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17 July 2013

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PM heads Forum mission in New Caledonia on Noumea Accord



PM at Customary Senate

The Prime Minister Henry Puna wrapped up a busy second day of consultations in Noumea on Wednesday, ending a lengthy schedule of talks with various political entities in New Caledonia.

The PM is heading a Forum Mission to New Caledonia under a mandate as the Forum Chair to assess progress by the French Overseas Territory in meeting the provisions of the Noumea Accord. The Noumea Accord is the agreed framework that allows for the people of New Caledonia to work towards greater autonomy from France. The goal of independence is subject to a 20 year process of change, leading to the staging of a referendum on independence after 2014.

Puna is part of a heavy programme of talks this week, which began on Tuesday and will conclude on Saturday. The Forum Mission is in the form of a Forum Ministerial Committee, which has included Secretary General Neroni Slade, and officials.

The second day of business began with a call on traditional leaders at the Customary Senate, a meeting that the PM described as fitting and a necessary gesture to demonstrate Pacific respect for the important role of the chiefs and cultural traditions in the development of a modern society.

The PM and the Committee continued their task throughout the day with fruitful discussions with President Harold Martin, the President of the New Caledonia Congress, leaders of the FLNKS, and a visit to the Southern Province Assembly.

Among the issues being raised during this week is the progress of New Caledonia's competencies in regional affairs, and the country's desire to become a full member of the Pacific Islands Forum.

The PM and team members will fly by helicopter to the Northern Province tomorrow, holding talks with the local leaders and visiting the KNS nickel plant.

-Trevor Pitt



PM at New Caledonia Congress

Chinese permitted to sell fish to local retailers

BTIB CEO Terry Rangi announced on Wednesday that the BTIB Board had approved Huanan Fisheries Ltd to sell their frozen fish, at this stage to two local retailers and for a 3 month trial. Rangi said the company's only approval up to now was for the export and transhipment of their catch, not the supply to the local market. The Board considered submissions from both retailers wanting to buy fishstock from Huanan Ltd and members of the fishing industry concerned at the effect this will have on their businesses. The Board will be monitoring the situation carefully over the next 3 months and in particular whether the sale of frozen fish from Huanan will have adverse effects on local fresh fish sales predominantly serviced by local fishermen. The Board anticipates that while retailers will add their own margins, it expects that lower prices for fish will make it easier and more attractive for consumers to buy. *BTIB release*

Water tank subsidies: Blatant bribery by the government

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

When the Minister of Finance announced some time ago that the water tanks supplied for Cook Islanders will be subsidized by the Government, I was stunned by his audacity. To me and to other concerned observers this is just plain and simple downright bribery. It is vote buying of the most obvious and signals that Government is bent on doing anything to win back office. This is alarming because the cost of these subsidies sits at around about \$NZ3-4 million from our own national budget. This is money from our own taxpayers and I believe if asked as to whether they would agree with this they would probably say no.

Lately we have read concerns by citizens of the Cook Islands of unchecked activities that Ministers engage in that is construed by legal people as corruption. And one does not have to a rocket scientist to come up with the same conclusion. The tank subsidy is one that could well be termed and defined as corrupt practices by the Government. Questions must be asked as to whether this subsidy should apply on Rarotonga where water is much more available from inland water intakes and piped to homes around the island. And these subsidies are being provided at the same time that the Rarotonga ring water main is being upgraded at the tune of \$60 million – some it our money along with funds from China and NZ Aid. Unless, I'm wrong, isn't this a bit over the top. Houses with subsidized water tanks also have water from the main pipes.

The Opposition is not sure as to whether the subsidies will extent to the Outer Islands because I am assured that all of the money will be spent here on Rarotonga. The announcement by the Minister of Finance said the tanks are for the Cook Islands; therefore the whole of the inhabited islands in the Cooks but those atolls where water tanks are ideal for will probably have to wait for some years yet.

To me, the Minister of Finance is a paradox of someone modern and sensitive to the unethical notions of

corruption and bribery and yet he displays huge propensity to make decisions that are purely designed with a political goal in mind for his political party. That's why he and the Prime Minister get on very well because both cannot divorce themselves from "political animal tendencies" to get what they want. At the same time the principles and ethics of good governance were being swept aside. It does not make good reading and does not sound good for the future of this country under this type of ethical and moral abuse.

I saw on television the other evening (in fact on two successive nights) the Member of Parliament thanking the Government for the tank for the Tupapa meeting house that fell under the subsidy scheme. How that happened puzzles me? I actually thought that those that qualify are because there is difficulty in them accessing water. While I am a former resident of Tupapa and raised my children in that village and would love good things to happen there, I must nevertheless question how that tank fell under the subsidy scheme. I suppose then, it is bribery for him to stop agitating and causing instability within the Government. On the second occasion the same MP was praising the Government for water works on the main pipe being done around the island. How ironic is that, you have water supply from the main and then you have a subsidized tank for the community competing with businesses providing filtered water to the public.

Honestly, the powers of the Ministers and the premises by which they exercise authority must be checked and curbed. We have the Minister of Marine Resources in trouble for taking matters into his own hands and we may yet have the Minister of Finance in trouble for meddling in high finance and BTIB process in favour of a fellow cabinet Minister. While these are being exposed by lawyers with particular purposes, I am accusing the Government of bribery with the water tank subsidies. With such track record, the saying that "the country has gone to the dogs" becomes appropriate.



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Bishop needs to come clean on Chinese deals

For his own sake and the integrity of the Cook Islands Party Government, Ministry of Marine Resources Minister Teina Bishop needs to lay his cards on the table of transparency.

It's not enough for the Ministry's Secretary Ben Ponia to write "Mr Tylor is making serious and false allegations against MMR about its licensing practises and handling of public money."

Of course the challenged Tylor is making serious allegations in his letter to the Editor of the CI News on 16 July. The public needs an explanation that should be subject to an Audit or PERCA review. To simply fob off Tylor's allegations as false simply isn't transparently responsible.

Suspicion and speculation Bishop's dealings with his fisheries advisor and Chinese businessman Mr Samuel Chou of Luen Thai Fishing Ventures are less than above board have been doing the rumour and gossip rounds for more than six months. But Tylor claims his allegations have substance due to him using the Official Information Act to access factual information.

Currently in Samoa till the 19th July, Bishop has agreed to answer Tylor's "put up or shut up" responses and allegations once he has read the articles.

Bishop's company TNM Ltd's sale of the Bounty fishing vessel to Huanan Fishery (Cook Islands) Ltd a subsidiary of Luen Fishing Venture in December 2012 has been in the public domain for sometime along with the details of the sale. What is yet to be revealed by Bishop is where the Bounty is right now, who is in possession of it and what is it being used for?

Aitutaki Mayor John Baxter confirmed the Bounty is parked up and has been for some time in Aitutaki Harbour. The Aitutaki Island Council is responsible for collecting berthing fees from

vessels using the harbour and Baxter would not comment yes or no if the owners of the Bounty were paying berthing fees. Baxter said he did not know if the Bounty was a foreign owned vessel.

It appears Bishop is still in possession of it and he uses it between Aitutaki, Atiu and Rarotonga to transport freight.

Bishop needs to clarify why a vessel he sold to his Chinese advisor is still in his possession and what happened to the fishing licence that was assigned to the Bounty? If Bishop is chartering the Bounty off Huanan Fishery CI Ltd then for the sake of transparency, he should clarify that.

Tylor makes reference to the transfer of the same vessel (the Bounty) as a gift to an unidentifiable recipient in Aitutaki. Here Tylor may be unaware of a second fishing vessel involving the Chinese. This vessel is called the Orongo. While information in connection with the Orongo is murky, Bishop should also bring clarity to this situation.

Instead of denying circulating suspicions, Bishop should simply end all the speculations and so called false information and explain the Chinese involvement with the Orongo if any. Bishop's failure to come clean will only create a negative public perception towards Chinese businesses who are potentially genuine investors in our sagging economy.

By way of background the Orongo was originally called Toa and was owned by the Ports Authority who transferred it to service Aitutaki port. It was eventually tendered in 2007 and purchased by the current Ports Authority Chairman Mike Henry for \$5,000. The sale was controversial and the subject of an audit report. In 2010, the Orongo was purchased by nine

Aitutaki fishermen from Bishop's constituency (Manuae Fishing Ltd) including Teina Bishop, from Mike Henry for \$55,000. A loan was raised for the purchase and was to be serviced by the fishermen. One by one the fishermen began to drop out of this agreement eventually leaving Bishop with the burden of servicing the loan.

