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24 July 2013

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1 3 9 12 22 29 SUPP: **18 37**

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Foreign investors appeal BTIB Board decision

By Charles Pitt

After trying for two years to sell the Samade Beach Bungalows in Aitutaki, the owners on 7 March 2013, finally thought they had secured a sale albeit to foreign investors (husband and wife) from New Zealand. The BTIB had approved their application to purchase, in principle.

The owners were happy, the foreign investors were happy but just one day later, the 8 March, the foreign investors were informed by the BTIB that their Minister had asked the Board to reconsider their application. Apparently the Minister had done this on 7 March. The

reasons were not known to the foreign investors.

Without the foreign investor's knowledge, Minister for Tourism, Teina Bishop and Thomas Koteka entered the picture with their offer to purchase the Samade.

The BTIB advised the foreign investor's lawyers on 23 March that their application was rescinded (but not declined) while the BTIB waited to see if Bishop and Koteka finalized their offer to purchase.

As Cook Islanders had entered the frame, the foreign investor's lawyers were advised that priority under the investment policy, lay with locals.

Bishop and Koteka secured

the Samade and the foreign investors were advised of this on 1 May.

Now very concerned and unhappy, the foreign investors lodged an appeal on 20 May with the Minister as required under the legislation, the Development Investment Act 1995-96.

The law

This Act provides for an Appeal Commission to be appointed, comprising five members appointed by Cabinet, consisting of 3 members recommended by the Minister and two members recommended by the Leader of the opposition. Cabinet appoints a Chair from among this five.

The Appeal Commission can only be convened upon the Minister receiving an appeal in writing.

The Appeal Commission may reverse the decision of the Board subject to such conditions as the Commission may have imposed.

As at 28 June, more than a month after the appeal was lodged, Cabinet had still not appointed the Appeal Commission. The foreign investor's lawyer then served a notice of motion on 2 July, on the Minister for MFEM, Hon Mark Brown and the Attorney General, Prime Minister Hon Henry Puna of a High Court hearing on 2 August to hear the matter.

The Minister then submitted three names for the Appeal Commission, Navy Epati, Sam Crocombe and Iaveta Short. However, Iaveta Short has declined and another person is being sought. The Leader of the Opposition has submitted 2 names, Mark Short and Teuira Ka.

Why appeal?

The reason given for the appeal is twofold. Firstly the foreign investors are dissatisfied with the Board's decision and secondly the matter is of national

importance.

The foreign investors say they were shocked that applications made in good faith can be treated in such cavalier fashion. Considerable funds and effort had been committed by the investors.

The foreign investors believe it is of national importance that the bureaucracy be seen to be acting properly and without undue influence. Failure to ensure this, they say, could impact on the willingness of people to invest in the Cook Islands.

They want the appeal to proceed as a matter of principle.

Ramifications?

What has occurred in this case goes to the heart of the legislation and whether its provisions are stringent enough to prevent political interference and influence in specific cases.

The Act was designed to encourage investment as well as regulate it. A critical ingredient for encouraging investment is to ensure investors have confidence in, and certainty from bureaucratic institutions.

When a Board grants an approval (albeit in principle) and then reverses it, confidence in the competence of such Board and its freedom from improper interference, is diminished.

The foreign investor's legal representative is of the opinion that under the legislation there is no mandate for the BTIB Board to discuss specific applications with the Minister and no mandate for a Minister to give directions in relation to them.

In this case it is alleged that Minister Brown, given his Ministerial colleague's (Bishop) involvement, made a specific direction in the face of an obvious conflict of interest.

Minister Bishop advised the Herald that a substantial upgrade of the Samade is planned.



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Congratulations to our permanent residents

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

In this column I convey on behalf of the Opposition Caucus Members of Parliament and the Democratic Party sincere congratulations to all those that was awarded their Permanent Resident certificates yesterday at the Auditorium. To be honest it was one of the shortest ceremonies that I have ever been to. Everyone was seated by 9.30 am and by 10 am the programme was under way with the outgoing Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration Tom Marsters adjudicating over proceedings. He commented to all that this ceremony coincided with daily bread readings where the word of God touched on people of nations not to mistreat people from other nations living amongst them.

As I watched the proceedings a couple of things stood out in mind. One, our country is the richer and better because of these people that have chosen to dedicate their lives to the Cook Islands. Two, my friend Tom Marsters is parting from politics with a great diplomatic and humane gesture of granting these PR's. There are some critics out there that do not like the fact that other people are being allowed to live in the Cook Islands. Some critics assert that some PR's use the Cook Islands as a launching pad to get to New Zealand but apparently that is far from the truth. You do not automatically get New Zealand citizenship if you become a Cook Islands PR.

The ceremony was given a somewhat sweet moment of recognition for Nana Hauser, the "whale rider", who has done much for the Cook Islands profile as a leading country in terms whale, marine life protection and awareness. She was honoured with the right to speak for all the recipients and of course she very aptly started off

by saying that "We are so lucky to live in this beautiful country". Then I a moving moment of her speech she said, "When I am out there 10 miles from land with the whales, I look ashore to this beautiful country sitting on the horizon and tears roll down my cheeks". To me the honour belongs to the Cook Islands to have someone like her make this country her home.

To my surprise there were also others who had been living in the Cook Islands for up to 30 years but never applied until now. I noted one of the pioneers of black pearl farming in Manihiki, Eves Tschaiapan who is ordinarily resident in Tahiti. He had contributed much to the Cook Islands economy with his pearl farming operations and employment in Manihiki. That was a nice reciprocity between the country and Eves. Well, I also saw of my friends in there beaming with smiles that brightened up the whole auditorium.

With every good occasion, there has to be some sadness. I am sure the Minister of Finance who also there at the ceremony will agree with me in sharing that such will probably the last public act as Minister for Immigration that Tom Marsters will be doing. We all know that he moves on to take over the mantle of being the Head of State as replacement for Sir Frederick Goodwin who is retiring. This giant of a man ambling around in the auditorium with the most sincere heart to help people will be sadly missed by those that know him well and by all. Typical of his gentle humor, he leaned across to me after the ceremony and said I hope you don't get jealous with me getting all the kisses. No, my freind you truly are a gentleman in politics and in life in general and I know you will hold the office of Queen's Representative very well.



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www.teaponga.com

Boxing's main attraction Thursday

By Charles Pitt

At the next big "Fight Night" to be staged by the Cook Islands Amateur Boxing Association (CIABA) at Avatea School hall on Thursday evening, Cook Islander Jubilee Arama's Super Heavyweight bout with Geddon Dolan from Sydney, Australia, will be the main attraction.

Arama himself is based in Tahiti and Dolan is a part Cook Islander himself. Dolan boxed in Sydney under the very experienced coach Graham Taylor who is now based in Rarotonga and still has Dolan under his wing.

Both National Coach Tom Marsters and Arama visited and spoke with the Herald on Tuesday morning. Arama who last weighed himself at 99kg, admitted he knew nothing about Dolan. Arama's last fight was a year ago.

Arama represented the Cook Islands at the last

Commonwealth Games held in Delhi in 2010 where, as one of the youngest competitors, he acquitted himself well against older, more experienced boxers.

Also visiting the Herald was Latishia Maui. Locals will recall she is the older sister of the highly talented National Women's Sevens and Netball Rep Teiva Maui.

Latishia is home after living for a while in NZ. While in NZ she got involved in Corporate Boxing as a female boxer and had one fight after training for a year. That was over 5, two minute rounds. At this stage she is on the fitness comeback trail and will be attending Thursday night's event. She has no opponent lined up says Tom Marsters but if some woman steps forward, an exhibition bout to promote women's boxing, will take place. For her part, Latishia is looking to boxing as a means to get fit.



Jubilee Arama, Latishia Maui

Junior cricket on these school holidays

By Charles Pitt

Cook Islands Cricket has arranged four tournaments during the school holidays for boys and girls, supported by their major sponsor, ANZ Bank.

First off will be a tournament for under 10s boys and girls 8 a side teams, from 29 July to 30 July at Te Uki Ou School and Turangi cricket park. The tournament for under 13s boys and girls will also kick off at the same time and date at Takitumu School Matavera cricket field, also 8 a side. It is free to register for these events, just contact Cook Islands Cricket on ph 20744, or Apii on 51522 or Ronnie on

72981 or ask your school for a cricket team. There will be cool prizes on offer for the winning teams, top batters and bowlers and just for giving it a go.

On 31 July to 1 August, at Raemaru Park, there will be the under 19 girls tournament, 11 a side and the under 17s boys tournament, 11 a side. It is free to register, just contact the numbers mentioned above. There will be excellent prizes on offer, \$150 cash for the winner and prizes for the top batters and bowlers.

These tournaments promise to be great fun so parents, get your kids registered and active these holidays.

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Cook Islands Herald goes QR

The Cook Islands Herald now has a QR (Quick Response) code.

