed the building code of Niue.

The new schedule of fees maintains the differences between residential, commercial, accommodation and community buildings as shown in the accompanying schedule. For instance, a typical two bedroom house permit of say \$150 will now be \$300. Inspection fees of \$20 remain unchanged. By the way, permits are required for the installation of fences, free-standing walls and masts. Permits for retaining walls involve more factors to be considered and the new fee reflects that.

Aitutaki and Pa Enea review of fees for building permits were also carried out but have remained modest as can be seen in the new schedule of fees. The recommendation to review all charges came from the Budget Support Group established under the auspices of MFEM.

Building Permit Schedule of Fees

Building Control Rarotonga		
	Current	New
Residential	\$1.00m ²	\$2.00m ²
Commercial	\$2.00m ²	\$4.00m ²
Accommodation	\$4.00m ²	\$8.00m ²
Community	\$1.20m ²	\$2.00m ²
Inspection Fee (charge per site visit)	\$10.00	\$10.00

Building Control Aitutaki		
	Current	New
Residential	\$0.60m ²	\$1.00m ²
Commercial	\$1.20m ²	\$2.00m ²
Accommodation	\$1.00m ²	48.00m ²
Community	\$1.20m ²	\$2.00m ²

Building Control All Other Pa Enea		
	Current	New
Residential	\$0.25m ²	\$1.00m ²
Commercial	\$0.50m ²	\$1.00m ²
Accommodation	\$1.00m ²	\$2.00m ²
Community	\$0.50m ²	\$2.00m ²

Renewable Energy Solar Power	
Residential	\$260
Commercial	\$500



Electrical Permits Schedule of Fees

THE MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING			
	Unit	2006 Rate \$	2013
Application for Wiring Permits			
a) Domestic Installation	Single Phase	\$106.90	\$115.00
	Two/Three Phase	\$208.15	\$220.00
b) Temporary Installation		\$106.90	\$115.00
c) Commercial Installation	Single Phase	\$140.65	\$150.00
	Two/Three Phase up to 23kVA	\$208.15	\$220.00
	Over 23kVA	\$205.15 + \$33.75 every 5kVA	\$215.00 + \$40.00
d) Multi Complex	Three Phase up to 23kVA	\$208.15	\$220.00
	Over 23kVA	\$208.15 + \$33.75 every 5kVA	\$215.00 + \$40.00
e) Private and Standby Generating Plant	Domestic	\$106.90	\$115.00
	Commercial	\$140.65	\$150.00
Application for Re-inspection			
a) Domestic Installation	Single Phase	\$106.90	\$115.00
	Two/Three Phase	\$208.15	\$220.00
b) Temporary Installation		\$106.90	\$115.00
c) Commercial Installation	Single Phase	\$140.65	\$150.00
	Three Phase up to 23kVA	\$208.15	\$220.00
	Over 23kVA	\$208.15 + \$33.75 every 5kVA	\$215.00 + \$40.00
d) Multi Complex	Three Phase up to 23kVA	\$208.15	\$220.00
	Over 23kVA	\$208.15 + \$33.75 every 5kVA	\$215.00 + \$40.00
e) Private & Standby Generating Plant	Domestic	\$106.90	\$115.00
	Commercial	\$140.65	\$150.00
f) Electrician		\$95.65	\$100.00
g) Electrical Mechanic		\$67.50	\$100.00
h) Electrical Service Technician		\$67.50	\$100.00



Ministry of Infrastructure & Planning

Waste Facility and Recycling update

New fees at Waste Management Facility Rarotonga



Forklift in action



Workers manning the baler and loader.

Running the waste facility and resource recovery (recycling) centre is a high-tech and high cost operation nowadays. The facility has a \$160,000 baler to compress the waste, a bobcat to load up the baler with loose waste and a forklift used to move the compacted bales to the storage area. The baler was purchased courtesy of the New Zealand government under the sanitation programme by WATSAN.

The baler at the facility is capable of compressing seven times as much waste into one bale, thus taking up much less space than before. The same applies to compacting recyclables including aluminium cans and plastic bottles, which are stacked next to the centre, ready for shipping to New Zealand, on a periodic basis.

The machinery is used to full capacity for six days per week and requires regular maintenance to ensure that waste is dealt with in an efficient manner at the facility. At the recommendation of the Budget Support Group formed

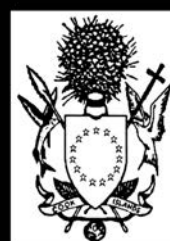
under the auspices of MFEM, all Ministries were directed to find ways in which to generate revenue to put towards running costs.

As a result of that directive, Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning is rolling out a new schedule of fees to those who bring their waste to the facility themselves. These include householders doing a major clean-up around the yard but mostly to commercial users such as resorts, restaurants, cafes who engage private contractors to pick up and deliver their waste direct to the facility.