Along come Luen Thai who cleared the loan then Bishop gifted the Orongo to the original fishermen under the Arenikau Fishing Association. How much Luen Thai paid can only be clarified by themselves and Bishop. Currently the Orongo

is in dry dock at the Aitutaki harbour.

In defence of his absent Minister, Ponia claimed "The Minister has shown integrity in keeping the pressure on Luen Thai to deliver first."

Deliver what Mr Ponia? Please explain what you mean without blurring your answer. So far we understand Luen Thai has delivered \$50,000 worth of computers for the Ministry of Education, plus given Bishop and others free trips to China and money to pay for fishing boats. What else are they yet to give and in exchange for what?

- By George Pitt

Rosie Blake new Consul General

The Cook Islands will have a new Consul General in its newly opened Auckland office in Manukau City. Long time Cook Islands Party activist, CISNOC General Secretary and current CIP Vice President Rosie Blake was approved by Cabinet (11 July) to fill the position that has been vacant since Bill Teariki's abrupt and controversial resignation in 2007.

Prime Minister Henry Puna, who is expected to inherit the Foreign Affairs and Immigration Ministry after Tom Marsters resignation, will formally announce Blake's appointment on returning from his latest overseas trip. By then government is expected to have received a protocol acknowledgement from New Zealand Foreign Affairs Ministry. There should be little difficulty in this as the position is considered by NZ Foreign Affairs to be low level.

Since 2007 the Auckland office, once staffed by five people became irrelevant to Foreign Affairs needs and the property was placed on the market. The down scaling left the long serving Rima Ngatoa on the payroll to administer mainly liaison activities. The Ministry of Health was in the process of sending Atiu Mayor Taoro Strickland to be based in Auckland to handle health referrals but he did a back flip and returned to Atiu. However, it is expected government will re-establish the five positions including a Trade Officer position which may be wholly or partly funded by the NZ government.

What Blake's role will be as the Consul General is yet to be defined.

Thinking the Auckland Consul Office was being revived to focus primarily on facilitating trade and commerce, the normal purpose of a Consul presence, the Foreign Affairs Ministry submitted Mona Mato's name for the position. Mato, who was a former Ministry of Foreign Affairs employee, would be ideal for the appointment if it is to be trade and commerce focused and driven, currently works in the Pacific Forum's Trade Office in Auckland.

Blake, a great grandmother, can expect a salary of up to \$70,000 with travel and housing allowances and a diplomatic passport. Blake is also entitled to continue receiving her Cook Islands old age pension. -By George Pitt

Police farewell QR Sir Fredrick Goodwin



At a special parade at 8.30am on Wednesday in front of Police Headquarters, Cook Islands Police and the Minister for Police Hon Teariki Heather, farewelled QR Sir Fredrick Goodwin who retires from his duties in the next few weeks. It was fitting that Police hold a special parade for Sir Fredrick who is one of their own. Sir Fredrick had a long career in the Police starting in the 1950s and also serving time with NZ Police. He and Lady Goodwin were presented with several gifts by Commissioner Maara Tetava including a ukulele.



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Big drop in power costs under fridge/freezer upgrades

By Charles Pitt

The Fridge/Freezer exchange programme promoted in the Cook Islands via Asia Development Bank (ADB) funding as part of the Pacific Energy Efficiency Programme phase 2, known as PEEP2, looks like it is on its way to becoming a stunning success.

Although PEEP2 (2 because the programme is now in stage 2) was to focus on street and residential lighting, the ADB granted approval for the Cook Islands to trial a fridge/freezer exchange programme as these appliances were using a great deal of electricity.

The programme involved two local outlets, CITC and the Motor Centre upgrading household's fridges and freezers to more energy efficient models in order to reduce energy consumptions and also save costs. The incentive for householders was a subsidy from the ADB.

The PEEP2 project team for the Cook Islands, Felix Gooneratne, team leader and Terekino Vaireka, local expert, report that since the exchange programme was launched in May, the two outlets involved have sold 80 units. This is especially encouraging as in the whole of last year, 120 units were sold. The team has a target of 275 to 300 units being exchanged for more energy efficient models as sufficient ADB funds remain for this number.

On Tuesday, the team spoke with two happy clients, Mrs Lena Hoff and Russell Thomas, who both agreed to their details about cost savings on power usage, being made public.

Hoff upgraded her freezer and said that previously, with her old freezer, her power bill was around \$319. She did the upgrade in May and last month noticed that her bill had dropped to \$253, a cost saving of \$66 and just for part of the month. She is now considering getting her fridge exchanged.

Russell Thomas upgraded his fridge/freezer. His power bill was previously about \$120 to \$140. His last bill came to \$95 and that was for part of the month.

Felix said the team now had a list of those who had upgraded and may write to them for details about their savings so a before and after comparison can be made.

Felix said the team initially estimated the yearly saving on power costs could be \$300 to \$400 per year but now it looks like savings of around \$500 a year may be possible. This is very encouraging he said.

The team now wants to expand the programme to the outer islands and on Friday the team along with representatives from CITC and Motor Centre will be travelling to Aitutaki.

Felix reported that along with the hire purchase terms offered by the two retail outlets, the BCI



Mrs Lena Hoff with Felix

was keen to provide loan finance for outer islanders and will make a formal announcement in the near future.

As regards progress with other projects under the PEEP2 programme, Felix reported that there is a slight delay in contracts with suppliers for the Airport car park and Punanga Nui market solar lighting. Contracts are now expected to be finalized next week.

As regards solar lighting at the Marina, the team is currently evaluating the five bids to supply and install. The bids have come from Australia and NZ. The selected bid will then be referred to the ADB for signing of the contract.

Tenders for the projects involving public buildings retrofit to (a) replace lights with energy efficiency bulbs and (b) install new air conditioner timer controls which will prevent

extended use, close at the end of the month.

As regards energy efficiency assistance for residential buildings, this will be tendered out soon.

In relation to outer islands, Felix said a proposal for a programme to install solar lighting in Aitutaki and Mangaia has been finalized and sent to the ADB for approval.

Felix said of the five Pacific nations taking part in the programme, the Cook Islands is well ahead. While other nations are focusing mainly on introducing legislative changes, the Cook Islands is actually implementing change. Felix believes the Cook Islands could become a model for other Pacific nations and the fridge/freezer upgrade concept could be extended to other electrical appliances.



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Retired Surgeon keeps going

By Charles Pitt

After nearly 60 years of service to medicine, Dr Teariki Noovao is finally retiring on 31 July. I say finally because he had been put out to pasture back in August 2011 by the Ministry of Health somewhat unceremoniously according to Dr Noovao, and without any official farewell or presentation to mark his long service to the country.

Having said that, Dr Noovao says he will be on call when needed to fill the surgeon's role in the event of the current surgeon, Dr Deacon Teapa, not being available.

On this occasion, Dr Noovao is pleased everything has gone to his satisfaction. He retires to private practice looking forward to continuing his contribution to the well being of locals.

Dr Noovao says, "I am very happy that our very own Dr Deacon Teapa has returned after years of training, to take over the post as Surgeon for the Cook Islands. Congratulations Deacon."

Dr Noovao said he will work from his home in his private clinic at his own easy pace. It is on the back road in Tereora opposite Avatea School and is sign posted.

Here, he will be focusing on his "Wellness Clinic" rather than catering just for the sick. The idea is to encourage people to have regular checkups, much like regular visits to the dentist, and not wait until you become ill.

His Clinic's hours are 9-3.30pm Monday to Friday and 9-12noon on Saturdays.

It is best people call first for an appointment. His contact numbers are: ph 20 835 and 55 814. He can also be reached by email: noovao@oyster.co.ck

For those not acquainted with Dr Noovao's long service to the medical profession, the key pints are listed below;

1967 Entered Medical School, Fiji School of Medicine.

1971 Graduated. Internship at CWM Hospital, Suva, Fiji.

1972 Returned to Rarotonga.

Worked in most of the outer islands and numerous overseas short term posts and two years at Kew Hospital, Invercargill, NZ.

1980-82 Surgical training for two years in Orthopedics and general Surgery at Kew Hospital under various consultants. Mr George Ngaei was one of his mentors.