Simply scan this code into your iPhone or Smartphone and it will automatically take you to the Herald Website in your phone's internet browser.

Who's who at the Bowls Cook Islands National Lawn Bowls Championship

26th July – 10 Aug, 2013

By Ben Mose (BCI Media)

Rarotonga Bowling Club venue will be the centre of attention for the next couple of weeks. Local and International Lawn bowlers will pull out all the tricks and skills to master all the four disciplines that made up the National C'Ship. Starting this coming Friday with the Queensland bowlers roll up practice and joining the National on Saturday at the Grand Opening.

With 112 local lawn bowlers including about 3 local players from Auckland, 10 teams for men and 8 teams for women made up of 58 men and 54 women.

Arorangi Bowling Club

Managers : Iro Rangi/ N. Rangi
Ben Mose Anna Kairua
Alex Kairua Evelyn Henry
Afofo Anthony Kathy Mataiao
Vaine Henry Mama Toti
C. Smithies H. Graham
A. Fariu Tony Forbes
Ringo Star

Aitutaki BC "A"

Manager : Philip Tangi/T. Michell
Arama Tera Porea Eliza
Tere Williams Tamoe Tangipi
Willyn Karika M. Goldsworthy
Moi Robati Linda Mitchell

Aitutaki BC "B"

Noo Mataiao N. Arama
V. Rairoa Emily Tangi
Eric Ponia B.Ngatikao
Mati Mitchell K. Tetauru
Aporo Kirikava Mere Tiro
Te-Iva Arama

Mangaia Bowling Club

Pita Totoo Nane Tere
P. Papatua K. Rubena
A. Rairoa Mene R
Larry Tumai Noora Totoo
Angeline N

Nukuroa Bowling Club

Tatuava Tou Mou Tokorangi
Ngatoko Junior Linda Vavia
T. Pennycook Mata Akavi
L. Makara Taru Graham
A. Makara Cima Makara
M. Story Henrica Marauna

Rarotonga B.C.

G. Paniani T. Browne
Sir Fredrick R. Newham
Mia Tuteru K. Vaile
Veia Mani M. Akaruru
W. Wichman A. Ulrich
V. Pittman M. Howard
J. Ngavaevae T. Paniani
Papa Dan Kamana

Rakahanga B. C.

W. Powell Marie Melvin
Thomas Ben Tai Tangi
C. Numanga Aua Numanga
B. Numanga M. Powell
C. Elikana J. Graig
T. Mahia Tiare Jim
T.Rakei Pitia Hokoua

Atiu Bowling Club

Tangata Tou D. Paniani
Nelson Akava C. Paniani
Nga Rairoa N. Daniel
Ioane Tou D. Maea
Tere Daniels Marie Rairoa
T. Mateariki

Mauke Bowling Club

Mata J Rangi R. Akaruru
P. Ulrich Irene Tupuna
N. Tairea M. Akaruru
P.Tuaputa R. Van Dyk
B. Foster Rere Wildin
E. Tupuna K.Tetauru



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Our Cover Girl



Our front page girl this week Herald Issue 676 is 25 year old Cassie Hycenko. Cassie has been in Aitutaki for the past 4 weeks volunteer teaching at Vaitau Primary School. She has been studying primary education in Australia. Random interesting fact about Cassie- her uncle set up Tattslotto here in Rarotonga. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald

Media issues to be addressed at Forum

By Charles Pitt

Members of the Cook Islands Media Association and other interested parties will be attending a one day Forum on media issues, next Tuesday, July 30th at the Edgewater Resort.

The Forum is being facilitated by the Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS).

PACMAS recently concluded a study of challenges facing National Media Associations (NMA) in the Pacific. This study (available at www.pacmas.org) identifies a number of approaches to address some of these challenges.

In particular, it recommends bringing together mainstream media and other media practitioners in the hope to revitalise and strengthen media communities in each country. Such media 'forums' have

already been organised with encouraging success in Vanuatu, Tonga and Fiji.

PACMAS expects the Forum to be a useful gathering. In particular, local media should be able to help PACMAS identify key priorities that can be supported.

Media Associations and other media industry bodies play a crucial role in supporting development through the promotion of a professional, independent and pluralistic media.

Shona Pitt, Pitt Media Group Director will speak at the Forum on Cook Islands TV and News training. Tereora College media studies students are also expected to attend one of the morning sessions.

PACMAS Program Management Group member, Jean-Gabriel Manguy, is the Forum facilitator.

News Briefs

The Catholic community of Auckland is hosting all those past Bishop(s) who have served in the Cook Islands and this will include Bishop Paul Donaghuey from Rarotonga, Fr. Freddy Kaina and Fr. John Rovers from Mauke. This special Mass will be held on the 4th August, at St. Therese in Mangere. During this special mass there will be the unveiling for the Fr. Theobald - he has written many Catholic teachings in Cook Islands Maori.

Pacific Radio, Niu FM Cook Islands Maori, announced that the PM and his delegation will be in Wellington early next month and the Cook Islands community there will be hosting them.

-From Charlie Rani in Auckland



Make your business hit the mark

Free financial education workshops to be held at Rarotonga and Aitutaki.

Westpac proud sponsors of the 2013 Air New Zealand Cook Islands Tourism Awards.

Westpac is running free Breakeven and Beyond workshops which is an interactive session using topical examples including:

- the relationship between price, volume and cost
- how changes in this relationship affects business profitability
- breakeven analysis as a tool for profit planning, managing costs and setting prices
- making more informed business decisions

The following session times and locations are available:

Rarotonga

Wednesday 24 July 2013

Edgewater Resort Conference Room

Morning: 9:00am to 12:00pm

Evening: 5:30pm to 8:30pm

Aitutaki

Thursday 25 July 2013

The Boat Shed

Session: 2:00pm to 5:00pm

RSVP by Tuesday 23 July 2013.

Contact Mousie Skews to register for a workshop

Email: mousie@islandhopper.co.ck

Phone: 22026 ext 314

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Unleash your full potential - Tourism iPad mini competition

The Cook Islands Tourism Corporation is passionate about seeing more students unleash their full potential especially within the tourism industry and as an incentive is giving away an iPad mini as part of the 2013 Careers Expo. With most students being proud owners of a Smartphone device, Tourism Cook Islands is jumping on the band wagon and offering students the chance to win an Apple iPad mini with protective case.

To win the Apple iPad mini students are asked to produce a 60sec video clip with the title 'mycookislands'. As the title suggests Cook Islands Tourism wants to see and hear from students on how they would promote their country to visitors. A music track with lyrics will be provided to the students but they have free will to change it up if they wish too. Students can use either still or moving images to create their master piece.

In addition for all the hard work the students will put into producing their 60sec video clip, Cook Islands Tourism will also be giving away an Aitutaki Day Tour for two courtesy of Air Rarotonga to the runner up. The competition will run for two weeks during the school holidays closing on Friday 09 August 2013.

Cook Islands Tourism

understands that not all students have access to the internet or video editing software at home so are offering time slots available for students to come in and produce their video clip at Cook Islands Tourism.

To register for the competition students must visit the Cook Islands Tourism booth at the 2013 Careers Expo and talk to one of the staff members. Students must be 18yrs and under and must be attending

one of the schools coming to the Careers Expos. Full details and conditions of the competition will be provided to the students on registration.

Cook Islands Tourism will also be giving away other great prizes during the Careers Expo so be sure to visit their booth. Prizes such as a Captain Tamas Lagoon Cruise for two and an Edgewater Island Night for two can be won by simply answering a few questions based on the Digital Information Kiosks owned

by Simon & Anne-Marie Bounsall which will be on display at the booth.

Cook Islands Tourism looks forward to seeing more Cook Islanders take up career paths in the diverse range of employment opportunities within the tourism industry so are proud to be supporting Careers Day 2013. For more information on the Tourism booth at the 2013 Careers Expo visit our website www.cookislands.travel/events

- Tourism Corp Media Release

News Briefs - By TeRiu Woonton

Last Tuesday, 2000 baits were distributed by the Air Rarotonga Scenic Flight airplane in the mountain region of Rarotonga which attract and kill the male oriental fruit fly. Maja from Ministry of Agriculture tells Cook Islands Herald that there has been a swift decline in the number of Oriental fruit flies on Rarotonga, since the eradication program. There are 160 traps set around Rarotonga, which are being checked every Wednesday of the week. Cook Islands Herald understands that there have been zero to 3 oriental fruit flies found in the traps in the past 4 weeks and areas that the pest has been discovered will be sprayed, which attracts and kills the female oriental fruit fly. Although the number of the oriental fruit fly has decreased on Rarotonga, Aitutaki remains infested with the pest. No fruits are allowed to be taken out of Aitutaki at any time, to any other island. Next week a team from New Zealand and Fiji will go to Aitutaki to hold a one week program to eliminate the oriental fruit fly. They will conduct the distribution of the baits, set up traps, spray and guide farmers and agriculture workers on how to distinguish the oriental fruit fly from other pests. Ministry of Agriculture, Rarotonga will be monitoring the eradication program. Cook Islands Herald understands there is still the risk of the oriental fruit fly eggs in fruits therefore it is strongly urged that all fallen or rotten fruits be collected, put into bags and taken to the Ministry, fed to the pigs or buried.