The new fees are modest, for instance, a trailer load is now \$40 up from \$20 and a carload is \$20, up from \$10. The fees are in the accompanying schedule below and are effective as from 1 July 2013.

New fee structure for building permits and electrical wiring permits and inspection fees including for solar power installations have also been reviewed and the new schedule will also be published in due course.

Solid waste schedule of new fees		
Effective July 1st 2013		
Charge Rate/Load or Bin:	Current	New
Bin	\$20.00	\$40.00
Car	\$10.00	\$20.00
Van/Ute	\$20.00	\$40.00
Trailer	\$20.00	\$40.00
Truck	\$40.00	\$80.00
Plastic Bottles:		
Small trucks	\$10.00	\$20.00
Medium trucks	\$20.00	\$40.00
Large trucks	\$40.00	\$80.00



Ministry of
Infrastructure and
Planning

PH 29039 or 20321

COOK ISLANDS HERALD NEWS

level of migrant workers could reduce that need . The punishing current rate applicable to secondary employment however almost guarantees that few would be interested and one has to ask how can government be so removed and insulated from what is happening in the workplace not to have recognised this long ago.

It is therefore to be expected that while government espouses a desire to see an increase in primary production it is unable to see the whole picture or too fixed in the precepts its overseas consultants bring to the table who have no inkling what dynamics operate domestically nor how to successfully sell the idea. I am speaking of exemptions here.

Before the Tax Review consultants left I had the occasion to raise this issue with them. Totally opposed. Exemptions - not the way to go. Subsidies maybe but not exemptions. I detected a strong NZ tax bias in this reaction with little understanding of the profound problems we face here namely increasing import dependency, idle land and dire population loss.

We don't need subsidies for heaven's sake we need incentives. Other than those genuine few serious growers whose livelihood is primary production how do you attract newcomers to the industry? Most will already be employed so secondary rates (be they the punishing existing rates

or a flat lower rate remains to be seen) would apply to them. While a lower rate may be something of an incentive it is not enough. For seven years between 1990 and 1997 there was provision in the Income Tax Act 1972 (see S.49B) to exempt all income derived by producers in the farming and fishing industries from income tax and what I am suggesting is the re-enactment of that provision which was omitted (again NZ consultants during the reform years) when the 1997 Act was drafted. A huge mistake in my view. What would be the cost to government? None. Quite the opposite The increased income generated by such an inspired taxation policy would mean more money in people's pockets, more spending and greater Vat receipts and no drama with market vendors! But is the government bold enough to grab this opportunity? .I doubt it. They are too far removed from the coalface, too out of touch with the people and just NOT LISTENING.

So to Mr James Webb I say your article encouraged me to add these thoughts to yours and I sincerely hope they give more attention to yours than they ever do to mine. I understand you are an economist with MFEM so the chances are they might.

John M Scott.

* Belshaw & Stace Report-A Programme for Economic Development in the Cook Islands -1955

The future is now

Dear Editor,
Seabed Minerals Commissioner Paul Lynch commented that a small percentage of the sovereign fund would be used by the government each year while the rest will be saved for the future. He said "We've got to convert the mineral wealth into financial wealth for the benefit of the Cook Islands. We've got to preserve the fund for the future."

If we are to believe the recent consultant's report that there is an abundance of seabed minerals to last a thousand years of mining at \$14 billion a year then why are we concerned about the future after revenue starts to flow? We are the future and we currently need the input of funds now.

Let's upgrade the Health system now, let's upgrade the infrastructure now, let's increase the minimum wage now so depopulation lessens, and let's just do everything now!

We all want to be living the first class life like Paul Lynch is revelling in now not the future. At the moment only a few share the financial wealth, so hurry up Paul the rest of us want to join the party.

Now is the time

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Best ever Android Apps

Flipboard

Flipboard, the popular, excellent social reading app made famous on the iOS platform, has finally arrived on Android smartphones, losing very little in translation. Flipboard aggregates Web content, from news clips to videos, in a clean, gorgeous magazine-style layout.

NewsRob

NewsRob is an RSS/Atom newsreader that syncs both ways with your Google Reader account. Its UI obviously borrows a lot from Google Reader, but NewsRob adds offline caching and many other configurable features, like how many unread items to display at once. Plus, NewsRob seems to sync faster than other Google Reader wrappers.

Pulse

Pulse is everyone's favourite news reader. You can aggregate your favourite publications on one clean, snappy, gorgeous interface. Pulse also makes it easy to share articles, sync for offline reading, or simply scan quickly for headlines, Twitter-style.

Pocket

Pocket, formerly Read It Later, lets you take the articles, videos, and pictures you come across on the web and save them offline for reading later. With tight integration through services like Twitter and webapps for Chrome and Firefox, Pocket is your virtual pocket for all the wondrous baubles of the Internet.



