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Samoa reflects China's intentions for the Cook Islands

Factions' showdown on hold till 2014

The Peoples Republic of China and the Cook Islands relationship was birthed 16 years ago when as the Cook Islands High Commissioner in New Zealand Laveta Short jointly signed a One China Policy Communiqué in 1997.

If one wants to know what the PRC's intentions are for the Cook Island then look no further than our Polynesian neighbour Samoa. Their level of relationship with PRC has deepened over a courtship for the last 35 years to Samoa being highly receptive to Chinese investment at all levels of the economic strata.

Copy cat micro businesses owned by Chinese nationals are surfacing at random and are seriously challenging the viability of local businesses; many local businesses are owned and operated by second and third generation families of Chinese/Samoan and German/Samoan lineage.

Some higher level investors scoping Samoa have presented villages with the normal monetary gifts then have been inducted into the village community with a Matai title only to leave and never to be heard of again.

One potential investor (Chen) who has also visited the Cook Islands flew to Samoa from New Zealand and presented the Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele the President of the Samoa Rugby Union with NZ\$250,000 to assist with their 2011 Rugby World Cup campaign. This was after Chen had watched his first rugby match on television, the second half of the test where Samoa defeated Australia.

Chen was arrested in Hong Kong before he could return to Samoa and be given favourable space to conduct his investment interests.

Along with Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Tonga, Samoa is considered a tier one companion of PRC. Samoa's appeal is its longevity of political stability especially its current party who have had a strong hold of governance for so long and unlikely to change.



Rohan Ellis – advises, Chinese workers not Chinese owners.

According to the former Pacific Forum Trade official Rohan Ellis, the Polynesian triangle of Samoa, Tonga and the Cook Islands are strategically located commercially and militarily. Ellis who spent six years working in Beijing from 2002-08 said the Cook Islands are in a good space with PRC and that we were highly regarded as a friend.

"China looks upon the Cook Islands as a neutral state like Sweden, because we have a long standing and stable relationship with them and we have never faulted in our acceptance of the One China Policy."

Ellis is adamant and agrees with local business man Don Carlaw that traditional Chinese gift giving and hand outs have obligatory under tones and come with repository conditions. "This is a normal pre business practise that reflects good will and a desire to engage in win to win business," said Ellis. "They don't see this as being bribery or a corrupt activity but an entry to relationship building."

Samoa is a devout Christian

conditions attached that through confidentiality clauses are not made transparent.

As the relationship deepens, Chinese investors begin to dialogue with Governments at the highest level. A PRC company interested in investing in Samoa presented the Government sixteen conditions including the admission of 30,000 Chinese workers, 15 year tax exemptions on imports, exclusive management of casinos, 160 year land leases and public signage to be in three languages, Chinese, Samoan and English.

Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele's initial response was highly critical of the investors but most probably it will followed up with what can be massaged into acceptable commonality.

Ellis said PRC are potentially great development partners but the Cook Islands have to be very specific in what we don't want and what our priorities are.

"Micro business ownership is one specific never to be discussed." "The Cook Islands needs to be monitoring the PRC activities in the Pacific and learn from others experiences and mistakes."

The PRC needs a hub for South America. The Cook Islands is a potential base as a stepping stone to South American resources and markets. Ellis said, "Military wise, China also needs an underwater war base."

Dallas Young from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration said she was in the process of gathering information of PRC involvement and activities in the Pacific. While different local agencies have their own engagements with the PRC she said there needed to be a holistic approach. Tourism, Marine, BTIB and the political arm of Government all have dealings with the PRC.

Ellis said while he was working in China, Dr Robert Woonton in his time as Prime Minister had a keen interest in the PRC and kept in contact seeking advice and updates from time to time.

- By George Pitt

country and many do not fault this practise because it says in Proverbs 18v16 *A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great.* Proverbs 19v6 *Many entreat the favour of the nobility and every man is a friend to one who gives gifts.* Not to forget the wise men of the East who gave gifts to Jesus to create a good relationship with the future King of the Jews.

The PRC's progressive relationship with the Cook Islands took an up turn when it was strengthened with the gifting of the Court House and the Police Station.

The PRC are into win, win relationships. Cook Islands' relationship with the PRC has and will continue to be cautiously progressive due to our close connection with New Zealand. The other Pacific nations are independent states.

China has designated millions of dollars for Pacific development. These low interest loans are administered by the China EXIM Bank. When the loans are defaulted PRC reverts them to grants with

Water shortage horro in Nikao - bad news for Government

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

What a week it has been. First and foremost, the Government announces its "Good News Budget." Despite the effort of the Opposition to point out the true picture of what's happening out there, the Government insists that they have the solutions covered. Sometimes they were so smug about it that one can't help but wonder that these people have lost touch with reality.

Well, reality came down with a thundering horror yesterday when an angry, frustrated and presumably tearful mother from Nikao wrote to the daily newspaper explicitly about her family's horror ordeal of being without water for the last seven days. Okay, the finger points to the Water Division of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning for perhaps poor management of the control and distribution of water in these times of low rainfall. But there is a bigger picture and the Government, I mean the Cabinet and Ministers must bear the blame for it. Or more specifically, the Minister of Infrastructure and Planning and he is justified if he points his finger at the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister for the lack of funds to enable the staff at the Water Division to do their job.

The bottom line here is and of course that means the final responsibility falls on the desk of the Cabinet that approved the last Supplementary Budget of 2012/13. There were shortfalls there in that appropriation as this was when a process of reducing the total appropriation of the Ministry of Infrastructure began. In this year's budget, the same process was intensified and more than \$400,000 was taken from the Ministry to be managed by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management. A slap in the face indeed for Minister Teariki Heather and his newly appointed Acting Head of Ministry Mac Mokoroa but worse of all it affects

the lives of ordinary people. Someone has to be accountable for the suffering of this mother and her children and household and of course for the others affected in the area too. A young female bank teller told me about her Tepuka household being without water as well. This is disgraceful on the part of the Government who is caught up too much in its own self adulation of its budget but has now been caught with their pants down. The suffering of those affected by the shortage of water in Nikao is inexcusable and should have never happened.

The Minister for Infrastructure commented in Parliament that the money from his Ministry has only been shifted to another Government operation base and not taken away. Of course he is being diplomatic with his Government. But the truth is he was very disappointed with Governments actions.

The Opposition of course was not going to accept anything less of this and maintains that there are no social concerns in the operations of the Government. There is no help extended to people in their everyday situations. This water shortage has now highlighted that. Amidst all of the hoo-hah by the Government since 2010 about the water upgrades and the improvements, the tank subsidies and so on, the most obvious problems of water supply comes to the fore.

Meanwhile what needs to happen immediately be that these households must be supplied with water so that the people in them, ordinary Cook Islanders could bathe; use the toilet properly and so on? At the moment, the situation is farcical and potentially dangerous whereby these kids and people would be exposed to diseases brought about by poor hygiene. Would the Government please get on with this and fix these problems promptly.



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Ice build up in fridge



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Rakahanga solar project 3 months behind schedule

By Charles Pitt

The overseas aid funded project to install solar power generation on Rakahanga is now three months behind schedule due to a request by one funder, Japan, to re-issue the tender so Japanese firms have an opportunity to tender for the work.

The Herald spoke with Tangi Tereapii and Ngateina Rani of the Renewable Energy Development Division (REDD) at the OPM on Tuesday morning. Rani said the Japanese government is looking for a bigger involvement in the project besides just supplying the equipment. They want to be engaged from the design stage through to installation

and training. However, Tangi said the Cook Islands did their own design based on local knowledge of local conditions.

The necessary equipment is being supplied by Japan and includes; solar panels, batteries, inverters and the power house. Total funding is US \$4 million, of which US\$1 million is by way of the Japan fund and some \$500,000 from NZ.

Rani said if Japan undertakes both the equipment supply and installation then some 60-70 per cent of the US\$1 million will go back to Japan. Tangi said the equipment should be here by now.

Tangisaid the standard specified for the inverters in the first tender

document, was of concern to the Japanese as applied to German made equipment not Japanese made equipment. The second tender document has therefore been amended.

Tangi said whoever is contracted for the work will, along with REDD, provide training to locals in repair and maintenance work. The whole system said Rani will be monitored from REDD in Rarotonga in close cooperation with the island Council.

To overcome lengthy delays in repair work, most parts will be inter-changeable so other islands will be able to supply parts for repair work.