On Monday, the 6 water intakes around Rarotonga were below 50%, however after the heavy rain yesterday Adrian Teotahi from Ministry of Water Works says that all water intakes are from 75 to 100% full with water. The water intake level situation should last a while, considering each household conserves and manages their water. The team from Ministry of Works are currently clearing debris from the intakes, so water should be clear and back to normal by Friday. If you are experiencing any problems with your water situation or would like to report a broken pipe, call Adrian on 20321.

COOK ISLANDS CAREERS EXPO

Cook Islands Tourism Booth 5, TSA, Nikao
Thursday 25 July, 9:00 am - 3.00 pm
www.cookislands.travel/events

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Student interns from the New Zealand College of Chiropractic will once again provide complimentary chiropractic care to residents of the Cook Islands during a visit to Rarotonga.

Come along for a **free spine and health check**, with free chiropractic adjustments during this one-week period.

- Tuesday 30 July, Wednesday 31 July,
Friday 2 August: Two sessions daily,
9am until noon and 2pm-5pm
- Thursday 1 August, Saturday 3 August:
9am until 2pm
- Two locations for all times above:
Te Atukura Grounds, Office of the
Prime Minister, and Titikaveka



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Mapping the path forward

If you want to get an unfussy handle on the inroads being made by renewable energy on Rarotonga this article should help.

The first place to look is the announcement in 2011 by Government of renewable energy targets, the first target being 50% of electricity to be supplied from renewable energy sources by 2015. This date is just around the corner really and so 2015 will be the first test of whether we are on track to achieve this wish. The second target is 2020 where the goal is for renewable energy sources to supply 100% of our electricity needs.

Prior to the announcement of the new renewable energy targets, the development ambition for the take up of renewable energy had been more along the lines of slow and steady. Te Aponga Uira's mission then was just to adopt affordable and clean renewable energy solutions to supplement the use of fossil fuel in providing electricity. And so homeowners with solar PVs and wind turbines were offered the chance to connect their systems to the island's power grid in a scheme known as net metering. TAU also erected a demonstration solar PV array in its car park in Tutakimoo.

The Government announcement of the 2015 and 2020 targets was a definite game changer however. It forced a rethink because until then no one



Te Aponga Uira rooftop

had contemplated the complete abandonment of diesel fuel. After all, diesel fuel had some real advantages not to be scoffed at, the main one being you could use it in any quantity you wanted at any time you needed to produce power.

While diesel was bad for the environment in terms of carbon emissions and always subject to price rises that feed inevitably into higher power costs, the decision to go completely renewable energy nevertheless still came as a radical departure.

Phase 1 then became a matter for TAU of figuring out how to implement this new policy and even more so how to do it cost-effectively. This meant undertaking tons of research and consultation with experts, here

and overseas, over a period of approximately 18 months. The end result is that we now have a good idea of how to proceed.

As you monitor the progress of renewable energy in Rarotonga keep in mind the idea of low hanging fruits first and high hanging fruits last. This picture will give you an idea of moving through different stages, knowing that it's always the low hanging fruits that are going to be picked off first.

In phase 2 which begins in the next financial year, you will see PV arrays being erected atop some government buildings. They will increase the flow of renewable energy into the grid and this should bring the goal for the 2015 electricity supply within reach. It should be noted that the 2015

goal is not only dependent on the supply of renewable energy but also the impact of energy efficiency measures such as the recent CFL light bulb and the fridge/ freezer replacement campaigns.

Look to phase 3 to begin in the period 2016-2020, which is the time when the issue of energy storage must be confronted. This is so because the grid cannot function at high levels of penetration from solar energy alone. It will then be urgent for TAU to employ some form of mini-hydro and/ or batteries to store energy that can be used to balance out the fluctuations caused by PV.

This overview is in a nutshell the path TAU is following in an effort to achieve our goal for 2020.



Bishop's turn to put up

Government underseige as new gate added



The Bounty fishing vessel berthed at the Aitutaki Harbour - Sold by Bishop but still in his possession

When lawyer, tourist accommodator and long time recreational fisherman Ruben Tylor publically raised his concerns regarding Marine Resources Minister Teina Bishop's cosy engaging business relationship with the Chinese fishing giant Luen Thai, Tylor's motives were challenged in no uncertain terms through the media and Bishop called on him to "put up or shut up."

It has taken months for Tylor to put up because getting factual documented information is no easy task under the Official Information Act (OIA). Tylor's lengthy "put up" by way of a letter to the editor of the Cook Islands News on 16 July has certainly opened a can of worms that cast a long shadow of doubt over the political integrity of Bishop.

Public reaction to Tylor's "put up" is now a red alert concern for the Cook Islands Party as well as their Government. With both Bishop and the Prime Minister Henry Puna overseas when Tylor's letter was published,

it's politically a long wait for an official response to "Bishopgate." By the time of their return the issue will be beyond damage control forcing the government's spin doctor into the difficult option of damage limitation.

The Ministry's defensive response from Secretary Ben

Parliament Norman George's "Bishopgate" media intervention (CI News 18 July) to put Bishop's latest corruption allegations and perceived impropriety to rest ought to be settled by an inquiry conducted by an outside identity would give public the confidence these serious issues are not

have made it extremely difficult to convince some constituencies to come on board.

Whatever misadventure Bishop embroils himself into makes no difference to the security of his constituency seat, but to other MPs any controversy that provokes in swing away from the CIP brand is a serious threat to their political survival. To lessen the burden Bishopgate dumps on their PM the CIP Executive may take the initiative and invite Bishop to formally appear before them to give an account in the context of Party interests and reputation damage to their brand.

Friend or not, for the sake of his own leadership integrity PM Puna and that of the Party, Puna has to be decisive and win the confidence of his Party members and the voters at large. Defending Bishop is a grey area Puna must avoid if he is to squash any perception he condones corruption within his ranks.

Norman George has been a
continued next page

Public reaction to Tylor's "put up" is now a red alert concern for the Cook Islands Party as well as their Government.

Ponia was typical in that it claimed Tylor was mischief mongering with false allegations.

It may be Ponia cannot totally separate himself from Bishop's dealings with his fisheries advisor Samuel Chou and Luen Thai Fishing Ventures local company Huanan Fishery (Cook Islands) Ltd and he needs to "put up" his own defence in the name of transparency.

Independent Member of

being swept under the carpet. George also claims Ministerial corruption is not exclusive to Bishop but shamelessly wide spread in the CIP government.

Not everybody's favourite son in the Cook Islands Party, Bishop's past political damage inflicted on the Party is still fresh in many minds. Fortunate to be representing a safe seat Bishop fails to understand his political antics affect the CIP brand and

Golden Tuna only Cook Islands in name?

Minister of Marine Resources Teina Bishop's generously publicised Cook Islands Golden Tuna project may not be the real deal. Bishop must be applauded for his initiative and drive to insist some of the catch in our waters by foreign operators is returned to the Cook Islands in easily and affordable produce.

The initial intent was to have Cook Islands caught tuna processed and canned in Pago Pago (American Samoa) by the Starkist cannery but that has changed with Cook Islands Golden Tuna being processed in China under the oversight of Hua Nan Fishery a subsidiary of Luen Thai Fishing Venture Ltd.

In a document titled; MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT written in English and Chinese there is one sentence that raises the question of authenticity and genuine product. It reads as follows; The fish used for these products to be supplied by Hua Nan vessels to fish in



The launching of the Golden Tuna Brand last August at the Avatiu Wharf.

Cook Islands Economic Zone and other Pacific island nations.

Does it really matter where the fish is caught when they all taste the same? Well some would argue that depends what it says on the label. If the can's label says Cook Islands Golden Tuna and the contents are from another country's EEZ will anyone lose any sleep over it? Is our reputation at stake?

The underlying purpose of Bishop's desire is to have

urban Cook Islanders increase their alarmingly low level of fish consumption. Research indicates the average per capita consumption is 25 kilograms per year compared with the World Health Organisation's recommended 35 kilograms to meet basic nutrition health requirements and address non communicable diseases (NCD).

At the launch of the Golden Tuna brand in August last year Bishop said, "Tuna is a valuable

commodity and as the resource owner, we have some exciting options to explore. But we have to begin to engage with fishing companies, processors and markets at some point and this is really what today is about. Step one is to get our products landed onshore".