1982-84 Rarotonga Hospital.

1984-1990 LBJ Tropical Medical Centre, American Samoa, one of four surgeons.

1990-present Rarotonga Hospital.

1997 he did a post graduate attachment at Sydney's St George Hospital. That was when he received the Surgeon's International Award. He also spent time at a Hospital in Tasmania, Australia.

August 2011 He was unceremoniously laid off to retire.

24 February 2012 rehired by Ministry of Health.

31 July 2013 officially retired.

Dr Noovao says he has never been a "yes" man and that this has put him offside with previous Health administrations.

He is concerned that the major renovations taking place major "clean" surgery is not possible due to the dust raised. He says there is a need to modernize the operating theatre but funding is a constraint. Nevertheless, he says we are still better off compared the other Pacific nations except for Fiji.

As regards acquiring such sophisticated equipment as cat scans and dialysis machines, he says you have to consider capital cost and maintenance against volume of usage. It is still more cost effective says Dr Noovao to refer patients to NZ for treatment. If funds were available to purchase such machines said Dr Noovao, perhaps overseas patients could be referred to Rarotonga to avoid long waiting lists. However, these machines he said, require trained staff and maintenance personnel. Portable dialysis machines may



Dr Teariki Noovao

be more affordable.

Two areas in the Hospital which please Dr Noovao are the laboratory which is now well developed and the X-Ray division where the equipment is high quality. The X-Ray images are of high quality, digitalized and can be referred to overseas Specialist by email.

When asked whether Rarotonga Hospital should have a team of Specialists in those areas where Cook Islanders suffer the most, like NCDs, Dr Noovao said in our situation, Doctors need to be generalists, multi-skilled and multi-tasking. When Specialists are needed they can be brought in.

When asked whether Cook Islanders who are Specialists in overseas hospitals could be brought in, he agreed.

Dr Noovao contemplates the day three of his children who followed him into the medical profession return to Rarotonga one day to boost our Hospital's human resources and expertise. All three Noovao children have a specialty and they also married doctors who are specialists.

Dion Noovao achieved a first

for the Cook Islands in May 2011 when he was made a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in the specialist area of Orthopedics. The Fellowship exams were actually held in Wellington, NZ and Melbourne Australia back in May 2011. Dion was one of 13 who passed in Orthopedic Surgery.

Three other Cook Islanders have been made Fellows including George Ngaei (General Surgery) and Kiki Maoate (Urology and Pediatrics surgery).

Dion, who graduated from Auckland University Medical School, is employed as a Consultant at Waikato Hospital. The Fellowship is the culmination of eight years study. Dion is looking to go to Australia next for a post fellowship attachment. He is married to Rachael, who is a Pediatrician.

Amanda Noovao is a Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Fiji Hospital in Suva.

Fiona Noovao is a Surgical Registrar at Auckland Hospital. Her Husband is a Radiology Specialist.

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The benefits of going green

A recent newspaper column observed that the last journey by one shipper to a northern island would not have happened but for a cargo of diesel.

Without the cargo of diesel the shipper would have been unable to cover the sailing and crew costs of the ship's voyage. And the island would then not have received the replenishments that was loaded along with the diesel – we're talking about the imports of foodstuffs and small supplies that do make a difference to people's lives.

And so the question posed was whether the costs and implications of going green on the lives of people have truly been weighed?

Here's what we do know. There are tremendous benefits to society, mainly through savings in the use of diesel. Those savings translate into better protection of precious flora and fauna, and the nation's balance of payments will be healthier. Where environmentalists and economists are on the same side, one presumes the goal must clearly be worthy.

The challenge lies in managing the transformation so that



The PM and others examine solar array on Rarotonga rooftop

everyone benefits equally.

It's apparent that going green is a bit like trying out an Olympic sized swimming pool. Before you send a class of learners into the deep end you need to make sure everyone can swim. And so the question posed by the aforementioned article is relevant. Are we there yet?

The answer is somewhere along the lines of we are getting there.

The models we are seeing at TAU for instance confirm the immense societal benefits for Rarotonga. But there are catches, the main one being that we are pioneers of sorts.

We don't really have a lot of other places, you know like

small utilities on neighbouring island countries with practical experience of extensive renewable energy infrastructure that we can conveniently refer to for guidance.

It's also true that we cannot rely solely on solar and wind energy to provide Rarotonga with a 24 hour power supply simply because of the intermittent nature of those energy sources. And we know that balancing out intermittency on the grid will drive up the costs.

Consequently some of the capital investment required to bring about greater penetration of renewable energy on Rarotonga will be large. Then again a lot of the technology in

this area is still being developed and costs are constantly falling. It might therefore suit us to wait a tad longer.

So the present situation calls for a gradual and prudent approach.

TAU is putting a structure into place, like those of solar arrays atop selected government buildings in this financial year, and more including ground mounted arrays in the next financial year.

And if those go to plan, TAU will keep adding to and monitoring structures until we reach our first goal of 50% electricity from renewable energy in 2015 and our second goal of 100% renewable energy in 2020.





Congratulations to Taamo Heather

Our woman of the month for the month of July is Taamo Heather. Many know her as Auntie Taamo. She was nominated by the Cook Islands' Girls Brigade, whom she has given 40 years service to.

She was born on the 7th of July in the Atiu village of Tengtangi. At the time of her birth, residing Pastor Isaia Orometua baptized and christened her. She has been a strong member of the Cook Islands Christian Church since birth. Taama has 8 brothers and 3 sisters and is the third born in the family. Her parents Pa Teuakura and Akemauranga passed away with four of her brothers.

Taamo through her father Pa Teuakura, came from a line of great warriors and chiefs. Pakura is a descendant of Uia the prophetess, to whom she prophesied that christianity will restore a true and caring God on Atiu. Taamo is a descendant of Akaina from the Chieftain tribe of Ngati TeAkatauiria, through her great, great, great grandmother, Te Aimarae.

As mentioned above Taamo is a descendant of Tamatoa on her mother's side of the Ngati Te Akatauiria tribal system. Through Tamatoa's bloodline, Taamo can trace her family line to the islands of Borabora, Raiatea, Uahine, Tahaa, Maupiti and Rurutu. Tamatoa is one of the high chief (Mataiapo Tutara) in the Ngati Te Akatauiria tribal system, through her grandmother Taamo Tamatoa. On her grandfather, Ngamata Poona's side, Taamo is a descendant of Paerangi Mataiapo Tutara of Ngati Paerangi within the Te Akatauiria tribal system. She is also a descendant of Ngati Mango, Tonatona, Ngati Nurau through

her mother Akemauranga. There are many other subtribes within the Nurau, Te Akatauiria and Paruarangi which Taamo's ancestors originated from. As you can picture in your own mind and consider the possibilities, Taamo is a Chief and a leader in her own right.

Here are some highlights of her life;

1972- married Rereao Dennis Heather. Had 6 children. 3 boys, Rereao Dennis Junior, Daniel Robertson and Dennis Stanley and 3 girls, Emily Miriama, Theresa Matapurotu and Kimiora Krystel-Rose.

Attended Atiu Primary School from the age of 6 through to the age of 11. Moved to Rarotonga and attended Avarua Primary School at the age of 12.

1965 -attended Tereora College.

1968- New Zealand School Certificate in book keeping and typing.

1995 - awarded Certificate in Ambassadors for Christ Leadership.

1997-took part in the Pacific Islands Church Youth Leadership Workshop in Fiji.

1969 to the end of 2000- typist at Teachers Training College, Cook Islands Tourist Authority, Cook Islands Trust Corporation.

1989 to 2000- administration and accounts clerk at the Crown Law Office.

End of 2000 to date- Director of Corporate Services for the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

1983 to 2002- secretary for the Inave Vainetini and since then has been working with the Ruaau Vainetini of Puaikura.

Since 1989- Cook Islands Girls Brigade National Advisor.

1979 to 1985- CI Girls Brigade

Secretary and represented them at the Asia Pacific Conference in Wellington in 1979.

1983- Cook Islands rep at the International Council for Girls Brigade held in Singapore.

1986 to 1988- National Commissioner.

1999 to 2002- Rarotonga District Commissioner.

1989 to 2002- Captain for the Arorangi Girls Brigade Company.

1998 to 2010- Ruaau Sunday School Supervisor.

1996 to 2002 - assistant secretary for the Arorangi CICC Vainetini.