Providing a brief update on the projects for the other northern

islands, Tangi said funding has been secured to complete the Pukapuka/Nassau projects. Tenders have gone out and now they are trying to put the grant funds into one package. He said funding has also been secured to carry out the design concepts for Penrhyn and Palmerston. These will now be prepared. The Australian consultants CAT will be returning next month to work on the design project for three islands; Penrhyn, Palmerston and Manihiki. The CAT team will visit Penrhyn and Palmerston and Tangi said the tender committee has been asked to extend the design phase. Manihiki will be the last island to be done. Its project is funded by NZ.



Minister Brown and his team visit a home in Avatiu which was one of the first to have a water tank installed.

500 applications for water tanks received

By Charles Pitt

As of Wednesday, 500 applications have been received for government's \$1,500 water tanks subsidy.

Finance Minister Hon Mark Brown made the announcement at a media conference held at his office with officials present, at 10am on Wednesday morning.

The Chief Assessor for the project, Peter Taivairanga said the 500 applications were in the process of being assessed. Order forms will be given to approved householders to take to one of the current four suppliers of tanks. Householders will select their preferred package. The four suppliers are, Mike Rennie Builders, T&M Heather Ltd, CITC and Cook Islands Building Supplies.

Minister Brown said eventually 2,000 houses on Rarotonga will qualify and tanks will be installed over a period of three years.

Taivairanga said currently 2 assessors were at work completing assessments of 50 houses per week. This work of course depended on householders being at home. Two more assessors (Inspectors) will join the team shortly.

Due to the critical water situation, the zone approach has been amended in order for houses in most need to be attended to as priority. The various zones will be indicated in a map soon to be released to the public via the media. At present there is a copy on the Ministry's website and also one displayed in hardware shops.

Taivairanga said as of last Friday, 50 approvals had been issued and so far 15 water tanks installed. He said that by the end of the week, 35-40 tanks will be installed.

Most households he said had opted for the plastic tank as it was quicker to install.

He added suppliers can do up to 8 tanks per day if the cheaper option is chosen. That is not to have a concrete slab base. The target is to do 30 tanks per week.

Taivairanga estimates that by the end of June, weather permitting, 126 tanks will have been installed.

Hunting tours to Atiu proposed



BTIB CEO Terry Rangi - looking for niche opportunities.

Trigger happy Rarotongan residents may soon be able to go on a pig hunting tour in Atiu. Terry Rangi from the Business Trade and Investment Board is planning a three day business development visit to Atiu in July and on the agenda is a proposal to start a niche Adventure tour for tourists that incorporates hunting and fishing.

Rangi said considerable funds had been invested in Atiu for fencing plantations from wild pigs that have been ravaging and uprooting crops jeopardising the agriculture

sector on the island. It has been reported there are more pigs on Atiu than people. Other islands have wild animal problems as well said Rangi. "We've taken the view that problems have profitable solutions and have come up with the idea Atiu's wild pig problem can become a money spinner."

Hunting and fishing tours are popular in New Zealand and draw adventure tourists from all around the world. "The bone fishing activity in Aitutaki has bookings twelve months in advance and more fishing

guides are being trained to meet the demand," said Rangi.

A three day tour could be mixed with hunting and deep sea fishing. If the Atiu community deemed pig hunting isn't sustainable it can be seasonal, like duck hunting is in New Zealand.

Hunting tours will have to be regulated in that fire arms are involved. Rangi said there were sufficient guns on Atiu to meet an initial demand. Guides will have to be certified for obvious reasons. Pigs could be limited to one per person per day to ensure sustainability. The spin offs are also beneficial said Rangi.

The second proposal for Atiu pork involved a managed culling programme that helped agriculture sustainability.

Rarotonga was a market for Atiu pork if it could be processed to consumer acceptance. Atiu is renowned for their coffee and has a small dried banana export to Rarotonga and there is potential to brand Atiu bacon, ham and smoked pork.

"With a Philippine community on Rarotonga they are a market for the internal parts of the pig we would throw away," said Rangi.

Besides the pigs from hunting, if Atiu can export ten pigs a week to Rarotonga this will create opportunities for up to eight people to have a

regular income. Processors can prepare the cuts and packaging for freighting.

"Outlets in Rarotonga are willing and look forward to receiving Atiu pork," said Rangi. "We have had inquiries about goat meat as well and that will also be on the agenda."

If Atiu was willing to proceed Rangi said there was expertise on Rarotonga willing to train pork and goat butchery to processors.

Rangi said the hunting tour could be publicised and promoted through the New Zealand recreation hunting network in the same manner the Aitutaki bone fishing promotional DVD and articles are through New Zealand recreational fishing networks.

A website linked to the bone fishing one plus a documentary could be filmed and circulated through CITV's contacts. A DVD can be sold through the website. Promotional clips can be used at tourism trade shows and articles circulated to Hunting publications.

"Wayne Blake is a person of interest we want to talk to next time he is in Rarotonga because he's a keen hunter and writes articles for a hunting magazine in New Zealand," said Rangi.

Rangi said he was confident the added bonus of Atiu hospitality would ensure word of mouth endorsements and return customers.

\$5 CAPPED CALLING

UP TO AN HOUR FOR NATIONALY
LANDLINE TO LANDLINE - ISLAND TO ISLAND

Our Cover Girl



Our cover girl for issue 670 week is 17 year old Tuaine Hewette. Tuaine 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

BUDGET COMMENT

Fantasy Budget

This Cook Islands Party Government is pitching high which is straining the structural integrity and intelligence of the budget. One cannot help question if this politics of supply is under pinned by just one set of figures.

In a very fragile economy the budget will have a structural deficit if there are cut backs. To pursue this short term gamble of pitching too high without a surety of new tax revenues and guestimating projected revenues, the budget is doomed to fracture. This Government exhibits no evidence of increasing the tax rate or broadening the base therefore its only a matter of time before serious shedding is nonnegotiable.

This is a fantasy budget.

Bad News Budget

In Cabinet Minute CM11(049) for Budget 2011/12, Government listed five strategic directions which emphasised reducing the cost of doing business and helping existing businesses to grow and new businesses to start, stay and thrive. Well government has just done a multi back flip. Despite the income taxes and VAT we pay, that isn't enough for this government to actually increase the cost of starting a new business. Check out the new building permit fees. For Rarotonga a new commercial building fee has increased 100%. For tourism accommodations the fee has gone from \$4.00 per square metre to \$8.00 another 100% increase. In Aitutaki the tourism accommodation fee has increased 300%. The Cabinet Minute also stated '...by supporting our key economic drivers....' They've got an annoying way of showing it.

Thinking of building a 9 metre by 6 metre tourism unit that will be \$432.00 just for the building permit, add the NES fees, the electrical connection fees of \$150.00, the septic tank fees to the Health Ministry, then if you want to go green with solar that's more fees. About \$1,400.00 before you swing a hammer. Then there is all the VAT on your construction materials. When it's all complete there is still Tourism's accreditation fee. Where's all the good news in that? When you read the fine print there is anything but good news.

The warrant of fitness fees also took a 100% hike.

George Pitt

No Conference to be challenged?

News that there will be no Cook Islands Party Conference this year has worn thin on some staunch members. A lot of hope was placed in their Party but this confidence is beginning to concern supporters who had worked so hard to bring the CIP back into government. How can the Party walk the talk if they repeatedly shoot themselves in both feet?

Minister of Finance Mark Brown's budgetary statement that the CIP government was walking the talk can hardly be taken seriously when the government is premeditating in breach of its own Party constitution.

"Their attitude towards the Party members is the same as the way the country is being run," said an unnamed source. "We had a lot of confidence that this lot would be different but it's much the same as in the past."

"We are Party, but they are something else till they need our help at the next elections, well they just might find when they have another raffle or fundraising there will be no response."

The sore point is the Cook Islands Party Constitution. Part 4, section 11 (1) states;

"The Party conference shall be held whenever required but shall not exceed an interval of two years after the last meeting. The place and date of the conference shall be decided by the Kumiti Rotopu and notice of the same shall be given by the General Secretary to each Electorate Committee no less than one (1) month before the Party Conference."

The last CIP conference was held in August 2011. Concerned members do not believe a 2014 conference gives sufficient time for the Party to rally and be united in the build up to the next elections. One supporter said the Party had faction issues to resolve and it was inappropriate to address them through the media.

Former long time CIP Secretary Temu Okotai said having a three year period between conferences was out of the ordinary but nothing had been breached until such time as there was a lapse in the 30 day notice of a conference.



Temu Okotai - not normal but no breach on intention

"The constitution cannot be breached on an intention; it's premature to say otherwise." Okotai said members who had concerns should process them through their Electorate Committees.

Confirmation there will be no conference this year appears to be vague as some members claim there has been no official notice to that affect. One group are considering lodging a complaint to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies at the Ministry of

Justice. "If we (CIP) are a legally incorporated society and are not abiding by our constitution there must be illegalities at play."