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Business Trade Investment Board

Cook Islands



On Tuesday 28th May, 2013, BTIB in partnership with The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Community Education Training Centre (CETC) on behalf of the Commonwealth secretariat (COMSEC), hosted a workshop promoting shared visions and goals to develop Business advisory capacity and enterprise growth throughout the Cook Islands.

Presented by Watipaso Mkandawire, COMSEC Enterprise Development Advisor from the Special Advisory Services Division, a presentation was conducted with a focus on Business Development services Capacity Building for the Pacific, and also incorporating the benefits of Pacific Fibre made from a variety of plants, animals, and various natural resources, revealing alternative export opportunities. With a limited turnout in participants, the workshop held on the BTIB premises provided opportunity for the participants to discuss issues and ask general questions around the presentation. Discussions around Cook Islands plants, agriculture and the export industry where outer Islands could benefit, were part of the queries addressed.

The Purpose of the one day workshop was to promote a Business Development Capacity building for the Pacific Project. In conjunction to his regime, Mr. Mkandawire spent days out of the four days visit to Rarotonga accompanied by BTIB Business Development Advisor Tangata Tou, holding meetings with two local candidates, selected for the program. Appreciated by the visit, provided Watipaso the opportunity to scope and obtain a broader understanding of the candidates who will commence the pilot program under the Business Development Services Capacity Building project.

For more information please contact BTIB on 24296 or email info@btib.gov.ck

Lawn Bowls Qualified for the 20th Commonwealth Games, 2014 Glasgow



Kelvingrove Lawn Bowls Centre.

By Ben Mose

Bowls Cook Islands National Selectors, will no doubt sit down after the National Lawn Bowls Championship in August and select 5 Men's and 5 Women's teams to represent this nation at the Commonwealth Games. The Chairman of Selectors Mr George Paniani, and his fellow Selectors, Pita Tootoo, Dorothy

Paniani, Vaine Henry and Philip Tangi has for the first time is to ensure the best possible squads, teams and players are selected to achieved maximum success when representing the Cook Islands.

On the 5th January 2012, World Bowls issued a letter to all Commonwealth Games countries advising them, there had been a high level debate on

the format of playing lawn bowls in the Commonwealth Games. Following full consideration of the submissions received from the National Authorities it was agreed that the following be submitted to the Commonwealth Games Federation.

- Four sections of each discipline with 5 players per team.

- 21 shot up in Singles
- 3 bowl pairs
- 2 bowl triples and
- 2 bowl fours
- 15 ends to be played in all discipline (other than singles)

It's a sport of grace and skill where a steady hand and a keen mind are king. Where victory rolls on a razor's edge. This is lawn bowls!

Cook Islands team to attend Workshop on Social Impacts of Deep Sea Mining in the Pacific

The Cook Islands is to send a team of three to a regional training workshop hosted by the Government of Vanuatu, on stakeholder participation and the social impacts of deep sea mineral activities from 10-14 June in Port Vila. The workshop is supported by the SPC-EU Pacific Deep Sea Minerals Project as part of its efforts to assist Pacific Island countries to improve the governance and management of their deep-sea mineral resources.

Cook Islands Sea Bed Minerals (SBM) Commissioner Paul Lynch told the Herald on Tuesday morning that Darryl Thorburn (for the SBM Authority) and Makiuti Tongia (for the Seabed Minerals Advisory Board) are attending this workshop. Harriette Kimiora from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the third delegate from the Cook Islands. She is a Small Islands States (SIS) Officer / Foreign Affairs Officer, Pacific Division at our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

Immigration

Lynch said it is anticipated that Mr Tongia will be assisting the SBM Authority in dealings with the public related to the DSM Social issues as we move forward. Mr. Thorburn has vast experience in Minerals Industry matters overseas and has a special concern for the correct handling of Social issues, related to the development of our SBM sector.

All three delegates, said Lynch, are expected to add real value to our national SBM development in the future and in particular in relation to Social impacts.

The Pacific Deep Sea Minerals Project is funded by the European Union and managed by SOPAC, the Applied Geoscience & Technology Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

The Project is the first major initiative designed to regulate this new activity in a coordinated way within the Pacific Region. Manager of the Pacific Deep Sea Minerals

Project, Mr Akuila Tawake, says one of the main objectives of the workshop on 'Social Impacts of Deep Sea Mineral Activities and Stakeholder Participation' is to learn lessons from the social impacts of other extractive industries and how to minimize any potential social impacts of deep sea mining activities.

Mr Tawake says the workshop is designed to provide government officials with skills to engage with all relevant stakeholders about the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of any future deep sea mining activities. He says the workshop participants will also include participants from a wide range of civil society organisations.

Mr Tawake says the Pacific Deep Sea Minerals Project has already undertaken a number of activities designed to inform stakeholders about the technical, legal, economic and environmental impacts of deep sea mining.