2004 to 2006- principal at Arorangi Sunday school.

1999 to 2005- secretary for the Avatea School PTA.

1990 to 1992- secretary for the disabled persons institute.

Taamo is a strong member of the Puaikura Oire Dance group and has participated in the Constitution celebrations since 1960. She is also a strong supporter for children in rugby as well as Schools sports and when at Tereora College, participated in netball, volleyball, table tennis, swimming, hockey and tennis.

A memorable church experience when she was young was to memorise the books of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation (in Maori), memorise the 10 commandments, and learn all punctuation marks in the Bible. Another memorable school experience was gaining first place in an English test over a couple of papa'a students from Nikao Side School. At Tereora College, she was the first student to sit and pass New Zealand School Certificate in Typing.

Auntie Taamo wishes to say that since the early inception



Taamo Heather

of the 'Woman of the Month' initiative she was approached on many occasions by her own Girls Brigade Organization as well as the Woman of the Month committee, but she kept declining the opportunity. Her reason being, "my time is yet to come." Last year she gladly responded to Martha, saying "if its God's will that I make it to 40 years of continuous service to the Girls Brigade, I will gladly accept with all my heart." So thank you so much to all her sisters in the Girls Brigade Organization, the Woman of the Month committee and Sponsors. She concludes by saying without her loving husband and children, she wouldn't have made it. Finally she acknowledges God's loving hands and care in her 40 years service to him.

2013 Woman of the Month Sponsors:

1. ANZ Bank **2.** Pitt Media Group CITV/CI Herald **3.** Bank of Cook Islands & Wall of Fame. **4.** Aquarius Rarotonga Hotel & Restaurant **5.** Temu & Lesley Okotai / Farm Direct Manihiki Black Pearls **6.** Fuji Image / Colin & Tatiana Burns - Production of photo **7.** Staircase Restaurant - Sisi & Mann Short - voucher **8.** Nga Nelio - massage Therapist **9.** Lydia Sijp - Foot Massage pamper pack **10.** Martha Makimare - Tivaivai Sponsorship **11.** Mousie Skews - photo sponsoship **12.** International Olympic Committee - Olympic Solidarity.

13 CISNOC - Women in sport Commission/WOM Organising Committee



Ministry of Infrastructure & Planning

Project City Water Update

Project City make first Cross-Mains connections

Project City contractors are now at a crucial stage of their work with the connection on Tuesday morning of the cross-mains at the junction of Victoria Rd and the Ara Metua, opposite the Rakahanga and Mangaia hostels. Cross-mains are the linkage of the trunk main from the main road to that of the Ara Metua according to Ben Parakoti, project manager for the contractor.

The project manager advises that the connections are preparatory work and the new network has not yet been 'livened up' which will happen at a later stage when more of the new main and sub-mains have been connected. Project City has four sectors, and Tupapa represents sector 3 running from Tepuretu Rd to Avarua harbor.

Work towards that goal continues with contractors connecting the cross-mains at the Takuvaine inland roundabout and also the bulk-water meter chambers in the same vicinity on Wednesday 17 July. The Ministry apologize for any inconvenience caused during this crucial stage of their work and the contractors have made assurances that disruptions will be kept to a minimum.



Connecting cross mains at Victoria Rd & Ara Metua



Work at Takuvaine roundabout back road





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- Commitments
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- Obstacles or challenges you might face
- Where do I want to be?
- Where do you see yourself in five years' time, and beyond?
- Do you want lots of money?
- Do you want lots of free time, so you can continue to take part in other activities?
- Do you like being the boss, helping or advising?

WHERE CAN I GO FOR HELP?

- Talk to people who know you well - family, friends, church leaders and teachers.
- If you have a part-time job, or if you do volunteer work, ask your employer what parts of the job they think you do well.
- These people may even have career suggestions based on what they know of you.

• Adapted and used with permission from www.careers.govt.nz



For more details contact June Hosea, Itinerant Career Counsellor, Ministry of Education.
Telephone: (w) 29357 (m) 51041, Email: jhosea@education.govt.nz

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Applications close on 31st July 2013.



A Financial Specialist is required to assist the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MINTAFF) with financial management of the Asian Development Bank - Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction Project (ADB-JFPR).

Qualifications and requirements:

- The financial specialist requires a sound background in financial and auditing skills;
- A degree in accounting and financial management is required;
- Experience in the preparation of financial accounts within a Government context and working knowledge of the Cook Islands Government Financial Policies and Procedures Manual;
- Strong working knowledge of financial software programs such as MYOB including the ability to transfer data from Excel into a MYOB program and adapt to other financial systems, such as Solomon software, if required;
- Experience in the auditing processes and procedures required by the Cook Islands Audit Office;
- The ability to translate skills and knowledge on financial management techniques into a training package appropriate for NGOs;
- Facilitation skills to deliver training to local (Rarotonga) and 4 Outer Island NGOs;

Daily contract rates apply. This position will require up to 135 days over a 12 month period. Closing date to apply for the position is the 28th July 2013.

For a copy of the Terms of Reference and for any further enquires contact:

Debbie Ave
ADB-JFPR National Project Manager
Ministry Internal Affairs,
PO Box 98 Tupapa, Rarotonga
Cook Islands
Phone: (682) 25837
Mobile: (682) 55838
Email: debbieave-jfpr@intaff.gov.ck

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Go SMS Pro is the SMS/MMS app for power Android users. You can send "short" messages containing text, voice, doodles, and photos. There's a lot of room for tinkerers to customize themes, messages, and folders for storage.

ICQ Mobile for Android

Gen X-ers and a few Y's will recall ICQ, perhaps the first instant messaging program to seriously blow up when it launched back in 1996. It disappeared just as quickly, but now it's back with a new mobile focus. ICQ for Android lets you send unlimited messages for free, chat with ICQ, Facebook, and Google Talk friends, and read messages offline.

IMO Instant Messenger

Multi-purpose instant message apps can falter on mobile phones, crashing frequently or draining the phone's battery. While it's not perfect, IMO Instant Messenger is by far one of the lesser offenders. Another reason it's better than some others is it supports instant messaging across an impressive 11 networks (both popular and relatively obscure) including MSN, Yahoo!, AIM/ICQ, Google Talk, Myspace, Skype, Facebook, Jabber, imo, VKontakte, and Hyves.

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Cook Islands



A very successful 'Go Local' night market was held at the Punanganui market on Wednesday 3rd July. The night market was notable for a number of reasons. BTIB set up the market so that it was a family friendly atmosphere on a decidedly cool evening which catered for the vendors, the large crowd of mainly tourists and the entertainment features of the night. This included a lolly scramble for the kiddies, the Tamariki Manuia fire dancers and the Te Rau Maire ura group, all coordinated by the multitalented MC, Metua Vaiine. The night was so successful in fact, that many of the vendors had queues lined up outside their stalls. The outcome was that by 8 o'clock that night, many of those same vendors had sold all their food. Feedback from the night market vendors was that it was a very successful night for them and when was BTIB running another one.



Te Maeva Nui

Once again we are celebrating 'Te Maeva Nui' for 2013 as we count down to the big one in 2015. This year begins with pavement art competition on thurs 25 July, followed by a float parade on the 26 July and a week of celebrations beginning 29 July through to Aug 5. Te Maeva Nui Celebrations, once known as the Constitution Celebrations began in 1965, celebrate the self-governing status of the Cook Islands.

Te Maeva Nui translates as "the major or most important celebration" and reflects the significance the Cook Islands place on self-government which is celebrated each year. Performing artists from Rarotonga and representatives from the out islands of the Northern & Southern group gather at the National Auditorium to present new dances, songs, drumming and colourful costumes that express the cultural theme chosen for that particular year. This year the cultural theme is "Taku Peu Maori Ka Ora" (My Maori Culture Will Live).

In particular the focus is on celebrating the performing arts, oratory skills, traditional and modern foods with a Cook Island approach, literature and material arts which have developed into a festival event with significant public and community participation. In doing so it also highlights and supports economic activity and creates the environment and potential for investment through financial and social returns for the community.



EPETOMA MAORI – NOKU RAITOKU PUROTU

Tataia e Rutera Taripo

I tēia 'epetoma kua 'akano'ono'o te Māaurau ō te Pae 'Āpi'i i tēta'i porokarāmu Māori nā te au 'āpi'i Tua-Rua o Rarotonga 'ē pērā katoa te pā-'enua tonga o te Kūki 'Airani nei. Ko te 'akakoro'anga 'oki, koia ko te 'akamātūtū 'uātu rāi 'ē te 'akaoraora mai i tā tātou au peu Māori tā te au tamariki 'āpi'i i tāmou mai i roto i tā rātou au 'āpi'i.

