

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

7 August 2013

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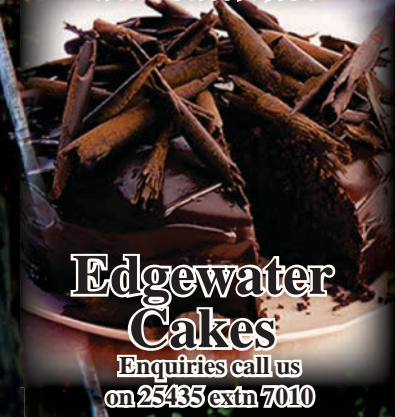
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Chinatown comes to central Avarua

Hotel Shanghai relocated



Prime Real Estate in Central Avarua to be developed into a village for imported Chinese workers.

The arrival of up to 70 Chinese construction workers coming to Rarotonga for the island's \$60 million infrastructure up grade has been deferred to October. Expected to arrive in July the Chinese contractors have been delayed by so called 'greedy' land lords.

Finance Secretary Richard Neves description of the Taripo family as being greedy over the rent of their Arorangi building (The former Ministry of Works premises) has pushed his aid managers to opt for alternative premises. When it comes to locals Neves has no tolerance for them benefiting. Rather than negotiate a mutually agreeable lease, the local family now tagged as greedy will be left without the windfall

and tenant they expected for two years.

An additional concern that provoked the move was the swell of an anti Chinese presence in the Arorangi community. With one jail in the area the thought of convicted Chinese criminals being among the workers was off putting. The afterhours wanderings and food gathering activities of Chinese workers from past constructions also was a worry among Arorangi residents.

The new location for Chinatown's Hotel Shanghai will be the former Raro juice processing buildings. Now demolished of buildings, the cleared site will be created into a purpose built village for the imported contractors.

Plans for the site are as usual being kept under lock and key

as is normal with any Chinese related aid project. An area will be set aside for recreational purposes which will include a basketball/tennis court and a volley ball court.

Prefabricated buildings will be constructed in China then shipped to Rarotonga in kit set form then assembled here by the Chinese contractors. The Cook Islands Government will pay for the cost of the buildings but the Chinese will fund the electrical components. The collection of accommodation and office buildings will be portable allowing for removal.

Once the infrastructure project is completed the buildings will be left intact and handed to the government's Cook Islands Investment Corporation to administer.

Avarua residents can look forward to rubbing shoulders with the Chinese workers as they wander the streets after hours to relieve their boredom and look for female companionship. As expected the Chinese workers will relish the opportunity to indulge in the vast array of seafood and fish in the lagoon and on the reef.

Maybe after the workers have returned to China the government could use the buildings to help Australia and house some asylum seekers for an agreed amount of aid or cash, apparently it is quite a lucrative industry. With Aussie wombat Richard Neves leading the negotiating team with his motherland it could be his redemptive pathway.

- By George Pitt

Police investigation of Minister a fast track approach-Norman

By Norma Ngatamariki

Atiu MP and accomplished lawyer, Norman George, has voiced his opinion on the matter in regards to Police investigating allegations of fraudulent actions against Minister for Marine Resources Hon Teina Bishop and his issuing of fourteen fishing licenses to the Chinese company, Luen Thai. "I am sorely disappointed with the way Government has dealt with this," George said. In accordance with other countries, such as Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, a Minister whose actions are being investigated is required to be stood down from all portfolios, as this prevents any disruptions during the case. "A partial standing down is not good enough," George says. Minister Bishop voluntarily stood down from the Marine Resources portfolio but retains Tourism and Education.

An issue that is of great concern to George is the fact that Bishop is present during the Cabinet's discussions concerning his case. "How can they freely discuss the issue when the subject of the matter is standing amongst them?" he says. George also states that the Police are bound to ask for the Cabinet's

assistance, in the form of funding to cover investigation costs.

George is also disheartened at Government's "inability to take proper action". George says that they are not following proper procedure in their pursuit of a "speedy resolution". One of the methods suggested was a Commission of Inquiry, which is a lengthier and time-consuming process in comparison to an ordinary Police investigation. "It is a fast track approach to get to the bottom of the issue," he says. George understands that speed and efficiency are two elements that have to be taken into consideration when conducting a thorough and proper investigation, so it comes as no surprise to him.