Well said Minister Bishop, but is there any certainty the fish in the can is ours? Then again does it really matter if it's low cost and affordable? *-By George Pitt*

Bishop's turn to put up

From previous page

constant critic of Puna for being soft and unable to control his Ministers. To overlook Bishop's latest controversy will only reinforce the public's perception Puna is a "yes Minister's" Prime Minister.

Bishopgate is one of those dark moments leaders dread as it raises the question in their own mind the worth of being the Leader. Puna is cornered and confronted with a very sensitive political challenge that will unquestionably define his leadership.

The PM may need to be reminded of a past incident where his mentor Sir Geoffrey Henry was being cornered by Dr Joe Williams and Tom Marsters, PM Henry red carded them both from his Cabinet. Order was restored and Sir Geoffrey's leadership was put beyond question.

If Puna exerts his leadership in his efforts to get the house in order the Party will resist any future internal challenges to his solidified leadership. Puna can do a Pontius Pilate act and engage an independent identity

to investigate as Norman George is exhorting or he can hand the matter over to Audit or PERCA.

Puna also has the tough option of relieving Bishop of the Ministry of Marine Resources and giving him a yellow card with time in the naughty boy's seat. Bishop has to wake up to the political reality throwing his weight around on his Aitutaki patch isn't transferable to Rarotonga.

To ensure the Ministry avoids any further perceived moral failures a Marine Advisory Board should be established to ensure the principles of good governance are appropriated.

Now that Marine Resources has created a diversion from their charter to become investment focused they cannot be allowed to operate under the radar with a "law unto themselves attitude" but must now be held accountable to a Board and become corrupt proof.

Central to the Bishopgate scandal is the sale and purchase of the fishing boat Bounty. To be clarified; before the Bounty could be sold to a foreign purchaser Business Trade Investment Board requires the sale to be tendered

or advertised for sale locally over a predetermined period. If no local buyer is forthcoming the business can be sold to a foreigner.

By definition, if the vessel has a fishing licence it is the business therefore is subjected to BTIB scrutiny in the context of the Development Investment Act 1995-6. Bishop's failure intentionally or otherwise to conduct the sale according to BTIB regulations commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000.

Huanan Fishing (CI) Ltd's purchase of the Bounty without BTIB approval is also a matter to be investigated.

Added to Bishop's Bounty woes is the question of his connection to illegal fishing within legal limits off Manuae. Local fishermen claim news was received from Aitutaki the catch was photographed showing fish caught weren't deep sea fish. The photos as evidence were forwarded to Rarotonga to the Ministry of Marine's office but nothing has eventuated.

Could Secretary Ponia clarify

this concern or does this publication need to publish the photos for public consumption? If his Minister is in breach of the law then Bishop needs to be fined just as was former sitting Democratic MP for Akaoa Tapi Taio was for breaching the twelve mile fishing limit off Matavera. Unlike Bishop, Taio a first time indirect offender who was penalised for an undisclosed sum in 2002 did not know what his Fijian skipper was knowingly doing, as the owner of the vessel Taio was legally held responsible for the skipper's actions.

If Huanan Fishing (CI) Ltd is the owner of the Bounty then despite who is the skipper, they are liable and considered responsible for unlawfully fishing within local waters.

Prime Minister Puna is now confronted with a goliath challenge which offers him the opportunity to restore confidence in the CIP brand, cement his leadership and demonstrate without fear or favour he is the undisputed captain of the CIP vaka.

-By George Pitt

Pay rises to sustain culture of secrecy?

Marine's Ponia defies transparent accountability

Ministry of Marine Resources secretary Ben Ponia's refusal to co-operate with the Audit Office and PERCA's attempts to interview him has left political observers mystified. Somewhere this siege mentality has been allowed to go unaccounted.

The rumour mill has it Ponia has plenty to hide and the only reason he can blatantly buck the system is because he's protecting his Minister Teina Bishop who in return is protecting him.

The public perception is that MMR is becoming synonymous with compromises and corruption which if left unchecked any longer, will do irreparable damage to the Cook Islands Party brand with its consequences manifested at the next general elections.

According to the Minister of both Audit and PERCA, Mark Brown, he is unaware Ponia had refused to give an account in response to a complaint forwarded to both Ministries. It is public knowledge Ponia has refused to provide the Audit Office/PERCA with specifically requested information. It is public knowledge Bishop is aware of Ponia's compliance refusal.

The failure for any authority to pull Ponia into line raises a series of questions that concern the integrity of Minister Bishop, Director of Audit Alan Parker, the PERCA chairperson and the accountability process. What is it that gives Ponia the confidence he can defy good governance principles instituted to alleviate corruption and the mismanagement of entrusted responsibilities?

If Alan Parker (handpicked by the Prime Minister) cannot conduct his office with integrity he should resign or be suspended immediately. Is Parker so weak that he cannot administer his job profile independent of external influences? If PERCA cannot hold Ponia to accountability they too should be given red cards.

If Bishop is prepared to allow Ponia to carry on undisciplined, he should be removed from being the Minister of Marine Resources. How on earth was Ponia selected to continue as the



The talented Ben Ponia too clever for his own good?

secretary of Marine Resources after he demonstrated an unprecedented refusal to comply with the checks and balances of Government?

Unconfirmed word is under advice from Crown Law, Ponia submitted information to PERCA. What it was is also guarded, in the mean time Board members of

CIP Government.

While there are plenty of whispers and murmurings coming out of the MMR no one yet has the courage to go on the record and break the culture of secrecy. A fear of losing their jobs and self preservation is the current priority.

A similar situation existed in

Cabinet should relieve Bishop of MMR and pass it onto someone who has no perceived conflicts of interests or a close attachment to any Chinese fishing operators.

PERCA have changed and may be the Ponia revolt has conveniently fallen through the cracks. The whole process has a clumsy Fawlt Towers feel about it.

Where has the system broken down and why has this been allowed to happen? Confidence in the institutions that exist to monitor good governance has eroded adding to the list of misadventures condoned by the

Customs in the early nineties and it wasn't till the Minister at the time Vaine Tairea planted a mole (Rena Jonassen) in the Ministry that the culture of corruption discovered was so wide spread throughout the business community, the report which recommended criminal charges was buried within Cabinet and a clean out of Customs and process changes were exercised under

the 1996 transition reform.

A copy of the report was leaked to the media for twenty four hours but the full extent of its contents never got reported due to legal reactions.

The conduct of the MMR hasn't gone unnoticed and its annoyance has influential Democratic Party members should they become government, committed to conducting a no stone left unturned full inquiry with severe penalties for those who have sustained any corrupt activities of MMR through their silence.

The idea that because MMR is doing so well at bringing in new revenue for Government through fishing licences, senior staff should be rewarded and given a salary review is motivation for staff to back Ponia's code of silence and secrecy.

Some observers admit their frustration Ponia appears to be a protected species but they are confident it's only a matter of time before someone in MMR has a moral resurrection and blows the whistle on what is concealed in the bowels of the Ministry.

If the CIP Government is serious about restoring credibility and rebuilding the integrity of the CIP brand that will enhance an extension to their one term occupancy at Te Atukura then Cabinet should relieve Bishop of MMR and pass it onto someone who has no perceived conflicts of interests or a close attachment to any Chinese fishing operators.

On reflection the late Robert Wigmore once held both Agriculture and MMR portfolios and was competent in his oversight of both. Maybe new Minister Kiriau Turepu could be given the MMR along with the expected Ministry of Agriculture. If former fisheries expert Julian Dashwood could be persuaded to join team Turepu, the public will regain confidence in the CIP Government.

Turepu and the no nonsense Dashwood could oversee a new Fisheries Advisory Board to ensure the Ministry has anti corruption and integrity measures integrated into its operations. - By George Pitt

VACANCY



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
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Stable and reliable video chat apps for Android aren't easy to come by, but ooVoo is terrific. The Android video chat app supports group video, voice calls, and instant messaging—across iOS, OSX, Android, and Windows! Not only do you get solid Android video calling, but you can practically video chat with anyone.

Skype

It's hard to beat a free, extensive communications network. Skype uses your phone's front- and rear-facing cameras to place free video and voice calls over 3G or Wi-Fi. I don't think Skype is "the best" communication app for Android, but it's one of those tools that I will continue to use because other people use it, too, and so it's often the quickest way to get in touch with certain people. Myspace, Skype, Facebook, Jabber, imo, VKontakte, and Hyves.

WhatsApp Messenger

Send unlimited text, photo, audio messages to anyone in the world, as long as both of you are connected to the Internet. Its UI may not be as slick as KakaoTalk, but it's hugely popular and multi-platform (talks to your iOS and BlackBerry friends).