If by the end of July no 30 day notice has been issued of details of a conference by the General Secretary to each Electorate Committee, then the breach of the CIP constitution can be challenged leaving the Party vulnerable to legal discipline if a writ of mandamus is filed to force the constitution's compliance and a conference convened.

Salaries of top government officials

By Charles Pitt

Book 1 of the Budget Estimates for 2013/2014 tabled in Parliament this session shows on page 109, under Table 12.4, the salary bands for Heads of Ministries and Chief Executives.

Salary band	Government agency
\$130,000 plus	MFEM - Richard Neves Tourism Corp - Halatua Fua Crown Solicitor- Kim Saunders Financial Services Development Authority (FSDA) - Jenner Davis

While the top limit of this band is not mentioned it is understood that Neves, Saunders and Davis are receiving a package of more than \$200,000 with Davis being the only Cook Islander in this top group. Salaries of the CEOs of the State Owned Businesses are not included.

\$110,000 to \$129,000	CIIC
\$90,000 to \$109,999	Foreign Affairs, Justice, Audit, Education, Police
\$70,000 to \$89,999	Ombudsman, BTIB, OPM, Environment, Agriculture, Internal Affairs, MMR, PSC, Health
\$50,000 to \$69,999	Culture, MOIP, National Super, Parliamentary Services, Pearl Authority, Transport, Head of State (Harry Iaviti)

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Letter to the Editor

An open letter to the Editor of The Cook Islands Herald

Dear Editor,
It has been brought to our attention by a very gregarious, vocal and active young Cook Islander that perhaps it's about time to comment on the regulation and state of current affairs and journalistic standards in the Cook Islands?

In regards to the smoke signal published in the Cook Islands News on Thursday of last week, a comment needs to be made and question the two main news groups on the island of Rarotonga. Do you not think?

Firstly, for the public, here are the facts: There is no state owned Cook Island News group and so the two main news providers are in fact private, family owned businesses.

Secondly, the news broadcast team is a young pacific team put together to try to do the best amount of work possible on a fraction of the resources, pay and people given to them as other news teams around the world – a few of which the writer took liberty to compare them to.

So, how do the two newspapers show support for young people working in television broadcast news? By flinging dirt in the papers? (It has been noted that no comment from the Cook Island Herald has actually been published yet...) To invite the competition newspaper to comment on a letter from an unsupporting member of the public slagging off the young and up and coming not to mention unsuspecting Television news team in the newspaper?

Too far?

Is it not a more diplomatic state of affairs that the Television news should be left independent of the healthy dose of competition between the newspapers? The Television news does not broadcast an opinion piece and so how can the young news team confidently moot this argument against the quality of their work, but to truck ahead?

If this is how the writer feels about a young and learning pacific Journalism team it does not necessarily need to be the case for the majority of the general Cook Island public and if the letter was merely meant to serve as feedback in order to better the quality of work then allow for the introduction of a more productive way of offering this commentary, in aid of learning, of course.

This very Cook Islands news team have had positive feedback come back in support of them from foreign news correspondents who work for bigger news organisations all of whom have OFFERED THEIR EXPERTISE, SUPPORT AND TIME to them FOR FREE. Their words of mentorship and support encouraging these two young journalists from CITV to continue their work. Most recently a TVNZ news copy writer who is reported to have popped in to see how they work for a day while on the island as part of the Film Raro challenge who openly shared editing and technical tips with the pair and positive words on their enthusiasm and work ethic, including a few decent local tips on getting around. The same can be said about the Cook Islands News, foreign journalists are known to have enjoyed their time in the Cook Islands at the Cook Islands News office and indeed found promising young writers in their offices.

So why the long face? The gloom and doom of the writer of this smoke signal need not rub off on anybody else.

There is room to do better in every news room but for your two young news anchors, the Cook Islands can feel proud to have a young, well spoken TV news team. Both of them, Cook Islanders, both living and yes, working here in the Cook Islands. An issue both of the newspapers comment on regularly but the writer saw fit to overlook in regards to these two young people.

To the CITV news team – Alex Pere and Maria Tanner, may it be noted that it is heard you delivered the news that

evening (after the letter you undoubtedly read in the Cook Islands News daily that morning) with pride and grace. The job you undertake is difficult and fraught with commentary from all angles, may the rest of your career be one forged with a hungriness to learn and the responsibility to keep your people informed first.

In support of your work and all young, pacific people working in the media.

PMW Team, Cook Islands faction.

Kia ora, Kia Orana, Ia Orana, Bula Vinaka, Malo o Lelei, Talofa Lava, Fa'aka Lofa Lahi Atu, Apinun

- Together a collective voice.

Vaka Puaikura and Tahiti Community to host fundraising dinner and auction

The Vaka Puaikura and Tahiti Communities on the Island have been raising funds to the tune of \$50k to cover the cost of cancer therapy at a clinic in Germany for the son of the Pastor of Arorangi CICC Mr Tinihau Thierry Tapu.

A fundraising dinner will be held on Saturday Night 15th June from 6pm, at the Aroa Nui Hall, Arorangi. COME and DINE with us and enjoy our famous Vaka Puaikura Hospitality Island Feast Buffet filled with locally cooked fresh from the "Umu" everything scrumptious and crackling roasted pork, ham, turkey, chicken, fish, kinaki, sea food and many more rekareka delicious dishes fresh from the green gardens of our Puaikura farmers.

There are limited seats only, 250 for \$50. Tickets are being sold at the Friendly Mart Stores and leaders of the Arorangi Ekalesia. You eat as much as you wish.

An auction Fundraiser will also take place during the dinner with more than 100 valuable items valued from \$1.00 to \$1,000 on for bidding such as 2 Brand new motor bikes, 53 inch Plasma Screen with stand, gardening items, dinner vouchers, cash vouchers, meat packs, sports items, tivaevae many more great and wonderful useful items for homes, personal –sight auction catalogue on display on the night.

Live Entertainment will also be on show, provided courtesy of Tara Kauvai, Melissa Gosselin, te Rau Maire Dance Group, AniteraTapena, Nana's Ura Zumba, The Puaikura Mermaids, Taokia Brothers

Make it a date, make it your night to remember our true Vaka Puaikura and join the effort to raise funds in aid of saving the life of a friend Tinihau Thierry Tapu.

Island girl goes a-wandering

Part 1

By Carmel Beattie

Thank God, I am home! Now, don't get me wrong, the last couple of months when I have been here, there and everywhere has been terrific but Dorothy was right – there is no place like home!

It all started in May when I left the Rock for the first time in eight months to go to my homeland, Australia, for work and a family visit. OK, some of it was my fault because I set myself a gruelling pace – had to fit in lots of work and as much play as possible! However, I don't know what had happened to the world in those preceding eight months but everything seemed bigger, louder, more crowded, more expensive and a while lot more alarming!

Was it because I had been sheltered here on the beach, warm breezes wafting around me and sunny smiles greeting me each day? OR was it that I am now completely an Island girl and can't take the city pace anymore?!

For example, one of my first stops was Brisbane where I was born and brought up and long regarded within Australia as a kind of sleepy, overgrown country town – what on earth has happened to Bris Vegas? As vicious trucks chased me down highways, palms sweating and heart racing, I realised that this was NOT the city I once knew and the 20-something years that I had lived outside Brisbane had changed it immeasurably. Not only is it a cooler, more cosmopolitan city but is also a bizarre network of tunnels, spaghetti junctions and toll roads that cost you a fortune and take you where you don't want to go! I spent my day on the mobile advising people that I was going to be late for



Carmel Beattie

our meeting because I was 'lost in negotiation'. Ah, for the old days of trams!

In Melbourne, the problem was a rogue Sat Nav who (I say who because she had such an annoying female voice) had unilaterally decided to save me money by directing me away from the motorways, as I was driving through scary back roads near the airport and seeing the motorway in the distance, I was tempted to give it all up, leave the car and get a taxi – except you couldn't find one in those scary dark streets and if you did, most don't know how to get around themselves! A bizarre anomaly in big cities, I feel!

I arrived back in Raro, much poorer and slightly rattled by this strange visit to places that should have been so familiar - in the end, I put it down to having been too long out of the international scene and convinced myself that I would be fine next time.