On the matter of whether the Chinese company would co-operate with the investigation, George said he hoped they would. He said NZ Police had personnel who could assist with language and NZ Police also had overseas connections with the likes of Interpol.

Seeing as George speaks from experience, as he has been investigated in previous years but proven innocent, he would like to see that the same opportunities be presented for Teina bishop as they were for him.



Norman George

Media Release

The Prime Minister Henry Puna has agreed to accept a decision by Minister Teina Bishop to relinquish the Marine Resources and Cook Islands Pearl Authority portfolios while a complaint against the Minister is investigated.

A complaint against Minister Bishop alleging fraudulent practices had been received by the Police last week, and subsequently by Crown Law Office.

On Friday, the Minister volunteered to hand back the portfolio responsibilities to the Prime Minister while that process was being undertaken.

The Prime Minister agreed to accept Bishop's decision to allow distance between the Minister

and the allegations. The PM will retain the responsibility for Marine Resources, and the CI Pearl Authority.

The Prime Minister praised Bishop for his action calling it "courageous, honourable, and totally proper". It also represents the Minister's commitment to due process and maintaining the integrity of his position, he said.

The Prime Minister said he will not get involved in the police investigation and is fully supportive of the necessary process being completed as soon as possible. He is confident the Minister will fulfil his duties in other areas of responsibility while the investigation is completed.



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Harbour development needs commercialising

US\$95,000 per month needed from 2017 to repay loan

The visual ascetic of the redeveloped Avatiu Harbour is impressive but is nothing but fiscal window dressing if it's not going to pay for itself. Borrowing and spending the money is the easy part but paying it all back is a challenge the current Ports Authority Board are now burdened with. After basking in the glory of a grand opening how many of the Board will still be there in 2017 when the loan's grace period ends and the Ports Authority has to front up with US\$95,000 a month to service the loan?

Already the Chairman Mike Henry has jumped ship for a lucrative Directorship on the Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC). Highly critical of the current design is former Ports Authority Chairman Sam Crocombe who explains the port wasn't developed with an economic vision in mind. "The new development is just a polished up replica of the former port, its commercial expansion and attractiveness is limited if not zero. What new business can the port engage to service the \$23 million loan?" Where is the \$US95,000 a month going to come from asked Crocombe.

Crocombe had observed and consulted with Ports Authorities overseas including New Zealand, Samoa, Fiji and Tahiti. Crocombe said the Tahitian model impressed him the most for commercial ideas that could have been incorporated into the Avatiu harbour development. Before Crocombe could inject some of these concepts into the design he was controversially sacked from the Board.

With the \$60 million Rarotonga infrastructure upgrade soon to commence the question of how will those loans be serviced has yet to be revealed to the public. Finance Ministry's Secretary

Richard Neves has indicated without specifics or clarity that the infrastructure loan will be serviced by a user pay system but critics claim that will take a costly bureaucracy to administer.

A public critic of Government's readiness to borrow the biggest loan ever, former Cook Islands Party Secretary Temu Okotai predicts the compounding debts the country is engaging will lead to economic hardships in the near future. Okotai maintains our shrinking revenues and the side effects of depopulation call for prudent economic policies rather than the pursuit of big spending.

"We are blind to the necessity to live within our means," said Okotai. "There is an economic penalty of self inflicted suffering to endure as retribution in due course."

Okotai says he's fully supportive of the desired outcome of the upgrade to deliver drinking water to the household. "Along with others my concern is the method of the process. I believe a more cost effective method would be appropriate and the upgrade carried out systematically over a five year period without breaking the bank.

The \$1 million a year subsidy for water tanks for three years could have been designated to selective upgrading of the infrastructure said Okotai.

Okotai claims Neves cost recovery proposal of user pay for metered water is ill conceived and will be resistant by a public who have never paid for water. Additionally Neves hasn't considered the ramifications of charging for water from the landowner's perspective.