"The role of the project is to provide countries with the relevant information and advice they need to make informed decisions about deep sea mining within their national jurisdictions. I think it's fair to say that Pacific Island countries still need to do more work to help the wider public to understand the potential benefits and impacts of any deep sea mining activities that may occur within the territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zones of these countries," he says.

Mr Tawake says the range of issues to be discussed at the workshop in Port Vila will range from potential employment opportunities and socio-economic impacts for Pacific Island nationals through to the need to for financial safeguards to ensure that any economic benefits derived from deep sea mining activities are used to support sustainable economic development and support community livelihoods.

Saving for a rainy day

Part one

Cook Islander Mata Rakanui is Professor of English at a University in Seoul, Korea. He has lived and worked in Korea since 2000 and through these articles he portrays the lives of ordinary Koreans.

By Mata Rakanui

Looking at some of the correspondence I have received from readers in The Cook Islands a number of questions came to me regarding the current hot issue of pension payments and taxes in the Cooks and how do the payments work in South Korea.

This will be a two part series discussing and comparing the relative systems.

The systems differ a lot but Korea is facing a few serious issues regarding the aging society and the future of the elderly.

According to current projections South Korea is a rapidly aging society and one of the fastest aging societies in the world with those aged 65 and older reaching 10 percent of the overall population of 50 million in 2009 this is likely to double by 2025. Korea currently has the lowest birthrate among the OECD of just above one child per woman. This immediately creates a problem with people living longer and birth rates declining it is estimated that the National pension fund will be depleted by 2060. This leaves a number of perplexing issues that need to be looked at presently. This includes how will the fund pay for

future retirees? Where will the make-up of extra funds come from if the population is smaller?

In Korea there is also a big debate regarding the age of retirement. Currently, in South Korea there is no legal retirement age for workers. Generally employees are considered to retire by companies between 55 and 58 years old. This creates a huge problem in that they generally don't collect their pension until well past 60. Furthermore, common practice is for local companies to actually retire their employees at 48. By suddenly being unemployed one is likely to start using their retirement funds 10 years earlier than planned and therefore leaving them underfunded in the later Part of their lives. This forces them to eat into their savings or seek other forms of income such as establishing a franchise, an independent business or even doing part time jobs such as cleaning or security. A number of cases have occurred of retirees failing in their business enterprises and becoming penniless. There is currently a bill before the National Assembly to legally increase the retirement age to 60 years old. However, this is facing opposition from companies who believe the resulting higher

salaries will affect them. Also opposition is coming from young workers who fear that they will lose their share of the already limited jobs. An election pledge by the current president it looks like this will be fulfilled.

South Korea is not alone facing these issues. In Japan the average retirement age is 65 years old and they are attempting to restructure pension eligibility from 60 to 65. In the OECD the average retirement age is between 63 and 64 years.

A recent Government survey found that fewer than 27 percent of Koreans aged 60 and older had made any provision for their post-retirement years beyond investing in their children's education. That's right only 27 percent. This is incredibly low and shows the over reliance on old Confucian principles of the children taking care of the parents as they age versus a more modern independent generation.

Initiatives have been introduced previously to solve this problem. In 1988 a government pension scheme was introduced and is financed in part by employee contributions for retirees over 60. Only 27 percent of the working population is covered. Many Koreans of that age group never held positions

that could qualify for pension payments, for example farmers. A further complication is that many people that joined are not receiving the monthly \$193 allowance as they chose to take their money in a lump sum at retirement, as a result leaving them to seek other forms of income until the payment.

In Korea the payments into the National pension are about 9% of your salary. You are required to pay 4.5% and your employer the remaining 4.5%. Income tax is stated at 3% which is very low compared to other countries I can think of. Most foreigners that pay into this fund can actually collect it when they leave the country unfortunately for kiwi's they can't as a result of not having a reciprocal treaty with South Korea. Therefore they can only collect it when they are sixty or unless the Korean Government retro activates this agreement.

The increasing lifespan and reduction of birth rates worldwide will have a dramatic effect on future economies and the old adage of saving for a rainy day will never be truer. Next time I will look at what do Korean retirees get and what are the differences with the Cooks.