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Rarotonga lighting up

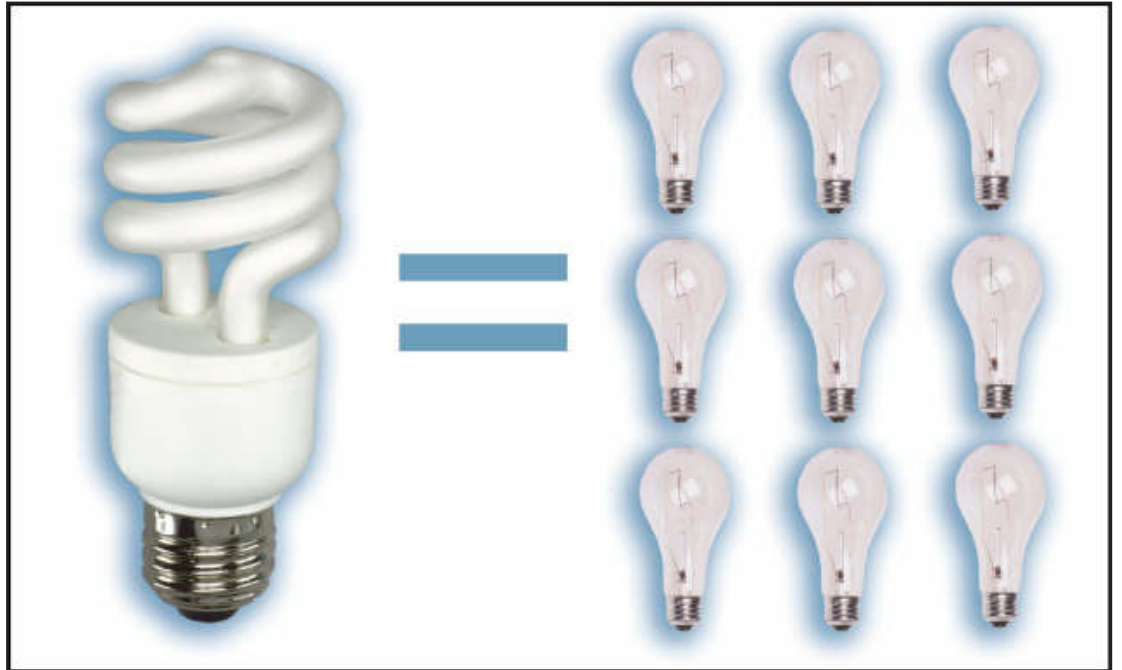
While renewable energy is everybody's energy policy of choice, the media spotlight was busy highlighting energy efficiency this week.

Energy efficiency in case you were wondering is a term encompassing all the ways to get more work out of less energy.

And it was captured in a newspaper headline that announced "Rarotonga lighting up". The story behind the headline was about electrical contractors for government's light bulb project stopping at 60 per cent of homes around Rarotonga to replace old incandescent light bulbs with new compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs.

By the time the project is done and dusted virtually every home on Rarotonga will use efficient compact fluorescent lights (CFLs).

When this happens it will be a remarkable achievement. In the United States and Europe incandescent lights had to be banned first before people switched to CFLs. So why is it proving much easier to manage the switch in Rarotonga? The



reason is economic incentives.

Firstly, CFL bulbs are around four times as efficient as incandescent light bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. Therefore a 22 Watt CFL will offer the same amount of light as a 100 Watt incandescent bulb and will last for around five years. Using an 18 Watt CFL in place of a 75 Watt standard incandescent light bulb will save over 500 kWh over its lifetime - far in excess of the initial cost of the CFL. It's a really good deal for households.

Secondly, CFLs are being heavily subsidised and aided by a promotional campaign. Even TAU contributed \$70,000 to the cost of the project. Why is this? Because TAU benefits from the reduction in kilowatt-hours of electricity by being able to invest in new renewable energy plant and not having to otherwise splurge on diesel generation equipment to keep pace with a demand that had been trending upwards until two years ago.

The irony is that the energy efficiency campaign - CFLs, buildings that need less energy

solar street lighting, fridge/freezer trade discounts, etc will actually cost TAU some serious money. TAU's financial people think energy efficiency will reduce their earnings in the 2013/14 financial year by at least 5 percent. But in their estimation the benefits will far outweigh this loss.

And they know better; their real product is reliable and affordable energy services, and everyone benefits if those services can be delivered at lower cost by policy and efficiency campaign - CFLs,



Interest rates affect foreign policy *Part one*

The Aussie banks bowl under-arm so Team Cooks turns to China

By Charles Pitt

High interest rates being charged by the Australian banks are driving this country further into the welcoming arms of the Chinese government and one wonders what advice Australian and NZ government Foreign Affairs Policy Analysts are providing their Ministers as to how and why this scenario is unfolding.

To date there appears to have been little debate on the linkages and downstream effects of Australian banking policy and practices on Australian and NZ government foreign policy in the Pacific.

The Chinese once had a presence in this country. Now, due largely to economic factors, Chinese interest in the Cook Islands has been revived and indications are the Chinese are preparing to return to these shores. And this time, the return could be permanent.

By contrast, more and more Cook Islanders are making Australia their home while Australia barely pays attention to the Cook Islands.

The Chinese return will be facilitated in part by some deft "under-arm" bowling on the part of the Australian owned banks. The high interest rates imposed by the two Australian owned banks in the country, ANZ and Westpac, are playing havoc with our economy and therefore the lives of our people. With many locals facing mortgagee sales, with depopulation increasing as people seek work overseas and the Cook Islands government having to seek cheap loans elsewhere, it begs the question, has the Australian government "dropped the ball" where Pacific foreign policy is concerned? After all,

who determines Australian foreign policy in the Pacific, the Australian government or the Governors of the two Australian banks who set the lending interest rates?

It is difficult to understand how Australia's Foreign Minister can sit at meetings with his Pacific counterparts and smile and talk about Australia's commitments to the Pacific at the same time Australian banks are putting the economies of Pacific nations under pressure through their lending criteria.

The high interest rates they are charging local entrepreneurs for development projects (astonishingly, up to 11 percent) is opening the door for a Chinese takeover of our economy. Is this what the Australian government foreign policy developers (and their US backers) want? If it isn't, why isn't someone in the Australian government investigating the impact of Australian banking practices in the Cook Islands? It should be at all serious about countering the growing Chinese influence in the Cook Islands.

A review of the Banking industry was carried out last year by a former CEO of Kiwi Bank and his findings confirmed that the high charges imposed by the Australian banks are due to inefficiency. Some lending has been dubious resulting in bad debts. The service is not first world and clients are paying to maintain overstaffing and outdated systems. The Chinese could accomplish their takeover by either establishing a first world banking service in the Cook Islands to offer cheap business and personal loans or by depositing a large sum of money in the government owned bank, BCI,

for the purpose of funding development at low interest rates.

At the moment, it could be said the Australian banks own this country through their mortgages and loans on homes, hotels, cars, bikes, properties, businesses and so on but all that could change-soon.

If they are awake, Australian government foreign policy analysts will know that the high interest rates are a constraint to the growth and development of our country and driving us further into aid dependency. Aid funds now make up a third of government's budget. It is not known whether the aid granted by the Australian government goes anywhere near balancing out the profits made by the two Australian banks.

As local money is too expensive for our private sector to borrow for significant developments, large scale development falls to our government who must turn to donor nations and agencies for cheap funds. By forcing us down this avenue, Australian banks are contributing to the erosion of our sovereignty as we bow and stoop to the whims, criteria and directions of funding providers outside of the South Pacific region.

Even in this complex environment, the Australian and NZ governments seem able to capitalize on this dependency and manipulate and exercise some measure of control or influence over Cook Islands government decision making. Australia will point to the large number of Cook Islanders now happily resident and working in Australia.

Cook Islanders have resorted to seeking higher paying jobs in Australia to pay

back the high interest loans charged by Australian banks. This creates a labour shortage in the Cook Islands forcing the Cook Islands to seek labour from Fiji and elsewhere. This is causing distortions to the Cook Islands resident demographic and cultural fabric. Cook Islands foreign policy will increasingly become influenced or determined by these distortions.

NZ can point to the special relationship and benefits arising from NZ citizenship. However, Cook Islanders in NZ are mostly at the lower end of the socio-economic scale and have gone from minimum wage jobs in the Cook Islands to minimum wage jobs in NZ.

Aid dependency is becoming more a means to keep the Cook Islands connected and in "tow" and supporting Australian and NZ initiatives in the wider Pacific. Alliances and linkages are assuming a critical importance in the Pacific now that the USA is raising its profile in an effort to counter China's growing influence. Look to Australia and NZ to step up their level of aid for priority projects in infrastructure and renewable energy. Look for the Cook Islands to become increasingly under pressure to back Australian and NZ foreign policy initiatives.

Australia and NZ will not want the Cook Islands and indeed Polynesia to go its own way as the Melanesian Spearhead Group has done over the regional trade agreement PACER.

As the Cook Islands is in free association with NZ, at some point even NZ foreign policy analysts must question the potentially negative effect of high interest rates set by Australian owned banks on the Cook Islands.