For the biggest and most expensive undertaking ever by the country the whole project was shrouded in secrecy and lacking in wide community



Sam Crocombe says harbour lacks commercial vision. consultation claims Okotai. His worry says Okotai is the fiscal risk will compromise the country's financial stability. "Lottery type borrowing simply isn't good economic management, it will eventually paralyse the economy," predicts Okotai, "Is it too much to ask for the specifics of how we, the public are going to pay these loans off?"

CIIC Chairman Julian Dashwood said the land at the Avatiu wharf had been leased to the Ports Authority and it was their responsibility to commercialise the facility.

Minister responsible, Mark Brown is faced with the task of appointing a new Chairman who can drive the commercial opportunities of the port in order to ensure the loan servicing was self sustaining. Brown said he didn't want to see the Board raise fees that would be passed on to consumers but challenged the Board to be innovative and

explore new money ventures that can be incorporated into a comprehensive business plan that was realistic and achievable.

Still passionate about the Avatiu Harbour development Crocombe recommended before the Board built any more structures on the land a detailed site development plan needed to be undertaken otherwise it will developed in bits and pieces which other regional ports said was a lesson others should learn from.

"Once the Board have some idea what should or could be built on the Port's site experienced property developers like Tim Tepaki and Eden Hall should be engaged because they know how to make every square meter bring a return or be productive, the limited space for commercialisation shouldn't be left with dead spots," recommended Crocombe.

- by George Pitt

Heather for Deputy says Tavioni



Teariki Heather



Mike Tavioni

Master carver and author Mike Tavioni doesn't mince his words when he assertively advocates MOIP Minister Hon Teariki Heather as his unwavering choice to succeed Tom Marsters as the next Deputy Prime Minister. A long time pro local activist Tavioni says Heather like himself is an uncompromising Cook Islanders first practitioner.

With Cook Islanders emigrating those remaining are beginning to feel the changing demographics pushing them into the background. Expats are being preferred by some Ministers over and above locals for senior government jobs.

"Both Teina Bishop and Mark Brown have a preference for expats in their Ministries," said Tavioni. "I am not a racist but in our own country we should never chose a foreigner over a local resident."

Tavioni said there were thousands of Cook Islanders living overseas and the government should make a greater effort in identifying qualified and skilled Cook Islanders who could be approached and offered key and senior employment positions.

Teariki Heather is a strong supporter of employing Cook Islanders and that's the kind of leadership the country needs right now stressed Tavioni. "Heather even goes into debt to ensure local workers and their families have food on their table, he puts people first before the tax man."

You don't see Heather frequenting places like Trader Jacks and the posh eating places mixing with the expats. Heather cooks a big kaikai for his workers and spends his time with them. That's the leader we need, one who isn't high and mighty but is able to mix with the little people. Teariki has never turned away

from those who are at the bottom.

How often do you hear Heather make a public speech in English? He loves our culture and the Cook Islands language. Heather can be tough but he has a soft heart to our people Tavioni claims. "We need leaders who are passionate and love our people that's why I believe Teariki will make an excellent Deputy to bring a balance for the Prime Minister."

Some say to me when a Cook Islander gets a top job they muck it up so it's better to give the job to a foreigner. I strongly disagree with that. If we are going to put Cook Islanders first we simply give the position to another Cook Islander.

"I was so pleased when Sholan was made the Secretary of Finance but just because of the TOA scandal he is replaced with an expat. Another Cook Islander should have been given the

opportunity."

Teariki is the sort of Leader who will persevere with a Cook Islander and not discount the others because one of us made a mistake. There was a time a Cook Islander couldn't be trusted to be the Police Commissioner but we have to persist till we get it right. Other countries don't replace their own with someone who isn't they reemploy another of their own kind.

Our political leaders mustn't lose confidence in our own people, every race or nationality of people makes mistakes so regardless of how many times our people fail we have to pick them up, forgive them, then give as many chances to come right and to never be anything less than first.

"I chose Teariki Heather because he puts Cook Islanders first," stated Tavioni.

- By George Pitt

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Our Cover Girl



Our front page girl this week Herald Issue 678 is Tiana. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald

Improving business

By Te Riu Woonton

To kick off Rarotonga Business Week, three Business Training Workshops jointly funded by BTIB, the Rotary Clubs of Rarotonga, Wendouree, Victoria, AUSTRALIA and Cann Business Enterprises are being carried out.