Kia Manuia
Annyong e Kaseyo
mata_rakanui@yahoo.com

KAPA IPO 3 ... 'Tō tātou Piri`anga Tai ~ Loving Your Coast'

“Auē te mānea ē! `Ōmai te pakipaki! tē mataora nei kōtou!” kā rongo atu koe i te kūtōroroi, te va`a kōperepere ko Kendal i te pō Ma`anā kai i topa ake nei. `E pō mataora tikāi taua pō ra, `ē kua maeva `ua te au mātakitaki nā roto i te au tu kata`otu`otu`anga `ē te pōkarakara. Ko te pō `openga `oki tēia o te tārērē `ura-pātana Kapa Ipo tei rave`ia atu i te pō Ma`anā kai rā 1 Tiūnu 2013 ki kō rāi i te Staircase Restaurant & Bar. Kua kī tēia ngā`i i te au tu-tangata tei tae atu no te kaikai `ē pērā katoa no te mātakitaki i tēia tārērē `ura. Kua tae mai rāi te au metua no te turuturu i tā rātou au tamariki i roto i te Kapa Ipo. Ko te tumu tāpura o te Kapa Ipo, tei `akatinamou`ia `e te National Environment Services koia `oki ko **To tātou Piri`anga Tai : Loving Your Coast**. Ko rātou katoa `ē te Cook Islands Television te ngā turuturu tua-ta`i (major sponsors) no tēia `akakoro`anga. Ko tēta`i atu au turuturu no tēia, koia ko te Tauranga Vānanga, Sava Ltd, Staircase Resturant `e pērā te Topshape Gym. Kia `akameitaki ma`ata `ia rātou no tā rātou ākā turuturu kia vai mātūtū `uātu rāi tā tātou peu Māori `ē te Reo. `E ono ngā puke mārū tei `ura i tērā pō `ē `e rua tu`anga tei anoano`ia kia `ura mai rātou.

1. Ko te `akatūtū`anga (Drama) i tēta`i `imene, tā`au rāi i `iki no runga rai i te tāpura
 2. Ko te `Ura pa`u (Technique), koia, ko te `akaari mai i tō`ou kite karape i te āru i te rutu.
- `Akama`ara rā, `e `ura pātana tēia, kia `ura tāokota`i.

Ko te au mārū i roto i tēia Kapa Ipo ko:

- Va`ineritua Koteka `ē T Masters
- Andreena Campbell `ē Petero Teio
- Mii Anrew `ē tōna pātana
- Metua Manuela `ē Travel Purua
- Tarapiripa `ē Roimata Moetaua

I roto i te rau-tī pī ko: - Joana Manuela `ē Ricky.

I te `openga o te Kapa Ipo - **To Tātou Piri`anga Tai**, kua `ōronga `ia atu te rē 1 – Andreena `ē Pētero, rē 2 - Tarapiripa `ē Roimata, rē 3 – Metua `ē Travel Rākei - Tarapiripa `ē Roimata. Te rē o te Rau-tī pī tei ia Joana rāua ko Ricky.

Kua `ōronga katoa `ia atu tēta`i rē na Vaineritua `ē T Masters, `ē nā Mii `ē te pātana.

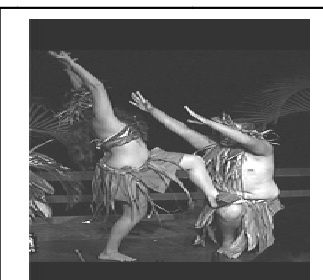
Kua oti `ē kua mataora tikāi te reira po, no reira kia `ākono uātu rai tātou i tō tātou tai. Ka tiaki atu ei i te Kapa Ipo 2014.



Rē 1 Kapa Ipo `13 Petero & Andreena



Kapa Ipo `13 Ricky & Joana Rau-ti Pī



How to be a force in the world

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

For this Article of Encouragement I will be speaking about WISDOM. There are so many knowledgeable people around but they lack 'wisdom'. And wisdom means 'being able to reflect the mind of Christ'. By the same token wisdom is 'the correct use of knowledge'. Therefore the title of this Article of Encouragement is How To Be A Force In The World. In the Book of Proverbs 30v.24-28 is the story of 3 small insects and 1 small animal. Although they are small and have no natural means of protecting themselves from their enemies, v.24 reads they are exceedingly or unusually wise. The lesson here is that God does not want His people, those who put their Trust in Him to be 'wise only' but to be 'exceedingly or unusually wise.' God uses His creations to teach us spiritual truth and principles to help encourage us in this life that we're living in.

The 4 insects or animal mentioned in our reading are the Ants; Rock Badger; Locust and the Spider. The important thing is not these insects or animal but their habit or behaviour.

In v.25 it reads "The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their food in summer." Ants speak to us of PREPARATION. The lesson is that the people who prepare themselves are regarded as "wise people". On the other hand people who do not prepare themselves are "unwise". James 1v.5-6[a] reads "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith..." Whatever we do in life we must prepare ourselves properly. I Corinthians 3v.19 reads "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their own craftiness.'" Proverbs 4v.7 "Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom, and in all your getting, get understanding."