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Business Trade Investment Board Cook Islands

Cook Islands

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Business Trade Investment Board Cook Islands

PAVEMENT ART COMPETITION TE MAEVA NUI CELEBRATIONS 2013

Who: Open to those schools who entered the competition by 19 July 2013
When: Thursday 25th July 2013
Where: Lagoon boardwalk opposite Foodland
Time: 9am-11am **Theme:** Taku Peu Maori Ka Ora (My Maori Culture Will Live)

As a lead up to Te Maeva Nui celebrations we are running a free to participate pavement art competition for the schools of Rarotonga on the lagoon side of the CBD in Avarua on the Te Maire Nui Road. Teams of school pupils will be given a sponsor's logo to copy onto the pavement in coloured chalk on the day of the competition. The best logo will win a prize and there will be consolation prizes and sponsor give-aways for those participating. In the event of rain, we will transfer to the BCI Stadium Grandstand.

As an added safety feature on the day, we have asked the Police to safety cone off the lane nearest the lagoon side whilst we run the competition.

Schools participating: Rutaki Primary School, Arorangi Primary School, Nikao' Maori School, Avatea Primary School, Nukutere College, Takitumu School, Titikaveka College

For further information please contact Te Tuhi Kelly
Trade and Marketing Manager
Business Trade & Investment Board Email: tetuhi.kelly@btib.gov.ck Ph: 24-296

Cook Islands Ministry of Cultural Development Proudly Presents

TE MAEVA NUI 2013 48TH CONSTITUTION CELEBRATION

29TH JULY - 5TH AUGUST 2013

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MONDAY 29TH JULY	THURSDAY 1ST AUGUST	MONDAY 5TH AUGUST
10:00am Float Parade Downtown Avarua (Free) 12:00pm TMN Official Opening (Panama to Avarua Harbour)	7:00pm Cultural Dance Performances National Auditorium	10am CONSTITUTION DAY CEREMONY National Auditorium Free 12:00pm AWARDS & CLOSING CEREMONY National Auditorium Free
TUESDAY 30TH JULY Free Day	FRIDAY 2ND AUGUST 9am-2pm Cook Islands Trade Day National Auditorium 7:00pm Cultural Dance Performances National Auditorium	
WEDNESDAY 31ST JULY 9am-2pm Cook Islands Trade Day National Auditorium 7:00pm Cultural Dance Performances National Auditorium	SATURDAY 3RD AUGUST 6am-2pm Punanga Nui Market Day Punanga Nui Market	
THURSDAY 1ST AUGUST 9am-2pm Cook Islands Trade Day National Auditorium	SUNDAY 4TH AUGUST - CONSTITUTION AND NATIONAL DAY 10am Normal Church Services	

TICKETS

Cultural Dance Performance
\$10, \$15, \$25

Available From:
Public Shelter Opposite the Police Station,
Downtown Avarua - 9am to 3pm
Cook Islands National Library,
McCD complex - 9 to 3pm
Cook Islands National Auditorium
at the door 1 hour before the events.

Choose a Career in Marine?

At this time in your young life, you have so many decisions to make and it can be scary thinking about joining the work force and whether you will get the job that you want. Now is the time while you are at school to know which subjects to take to achieve your dream job.

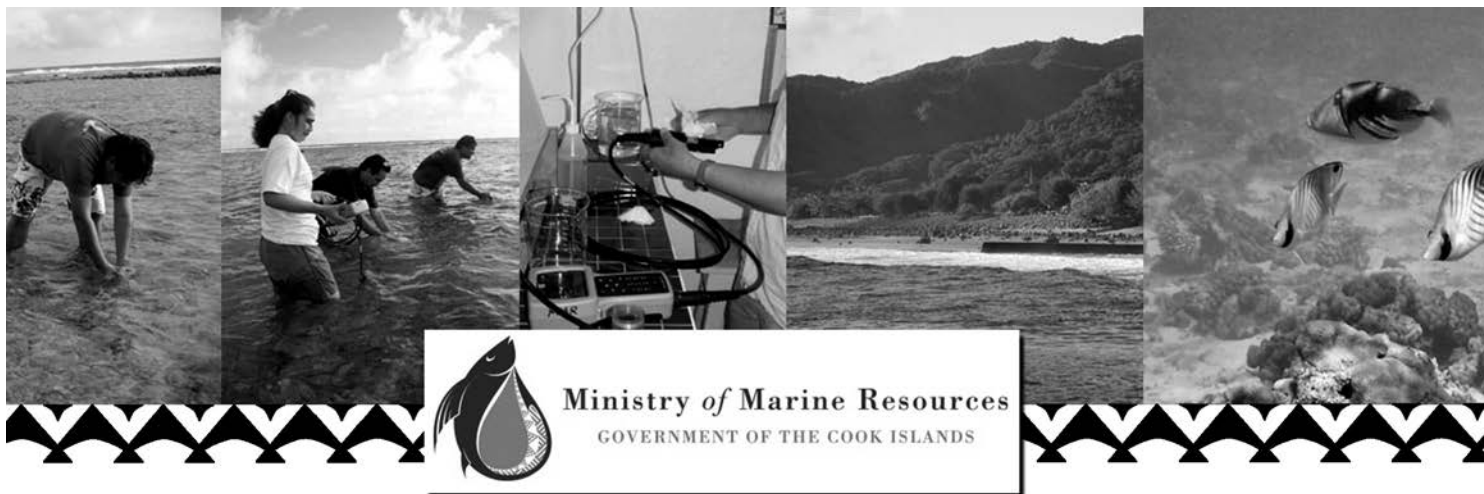
To start your career in the Marine Industry, the minimum requirements are passes in: NCEA Level 2 English / Maths / Science or a science related subject.

In order to protect endangered species, we need to educate people.



If you would like to be in a work placement during school holidays to experience what we are all about, please feel free to contact our Office:

Contact Person: Rebekah Daniel
Telephone No. 28721
Email: r.daniel@mmr.gov.ck



‘EPETOMA MĀORI : “Nōku rai tōku Purotu”

I te Paraparau rā 18 o Tiurai, kua rave`ia te tu`anga openga o te `Epetoma Māori na roto i te ta`u-umu a te au `āpi`i i te māmaiāta pōpongi. Kua `akano`o katoa `ia tēia rā e rā māketē no te `oko`oko atu i tā rātou au apinga i akate`ate`amamao mai i roto i tā rātou au `āpi`i `ē pērā katoa i tā rātou kai i ta`u.

I tērā rā katoa kua rave`ia na mua te tārērē`anga `īmene `akatangi (Stringband) tei `akanoo`ia ki runga rāi i te tāpura o te `epetoma. Kua `īmene mai te au `āpi`i i tēta`i `īmene-tāmataora `ē oti ko tā rātou `īmene `atu. Mataora tikāi tā rātou `akano`ono`o i tā rātou au `īmene `ē te `īmene`anga katoa.

I muri ake i teia, kua rave`ia te `oko`oko`anga i vao i te `Are Karioi Nui `ē i reira kua `oki atu te kātōatoa ki roto no te `ōronga`angā rē. Ko te au turuturu (sponsors) no te tārērē-kōrero ko te BCI – Mataiti 9, Teaching & Learning – M.10, Westpack – M11, ANZ – M 12, In Remembrance of Colin Munokoa – M13.

Tārērē Kōrero `ōronga`anga-rē: M9 – 1-Tereora, 2-Nukuroa, 3-Papaaroa, M10 - 1-Mauke, 2- Nukuroa, 3- Tereora, M11 – 1-Mauke, 2-Nukuroa, 3-Tereora, M12 – 1-Mangaia, 2-Araura, 3-Tereora, M13 – 1-Araura. 2-Tereora.

Stringband: 1- Mauke, 2- Tereora, 3- Araura,

Apaiapai Rongo `Enua: (turuturu`ia `e Ck Is Printing) 1-Mitiaro, 2-Mauke, 3-Tereora

Kua akaoti`ia te `Epetoma Māori na roto i te ve`eve`e-aro`a mei ko mai `iā Sonny William te Tēkereterē o te Tauranga Vānanga i te ui`anga ē “Noku rai tōku purotu....?” Kua pa`u mai tō Mangaia, “...no roto mai i te ko`ina o te rā”, tō Papa`āroa, “...no roto mai i te papa-roa o te Atua”, tō Tereora, “no roto mai i te one-kura”, tō Mauke, “no roto mai i te nivaniva o te rā”, tō Nukuroa, “no roto mai i te verovero o te rā”, `ē tō Araura, “no roto mai i te kutikuti o te rangi”. Kua `akakite katoa a Sonny William, “Me mate tēta`i Reo (o tēta`i `iti-tangata) ka ngaro pouroa tōna kite, mārama `ē te pakari”

Te `o`ora mai nei a Ina Herman, ē te irinaki nei `aia e kua rauka i te kātōatoa i te `iki`iki mai, kimikimi i tētai au mārama, kite no te `ākono`anga, `ē kia riro tā te pā`enua i te `akamāro`iro`i `iā tātou i tō tātou Reo. Nōku rāi tōku Purotu ...!!