The first workshop held yesterday at the Parekura Conference Centre next to CITV, was on Website designing and saw 12 participants learn and discuss the basics of webpage design, domain names and webpage hosting and how to design and upload a simple website.

A second workshop, themed "Healthy soils produce healthy crops" was also held yesterday in Matavera, 6 growers attended. On Wednesday the soil field day will take place in Puaikura, expected attendance is 15 to 20 growers. The workshop focuses on understanding how good soil management leads to improved productivity, soil types and simple tools to assess them and

understanding what a soil profile is.

A third workshop is a One on One Business Mentoring, by Allan and Shirley Cann. This workshop will focus on the importance of customer service to your business.

Good administration and record keeping leads to a healthy business, a simple way of keeping a set of accounts, what is the real difference between Assets, Liabilities and Equity and where do you find them. Topics also include what are the important financial statements to a business, how to write your own Marketing Plan, the importance of being able to understand your actual costs, how to allocate all your costs to various products or services, the importance of pricing as part of your Marketing Plan and how customer relationships form part of the Marketing Plan. Mentors Allan Cann and Shirley Cann will be available by appointment "only" during working hours and to register, call BTIB on 24296



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.

Petition calls for Commission

By Charles Pitt

Local businessman Tata Crocombe has started a petition to government to establish an independent Commission against corruption by Christmas this year.

In a letter to Prime Minister Henry Puna, Crocombe says the Cook Islands is a signatory to

the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. However, Transparency International has identified that there is no credible anti-corruption agency in the Cook Islands. Long standing allegations of corruption are neither investigated nor acted upon. Corruption weakens public confidence in the very democratic

institutions established to protect and promote the people's interests. With the almost daily revelations of corruption within the Cook Islands Government whether "Colagate", "Tissuegate", the Dalvivan tax haven or fishing licences, it is imperative that an Independent Commission Against Corruption be established

in order to restore public confidence in the Cook Islands Government's integrity as well as the international reputation of the Cook Islands Government abroad.

So far over 100 people have signed the petition in support with many being Cook Islanders living in NZ and Australia.

Crocombe's response to questions

Do you consider the Commission should be made up of overseas persons like a retired Judge? This would ensure some independence from local political pressure.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS BE FREE FROM POLITICAL INTERFERENCE AND IS TRANSPARENT AND NOT A REWARD FOR A LOYAL PARTY HACK THAT IS SURE TO DO NOTHING

THERE IS A CASE TO BE MADE THAT IT SHOULD BE MADE UP IN A SIMILAR FASHION TO THE HIGH COURT AND APPEAL COURT I.E. WITH NZ JUDGES

THE ADVANTAGE OF THAT IS THAT THE COOK ISLANDS WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCESS INDEPENDENT EXPERTISE

HOWEVER, THE DISADVANTAGES ARE THAT;

1. CORRUPTION IS 90% A POLITICAL ISSUE AND 10% A LEGAL ISSUE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD AND THAT INCLUDES THE COOK ISLANDS; AND

2. THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION WOULD NEED TO ALSO HAVE A EDUCATION AND PREVENTION ROLE AS WELL AS INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION ROLE; AND

3. THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CORRUPTION IN THE COOK ISLANDS AND ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD IS ENORMOUS AND THEREFORE IT IS NOT SIMPLY A LEGAL MATTER. FIGHTING CORRUPTION EFFECTIVELY REQUIRES MORE THAN SIMPLY A LEGAL PERSPECTIVE; AND

4. IF IT IS ONLY A LEGAL ISSUE THEN EFFECTIVELY THE BULK OF THE COOK ISLANDS PEOPLE HAVE NO ACCESS TO JUSTICE BECAUSE THEY CAN NOT AFFORD THE \$2,000 A DAY PLUS TO HIRE COMPETENT LEGAL ADVICE. A

COURT CASE LIKE ONE THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR A COOK ISLANDS CITIZEN TO BRING IN THE COLAGATE AFFAIR WOULD COST HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS; AND

5. THE AUDIT OFFICE REPORT INTO THE COLAGATE AFFAIR ILLUSTRATES THAT THE UNETHICAL POSITION THAT "IF IT IS LEGAL THERE IS NOTHING WRONG". IN ANY EVENT, IN THE COLAGATE MATTER IT IS UNLIKELY THAT IF IT WERE TESTED IN COURT THAT IT WOULD BE FOUND TO BE LEGAL. THE REAL QUESTION IS WHY THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BROUGHT A PROSECUTION IN THE COLAGATE AFFAIR.