Kua 'akatu'era'ia te 'Epetoma Māori i te rā 16 ō Tiurai, i te ora 8.30 i te pōpongi na roto i te 'ākono'anga Māori, te taka' marae ki runga i te paepae o te Puna Kōrero 'ē ki roto i te 'Are Karioi Nui. Kua tūoro 'ia mai 'e te ta'unga kōrero te kauono o Puati Mataiapo ki runga i te paepae 'a Makea Vakaitini Ariki te au 'aka'aere o te Māaurau 'ē te au 'āpi'i tei piri atu ki roto i tēia 'akakoro'anga 'ē kua 'āriki 'ia mai 'e te Minita Ngāteitei o te 'ākono'anga Māori ko Teariki Heather ki roto i te 'Are Karioi Nui no te 'akatu'era'anga i te 'Epetoma o te Reo Māori 'ē te Peu Māori.

Kua 'ora'ora mai te Minita Ngāteitei a Teariki Heather i tēta'i au karere pu'apinga tikāi na roto i te kōrero pakari ā te u-tupuna, "...mou i te kō, mou i te 'ere, kia pū-kuru ō vaevae 'ē kia mokorā o kakī ..." 'Ae, 'e pakari te 'aite'anga 'ē te 'o'ono katoa. Kua kōkou mai 'aia i teia kōrero na roto i te tatarā mai 'anga ē "...e tanu i te kai, 'āngai i te manu, 'ākara i te au mea meitaki ma te kōpae kē i te au mea kino..."

Te 'akakite nei rāi 'aia e no runga i te tāpura o Nōku rāi tōku Purotu, 'e tāpura pu'apinga katoa tēia ma te ko'uko'u mai i te 'akakite'anga ē "...nō tātou rāi to tātou basileia, nā tātou rāi e 'ākono kia tupu ruperupe..." 'E te tano katoa 'e te Minita.

Te 'akakite katoa nei rāi te Minita kia piri atu te au tamariki ki te pae i tō rātou au metua i te tāmou mārīe i te au 'ākono'anga te ka rave'ia (mei te tūranga o te ta'u-umu, e 'āpi'i'anga pu'apinga tēia).

Kua mou katoa mai te Minita i te tūranga o te Reo kia vai mātūtū, ko te mea ma'ata 'ia i roto i te basileia. Nōku rāi tōku purotu, kia ngāteitei, kia upokotū rāi koe i te tāmou, i te tuatua i te Reo kia toto'a tō tātou rongo ki



tō teia nei ao.

Kua 'ora'ora mai i reira a Ina Herman (Tūtara-Tu'anga Turuturu 'Āpi'i) i tēta'i au karere tutruturu no tēia 'akakoro'anga nei nā roto i te turu i te karere ā te Minita i te kō'iti mai 'anga ē, "Kua ki tikāi tāna (tā te Minita) kete i te au kai tūkētūkē, ēi kai nā tātou no ā tēia au rā. Nōku rāi tōku purotu, tūkētūkē te au tū purotu i roto 'ia tātou tātakita'i. 'E 'epetoma kai kōrero tēia nō tātou."

"Mē kāre koe i kite ē nō'ea mai koe kāre koe i kite ē te 'aere nei koe ki 'ea." ('E tuatua pakari) Te 'iti-tangata kāre ōna Reo, 'e iti-tangata mate te reira. No reira, kia rauka 'ia tātou i te kimikimi meitaki i tō tatou manako no runga i tēia tāpura Nōku rāi tōku purotu. Mou piri tei rauka 'iākoe, auraka kia riro i tēta'i kē.

Kua rave'ia mai i reira te tu'anga tārērē a te au 'āpi'i na roto i tēta'i au 'akaariari'anga o tētai au tū-mekameka o tō rātou 'enua. Ko te au 'āpi'i tua-rua tei piri atu ki roto, koia ko 'āpi'i Mangaia, ko Papa'āroa, ko Nukuroa, ko Titikaveka, ko

Mauke, ko Nukutere, ko Araura 'ē ko Tereora. Kua mānea, kua mataora 'ē kua rito tikai te au 'akaariari'anga ā te au 'Āpi'i.

Tēia tēta'iau 'akamārama'anga poto no runga i te au 'akaariari'anga ā te au 'Āpi'i

Mangaia: One Kura, Koatu Mangaia, Tāmaka kiri'au, Ana Nui etv.

Papa'āroa: Te tupu mai 'anga o te 'Āpi'i, Oire, 'Ākono'anga, Mataiapo, Rau, Kakerori

Nukuroa: Te Mekameka o tōku 'Enua, Te Peka Vai, Vai Nauri, Rere Vai, Te Roto, A'i,

Maire, Te 'Ange, Vai Mārere, 'Ara Tai, Te Iniao, Tū Māroro, etv

Titikaveka: Au Mekameka Nātura o Takitumu

Mauke: Pe'e, Totipe, Reo Pōrokiroki nā Uke, Iri'iri'anga na Uke, Ziona, Motu'anga, Ava Tapu, Maire, etv

Araura: Te Tara o Ru, Te Kapua'anga mai o Ararau 'Enua.

Tereora: Te Mekameka o Tōku Ipukarea Kūki 'Airani, Au Mekameka Nātura,

Tongareva, Manihiki, Rarotonga, Enuamanu, Araura, Nukuroa, Mauke

I te Avatea A'ia'i i reira, kua rave 'ia te Tāteni Kōrero 'Atu ā te Au 'Āpi'i. Ko te 'akano'ono'o'anga o tēia – Mata'iti 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.

Kua mataora tikai i te 'akarongo'anga i te umu'anga, te tautā, i te tangi o te Reo Māori mei roto mai i tā tātou au tamariki 'āpi'i.

Kua 'akavā'ia rāi tēia tu'anga ē te au 'Akavā tei 'iki'ia no tēia 'akakoro'anga. ka 'akakite 'ia atu te au rē me rauka mai.

Ko te au tu'anga i reira te ka rave'ia i teia Ruitoru rā 17, ko te Kōperepere a te au 'Āpi'i ki roto rāi i te 'Are Kioi Nui, ko te Tere Tūroto i te Mekameka o Rarotonga.

Paraparau 18, maiāta, Ta'u Umu ā te au 'Āpi'i, tārērē 'Imene 'Akatangi, Māketē, 'ē te 'Ōronga'angā Rē. Kia mātūtū 'ua atu rāi tātou pouroa i te meremere, i te tuatua, i te parau'anga i tō tātou Reo Māori Kūki 'Airani. KIA TOA!

Au Tūtū nā Rutera Taripo



‘Akatakapātoa na te au Pu‘āpi‘i Pōtiki Porirua

na Ruteria F Taripo

I tēia au ngā rā nei, kua tae mai ki runga ‘iā Tumutevarovaro ‘ē 10 au pu‘āpi‘i pōtiki mei roto mai i tēta‘i putuputu‘anga tei karanga ‘ia ē ko ‘Te Pūnanga Reo Kūki ‘Airani ō Porirua, Aotearoa. I roto rāi i tēia au ngā rā te no‘o nei rātou ki roto i Te ‘Ōrau o Mauke ‘ē i reira katoa e rave ‘ia ai te ‘Akatakapātoa‘anga ā te ora 9 i te pōpōngi Paraparau rā 18 – 19 Tiurai ‘13.

Ko te ‘akakoro‘anga tuatai o tēia putuputu‘anga i tae mai ei rātou, koia ‘oki ko te kimikimi rāvenga, te ‘āuitui mārama, ma te ‘akaari mai i tā rātou e ‘āpi‘i ‘ē te rave ana. Te umuumu katoa nei ‘oki rātou no tēta‘i au rāvenga no te tauturu atu i te ‘āpi‘i‘anga i tā tātou au tamariki i Porirua.

Ka ‘inangaro ‘oki tātou kia auraka tā tātou au tamariki uki ‘ōu e ngere i tēia au kite ‘ē te mārama e vai nei ki roto i tō tātou au ngākau

Tē kite nei ‘oki tātou i tēia tuātau te tupu nei tēta‘i au tā‘ī‘anga ‘ē pērā katoa tēta‘i au tūtau‘ētono‘anga. No reira, ka anoano ‘ia te au ara, te au kaveinga no te tauturu ‘ē te ‘āpi‘i ‘anga i tā tātou au pōtiki.