Au tūtū na Rutera Taripo



RA O TE UI ARIKI: Tēta`i au Tūtū

na Ruterā Taripo

Tei rave`ia i te Varaire 5 Tiurai 13, ki te Vaka o Takitumu ki runga i te paepae ō Pa ma Kainuku o Ngāti Tangi`ia i Avana – i te Tikitiki-Enua-i-Autapu-Nui, Avana Nui.



Wanted

A unique Cook Islands logo for the Cook Islands Marine Park

Here's your chance to **design a unique logo for our Cook Islands Marine Park**. The competition is open to everyone resident in the Cook Islands and to all Cook Islanders living elsewhere.

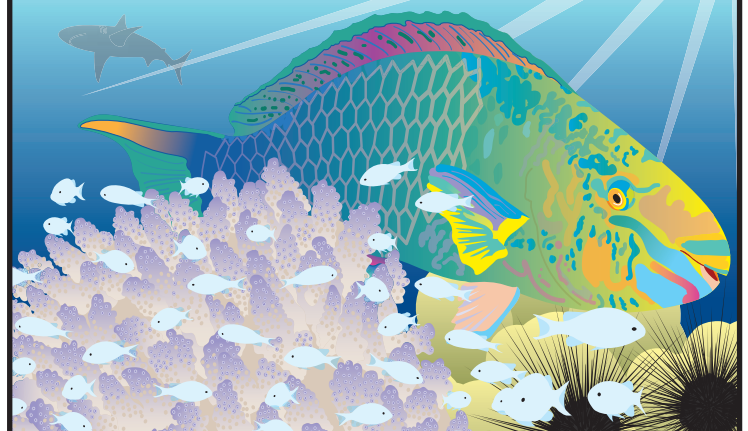
Time is tight! Entries need to be received by
5pm Friday 16th August.

The winning logo will be used extensively on products, printed material, clothing, media releases, websites, pretty much everything associated with the Cook Islands Marine Park. So, the design needs to be easily applied to fabric, paper, and on-line. Apart from that requirement, your "Cook Islands Marine Park ocean canvas" is wide open!

The designer of the winning logo will receive NZ\$500.

Entries, in a high resolution format and containing a descriptor, need to include a contact name, address and phone number and can be hand delivered, emailed, or posted (or 2 of the 3) to:

Communications Coordinator, Cook Islands Marine Park,
PO Box 649, Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands; TIS Office
(half way between Tamarind House and the Fishing Club);
email Jaewynn@wovencommunications.com; any queries
to Jaewynn McKay on phone 21 144; cell 55 486;
or to the above email address.



How to achieve what you intend to do *Part 1*

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

In life nobody wants to "fail". Everybody wants to be an achiever. God wants His people to be "Super-Achievers". In the Bible is the story of Nehemiah, an ordinary person who trusted God, who managed to achieve a major task in such a short period of time. The walls and the gates of the city of Jerusalem were destroyed and there was no protection and security for the people and Nehemiah's task was to organise the rebuilding of the walls and the gates. The original construction took many years, yet the rebuilding took only 52 days. The question is "How did Nehemiah manage to achieve this?" In the Book of Nehemiah 6v.1-19 are three lessons to learn from on How To Achieve What You Intend To Do.

Lesson 1 is in v.1-4 "KEEP WORKING IN SPITE OF DISTRACTIONS". Certain people wanted Nehemiah to leave his work so that they could 'get together and have a talk'. There's nothing wrong with coming together to have a discussion. But Nehemiah's reply in v.3 (GN) was "I am doing important work and can't go down there. I am not going to let the work stop just to go and see you." I'm sure you have some experiences of this kind, where you're trying to finish some great project or work that you and your friends or workers have been doing, and all of a sudden someone or group of individuals come and try distracting you. Whenever you're doing something good for God, or even to benefit others and yourself, there will always be people trying to "distract", to "interfere" with what you're doing.

In this story are two men who tried to distract Nehemiah - Sanballat and Tobiah. Sanballat means "enemy in secret" and Tobiah means "cunning fox". There will always be Sanballats and Tobiahs around distracting and interfering people who are doing good works for God or even doing things to benefit others. Even in the Cook Islands there are Sanballats and Tobiahs around. There is a Leadership Law that says "The main thing is to keep the main thing 'the main

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

thing"

Lesson 2 is found in v.5-9 "YOU KEEP WORKING IN SPITE OF DEFAMATION" [false accusation; insult; abuse; rudeness] Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem were trying to discredit and discourage Nehemiah and to spread rumours that Nehemiah was building an empire to become a king and rebel against the king of Persia. They questioned Nehemiah's motive. They even sent Nehemiah an unsealed letter - like a letter to the Editor. They wanted everyone to read it. It was intended to stir rumours. Anybody who sets "big goals" is going to be criticized by people who set no goals! Failures hate Successes. The most falsely accused man in history is Jesus Christ. Jesus said "God will bless you when people insult you, mistreat you, and tell all kinds of evil lies about you because of me. Be happy and excited! You will have a great reward in heaven." [Matthew 5v.11-12(a) CEV].

Sanballat, Tobiah and the others were saying bad things about Nehemiah, and in v.9 Nehemiah discerned their motive. He said "I know what you guys are doing. You're trying to make me upset so that I'll stop working and defend myself!" Nehemiah said "I'm not going to be caught in that trap. I'm not going to start responding to rumours. I'm not going to be discouraged and quit!" Probably the most difficult thing for us to do is to handle false accusations which will cause you to want to give up! To quit! But Nehemiah said "I'm not going to do that!" He denied the accusations and he prayed "O God, strengthen my hands!" (v.9[b])

There will be things that will distract us, either we spend our time fighting criticism, or stay focused on the work we set out to do! Remember that TOUGH TIMES DON'T LAST BUT TOUGH PEOPLE DO! I will cover the third point (Lesson 3 [Part 2]) in the next issue of the Cook Islands Herald.

May you have a God blessed week.



APPRECIATION NOTICE

TUATUA AKAMEITAKIANGA NO TE TUMATETENGA O TE VAINE MOE-ROA KI O TAPUTAPUATEA (TEI MATAU-IA E KO AUNTY MOE PIRAKE)

Te rauka nei iaaku, toku akaperepere, ta maua anau, e te kopu-tangata i te akameitaki i te katoatoa rava no ta kotou au tauturu, te moni, te kai, te au ruru tiare, e te au tuatua akapumaana e te akamaroiroi, ia matou i to matou tumatetenga i te takakeanga ta matou tamaine ko Te Vaine Moeroa ki o Taputapuata, ta kotou i matau i te kapiki e ko Aunty Moe. Meitaki maata no to kotou tu aroa e te tauturu.

Akameitakianga takake ki te Ekalesia Raitu e te Orometua Hosea Hosea, te Ekalesia CICC o Ruatonga te Pu Tapere e Nga Diakono pera katoa te Orometua William Cuthers. Ki te Orometua Ngatokorua Patia meitaki maata e tama. Kia Vakatini Ariki e te Ekalesia CICC o Maraerenga e Nga Diakono e te taokotaiana tarekareka o Tupapa e Maraerenga meitaki maata. Ki te Orometua Tereora e te Ekalesia CICC e te Uipaanga Diakono o Ngatangia e te taokotaiana tarekareka e te iti-mapu o Ngatangia meitaki maata kia kotou katoatoa. Ki te uanga Rennie o Ngatangia e pera katoa a Papa Kau e Mama Eva Mapu meitaki maata kia kotou katoatoa. Ki te tamaine ia Tavariki Cowan-George meitaki maata e maine no taau tauturu. Ki nga tamariki ia Andy e Flora Rauru e te metua tane Anautoa Rangatira (Teariki Rauru) e te Ekalesia Katurika o Avarua meitaki maata no ta kotou tauturu. Te nako nei te Ebera 6:10 "Kare te Atua i te Atua tuatua tika-kore, ka akangaro atu ei aia i ta kotou angaanga i rave, e to kotou anoano i tona ingoa i akakite puia e kotou na, ko kotou i matuapuru i te aronga tapu, e te matuapuru ua ra oki kotou." Hebrews 6v.10 (NIV) "God is not unjust, he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them." Te Atua te aroa no tatou katoatoa.

Teia tuatua akameitakianga na Papa Manoa Pirake (Morea Mataiapo), te akaperepere, te anau, e te kopu tangata.

The big 60!

By Norma Ngatamariki

Hello, my dear readers! Hope the gloomy weather isn't getting you down (like it is with me). Anyway, rain or shine, some people still have reason to celebrate. Take my dad, for instance. He just turned sixty (a fact that he's very proud of) and wanted to throw a party. I'm talking about the real island-style kind of partying, where there is unlimited amounts of food, booze and, not to mention people! He wasn't expecting a large turnout, but I think Dad probably invited half of Rarotonga to his birthday.