Proverbs 30v.26 reads "The

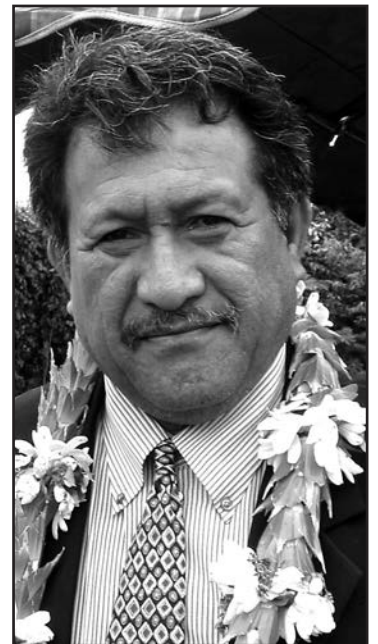


rock badgers are a feeble folk, yet they make their homes in the crags." The Rock Badger speaks of PROTECTION. Rock Badger is a weak animal. Whenever the enemies come to attack the Rock Badger they always run for protection into the gap in the rock or crevice. The Rock symbolizes the Lord Jesus Christ. When we struggle in life we must run and seek protection and security in Jesus. To seek 'protection' and 'security' in Jesus is an act of "wisdom". Jesus said in Matthew 7v.(v.24) 'a wise man built his house upon the rock' (v.26) ' a foolish man who built his house on the sand.' The question is where are you building your life on? The 'Rock' or the 'sand'.

Proverbs 30v.27 reads "The locusts have no king, yet they all advance in ranks." The Locust speaks of the PRESERVATION OF UNITY of the saints. The locust knows that when they go out separately or individually the enemy will have a greater chance of killing them. But when they all move together as a group they will have a better chance of survival and they can do a lot of damage. Likewise with us, if we all combine spiritually and go forward we will be a synergetic force and we will have a greater chance of survival and overcoming the enemy. This is a combined energy going in the same direction. Jesus said in Matthew 12v.25[c] "...a house divided against itself will not stand." There's power in 'unity' Hebrews 10v.25 "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

Proverbs 30v.28 "The spider skilfully grasps with its hands, and it is in kings'

palaces." The Spider speaks of PERSEVERANCE. Not giving up. Wisdom is portrayed through perseverance. Things will change if we persevere. If you know that what you're doing is right in the sight of God, please don't give up! You can also uphold your situation to the Lord Jesus Christ in prayer! Ask Him through prayer for divine intervention. Allow God to take charge of your situation and continue to pray – don't give up! "Tough times don't last but tough people do!" so don't give up if you know that you are right in the sight of God! May you have a God blessed week! Te Atua te aroa!



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

Studying Tips!

By Norma Ngatamariki

'Sup, ya'll! I hope everybody enjoyed their long weekend (although, personally, I don't think it was long enough) because I sure did! While some went to Aitutaki to battle it out for paddling (Congrats to the long distance and sprints paddlers, by the way!), others attended the League Premieres at the BCI Stadium (Well done, Tupapa Panthers! Better luck next year, Avatiu) and went to the Assembly of God Movie Fundraiser to watch The Fast and the Furious: 6 (Yeah, it was one hell of a weekend). As for me, I didn't go to either of these events (which really sucked, but oh well). I was one of those people who stayed home and caught up on some serious

rest, in-between watching TV Series and eating way too much (I reckon long weekends are a danger to your weight)

Anyway, back to the matter at hand. Yeah, I know, it's not a topic that we're all terribly fond of. Since there are no Mid-Year Exams for 2013 (I don't know whether to be relieved or sad. Having Mid Year Exams has its advantages and disadvantages), this has saved a lot of time for us, students. I shall go over the basic studying tips just as a "friendly reminder".

Don't study the night before (Pfft, this is just a natural habit to all of us) if you keep on putting your studies off, believe me, there will be consequences. If you try and cram everything into one night, then your poor

brain will definitely overload and begin malfunctioning (and by that, I mean forgetting the most important parts of your notes when you need it the most. I have tested this theory myself. I tried studying three days worth of notes in one night/morning (Oops!). In the test, I managed to get by fairly well, but I'll admit, I did space out for a few minutes. My advice is: Don't try it!

Get yourself in the zone! Find a quiet spot for you to study. If you have pesky brothers and sisters who won't let you have a moment's peace, then evacuate the room. If you work best with music, then plug your headphones in and blast it up. Or, if you can work in a loud environment (I don't know how some people can do this) then just do your thing. Find a way that

best suited to YOU. The next step is to find motivation. Think about it like this: All the hard work your putting in isn't for nothing. When you pass that assignment with an Achieved, Merit or (even better) and Excellence (I guess anything is better than a Not Achieved), then all that time memorizing notes until your eyeballs popped out won't have been for nothing. You'll start feeling better about yourself and even more determined to get better grades. It's a win-win situation.

Yes, I do realize that it's a bit early in the year to start talking about studying, but hey, it's never too early to improve your grades (We are, after all, almost reaching half way through the year). I promise I'll have a better topic to talk about next week!