Is this to be a Commission of Inquiry with prosecution should criminal activities be uncovered?

DEFINITELY OTHERWISE IT IS ANOTHER TOOTHLESS DISFUNCTIONAL ORGANISATION THAT IS SIMPLY IGNORED. THE COOK ISLANDS HAS ENOUGH OF THOSE ALREADY.

Have you gone further to consider what terms of reference may apply?

THE GUIDELINES WOULD BE THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION IN NEW SOUTH WALES AUSTRALIA

<http://www.icac.nsw.gov.au/>

One point about setting up before Xmas is that, the PM's office has advised me yesterday, there is no provision in the Budget to pay for the costs of a Commission. Cost is also likely to be a factor but I think in the long term, it would be worth it.

GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH MONEY FOR OVERSEAS TRAVEL ON TRIPS OF QUESTIONABLE BENEFIT TO THE COOK ISLANDS PEOPLE AND ECONOMY.

IN CONTRAST, AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION COULD BE REAL AND TANGIBLE BENEFITS TO THE COOK ISLANDS IMMEDIATELY.

THE ANSWER WOULD APPEAR TO BE LESS MINISTERIAL TRAVEL TO FREE UP THE MONEY TO PAY FOR THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE AUSTRALIAN, NZ GOVERNMENTS, ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, UNITED NATIONS (AS THE COOK ISLANDS GOVERNMENT IS A SIGNATORY TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON CORRUPTION!) WOULD PROVIDE EVERY ASSISTANCE TO FULLY FUND THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION IN THE COOK ISLANDS AS IT IS FUNDAMENTAL

TO GOOD GOVERNANCE AS WELL AS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS. IT WOULD FUNDAMENTALLY ENHANCE THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENT AND REAL DEMOCRACY. IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COOK ISLANDS TO LEAD THE PACIFIC REGION TO COMBAT WHAT IS A PACIFIC IF NOT WORLD WIDE SCOURGE.

Link to petition

<http://www.change.org/en-AU/petitions/honourable-henry-puna-prime-minister-of-the-cook-islands-establish-an-independent-commission-against-corruption-by-christmas-2013>

ALSO THE FACEBOOK SITE WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/COLAGATECOOKISLANDS

HAS A LOT OF INFORMATION AND COMMENTARY ON COLAGATE AND OTHER COOK ISLANDS CORRUPTION ISSUES.

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Cook Islands makes impact in Jamaica

Report on the Cook Islands attendance at International Seabed Authority (ISA) meetings of the ISA Council and ISA Assembly- July 15-26 2013 in Kingston, Jamaica

The ISA is a United Nations organisation, created under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), because in 1994, a related Agreement was made to manage the seabed resources beyond national jurisdictions, known as the Area.

The Cook Islands are a member state of the ISA General Assembly under UNCLOS. We have Observer status in the ISA Council.

SOPAC, as part of the regional DSM project, generously sponsored the attendance at the 2013 ISA meetings of Seabed minerals and marine officials from Tonga, Kiribati and the Cook Islands.

Fiji and FSM were present as well. Fiji are a leading South Pacific nation at the ISA. Japan is the current chair of the Asia/Pacific nations at the ISA.

The Cook Islands were represented at the ISA this year, by Paul Lynch, Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Commissioner. This was the first re-engagement at the ISA by the Cook Islands for many years.

The key objectives of our ISA attendance was to-

1. learn how the ISA has been preparing the Regulatory Framework for potential Seabed Minerals activities, in terms of rules on contractors, environmental impacts and financial and social issues.