Preparing for these kind of things is not an easy task. It can be stressful, to the point where you just want to sit down and sob (either because you think there's not enough food to go around, the house is still in a messy state etc. Or you're just plain tired)

Trust me, that's just the norm. If you want to do a kaikai in Raro, you better be prepared for it, both mentally and physically (Oh, and a full wallet would be helpful). The day before the 'Big Day', I could already feel the tension coming off my mum. She's usually like that when we do a massive spring clean in our house. Cleaning our home seems like mission impossible, but someone has to do it. So, mum dusted off the vacuum cleaner, I grabbed the Jiff and away we went. Cool thing about cleaning your house is that you find a lot of missing stuff. Finally, we had a house that was presentable to our guests.

I thought that I could rest easy, now that the cleaning was out of the way. I couldn't be more wrong. The worst was yet to come. I didn't realise what a hassle food shopping could be,

especially when you're trying for thirty odd people. Dad handed my mum \$400 (in straight cash) as if it were nothing (And I was thinking to myself, we could've put that money to better use, like putting a deposit for my new bike but...) I wasn't too pleased that I had to wake up early on a Saturday, but if I didn't, Mum would've dragged me out of bed and plopped me on the bike anyway. We went rushing downtown to buy the necessary ingredients for the umu (Dad's chosen method of cooking). Within half an hour, \$400 was gone. Scary stuff. Plus, I was working that day, so resting up wasn't an option (Blah!). When work was over, I just wanted to go home and eat the food that my mum and I worked so hard to prepare. Got there, and what do you know? There wasn't even space to park my bike! Great. I

just hoped that the food hadn't been demolished yet.

The unexpected, but pleasant arrival of my friend put me at ease. I had someone to talk to that wasn't over the age of 50. I had made plans with a favourite aunty, but it didn't go through (Thanks anyway, Aunty Ema! Maybe another time). A lovely, brief speech was made by my uncle (you may know him as the Mayor of O'oa) and then it was time...to eat! Aunty Kat brought along this superb upside down cake, Aunty Ina came with her fabulous fruit custard and Aunty Ema had this beauty of a chocolate cake (notice how all the women make the effort?) I ate my fill. And, even though it was cold and windy, it didn't dampen their spirits as they drank the night away. Happy 60th Birthday, Dad! Enjoy it... while it lasts.

Then and now

By Hareta Tiraa Passfield

Wow, this weather sucks so bad. I have spent the whole week in long pants and hoodies. It's just been so cold, to make it worse I'm getting sick and holidays are coming up. What kind of timing is that? But I am super excited for the holidays! My parents are sending me to New Zealand and I am now counting down the hours! I can't wait to be there. I plan on shopping and shopping till I drop!

Back to the topic I am actually writing about, which is teenagers then and now. Sex, drugs, money, rebellion. All of these are the things that the usual teenager copes with. And if you think about it, how were they able to deal with such things?

Seriously speaking, there is a huge difference between the teenagers now and then. From their language to fashion and even to the way they think. I am not sure if technology is the thing that should take the blame, but one thing is for sure: it has affected us all as teenagers

When I was a kid I always used to be outside playing tag or kicking a ball around but now when I look around most kids now, they are in their homes playing on their x-box or watching movies. I'm kind of being a hypocrite because I'm always watching TV and on Facebook but when I was a younger kid I was never inside!

And if you would look at the programs on television, they all end up with one theme: lust.

Lust for love, money and power. You can see teenagers having their crushes which is in fact normal, but their actions are too, well, immature. It is crazy.

Early pregnancy, drug addiction, these are the results of these programs and technology that shaped the minds of the new generation of teenagers. Sadly, it molded them in a wrong way. How I wish they could know how happy you can be as a teenager.

I'm sure you have all had the speech from your parents that usually starts along the lines of "back in my day" and then it continues and usually ends with your parents expecting you to learn something life changing from the story but I think that we really should

listen to these stories because they have been through it all and we can actually learn a lot from them. I know none of you want to listen to them and you all probably think the same way I do "If they really want me to learn a lesson then they should let me do it, and learn by my mistakes" but all they are trying to do is look after you because they love you and they don't want anything to hurt you.

My message to the teenagers of today: think not only once or twice but many times. Teenage life is the best of all and I am experiencing it right now and I am very happy with it. Don't waste it. It is a treasure. You don't appreciate what you are experiencing right now, but later, you will miss it!

You can make a difference! Do Your Part



got water?
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2013
International Year of
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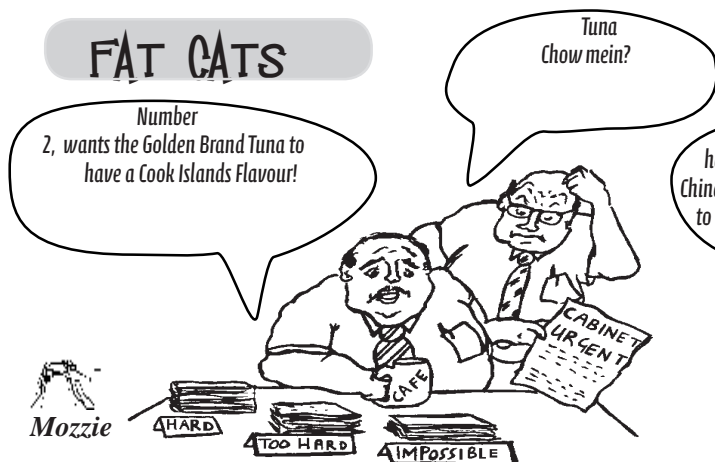
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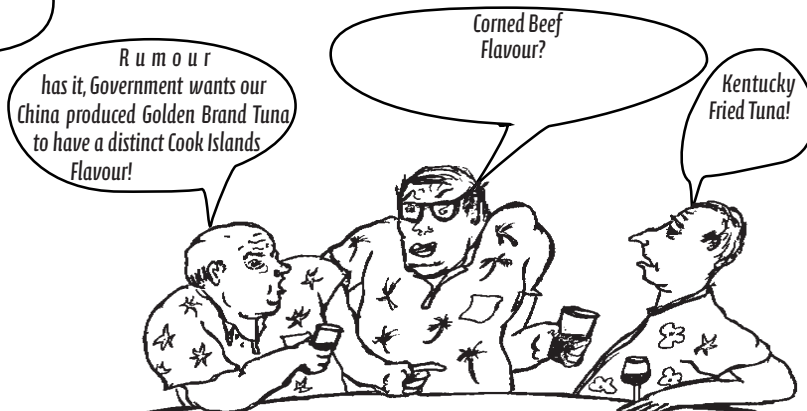
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MINISTRY OF
INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Heard the story of the burglary gone wrong? An under paid foreign worker supporting his income by moonlighting breaks into a house only to stumble upon the very high profile man of the house on the bed totally naked with another totally naked woman also well known who wasn't the naked man's wife. The surprised occupant demands the intruder leave or he'll call the police to which the intruder replies if that's so he'll tell everyone what he has seen then quickly leaves. The naked man can't tell one foreign worker from another because they all seem to look the same. The intruder can't keep a secret and tells all his work mates the next day much to the annoyance of one worker who is closely related to the absent wife of the naked man.

Chooks, which agency of the State has had five of its staff pack their bags and leave? Here's a clue, chooks, Name begins with an "A" and ends with a "T."

One of Tom Tom's first official duties as QR, will be to decide what present to send to Kensington Palace for the new Prince! One suggestion is that it be a set of re-usable nappies featuring designs by TAV. This would guarantee an explosion in sales of re-usable, designer nappies which can

CHOOKS CORNER

WITH BIG RED



only benefit the environment!

Amid all the hoohah over sustainable fishing and TIS voicing the Marine Park's concerns, has anyone asked, where Marine Park founder Kevin Iro is while all this banter is going on? Remember Kev? He's the one in the promos strolling along the white sandy beach with PM Puna!

Local BCI on Mitiaro was been broken into last week by 2 youths, apparently New Zealand born Cook Islanders sent there to live. On a small island in the middle of nowhere, how did these two think they were going to get away with it? Rarotonga Police flew to Mitiaro to find out more.

Our PM has a new name, no not "Luke Skywalker" from Star Wars but "Henry Skycrosser." Skycrosser because after visiting New Caledonia, Henry was due to visit the Solomons.

Instead of treading water in New Caledonia then flying from there to the Solomons, Henry flew all the way back to Kiwiland to get on board a Kiwiland airforce plane with Jonty Key, fly over to Fiji then all the way back west to the Solomons! Talk about crossing the sky!

Who was the brain who contemplated getting a couple of elephants to stop over on their way to Kiwiland? Why didn't the Minister for Agriculture put his hoof down and kill the idea? Was any thought given to the mountain of dung both elephants would exude over three months? Just imagine two giant beasts, chased by 1,000 dogs, stampeding down main-street wrecking CITC, the Police Station, Foodland, Jet Save, Vonnias, the Cathedral, the Opposition Office then the Market, before leaping off Avatiu wharf and swimming home!