Tēnā pa‘a tei iākoe, ‘akia mai! Tikiri-rī! Kia Upokotū ‘uātu rāi tō tātou Reo Māori!



Au Pu‘āpi‘i Kūki ‘Airani mei roto mai i Te Punanga Reo Kūki ‘Airani o Porirua

Cook Islander at Rhodes Academy

As part of on-going Seabed Minerals education, training and capacity building of Cook Islanders, the SBM Authority has sent Cook Islands SBM Authority Legal Officer Alex Herman, for Ocean Law and Policy training at a funded Scholarship at the Rhodes Academy in Greece. The 3 week training covers many Legal and Policy issues relating to the Ocean.

Ms. Herman is a recent Law Honours graduate from Auckland University and the daughter of Dr. Aumea Herman.

She is the first Cook Islander to participate in this high level, prestigious Eighteenth Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy 30 June – 20 July 2012.

This training will assist her future legal and licencing work in the SBM Authority, which will be gathering pace over 2013/14.

SBM Commissioner, Paul Lynch states that "Alex is one of the first new Cook Islands graduates employed in our growing national Seabed Minerals sector. She has only been employed since January this year but has really "hit the ground running" in her legal work for the SBM Authority. We felt the intensive, high caliber Rhodes Academy study was a great way to enhance her legal knowledge in the Ocean Law and Policy area."

Her interim private report is attached below of her personal experiences so far. She will file her final report on her return on 22 July.

Sea Bed Minerals Authority release

Alex Herman reports from Rhodes, Greece

Rhodes course/topics

To say that my knowledge and understanding of the Law of the Sea has increased is an understatement. We are covering a very wide spectrum of issues and I have found them to be very useful – even those that are not directly related to seabed minerals.

Also, I have a better understanding of the basis of our legal entitlements to develop seabed mineral resources (as well as fisheries) which I think will serve me well

in my role.

One of the topics we have been covering extensively is continental shelf – and the course has covered pretty much all aspects of it – from the geological side to a State's rights duties, to submitting a claim beyond 200NM and discussing the issues that have arisen in relation to continental shelf, I believe this will prove useful for us in the future.

There were 2 lecturers (and 4 classes) on SBM.

So far we are midway through the course. And we have a written exam coming up in 2 days. We also have an oral exam next week Friday.

Rhodes participants

The participants here come from a wide range of backgrounds – not just geographically, but also in their disciplines. While it is mostly legal people, there are also people with foreign affairs, geological, fisheries, oil backgrounds. For example I have been chatting with a Phd Geologist who is heavily involved with CLCS – so she knows all about continental shelf submissions – definitely someone worth keeping in touch with. And there are so many other talented people here – so trying to network and build relationships – because maybe one day, we may need them.

It has been interesting hearing other peoples perspectives and learning from them – I think in nearly all aspects of the course – I have a lot to learn from my counterparts.

Rhodes Lecturers

Another deep reservoir of knowledge – I have tried to meet with most of the lecturers that pass through here as we will never know when we may need someone with their expertise.

The caliber of lecturers is amazing – we have lecturers who are heavily involved in the cases that we study (for example Paul Reichlar was the lawyer representing Bangladesh in Bay of Bengal case, he advised Nicaragua in the recent Nicaragua v Colombia case) – and then there are the judges who actually presided over the cases (sat on ITLOS).



Alex Herman

PUBLIC NOTICE



IMMIGRATION CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Immigration wishes to advise the public that they will open a new Immigration Customer Service Office. The Office will receive Immigration applications and payments of Immigration fees. The Office is located beside the Office of the Public Service Commissioner on the ground floor of the New Zealand High Commission building. The Office will be open to the public from Monday 15th July 2013, 9 am – 3 pm. For further enquires please call the office on phone 29-317.

COOK ISLANDS CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICE AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND RELOCATION

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Immigration wishes to advise the public that the Cook Islands Consulate General Office in Auckland has now relocated from 127 Symonds Street to Unit 5, Level 1, 6 Osterley Way, Manukau. The office phone number is now (64) 9 261-0015. Fax number: (64) 9 263-8033.

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How to overcome the storms of life

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

Each one of us have encountered in life difficult times - times of trials and testings. Call it whatever you like, it's a storm of life. Well, I have good news for you, whatever your storm of life is, you can overcome it. In the Bible in Mark 4v.35-41 is the story of Jesus Christ that you can learn some practical lessons from for the next time you encounter a storm of life. The background to this story is that Jesus had just finished ministering the Word of God, and was travelling in a boat with His disciples to the other side of the lake to do more work for God. While travelling in the boat, a storm came up and there was panic on the boat.

In life there are three types of storms that we face. Firstly, there are the STORMS WE CREATE OURSELVES. Galatians 6v.7 reads "...We reap what we sow." And Proverbs 22v.8 reads, "He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow." In other words if we sow evil, we will reap evil. But if we sow good things we will reap good things. If children have gone to the extent of disobeying their parents, it is natural for the parents to discipline them. This is what we call the Storm created by you upon your own self. People are being taken to court and then into jail because of stealing. It's a storm brought upon themselves by their own actions. "We reap what we sow." If a child swears in the home, that child will get a smack from the parents.

Secondly, there are also STORMS THAT ORIGINATES FROM GOD. These are experiences that we have that can be called the dealings of God in our lives. The purpose of God here is to get rid of those negative things in our lives, and to make us more

productive and useful for God! Jesus said in John 15v.2 (GN) that "He breaks off every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will be clean and bear more fruit." There are many Biblical references that speak of suffering, trials or testings that are for the purposes of positive personal spiritual development, where God is the source of the Storm. Hebrews 12v.5-6 (NLT) reads "My child, don't ignore it when the Lord disciplines you, and don't be discouraged when he corrects you. For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes those he accepts as his children." Spare the rod, spoil the child!

Thirdly, there are the STORMS WE ARE OPPRESSED WITH THAT ORIGINATES FROM SOURCES OUTSIDE OF GOD, from either demonic forces, or people around us. These are storms caused by Satan. John 10v.10 reads that "...Satan is a thief who comes to steal, kill, and destroy." I Peter 5v.8-9 (CEV) reads "Be on your guard and stay awake. Your enemy, the devil, is like a roaring lion, sneaking around to find someone to attack. But you must resist the devil and stay strong in your faith. You know that all over the world the Lord's followers are suffering just as you are." The Storm in the event we read in Mark 4, originates from satanic and demonic forces. This is the context in which I will spiritualise this passage of the scripture. Jesus shows us how to deal with Storms of diversity that originates from outside of God.

If we look at Mark 4v.1-2,

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



we will see that Jesus was teaching the people before travelling to the other side of the lake. And Jesus was so tired and wanted to have a rest. If we read Chapter 5v.1-20, we will see the story of a man possessed with demon that Jesus delivered into some pigs. Friend, Satan opposes to people receiving spiritual truth and spiritual deliverance. If Satan can't blind the eyes of the people from seeing the truth, or blocking their ears from hearing the Word of God, Satan will try to destroy the Preacher (Pastor), the Teacher, or the Spiritual Leader. Satan tried to kill Jesus before Jesus could deliver the demon-possessed man on the other side of the lake. Satan will also try and do the same to you and I. Friend, if you do something good for God, the devil will attempt to interfere. Satan is watching, when you are tired he will attack you. Satan waited until Jesus' physical resistance level was low then he attacked. But fortunately,

Jesus' spiritual resistance level was still high!

In v.38 of our reading, the disciples said to Jesus as He was resting, "...Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" The disciples made negative confession because of fear! After being taught by Jesus the Greatest Spiritual Teacher and Leader, fear and panic still exist amongst the disciples. Fear originates from our feelings or emotions. But Faith originates out of the Spirit and has its roots in the facts and the Word of God! If we have Faith in God, we will head the right direction! Do we trust our feelings, or do we trust God's Words. Friend, in order for us to Overcome our Storms of Life, Have Faith In God! Hebrews 11v.6 reads "But without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." May you have a God blessed week. Te Atua te aroa!