2. investigate the ISA training and capacity building opportunities for Cook Islanders;

3. promote our proposed SBM Tender of Exploration Blocks expected to take place in the first half of 2014;

4. indicate our interest in potentially becoming a "Sponsoring State" to take up a Exploratory Licence in the Area, reserved for Developing Nations, as an entitlement under UNCLOS, as a "common heritage of mankind".

5. network with other Pacific nations and international



Tongan delegate Taniela Kula, DSM Project Legal Advisor, Ms Hannah Lily and Paul Lynch Cook Islands SBM Commissioner

parties engaging in preparations for SBM activities.

Significant new progress was made on all of these aspects. We were also able to make a number of important interventions of topics of interest at the ISA.

SIDE MEETING- Wednesday 24th July 2013

I was also able to take the opportunity to arrange a Side meeting for the Cook Islands at which I presented the

Cook Islands Seabed Minerals presentation..

This Side Meeting was well attended and well received, as many international delegates to the ISA, did not know where the Cook Islands were, that we had an amazingly large Manganese Nodules resources in our vast EEZ and that we have already taken significant steps to set our own national SBM Regulatory Framework, based on best

international practice and advice.

NODULE CUBE PRESENTATION TO THE ISA

During the ISA meeting, I also took the opportunity to make a goodwill presentation of a Nodule Cube to the ISA Secretary- General and to the proposed ISA Museum, via the ISA President.

*Paul Lynch
SBM Commissioner*

School holidays Cricket for Juniors

By Charles Pitt

U19 Girls and U17 Boys

Cook Islands Cricket has advised that the school holidays tournament sponsored by ANZ Bank for under 19 girls and under 17 boys at Raemaru Park, will be taking place on Thursday/Friday 8-9 August starting at 9am.

These events are 11 a side and it is free to register, just contact Cook Islands Cricket on ph 20744, or Apii on 51522 or Ronnie on 72981. There will be excellent prizes on offer, \$150 cash for the winner and prizes for the top batters and bowlers.

Ronnie of Cook islands Cricket advises four boys teams have been confirmed and they are hoping to get four girls teams.

Friday's games will be completed by 4pm due to rugby being played at the park.

Cook Islands donates Nodule to Museum



Paul Lynch of the Cook Islands presents a commemorative polymetallic nodule to Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority Nii Odunton at the 142nd Assembly of the ISA, yesterday. (PHOTO COURTESY PAUL LYNCH)

Jamaica Observer 27 July 2013

THE Cook Islands made the first donation to the proposed seabed museum yesterday, presenting President of the International Seabed Authority Assembly Vladimir Polenov with a polymetallic nodule harvested by the group of islands in the South Pacific.

Polenov is the Russian Ambassador to Jamaica.

Paul Lynch of the Cook Islands presents a commemorative polymetallic nodule to Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority Nii Odunton at the 142nd Assembly of the ISA, yesterday. (PHOTO COURTESY PAUL LYNCH)

The nodule was encased in a transparent cube and came with an accompanying certificate of authenticity. It was presented by the Commissioner of Seabed Minerals Authority Paul Lynch.

The idea for the establishment of a museum was put forward by Secretary General of the Authority Nii Odunton in his address to the Assembly on Wednesday. He said it was a means by which the Authority could

raise its profile and increase awareness of its existence and work in the area of seabed mining.

The Finance Committee is expected to mull the proposal and make a decision in 2014, but delegates already seem in agreement with the move, with several of them voicing their support yesterday.

"This is a permanent record from the Cook Islands in recognition of the great work being done by the Secretariat and the Secretary General," Lynch said.

Polymetallic nodules are rock formations on the seafloor which contain manganese, nickel, copper, cobalt, iron, silicon, aluminum, among other minerals. Member States of the ISA have been exploring the viability of mining nodules and other deep sea resources such as polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich crusts since 2001. The Authority is now preparing to move to the exploitation phase, which it expects to begin in 2016.

The ISA is now undertaking technical studies into the viability of deep sea deposits of rare earth minerals.

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.