Tom Tom will soon be appointed QR

elect but his shoulder will not be tapped until the Kiwi Land GG-Governor General arrives in September to make Tom Tom's appointment fully legit in the eyes of Queen and country! In the interim, it is expected the CJ-Chief Justice Tom Tom Western will fill the bill. At least one Ambassador has now had to reschedule his trip to the Cooks to present his credentials!

Will the Puk Puks get a new generator for their sports stadium come hurricane shelter, that runs on coconut oil or will it require diesel? After a hurricane a lot of coconuts hit the ground and could be used for making bio-fuel to run the generator! Go green Pukapuka!

Whisper chooks is that Mangaia will become a quarantine station for elephants destined for overseas zoos. A special UN Wildlife Committee has selected Mangaia as its new harbour is ideal for elephants to swim ashore and trot up the ramp. Elephants may also assist in hauling pine trees when foresters begin logging!

Cook Islands
HERALD
PMG
PITT MEDIA GROUP

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TENDERS



Te Aponga Uira

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
FOR: TAU FUEL FACILITY UPGRADE PROJECT**

Te Aponga Uira (TAU) is inviting suitably qualified companies or joint venture companies to submit a bid to complete supply, refurbish, and construct its Fuel facility Upgrade project at Avatiu Valley Power Station, on Rarotonga.

To initiate progress towards the completion of this assignment, TAU has developed a Request for Proposals Documents and Terms of Reference (TOR) for the associated tasks and now invites interested companies to submit their proposal for this assignment.

There will be a project briefing at TAU conference room, Tutakimoa Admin office, at 10am, 22 July 2013. Companies wishing to tender are asked to attend. Tender Documents can be requested and or uplifted from the following contact details:

TAU Project Manager
Te Aponga Uira, Rarotonga, Cook Islands
Fax: (682) 21-944
Tel: (682) 20-054 Extn 835
Email: alex.napa@electricity.co.ck

The proposed timeframes for the bidding process are:

Deadline for submission of questions:

12 noon Mon 29th July 2013

Deadline for submission of Proposals:

12 noon Fri 2nd Aug 2013

Notification to preferred Contractor:

From the week 5th Aug 2013

Contract and budget negotiations:

From the week 5th Aug 2013

VACANCY



**CROWN LAW OFFICE COOK ISLANDS
COMMERCIAL/CIVIL LAWYER**

The Crown Law Office, Rarotonga is seeking to employ a Crown Counsel with 3-6 years PQE in Commercial/Civil Law.

The work is varied, across a diverse range of issues including general contract/commercial insurance and employment.

You must have the ability to negotiate and draft commercial contract and advise on a broad range of legal issues of commercial/civil significance.

This is an opportunity to provide legal support to Government that is complex and challenging with plenty of potential through strengthening internal and external relationships.

Expressions of interest together with a full CV are to be provided by Friday 9 August 2013 to Dorothy Ivaiti, Crown Law Office in an envelope marked "Counsel Vacancy", P O Box 494, Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands or by email to dorothea.ivaiti@cookislands.gov.ck

PUBLIC NOTICE



**PUBLIC NOTICE
BREAST SCREENING PROGRAM**

The Ministry of Health in Association with Cook Islands Breast Cancer Foundation would like to advise the next Mammography Screening Program will be held from Monday 29th July to Friday 9th of August 2013 at Rarotonga Hospital.

Criteria:

1. If you are 40 yrs and over and have not had a Breast Screen before, please contact Hospital Receptionist for an appointment Ph: 22664
2. If you are under 40 yrs and experiencing breast pain and complications, please contact Dr May for an appointment. Ph: 22664 ext 813
3. If you were seen in 2011 and advised for a 2 yearly screening and had not been contacted by any Rarotonga Hospital staff, please contact Hospital Receptionist for an appointment. Ph: 22 664

Meitaki maata

**TUATUA AKAKITE.
POROKARAMU NOTE IO ATU ITE U OTE VAINA**

Ka rave te Marae Ora ete Putuputuanga Breast Cancer i tetai porokaramu note akara anga i te u o te au mama, a teia epetoma ki mua, akamata ite Monite ra 29 o Tiurai, e tae uatu kite Varaire ra 9 o Aukute mataiti 2013 kite Aremaki, Rarotonga.

Akanooanga:

1. Me kua tae toou mataiti kite a ngauru tere atu (40 years plus) ta niuniu atu i te are maki numero 22664 no tetai taime (appointment) noou.
2. Kotou i raro ake i te a ngauru mataiti me te kite nei koe i te tukeke i toou u mama, e ta niuniu atu ia Dr May 22664 ext 813 no tetai au akamarama anga
3. Ka anoano ia kotou tei akara ia ite mataiti 2011 kia akara ia akaou i teia mataiti nei, no reira me kare e koe i ta niuniu iake e te are maki patiangia kia ta niuniu mai koe no tetai taime (appointment) noou.

Meitaki Maata

VACANCY



Business Trade Investment Board
Cook Islands

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

The Business Trade Investment Board (BTIB) has a senior position open for a Business Development Officer. The ideal applicant must be hard working with a tertiary qualification in a relevant field, outstanding communication skills ideal for teaching and training with an ability to network with a broad cross section of people is. A background/experience in business appraisal and lending is a must. Job descriptions are available from the BTIB office. Written applications with a current CV may be sent in confidence to:

Finance and Administration Manager, BTIB private Bag, Rarotonga or email sarah.samuel@btib.gov.ck
Applications close 4.00pm Friday 2nd August 2013

VACANCY



**MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING
WATER, WASTE & SANITATION UNIT**

The Government of the Cook Islands (CI Gov) is embarking on a multimillion dollar upgrade of the water supply system on Rarotonga, with the goal of "delivering potable water, reliably, to the boundaries of properties connected to the existing water supply network, by 2015".

In order to achieve its target, the CI Gov has formed 'Te Mato Vai' – the Cook Islands Water Partnership – with the governments of the People's Republic of China and New Zealand.

Funding for the water supply upgrade will be provided through a combination of Cook Islands budget funding, a Chinese government loan and grant assistance from New Zealand.

The upgrade to be carried out on Rarotonga, will involve rehabilitation of 12 water intakes, creation of additional storage capacity, construction of treatment plants and replacement of all trunk mains, ring mains and local distribution to the boundaries of all properties served by the current network.

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning (MOIP) in partnership with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) invites applications for the posts of 'Te Mato Vai' Communications Team Leader in its Water, Waste and Sanitation (WATSAN) Unit.

WATSAN seeks applications from appropriately qualified and experienced individuals or firms, to provide leadership of the Communications Work stream for 'Te Mato Vai'. The Communications Team Leader will be appointed on a contract basis, for an initial period of one year, with the possibility of extension to the full duration of 'Te Mato Vai'.

This is an exciting opportunity to work with a new team, tasked with making improvements in water infrastructure, policy and practice that will contribute to the supply of reliable potable water to the boundaries of all properties on Rarotonga.

Te Mato Vai Communications Team Leader

Communication with our stakeholders is a critical component in

the successful delivery of the Te Mato Vai project. This includes working with schools awareness programmes; writing press releases and news columns; managing social media; working with event's organisers; overseeing the design and production of collateral; co ordinating community information events and preparing briefing documents for senior politicians.

To lead these activities, we are seeking an experienced Communications Team Leader who has the energy, expertise and skills to implement a comprehensive communications strategy across a wide ranging programme of work, throughout Rarotonga.

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a track record of successful delivery of communications in multi faceted programmes of work.

For this position an interest in or understanding of the water sector and environment

would be a distinct advantage. Above all, the successful candidate must be passionate about making a difference to the long term well being of the Cook Islands.

If you would like to apply for this position, please submit a letter of application with a current CV to:

Tekao Herrmann

Acting WATSAN Manager

Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning PO Box 102, Rarotonga

A copy of the TOR can be emailed to you upon request.

The 'Te Mato Vai' Communications Strategy to be implemented by the Communications Team Leader is in place, and available for interested applicants.

The closing date for applications is Friday, 2 August 2013.

For more information please contact Tangi Taoro by phone on 20 321 or by email at

t.taoro@moip.gov.ck



**SENIOR INSPECTOR – EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS
LABOUR/ WORKERS COMPENSATION/
EMPLOYERS LIABILITY**

The Ministry of Internal Affairs has a vacancy for the position of Senior Inspector – Employment Relations within the Labour & Employment Relations Office.

If you are interested in the position, a full job description and information pack is available upon request. Please contact Eva Mapu, phone 29370 or email admin@intaff.gov.ck

Applications must be addressed to the Secretary of the Ministry. Applications close 1 August 2013 at 4pm.



**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 otheniel@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

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