Ministry of Infrastructure & Planning

Project City Water Update

Contractors carry out final touches

Project City 2 contractors are now carrying out the final touches in the network upgrade of the town water network from Panama to the Avarua central business district, Tupapa and Takuvaine Valley.

Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning engineers advise that the contractors are continuing to work leading to the Takuvaine Valley water intake. When done, it will signify the final stages of the laying of new trunk, sub mains and branch mains pipelines for all four sectors.

In addition, there are finishing touches such as installing water service connections from the network to individual homes and businesses within designated town water pipelines upgrade.

Other finishing touches include road remediation such as the work being carried out around CIIC Avarua and the Pa Enea hostels district today (12 June 2013).

The engineers advise that the new network is not yet operational and will not be so until at the end of the project in July 2013.

The Ministry apologises for any inconveniences during the project.



Trenching outside Staircase Restaurant



Trenching service line outside Beachcomber



Asian Development Bank



Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning

PH 20321 Fax: 24321



Ministry of Infrastructure & Planning

Water Update

Ministry holds emergency water meeting

Various measures have been recommended by the Water Works division of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning in a meeting convened by the Acting Secretary of Infrastructure after discussions with Minister Teariki Heather earlier in the day. As a result of the brainstorming session, the water engineers advised the following strategies to assist with the situation.

Immediate Action

Manipulate Water Pressure

There is an action whereby water engineers can manipulate the flow by reducing pressure in high pressure area and increasing pressure in a targeted low pressure area. Also known as monitoring the valves, such action helps share the water supply fairly. Such a strategy is used in extreme situations and was implemented last night (11 June) for the first time in 2013.

Extra Roster for Water Cartage

Draw a roster for an extra shift to deliver water on request. At present water delivery is up until 11pm, and an extra shift from 11pm-3am is recommended (until the water situation is alleviated by good rainfalls).

Resorts to tap into Own Reserves

To request the resorts and hotels to make use of their reserve tanks to lessen the demand on the water mains and therefore allow more households to have access to the water.

Conservation by the public

For the public to conserve the water supply that is available.

Medium Term Action

Engineers to try and access spring water sources for water cartage purposes. Engineers advise that kirikiri would be needed to make easier access easier for the water cartage trucks.

Engineers to identify the location of possible source of bore-water for water cartage

Other Action in Cooperation with other Agencies

Water Tank Subsidy

Encourage the public who are affected to apply for the water tank subsidy to secure a backup source of water - which scheme is under the purview of MFEM via their Development Coordination Division.

Water Tank Reserve at TSA

Tap into the water tank reserves at the Telecom Sports Arena which has a capacity of 1.5million litres. Engineers say all that is needed is for them to connect a pump to the reserve and the water can be accessed. However, permission to tap into the reserve tank would have to come from Cook islands Investment Corporation, but if so, would allow the engineers to tap into a valuable water source in Nikao.

Acting Secretary, Mac Mokoroa appeals to the public to take such measures as necessary to conserve water and also for understanding that the Ministry is doing the best that it can to help the public during the period of very low rainfall.

Footnote:

Although it will take time, the Government has already embarked on the Project City town water network upgrade and is about to launch the Te Mato Vai programme.

This programme will be for the \$20million upgrade of ring mains by the Republic of China, the \$17million upgrade of the water intakes funded by the Governments of New Zealand and Australia and \$14million of ancillary work funded by the Cook Islands Government.



Ministry of
Infrastructure and
Planning

PH 20321 Fax: 24321

Ministry urges water conservation measures

Water levels have dropped to well below normal pressure levels at all the water intakes around the island of Rarotonga according to the Water Works division Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning.

The levels for all intakes including the main ones of Avana, Turangi, Avatiu and Totokoitu are at less than 50% as can be seen in the accompanying chart compiled by the Water Works personnel.

While a few showers are predicted, heavy rainfall is required to fill up the intakes. Accordingly the public is advised to take all measures to conserve water and use water wisely. For instance, growers are requested to limit their watering in the plantations to early hours of the morning

and late in the evening and not to leave water taps running unattended.

Householders are requested to use laundry water for watering their flowers and garden or to do their car-wash, and even then to limit their laundry use.

Resorts and hotels are urged to make use of their reserve tanks to try and ease the demand on the water mains. This measure was discussed at water meeting held on Tuesday 11 June 2013 between the Acting Secretary, water engineers and the Water Works division (see details in story below).

Any leaking pipes please contact Water Works division at Ministry of Infrastructure on 20321 during work hours or report to 71980 after-hours if urgent.

Water Intake Levels on Rarotonga

Intakes	Percentage
Avatiu	31
Takuvaine	32
Turangi	23
Matavera	28
Avana	30
Totokoitu	25
Taipara	29
Papua	36
Ngatoe	24
Rutaki	37

PUBLIC NOTICE

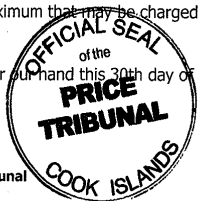


PRICE ORDER 05/2013

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 05/2013 and shall come into effect on the 12th day of June 2013 for **TOA 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.

Brian Terrance Hagan
Brian Terrance Hagan
Chairman for the Price Tribunal



Given under my hand this 30th day of May 2013.

Tatiana Burn
Tatiana Burn
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	2.45	2.73	3.01	3.07	June 12, 2013
DIESEL	2.23	2.51	2.79	2.85	June 12, 2013

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Ever open your browser with nowhere to go? StumbleUpon feeds you new Web content with a single tap. It's the mobile version of the tremendously popular Web application of the same name. You can follow people and brands, plus select from over 500 interests, to make your "random" content more relevant.

Dictionary.com

What makes the Dictionary.com app useful is that the information is local. Rather than wait for the website Dictionary.com to load, you can look up dictionary definitions immediately from the app. The free version of the app has advertisements, but the \$1.99 paid version does not.

Google Maps

Google Maps has long helped people navigate streets, landmarks, parks, and other outdoor locations all over the world. In November, Google added an indoor navigation feature that helps you confidently trespass airports, shopping malls, and other large buildings.

Google Translate

Google Translate translates words into over 64 languages, and dictates them aloud. It's fast and stable, and works well for quick translations of a few words or a single sentence. However it requires a constant Internet connection.

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Hell Fire

By Maria Tanner

Influenced from previous travels through India and abroad artist Sam Thomas exhibition Hell Fire opened to an overwhelming crowd both equally astounded and perplexed at Thomas fusion of cultural and modern art in the one space.

The BCA gallery saw its transformation into an interactive arts space on Tuesday evening, as engaging with the art work was an equally instrumental part of the exhibition suggested artist Thomas.

The exhibition pieces consisted of a palm-ex installed floor to ceiling wall, a carved vaka entitled Potiki, of which Thomas had worked with Master carver Mike Tavioni to create, clad with vehicle like lighting to create the image of a black cadillac sailing through the night, and the piece de resistance two LED light banana chandeliers that raised a fair few eyebrows on tuesday evening.

A special addition to the show Thomas invited musician Henzart to perform acoustic numbers setting the back drop to the Hell Fire opening.

BCA gallery owner Ben Bergman was confident in the both the exhibition and Thomas describing him as a young artist on the rise that will be discussed well into the future.

Thomas, who studied at Elam school of arts and previously co owned the auckland based art gallery The Snake Pitt, spoke on the different techniques he had adopted throughout his travels and incorporated them into his works.

Of the Hell Fire exhibition an aluminum embellished painting entitled Avatar and banana chandelier had sold within moments of its opening while the exhibitions largest piece the carved Potiki cadillac had stirred some serious attention.

The Hell Fire exhibition is currently on at BCA gallery and runs until the 29 June.



Sam Thomas BCA Artist in Residence opened his exhibition Hell Fire on Tuesday evening.



Ani O'Neill with Sam Thomas



Brain Coral piece by Sam



Bananas



Artpiece entitled "Avatar" sold on the night.

Arorangi Bowling Club

By Ben Mose

The whites signified traditional lawn bowls, coupled with the red and black of Vaka Puaikura which has for the last 3 months dominated the Rarotonga Bowling Green every Wednesday and at the same time generated economic benefits for the Rarotonga Bowling Club. Today the 2nd championship commenced the next discipline and I will come back to this later on.

When the Ladies Pairs, and Men's Triples Championship 'hit the ground running' last April 10th this year, 33 financial members competed for the 2013 Championship Club title. Last week the Cook Islands National Single Champion, Alex Kairua demonstrated why he is representing the Cook Islands at the World Bowls Champion of Champion at Christchurch at the end of the year.