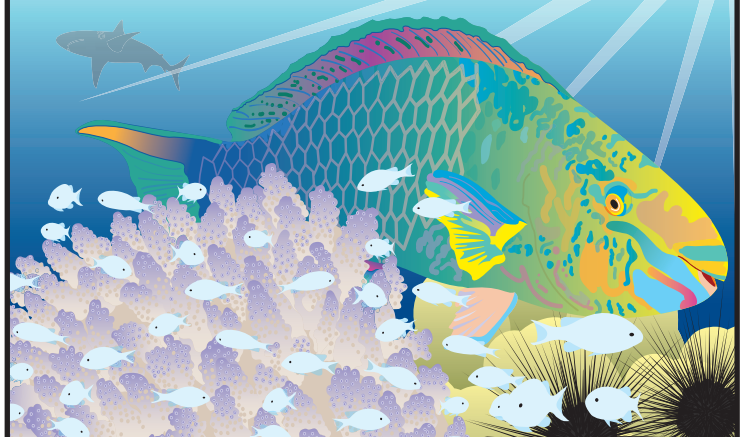
Time is tight! Entries need to be received by **5pm Friday 16th August.**

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@wovenpacific.com; any queries to Jaewynn McKay on phone 21 144; cell 55 486; or to the above email address.





Hawaii study offers insights

We have a lot in common with the islands of Hawaii.

Geographically, we're in the same ocean, time zone, similar tropical climate and island flora and fauna. That's the mundane stuff. Some of us are graduates of the University of Hawaii or Brigham Young University in Honolulu and there are also a few Hawaiians living in Rarotonga.

But Hawaii is bigger, richer, and resourceful, and oh yes a Hawaiian (more technically someone born in Hawaii) is currently president of the United States, the most powerful country in the world. In comparison, we're small in size and population and our relationship is to New Zealand, rugby, netball, and One Network News on our TV screens every night.

Still, we retain our links to the islands of Polynesia including Hawaii through ties of ancestry, culture, performing arts, and language. Avaiki, Savaiki, Savai'i, Hawai'i, Waihi; Kahuna, Taunga; Aroa, Aloha, Aroha – the spelling and accent may differ here and there but the meaning is the same.

There is one more thing we share with all the islands in Polynesia. And that is the excessive cost of diesel imports which translates into high cost of generating electricity on islands isolated by ocean. The approach

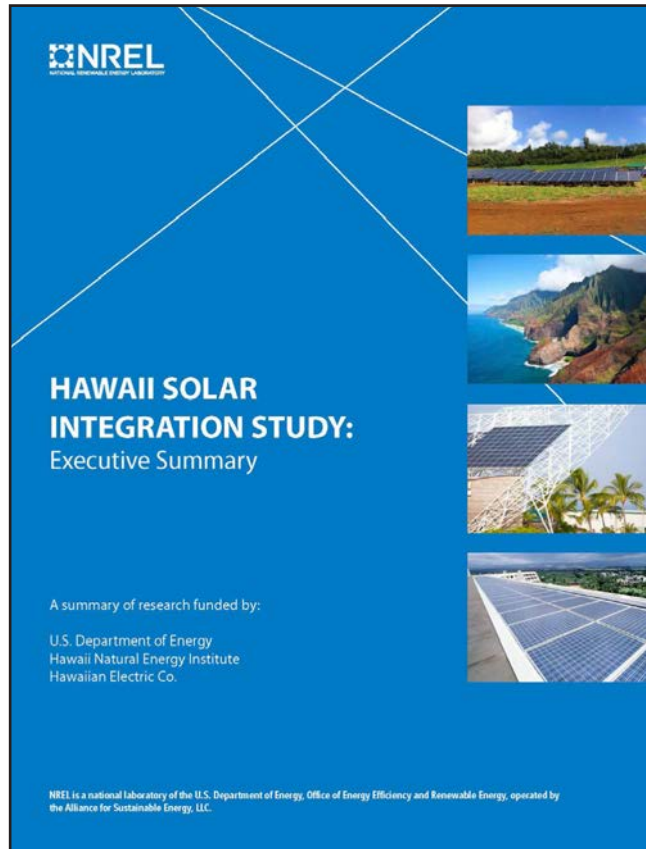
in Hawaii is the same as it is here in Rarotonga, which is to look to renewable energy to stave off future rising costs and energy insecurity.

This is where a report funded by the US Department of Energy, the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute and the Hawaiian Electric Co. is of great interest to the Cook Islands.