Unnecessary tragedy

By Norma Ngatamariki

I am writing this article in dedication to the boys who were involved in last week's incident: Danny Tepai, Moeau Rau and William Paerau. They were the victims of an unfortunate car accident which happened two weeks before. My deepest condolences to the families and friends of these boys who are, without a doubt, suffering terribly from their loss. Our prayers are with you all.

This is a plea to all the teenagers out there. The number of drink-driving accidents have been shocking and it's becoming a serious problem for our community. I want to address this matter and talk directly with our youth. Danny, who was a talented and much-loved Te Manga student at Tereora

College (Moeau and William were also former Tereora College students), was so young. And that's the point I'm trying to get across. We will never know how great he would've become, as a rugby player or in other aspects of his life. All of that taken away by a car that spun out of control. I don't know the full story, so I'm not gonna go into detail (Honestly, the rumours going around...you don't know who's telling the truth and who's lying) but I do know this: Alcohol was a major factor that played a role in this fatal incident. The trio were all proud residents of Arorangi, who are already grieving for the loss of Tinomana Ariki. I acknowledge a status I saw on Facebook: "No more silver Honda Wave racing through the back road. There's no more

laughter during the night. Heaven has gained three more soldiers for the army above."

E te aronga mapu (the younger generation), I know that we like to go out and have a good time. There's nothing wrong with that. It's just that you have to be responsible about how you do it. Some might argue that it takes the fun out of things, but is it really worth endangering your life? Seriously, all you need to do is get a sober driver for the night and then you're sussed. Easy as that. As teens, our usual mentality is "Oh, it's not gonna happen to me, I'm good." I'll tell you right here and now, that kind of thinking is going to get you in trouble. Don't try to be a hero and do everything yourself. Share the responsibility with others, so

in that way, everybody stays safe. It saddens me to think that all of this, the car crash, the funerals, the grieving friends and family, could have been easily avoided just by taking a few simple measures. I don't want something like this to happen ever again, especially if it involves a teen. It is too early for us to go.

In honour of Danny, Tereora College students attended his funeral, which was held at his home. Sorrow and grief were the main emotions that the crowd felt. The number of people who showed up told me that Danny was a very well-loved person and that many people cared for him. Rest in peace to those three boys. Let's work hard so that none of us have to go through this again.

An awesome "Circle"

By Hareta Tiraa Passfield

My best friend is back guys! You don't know how happy I am to have her back. My life is now complete. Well only for the next two weeks though, which kinda sucks but way better than nothing.

Okay, so about three weeks ago I wrote an article about the Tereora school play "Caucasian chalk circle" and I thought that I should write another article to tell all those people that didn't come how awesome it was. You should all be bummed you missed it. We had a few small mistakes, thankfully nobody noticed the bigger mistake. I'm actually really sad that it's all over. My drama class had become like a family. Even though sometimes some

people could get annoying, I still miss it. I even miss those after school rehearsals.

We had been working on the play for ten whole weeks plus extra for all the book work. I know a lot of people think drama is easy and that's why we all take it. But it's not, and that's not why I take it. Drama is a whole lot more than just acting, everyone can act but not everyone can act good. You have to be passionate and love what you're doing. Some people we're born to act like Morgan Freedman.

Anyway, back to what I was actually writing about. I loved the show also because I got to leave behind my life and be somebody completely different even if she was a

complete cow. I got to have a whole different voice, look, wardrobe and personality. I think that's the thing I like most about drama, you can be anyone you want and no one will think you're a whack job. You can also be yourself, which in my case is a little weirdo and nobody will care because that's the kind of freedom you get in drama.

For the first time like ever I had no nerves going on stage, everything just felt natural. Like it was just another rehearsal and there wasn't an audience. I have to say that everyone in my class did an amazing job. We all put a spin on our characters and making them our own. I have to praise the people that played more

than 2 characters. That must have been hard. Just playing one character was hard enough for me.

It took days just to set the hall up perfectly, with the seating and lights. We so much support throughout the community and on behalf on the senior drama class of Tereora College, I just want to say a huge thank you to everyone that helped out and to all the people that came along and donated money it all means so much to all of us. Don't worry, all your money is going to good use.

There is only two more weeks till the holidays, and I am so excited. Two weeks of doing nothing, staying up late and waking up even later.

You can make a difference! Do Your Part



got water?
Do your part, be water smart!

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World Water Day
2013
International Year of
Water Cooperation

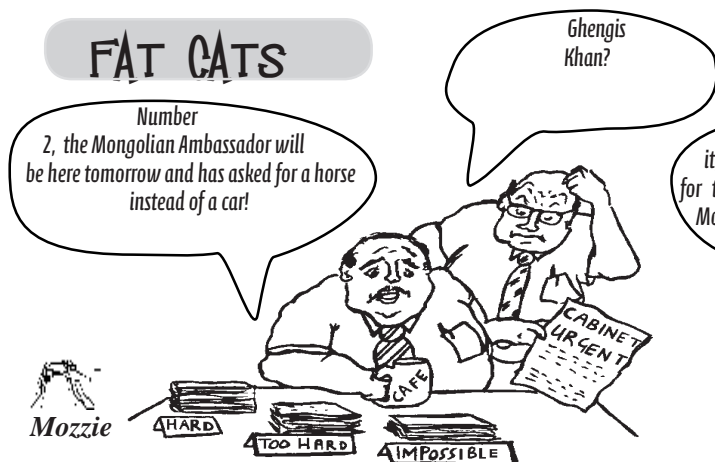
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MINISTRY OF
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FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Who did our gallant rugger lads beat in the Oceania Rugby Comp? The Solomons-a country where the main sport is Soccer! PNG-a country where the main sport is Rugby League! Tahiti Nui-a country where the main sport is, well, soccer! We just had to win, didn't we?



PM arrives in Noumea, New Caledonia and hello, trouble! The hotel has no hot water! Good grief! Time to check out and into a hotel that has hot water!



How come there was no public announcement about the piece of the Arorangi Jetty that came off during high sea swells and was found further down the beach washed up outside a local tourist motel? That was some weeks ago but hey, there's no need to go public! After all, the Minister's door is always open!



Whoops chooks! While the outer islands are quickly shifting over to renewable energy under a scheme cooked up by the PM, why is Pukapuka trying to buck the trend? This lot want a giant diesel engine to power not just their indoor sports arena come hurricane shelter, but the whole shebang!



Oh dear chooks! First he has trouble



catching a fish then he has trouble catching the "facts." C'mon Rubes old chap, stop speculating what Chinese fishing company Luen Thai may have done or not have done and go and talk to someone from that company-go and speak to the manager-he's on the island! Ask the manager, Matthew, to come clean-tell all! The problem with the legal profession is they always say, "In my opinion." Get the facts as no nonsense Chartered Accountant Mike Carr would say. Get the facts!



How much more desperate can this government get chooks? Chasing the little people like the Sherrif of Nottingham during the time of Robin Hood, for the meager tax they owe at a time when government should be slashing the number of public servants and severely reducing other costs. Get rid of all government vehicles in the public service for a start. Stop travelling. Scrap the tax division at MFEM altogether. No-one should be paying any tax at all especially income tax given

the wages are so piddly to start with. Retain VAT only. One person can handle that. And lets get real. Lets start living within our means. Look to generate other forms of income by applying some intelligence and brain power-oh, that's right chooks, all the brainy ones have left for overseas!



Oh dear chooks! This news from a chook on the sideline. Spotted, a Ministerial intervention akin to the All Black fullback coming into the backline, taking the ball and leading to a try under the posts! Yes chooks, just when the ball was coming out the backline and into the hands of the centre, the former captain of the Tourism team, in swept the Minister to take the pass off the second five, penetrate the opposition line and pass to the winger, the former overlooked Pearl team captain who then strolled to the line to score a "gift" try!



Many thanks to that great, mysterious and ancient land, India, for

giving us all that wonderful moolah for community projects like the Avatiu Meeting House upgrade! Even if the jobbie ran over budget! For a land, where tens of millions are starving, to generously give such moolah to a country where many are overfed, it's a miracle! The question now is, how can we repay this supreme exhibition of unselfish generosity?



Whisper is the great McCully will pay us a visit soon and while here to work and play, he will announce some wonderful news to the ears of pensioners and their long held wish for the five year rule on the NZ pension to be axed! Word from Kiwi land is there will instead be a count up of how many years you spent in Kiwi land between the ages of 20 and 65. There will be sliding scale so for example if you lived in Kiwi land for 22.5 years between the ages of 20 and 65, you will get half of the NZ pension- about \$750 a month. Remember, the local pension for the over seventies will soon be raised to \$800 per month.