Arorangi Bowling Club Medals Results:

Gold Medal:	Men Triples	Women Pairs
	Alex Kairua (skip)	Anna Henry (skip)
	Tere Daniel (2nd)	Dephne Maea (lead)
	Wilson Rani (lead)	
Silver Medal	Taiki Paniani (skip)	Dorothy Paniani (skip)
	Papatua Papatua (2nd)	Colleen Paniani (lead)
	Ron Powell (lead)	
Bronze Medal	Vaine Henry (skip)	Evelyn Henry (skip)
	Lawrence Paniani (2nd)	Tanoe Tangipi (lead)
	Ringo Star (lead)	

The 2nd Round of the Men's Pairs and Women's Triple continue to attract at the Arorangi Bowling Club today at the Rarotonga Bowling Green at 5pm. If you are looking for something to do and are 18yrs and over, you are welcome to talk to any members of the Arorangi Bowling Club.



Women Pairs Gold Medalist Anna Kairua and Dephne Maea



Mens Triple Gold Medalist Alex Okore and Tere,

Saving for a rainy day

Part two

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

This week is the second part of a series discussing retirees, pension entitlements, and eligibility of two very different nations, South Korea and the Cook Islands. I will discuss what South Korean retirees are eligible for and how is it different to the Cooks Islands.

It is my understanding that in the Cooks the local pension is \$200 a fortnight for those aged 60-69 and \$400 a fortnight for those over 70. Currently, in South Korea a couple can receive up to 154,000 (\$170) a month or up to 97,100 (\$108) a month for a pensioner if they are divorced or widowed. Currently, there is a huge difference in entitlements between the two nations.

Due to the low entitlements and the cost of living here in South Korea among recent election pledges are that all senior citizens aged 65 and older will receive 200,000 won (\$180) a month as a pension. Although it is a slight increase it still cannot cover the cost of living. Korea traditionally relied on the children supporting their parents as they aged but this trend has altered in recent years leaving the elderly very short of funds needed to manage a suitable lifestyle as they

age. Many South Koreans are encouraged to join the National pension but this is also asset tested. If a Korean national owns too much money and belongs in the top 30% of income earners in the nation they will be denied access to the National pension.

In South Korea the age for getting your pension was 60 but this year became 61 and will rise one further year every five years, for example 2018 will be 62, 2023 will be 63 etc. This should bring it into line with other counties and legally mandate companies to stop releasing workers before they were 50 years old. This was discussed in part one of this series.

In the Cook Islands all medical treatment and medicines prescribed are free as well as dental care. This also includes any referral to New Zealand for operations and to see specialists. Seniors also receive Concessions for bus travel. Cook Islanders who lived and worked in New Zealand and who receive the pension may receive that in the Cook Islands. The New Zealand pension is available from 65 years and after.

As regards healthcare for South Koreans previously not a lot was available to senior citizens but that has changed.

In 2014 expensive dental work will be covered by the National health insurance for those aged 75 years and older. Previously to my knowledge this did not exist. By 2016 it will also cover those aged from 65. Furthermore, insurance will fully cover serious illnesses including cancer and heart disease, brain and blood disease. Without this full coverage once again families were required to carry the burden.

In South Korea, elderly are generally entitled to free or discounted tickets to visit a museum, park or historical site. Finally, they do not need to pay to use the subway.

In addition, to further promote a method of income earning for the elderly if you are over 65 years of age and have the intention of setting up a vending machine in a public place such as City Hall, a government office or station the government will give priority to this age group.

There is also now a support mechanism for seriously disabled citizens over the age of 18 who have limited or no income. Starting next year they will be eligible to receive 150,000 or (\$167) a month.

Due to the increasing severity of the aging society of South Korea

it is estimated that the government has set aside 152 billion won or \$168 million from next year's budget for the pension program.

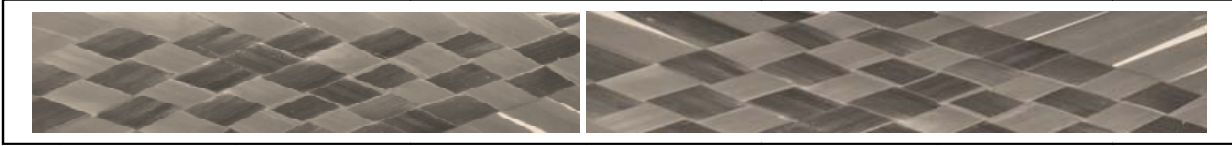
Although there are numerous pension and welfare entitlements coming into line it also shows the lack of them previously and the opposite direction that South Korea is heading as other countries around the world reduce their welfare entitlements and reliance on the state.

According to the National Pension Research Center an elderly couple needs about 1.75 million won (\$2000) a month to live comfortably while an elderly single person needs about 1.12 million (\$1250) a month. This is quite a lot of money especially living in Seoul and the government sees the need to help compensate their standard of living with pension entitlements etc. However, as demonstrated earlier there is a big difference in what is required to survive and what is available.

Overall they are the principle differences between the two countries that are dealing with various issues and problems involving pensions and retirees but they are not alone in the world.

*Kia Manuia
Annyong e Kaseyo*

TE REO MĀORI KŪKI 'AIRANI



tātā`ia e Rutera Taripo

Tātā Pūrua ~ Writing Poem

I tēta`i ra `uāke nei, i roto i tēta`i toa `oko kai, kua pukapuka rikiriki māua ko tēta`i taeake. Kua roa rāi, kua `ora`ora mai `aia kiāku i tēta`i au moemoeā tāna i `akapae `ē `i vai`o atu. *One day not so long ago, in a cafe, a friend and I had been having a little conversation. For some time, the friend shared with me some dreams that he had had and had put aside.* Kia oti, kua tū `aia ki runga, kua `aere atu, `ē kua oki mai, kua karanga mai, “Ēi, meitaki.” Mei roto i tēia puka`anga ka `o`ora atu au i tēia Pūrua. *Afterwards, he got up and left, then he came back, and he said, “ Hey, thanks”. As a result of this conversation, I would like to share with you this poem.*

Nō`ou `oki ...Meitaki rā (Because of you...Meitaki rā)

I tōku ora`anga, kua vai`o au i tāku au moemoeā
All my life I kept my dreams
Va`i `ia, vai`o `ia ki roto rava i tēta`i ngā`i `o`onu.
Tucked somewhere deep inside
`Inārā, kua `uti`uti takita`i `ia mai ē koe ki va`o,
Till one by one you pull them out,
Ma te kore `e toe no te `u`una
With nothing left to hide.
Kua to`u mai koe ki taku moemoea `o`onu tikāi
You pointed to my deepest dreams
Kua karanga mai koe ki āku kia tautā au
You told me I should try
Kua `akakite marū mai koe kiāku ē `e ngā pē`au tōku,
Then gently told me I had wings
Kua `akaari mai koe kiāku `e ka `akapē`ea me rere
And showed me how to fly
I reira kua `itae koe ki roto i tōku puku`atu
Then somehow you reached into my heart
Kua ma`ani i te au kupu kia ta`e, mei te kauvai-ta`e rāi,
Made words flow like a stream
Na roto i te tūrangā aro`a
With loving inspiration
Kua riro mai koe ei tu`anga no te moemoea.
You became part of my dream
Kāre tikāi au e moe i taku au moemoea,
I never would have dreamed my dreams
Kāre rāi `oki `e tano `ē kia tika
They never would have come true
Kāre katoa rāi `oki taua au moemoeā ra `e riro mai
Those dreams would not be realized
Nāringa te Atua kāre i tuku mai `iākoe.
If God had not sent you

How to persevere in life

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

One of the characteristics of successful people is their ability to persevere, to hang on, to keep on keeping on, not giving up. Successful people are ordinary people who don't give up! Many people are good starters but poor finishers. It's not how you start that matters but how you finish! In II Corinthians 4v.1-18 the Apostle Paul gives us some lessons on How To Persevere In Life. Paul was a determined and persistent person. Twice in our reading Paul said "we do not loose heart...meaning I don't give up... or I will not quit"

In v.8-9 "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." Paul uses four terms to describe the circumstances. He says "I'm hard pressed on every side, but not crushed." I get pressure from every angle. But I'm not crushed. "I'm perplexed but not in despair." I don't know what's happening in my life but I'll keep on going. Perplexed means stretched to the limit like a rubber band without breaking. He says I'm stretched to the limit but I don't snap. "I'm persecuted" meaning I'm being hunted, "but I'm not abandoned by God". "I'm struck down but not destroyed" -- I'm like a boxer -- I get knocked down but I'm never knocked out. Paul's life is full of great challenges. That would make anybody want to quit! Yet he says "I don't give up!"