Film Raro experience

By Hareta Tira Passfield

Week five, seven more weeks to go of school. Why is this term going so slowly? I am counting down the days till its holidays again. Me being the eager beaver that I am, have already planned what I'll be doing.

Okay, back to what I was actually going to write about, which is the Film Raro. I was really lucky to be able to take part in the Mou Piri documentary. I take drama at school and my drama teacher told the whole class to try out for it. So on one Friday evening my mum took me down to the Tereora drama class (where the auditions were being held). There were about 20 people already there

from the Film Raro director's course so they could see how the process went. There was a big camera and a lady would just ask you questions about yourself such as your name, age, school, what hobbies you had, and why you we're trying out for Film Raro. They recorded you as you answered the questions, and that was it. Then you just had to wait for their text and hope that you had been called back. I got my text during drama class and when I read it, I shouted for joy and jumped around. I was so happy!

Then one Friday after school I went to the drama class (where we were rehearsing). Once there I found out what film I was in

and what I was supposed to do. I had to dance with this young, suppose to be akama, boy (David Hosking). We only had the chance to practice dancing once before we shot the dance scene in the Enea Manea Hall, also known as the Titikaveka packing shed.

About 3 weeks after that first and only practice, we shot the first scene. We had to be there by four and we were told that we were going to be there till eleven, that's seven hours! But luckily that didn't happen. We ended up going from four till like 9. There is a common acting saying "Hurry up and wait" and that is exactly what we had to do. There was a lot of waiting around for things to happen.

At first dancing was a little bit awkward but it wasn't long till we got used to it. After a bit of small talk I actually didn't find it that awkward. We had to shoot the dancing bit like nine times. Then we had to shoot other smaller things like our reactions.

Then the next day we went to the beach in Arorangi and shot the last scene in the movie. The scene was only five seconds it still took 2 hours to shoot. Everything revolved around the sun; it had to be just perfect to do the scene.

Overall it was an amazing experience. I learnt so much from it, and it will look good on my CV. It was really cool to see my face up on the big screen.

You can make a difference! Do Your Part

got water?
Do your part, be water smart!

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2013
International Year of
Water Cooperation

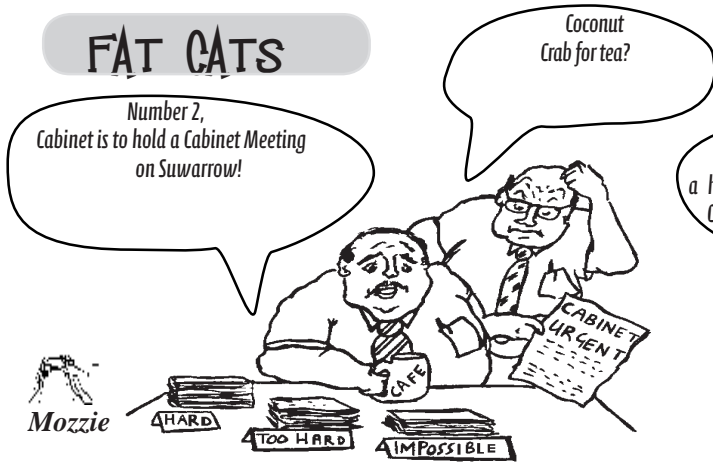
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DRÖP
counts

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MINISTRY OF
INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

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

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Oh dear chooks! What was Maggie Man's outburst in the House on opening day all about? Is he signaling his intention to form a new political party? Who are the three who will walk with him? Translator Tangi was caught up in the moment and for an instant, it was difficult to say who was the MP, Maggie or Tangi?

CHOOKS CORNER
WITH BIG RED

When the time comes to vote on the Budget clause by clause, how will Big Norm vote? Seeing his position regarding Party membership will not be ruled on by the High Court until July, Big Norm will be watched closely! Maybe Big Norm will abstain himself from the House, go outside for a smoke or attend to a Court case!

On opening day, the MPs had a power lunch! Fuelled with the usual bucket load of carbs from taro and maniota, the MPs also ploughed through several cartons of chicken!

A timely warning to local sports teams travelling overseas to international tournaments. Make sure you read the fine print and don't take anything for granted. One of our netballers in Samoa by the definition of the rules wasn't a Cook Islander. For sure pick our best players but make sure they are ours. Local sporting code managers got to make sure the rest of the world understands we are

Cook Islanders but New Zealanders, but not Kiwis. Now how hard is that to grasp?

Heard about the high flying business rooster whose hen and family were off shore only to have an old flame show up with a recently hatched chick and the mother. What a surprise to have three generations show up and make themselves at home. The old flame and dad lookalike daughter as well as the grandchild had the neighbour's tongue wagging. Rooster had been in denial for years over the lookalike daughter but melted when he saw his grandchild. Remember the old barn saying, one day these things will come home to roost? Do the right thing rooster and tell all your other family who they are so they don't end up marrying one another.