Cook Islands
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PUBLIC NOTICE



PUBLIC NOTICE: HEALTH SPECIALIST VISIT

Te Marae Ora Ministry of Health will be conducting a UROLOGY PROGRAMME by visiting specialist Dr Bill Wright from Monday 22nd to Friday 26th of July at Rarotonga Hospital.

If you are experiencing the following symptoms/diseases:

Urinary problems

- Leaking urine
- Urgent need to urinate
- Burning with urination
- Frequent urge to urinate without being able to pass much urine
- Kidney stones
- Injury to the genital area

Please come and see the General Outpatient Doctor at Rarotonga Hospital immediately, Monday to Friday from 8am to 4pm before the 19th of July.

All patients will be screened and prioritised for specialist appointment.

Meitaki maata

VACANCIES



**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
PA ENUA GOVERNANCE UNIT**

Executive Officer

PUKAPUKA ISLAND GOVERNMENT

The Pa Enua Governance Unit of the Office of the Prime Minister invites applications for the position of Executive Officer for the Island of Pukapuka. The Executive Officer is the Administrative Head of the Island Government on the island.

An electronic copy of the Job Description and Application Form can be emailed to you upon request to jtangi@oyster.net.ck or to otherniel@pmoffice.gov.ck. Otherwise, you can download the Job Description and Application Form from www.pmoffice.gov.ck.

Those interested, please apply in writing by 1pm 31 July 2013 to; The Chief of Staff

Office of the Prime Minister, Private Mail Bag
Avarua, COOK ISLANDS



YES CO-ORDINATOR

The Chamber of Commerce is the facilitator of the Young Entrepreneurs Scheme (YES) here on Rarotonga.

The position of Co-ordinator is now vacant.

This is a part time position and requires a self-motivated, proactive mature person who enjoys working with students. If you are enthusiastic and would like to assist the Tereora College entrepreneur and business programme, please contact Lynne at the Chamber office

Phone: 20 925 E-mail: chamber@commerce.co.ck

TENDER



PORTS AUTHORITY

**AVATIU PORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
CIPA-9: CANTEEN AND FORKLIFT SHELTER**

1 The GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS has received a Loan from the Asian Development Bank towards the cost of the AVATIU PORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. Part of this loan will be used for payments under the contract named above.

2 The COOK ISLANDS PORTS AUTHORITY ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction and completion of:

CIPA-9: CANTEEN AND FORKLIFT SHELTER ("the Works").

3 National Competitive Bidding is being conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage, One envelope Bidding Procedure and is open to all eligible Bidders.

4 Only eligible bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

- Access to, or availability of, financial resources to meet the cash flow requirement of the project. As a minimum the Tenderer must show that his resources, in terms of at least his latest year's working capital and lines of credit, will be adequate to cover his Tender Price and current work commitments.
- Evidence of past experience covering the scale and types of works required under this Project.
- The Tenderer must demonstrate that it has ownership of or secured access to the following key equipment listed below:

No.	Equipment Type and Characteristics	Min. Number Required
1	Crane	1
2	Truck	1
3	Cherry picker or manhoist	1

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

5 Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Cook Islands Ports Authority from 26 June 2013 from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday at the address indicated below.

6 To purchase a hard copy of the Engineering Drawing documents (in English), Bidders should apply to the address below and pay a non-refundable fee of NZ\$20.00 made payable to the Cook Islands Ports Authority. Alternatively, Bidders may obtain a copy of the bidding documents free of charge by providing a flash drive to Cook Islands Ports Authority for the bidding documents to be downloaded to.

7 There will be no Pre-Bid meeting. Bidders may arrange with the Employer to visit the site.

8 Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00 PM on the 24 July 2013. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Securing Declaration. (Refer ITB 19.) Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 2.30 PM on the 24 July 2013

9 The Cook Islands Ports Authority will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

ADDRESS DETAILS

Mr Bim Tou, General Manager

Cook Islands Ports Authority

Ara Tapu, Avatiu, Rarotonga

Tel No.: +682 21921, Fax No.: +682 21191

E-mail: bim.tou@ports.co.ck



TELECOM COOK ISLANDS LTD

Telecom Cook Islands aims to be the best Telecommunications Company amongst its Pacific neighbours. We know that achieving this means we need to have the best people working for us. If you would like to join us and have the experience and skills required for either of these roles then we would like to hear from you.

Management Roles

MANAGER - HUMAN RESOURCES

We need a senior Human Resources professional to continue the implementation and ongoing development of our human resources framework. As a member of our Executive Team, this position requires someone with broad human resource management experience with particular skills in building employee engagement, performance and remuneration management and developing staff. You will also need to demonstrate excellent customer service skills, the ability to develop and maintain human resource information systems and a willingness to take a "hands on" approach.

A positions description is available from Marisa Summers at: summers@telecom.co.ck

Please apply in writing (including a cover letter and CV) to:

The CEO
Telecom Cook Islands Ltd
PO Box 106
Parekura
Rarotonga
or email to ceo@telecom.co.ck by 26th July 2013.

MANAGER - NETWORK SERVICES

Telecom is looking for an energetic and experienced person to take up the role of Manager Network Services.

Key Responsibilities include:

- Managing all aspects of daily operations within the Network Services Department;
- Ensuring the ongoing implementation of the Network Management and Maintenance Plans for both Rarotonga and the Outer Islands, resulting in improved service delivery and customer satisfaction;
- Capacity planning and expansion of underground access networks both copper and fibre;
- Recruitment, training and performance measuring of staff and ability to bring about changes towards accomplishment of KPI's;
- Preparing timely, accurate reports supporting robust decision making.

The successful applicant must have excellent oral and written communication skills, plus proven leadership and management capabilities.

Please apply in writing (including a cover letter and CV) to:

Chief Operations Officer, Telecom Cook Islands Ltd, P.O Box 106, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

or email radio@telecom.co.ck by 26th July 2013

For more information about any of these positions, visit www.telecom.co.ck > About Us > Careers.



TELECOM COOK ISLANDS LTD

Telecom Cook Islands aims to be the best Telecommunications Company amongst its Pacific neighbours. We know that achieving this means we need to have the best people working for us. If you would like to join us and have the experience and skills required for either of these finance roles then we would like to hear from you.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT

Reporting to an experienced Finance Manager, your key objective will be to provide accurate, timely and detailed financial and management reports. You will be responsible for:

- Timely and accurate month-end processing;
- Assisting in the preparation of monthly, half-yearly and annual financial accounts;
- Monthly business performance reporting ;
- Analysis to aid management decision making;
- Balance sheet reconciliations;
- Fixed assets.

Working in an open plan environment where you are encouraged to contribute your ideas, you will enjoy working with a variety of stakeholders and need to work effectively to a deadline.

You will have previous accounting experience and/or have a related tertiary qualification and your professionalism is without question. The keys to your success are your strong excel skills, great communication skills and your well organised and methodical approach to task management. You will be motivated and proactive with strong attention to detail.

INVENTORY CONTROLLER

Telecom is seeking an Inventory Controller with a strong work ethic, exceptional attention to detail, and a passion for providing the highest level of customer service.

Your responsibilities will include:

- Ordering, receiving and issuing stock in line with Telecom's inventory management procedures;
- Working with Customs to clear goods and pay the appropriate customs duties;
- Tracking orders through Telecom's on-line procurement system and liaising with our external procurement team;
- Processing stock movements in the system;
- Ensuring the accuracy and integrity of the stock management system;
- Working closely with internal stakeholders through the entire purchase-to-pay process.

To be considered for this position, you must have:

- Competent PC skills particularly in Word, Excel and Outlook, and be a quick learner of new packages;
- Meticulous attention to detail;
- The ability to multi-task, manage your time effectively and work unsupervised;
- A passion for providing outstanding service to internal customers;
- Outstanding communication skills (verbal and written);
- Previous experience in inventory management preferred but not essential.

If you feel you have the skills and background to be successful in either of these Finance Roles, we can't wait to hear from you. Please apply in writing (including a cover letter and CV) to: Apii Heather, apii@telecom.co.ck by 26th July 2013

For more information about any of these positions, visit www.telecom.co.ck > About Us > Careers.

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