Paul says, "Sometimes I've been in circumstances that are absolutely hopeless and the situation was impossible." The question is 'What did

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

he do in those hopeless and impossible situations?' Paul said, "I simply kept on keeping on. I did not quit!" What was Paul's secret? What motivated him to keep going? In our reading Paul gives us some important lessons on How To Persevere In Life regardless of our circumstances. Perhaps you have been discouraged during these past days or weeks, and is thinking of giving up on life. Paul is encouraging us to keep on keeping on and doing what is right.

Lesson 1. REMEMBER GOD LOVES YOU v.1 reads "Since therefore, through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart." Paul is saying that God has mercy for him, God loves him! God also loves us! How does that help me to persevere? Know that when we go through tough times God sees everything. He cares about everything we're going through. He's going through it with us. He promises to help us if we ask Him. So we're able to persevere because He is committed to persevering with us! No matter what the circumstances is, God loves us! That is an encouragement to us! Paul said in I Corinthians 15v.10 "By the grace of God I am what I am".

Lesson 2. MAINTAIN A CLEAR CONSCIENCE v. 2 reads "Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways. We do not use deception, nor do we distort the Word of God. We commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God." Paul said,

"I'm transparent. I don't have anything to hide. I don't deceive anybody. I don't distort the Word of God. I'm honest and I'm a person of integrity." If we want to last in life, we got to have integrity. The man of God who has integrity walks securely. Maintain a clear conscience. In my next article I will continue this theme of How To Persevere In Life. My condolences to those families who have lost loved ones during these past weeks. May God comfort and bless you all.



VACANCY



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.pmoffice.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.

PUBLIC NOTICE



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

Quit the fighting!

By Norma Ngatamariki

Have you ever been in a fight before? Be honest. Maybe you've been in a scruff with siblings, fighting over something like that last piece of chicken or which movie you're going to watch. Rest assured, that is a normal thing to do in any household. Another scenario is when things get sour between you and your parents, and they don't allow you to go out with your friends. You would definitely kick up a fuss, but that's to be expected. The kind of fight I'm talking about is the downright punching, hair-pulling and karate-kicking that happens mostly in secondary school. So listen up.

Fist fighting is nothing new to us. We become aware of it in primary school. It is an inevitable that school students find out about it. Kids

will usually be saying things like, "Oy, did you hear? There's a fight after school between so-and-so." They keep it on the down low so that there's no chance of teachers finding out and interrupting their "entertainment". And, truthfully, that's how most kids see it. It's like watching a live wrestling match, except you don't have to pay (which is sad).

Some of these fights start off with the most ridiculous reasons. A girlfriend (or, in most cases, a boyfriend) who can't seem to make up his/her mind about which one he/she wants. So these people decide to battle it out in order to "prove" themselves worthy of their love. Honestly, it makes me laugh sometimes. Or someone is spreading malicious gossip about you (through word of

mouth and, believe or not, texting) and you feel obliged to take action. In my opinion, everybody's just playing the "He-Said-She-Said" game. Don't start something without having the facts first. If you can't say something nice about somebody you can either: a) keep your mouth shut OR b) keep it on a low profile so others don't hear. But fighting in or out of school is no laughing matter. If someone threw the first punch, obviously you aren't going to sit there and wait for the next blow. But you should be the bigger person and handle things in a proper manner. I know that, with our island tempers, it's going to be very difficult to do (Trust me, I've had a few moments of my own), but as the saying goes: It takes more strength to walk away

then to throw the next punch. It's hard to walk away from a fight, especially if people are calling you a "chicken", but it doesn't make you a weak person.

If a fight happened on school grounds you can be suspended (most kids see this as a short holiday) or even worse, expelled (for the repeat offenders). It's not something to be proud of. You don't want to put your parents through that kind of thing and it really puts a strain on the relationships you have with your friends, teachers etc. People filming the fights are just as bad. They blue tooth it to other phones or post it on Facebook. I mean, really?! You just want your "three minutes of fame". So don't let your family and friends down. Do the right thing.

Peer pressure

By Hareta Tira Passfield

I can't wait for this week to be over. I'm only 3 days in and I am counting down the hours till this week is over. I had a hard time finding what to write about but I finally decided on topic that is really important to us as teenagers and that is peer-pressure.

There are many things in today's society that effect teenagers. Throughout high school student's mindsets are not very stable and they are willingly to follow the crowd. These messages can come from not only other students but from music videos, magazine advertisement television commercials, talk shows and sports.

When you were a little kid, your parents usually chose your friends, putting you in playgroups

or arranging play dates with certain children they knew and liked. Now that you're older, you decide who your friends are and what groups you spend time with.

It's natural for people to identify with and compare themselves to their peers as they consider how they wish to be (or think they should be), or what they want to achieve. People are influenced by peers because they want to fit in, be like peers they admire, do what others are doing, or have what others have. Teenagers face many acts that pressure them to act or try to look a certain way. Peers are a powerful force in the life of a teenager. Negative peer pressure can persuade a teenager or child to shoplift, drink alcohol, take drugs, smoke cigarettes, cheat at school, vandalize property,

bully other students, skip school and participate in racist and discriminatory behavior.

When it seems like everyone else is doing something-dressing a certain way or acting a certain way-teens feel a tremendous pressure to go along with the crowd and be like everyone else. Most teenagers don't want to stand out as being different. Everyone wants to fit in. No one has to say anything to a student but just observing their peers will create peer pressure to be like them.

Teen magazines have a high impact on the mindset of the teens and they seem to be very influenced by the information that is provided. For example, a magazine that is personally one of my favorites seventeen a world-wide magazine has a section that's dedicated for

tips on teen dating. They no longer give the right message of how you should wait for the right person to come along but rather safe tips on sex. I know this is important but rather than giving tips on safe sex they should be telling us that we should wait.

Everyone is worrying about what others think. We shouldn't care about others and we should start doing what make us happy rather than doing what makes other people happy, sometimes this can put our safety in jeopardy. For example a big one that relates to the Cook Islands in a big way is motorcycle helmets. We don't wear them because it's "un-cool" but since when was it "un-cool" to be safe? I just don't understand today's generation sometimes

You can make a difference! Do Your Part

got water?
Do your part, be water smart!

UN WATER
World Water Day
2013
International Year of
Water Cooperation

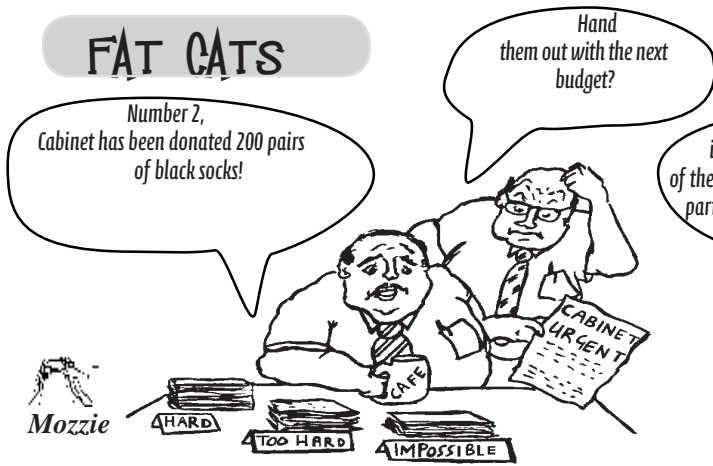
Every
DRIP
counts

OFF THE TAP!!

MINISTRY OF
INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

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

FAT CATS



Number 2,
Cabinet has been donated 200 pairs
of black socks!

Hand
them out with the next
budget?

COCONUT ROUNDTABLE

Rumour has
it, Government will indicate the tone
of the next budget by also handing out socks of a
particular colour, black for gloomy, red for
angry and pink for happy!

What
about green?

Green
for growth in
five years time!



A water problem in Nikao for a week? That's nothing! Many homes along upper Tupapa's main road towards Avarua, have had no significant water for nearly three months! One 96 year old says he bathes with a damp towel and only flushes his loo once a day when someone brings him a bucket of water to flush his loo! These homes are fed from the Matavera intake but if there's no water in the intake, what then? This is the dilemma government faces. The millions of donor dollars spent on upgrading the water pipes will amount to zero if there's simply no water to go through the pipes in the first place! The first priority should have been to secure a significant supply of water in a very large reservoir or series of very large, lake – like reservoirs utilizing in part, some underground spring water! C'mon do it!



Any water tank installed should be raised up so people can fit buckets underneath if they need to. Pumps won't work if there's a power cut! Gravity fed water is also helpful in a power cut. Now where to connect the meter? Like in NZ, it would have to be fitted between the road and the tank. Not between the tank and the house because that

CHOOKS CORNER



WITH BIG RED

would also measure the free water provided by the rain. Government cannot make a charge for water that freely falls from the sky! It could try.