With looming severe cutbacks to CISNOC's dosh, how many athletes and officials will we get off to the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow next year? Maybe one boxer, one

weightlifter and a supporting team of 15 officials. The Chef de Mission, team manager, team doctor, team physio, two coaches, two managers per sport, team publicist, the QR and wife, the PM and wife, the Minister for Sport, the HOM for Sport.

Isn't it great chooks how the once secretive and elusive captains of industry are now popping up and speaking out with new found courage about the country's woes and their ideas for solving the myriad of problems! The captains must now be feeling the pinch in the pocket, something those at the lower end of the scale feel every day!

Where's the fish? Been down the market lately to look for Maroro? It ain't there chooks! Here we are on a speck in the ocean, surrounded by salt water and there's no fish? Maybe Ruben is right after all! Disgraceful!

When the Pacific Leaders go to

China on an all expenses paid trip later in the year to meet the new Chinese Leadership, where will the Cook Islands be in the scheme of things? Our PM will no longer be Chair of the Forum so perhaps we will be right at the back of the queue as the new Chinese President and Premier press palms with the most populous nations first, like PNG and work their way down the line to the least populated like Tuvalu, Niue, Tokelau and the Cook Islands! But chooks, don't panic! If the seating is arranged in alphabetical order, the Cooks will be in the front row! But then again, the Chinese read back to front!

Wouldn't it be embarrassing chooks if the showers to be installed at the old Ministry of Works building in Arorangi which is to house around 50 Chinese workers, don't work because there's no water! The Chinese back in jolly old Beijing will be asking where did the millions spent on the water project go?

Cook Islands
HERALD
PNM
PITT MEDIA GROUP

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Accounts/Deliveries:
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.

VACANCY



**PORT AUTHORITY
ACCOUNTANT**

The Port Authority invites applications for a suitably qualified and experienced person in the above senior position. Applicant should be dynamic and motivated to be able to effectively and efficiently oversee and manage all Port Authority's financial and accounting functions.

Please send your application with CV detailing your experiences and list of three referees to The General Manager, Ports Authority, PO Box 84, at Avatiu Wharf, Rarotonga or email applications to louisa@ports.co.ck. Applicant must hold current motor vehicle driver's license classes 'A/B'. Copy of the Job Description can be obtained from the Port Authority Office at Avatiu. Please contact Louisa Rani on telephone 21-921. Applications close 4pm Wednesday 29 May 2013 CI time.



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Technical Assistance to Draft Electrical Appliance Labelling and Standards Regulation

Applications are invited to draft the first Cook Islands Electrical Appliance Labelling and Standards Regulation.

The successful applicant would have as a minimum:

- A Law Degree.
- 5 years of demonstrated experience in drafting Legislation & Regulations.
- Experience in drafting Electrical Appliance Labeling and Standards Regulations would be an advantage.
- Fluent in both oral and written English.

The Terms of Reference contains further competencies which can be downloaded from www.pmooffice.gov.ck. Please address applications to Mr Tangi Tereapii, PALS Legal TA, Director, Renewable Energy Development Division, Office of the Prime Minister. Applications close Friday 21 June at 3:00pm.

TENDER



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.

VACANCY



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

**Trilateral Maritime Surveillance
Planning Workshop for Cook
Islands, Tonga and Samoa**

Wednesday 5th June, Rarotonga – A trilateral meeting between Tonga, Samoa and the Cook Islands is looking at ways to work together to help combat illegal activities at sea.

Delegates include the patrol boats commanders from the Cook Islands and Samoan police forces and the Tongan navy, as well as national maritime surveillance advisers (MSA), crown law and fisheries representatives.

Pacific island forum countries have recently agreed on strengthening the multilateral Niue Treaty for Fisheries Surveillance and Law Enforcement which allows countries to share resources and information and if necessary to patrol each other's waters.

In his opening address Ben Ponia, the Secretary for Marine Resources identified the cooperation amongst the region as critical for state to manage their vast fishery resources and to ensure the preservation and security of the oceans.

He acknowledged the efforts of the Cook Islands patrol boat PPB Te Kukupa which had returned several days earlier after completing a successful joint operation with the French Navy, boarding and inspecting fishing vessels in the straddling eastern high seas pocket.

According to meeting organiser Lt. Commander Tony Grubb, the MSA for the Cook Islands, there is a possibility that the arrangements discussed over the coming weeks could also extend to Niue which does not have a patrol boat.

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.

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PER NIGHT**

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Business Trade Investment Board
Cook Islands

Foreign Enterprises-Annual Returns Due

To All Foreign Enterprises registered with the Business Trade Investment Board (BTIB)-Your Annual Returns are to be filed by the 30th of June 2013. These may be submitted to our office or via email to Ria Arthur ria.arthur@btib.gov.ck