MMM-Mighty Maggie Man should stand his ground. Tupapa citizens are fed up with the lack of water, overgrown vegetation along streams, poor quality roads and lack of community funds for the size of the electorate. The electorate wants an MP who is an MP of action regardless of what Party he/she is from.



When Madame Titikaveka stood up in Parliament to deliver a speech, it soon became clear she was reading from prepared notes. Prepared by whom? Her back up team? The PM quite rightly drew the Speaker's attention to this misdemeanor. Unfortunately being a new MP, Madame Titikaveka had not been told that for the first year she

should refrain from speaking and sit, listen and learn. Trouble is the rest of her team was asleep.



The new boys on Team Translation in parliament are attracting public attention. It has been suggested Senior Pastor Tangi add some relevant Biblical quotes in with his translations and Radio Rani insert a few quips of golden oldies hits from the past to brighten up the session! A few quotes from Moses of dire outcomes would add value to Big Norm's thunderous warnings and Mighty Maggie Man's admonishing could be accompanied by a few lines from the Rock 'n Roll anthem, "Shake, Rattle and Roll."



What are some 50 odd Chinese road workers going to do when the sun goes down? Sit around the camp fire toasting marshmallows and singing cowboy songs? What will they get up to for entertainment? Has any activities been arranged?

Are they in to knitting? Will families invite them home for a slap up nosh of Maroro and taro and kuru chips?



Who from the Royal Household will be tapping Tom Tom on the shoulder with their sabre? Whose voice will be muttering, "Arise Sir Tom!" Will it be Queen-Lizzie? Or will it be Charlie boy? It will most likely be the Prince. What will the Prince and Tom Tom chat about? Will Tom Tom give the Prince a manganese nodule?



Whisper chooks is that the governing cabal are leaning towards the younger generators when contemplating the new HOM appointments. Will we see a new Pearl Man? A new Nodule man? A new MFAI Man? Will the Makea lot follow government's lead? Opt for a young leader? Someone to lead the tribe into the 22nd Century?

Cook Islands
HERALD
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PITT MEDIA GROUP

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PUBLIC NOTICES



**2013/2014 TERTIARY STUDY
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

The Government of the Cook Islands is seeking "Expressions of interest" for Scholarship awards from suitably qualified Cook Islands men and women for study at a Pacific Regional Institute (excluding Australia) or NZ academic institution.

- * NZ Pacific Scholarship – undergraduate study in NZ only
- * NZ Regional scholarship – study in the PACIFIC Region (i.e. USP)
- * Commonwealth Open Scholarships – PhD or Masters Level in NZ only;

The tertiary scholarships are open to Cook Island persons from all sectors of the community, public and private living here in the Cook Islands. Applicant selection will be based upon meeting the scholarship eligibility criteria, primarily that of academic merit and that proposed course of study meet Government's HRD priorities of the Cook Islands.



**2013/2014 NZAID SHORT TERM
TRAINING AWARDS**

Employers wishing to develop staff skills through short-term training attachments in New Zealand are invited to apply for assistance under the NZAID Bilateral Aid training Programme. This may include new studies towards courses at tertiary institutes (e.g Universities and Polytechnics) provided that completion is within a period of less than 12 months. Further details and application forms are available at the Ministry of Education in Nikao. Please note, degree studies, postgraduate studies, conferences and workshops will not be considered under this scheme.

The above training and study awards will be prioritised to the following HRD priorities for 2013/2014: Agriculture, Marine, Waste Management, Renewable Energy, Education (Secondary Teaching), Health, ICT and Finance, although other areas can be considered.

Application forms and further information are available from the Ministry of Education, Nikao or contact Anna Roi, ph: 29357ext213 or Ngarangi Tangaroa – ext 210 or emailscholarships@education.gov.ck. Application Forms must be received no later than 12pm Thursday, 27 June 2013.

New Hope Church

Parekura Conference Centre

Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you

Sunday at 10.30am

PUBLIC NOTICES

**COMMUNITY MEETING ON WATER SAFETY
IN THE COOK ISLANDS**

In response to those people who have experienced difficulties in the waters of the Cook Islands, a group of concerned individuals have been meeting every month to discuss water safety and lifesaving. The group's activities include the production of information brochures, construction of water safety signs, and search and rescue activities.

The group will be registering as the Water Safety and Surf Lifesaving Council Association and has drafted a Constitution for your comments.

Members are keen to meet with you all and invite you to a Community Meeting.

Aims of Meeting:

1. Hear your thoughts on water safety
2. Discuss the role of the Water Safety and Surf Life Saving Council Corporation
3. Review the Constitution

When: Thursday 20 June 2013

Time: 5pm

Place: Sinai Hall, Tupapa

Other: Copies of the Constitution will be emailed before the meeting.

Please bring your comments with you.

Contact: Patricia Tuara Demmke NZHC, phone 22201 extn 30

Email: patricia.tuarademmke@mfat.govt.nz



Te Aponga Uira

A Fiji-based company has won a new contract to supply fuel for the power station in Rarotonga.

- Pacific Island Energy (PIE), which also supplies aviation fuel to Rarotonga Airport, will provide approximately 14 million litres of fuel to Te Aponga Uira over the period July 2013 to June 2015, with the option of a 12 month extension.

In securing the contract, the company beat out competing bids received from seven other companies by 20 February, 2013. The contract negotiations were completed three weeks ago and a new contract is now in place between TAU and PIE.

TAU CEO Apii Timoti said he was delighted the contract details had been sorted and equally happy to be partners again with Pacific Island Energy. "We've had an excellent working relationship with them in the past and we're glad the association continues to blossom. "

**EAT LESS
MOVE MORE**
HEART FOUNDATION

VACANCY



IMMIGRATION COMPLIANCE OFFICER VACANCY

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Immigration is seeking to recruit Compliance Officer to work within the immigration Division. The Compliance Officer is a regulatory position responsible for promoting compliance with the Immigration laws and policies of the Cook Islands.

A University degree in law; management, policing or law enforcement related discipline would be advantageous. The successful applicant must have two years experience in a compliance role or related law enforcement discipline and have the ability to work unsupervised and effectively with a wide range of people across vastly different cultures and backgrounds.

For full job description please contact Nga Kamana on Ph. 29347 or email: secfaccookislands.gov.ck

Please send full applications to:
The Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Immigration
PO Box 105
Avarua or email above

Applications close 4pm 21 June 2013.

**COOK ISLANDS PEARL AUTHORITY
PEARL GRADING TRAINING COURSE**

The Cook Islands Pearl authority will be conducting a pearl grading training program and applications are invited from interested and dedicated individuals who wish to participate in an intensive training course leading towards a qualification as an accredited pearl grader.

The training will commence on the 24th of June and will involve three days of tuition and practical lessons, and two days of testing after which those who pass will be accredited.

We would prefer persons who will be available to provide pearl grading services or to be employed as pearl graders. Places are limited so please register your interest early.

To apply please contact Sheena at the Cook Islands Pearl Authority

Ph: 29055 or email: sheena.vaetoru@cookislands.gov.ck

ADVERTISE WITH THE

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

PUBLIC NOTICE



**OFFICE OF THE ENERGY COMMISSIONER
GREEN LIGHT PROJECT**

Our contractors have circled the island and note there are households with no one home and therefore have not received their Bulbs. This advert is to advise we will be circling the island again to specifically target these households. To do this we will be starting in the Ruatonga Meeting House to Tupapa & Ruatonga Meeting house to Nikao area – the dividing line between the two is the Ruatonga road. If you are one of the Households who qualify for a replacement CFL Bulb(s) and have not received yours yet please call Ms Caroline Wichman on 25494 ext 833 at the Office of the Energy Commissioner to leave the following information:

1. Meter Box Number
 2. Name and Phone Number
 3. Area, and exact location of house
 4. How many Incandescent Bulbs require replacing
 5. Times (between 8am & 4pm) when someone will be home over the coming week beginning Thursday 13 June 2013
- Please note this notice is for those households only (for now) in the Tupapa to Ruatonga to Nikao area.



**MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING
TENDER**

**VAIMARU WATER SUPPLY UPGRADE PROJECT - AITUTAKI
CONTRACT No. C13/01**

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning seeks tender proposals from Contractors for the supply of materials for the water supply upgrade at Vaimaru in Aitutaki, Cook Islands.

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, 28th 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; "Vaimaru Water Supply Upgrade Project; Contract No. C13/01; and closing time and date being 3.00pm Friday 28th June 2013.

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