Released last month, the report is getting wide circulation globally because its conclusions is applicable to out-of-the-way islands like us and it adds to the body of knowledge in a useful way.

The report is entitled the Hawaii Solar Integration Study and focuses on the effects of high penetrations of solar and wind energy on the operations of the electric grids of two Hawaiian islands, Maui and Oahu. Both have about 20% penetration which is high by most standards and the report highlights the challenges they face.

Oahu is mostly solar, some distributed PV, one centralised utility-scale PV. Maui is a mixture of wind and solar with some batteries for energy storage. But they're both working to achieve the same policy goal of 70% mixture of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures by the year 2030. (The Cook Islands goal is 100% by 2020 which appears more ambitious but keep in mind we're smaller scale so our 100% is not the same as a Hawaiian 100%).



But the challenges with grid reliability under high levels of renewable energy penetration which Maui and Oahu are experiencing are those which Rarotonga will also face as we add more PV.

One of the problems uncovered by the study is variability in power production. With PVs distributed all over the island, the variability in supply is actually much less than that from a central utility-scale location. A cloud may

block out an entire power plant but it's only a large storm that can affect all distributed PVs. However, distributed PVs are still a problem for a utility because their production can't be controlled in situations where the utility needs to cut down electricity or ramp it up.

The study also found that a combination of solar and wind provided the most reliability since they produce power under different conditions.



**Cook Islands Te Maeva Nui and Language week
Celebrations 4th – 10th August 2013
152 Cameron Street, Whangarei**



Celebrating Cook Islands Culture

A Cook Islands community group has been formed in Whangarei called “Te Taokotaianga Kuki Airani” the “Cook Islands uniting as one”. First activity of the group is to bring our people together to celebrate our Cook Islands heritage. We practice singing every Saturday from 5pm at the Pacific Islands Trust building, 152 Cameron Street, the songs are “Kia Aruru te enua katoa “ (imene tuki, church song) and the Cook Islands national anthem “Te Atua mou e”.

Te Maire Nui Week activities

Saturday 27th of July

As we did not have any funding or qualified for any we fundraised to purchase some of the things we needed for the 4th to 10th of August week. We cooked donuts and 5-6 volunteers helped prepare the dough for the donuts and then cooked them under Mama Ringi’s supervision.



We took orders, contacted people with money during the week, so we could purchase the ingredients for the donuts.

Saturday 3rd August

Prepared the umu for Sunday 4th lunch. Money

raised from donut sales was used to purchase meat.

Sunday 4th August- Constitution Day

The official part of our program began at 1pm with a uapou (a short church service), where we sang our national anthem and then our imene tuki. After church, we shared lunch of food from our umu, kinaki (salads, taro, poke, ika mata, mayonaise, etc). A Church service was held at the Pacific Island Trust.

Wednesday 7th August



The Cook Islands artifacts show and tell evening commenced at 6pm. This night was to share the stories of five selected Cook Islands artifacts to everyone. Example, the two artifacts in the picture above is the Northern Group/ Manihiki white rito hat and the Mangaian/Atiuan pupu shell head ei. There is a lot of blood, sweat, processing and time put into creating these two things. This was followed by a shared dinner and a short show by the Mana o te hula group.

Saturday August 10th

We travelled to Auckland and experienced the Te Maeva Nui Celebration for the day.

Meitaki maata, atupaka, ngao, ranuinui, polea, nui (if we missed any Cook Island, islands word for “big” we apologise).

Te Taokotaianga,

Kuki Airani.

Judith Low

Biological Anthropologist's here to research Rima Rau burial cave in Atiu

Associate Professor Nancy Tayles and Dr Angela Clark from the Department of Anatomy, Otago School of Medical Sciences, Otago University, New Zealand are on Atiu to conduct research into the burial cave known as Rima Rau. Over the next six weeks, they will be joined at various times by other team members who will cover specific areas of research in the burial cave situated on the South West side of Atiu.

Before works commenced research permits were obtained from the Prime Minister's office in addition to gaining land owner's consent. Specifically the Tauraa, Tatuava and Samuela families are excited about the research project and hope to gain valuable knowledge of their ancestors which have been lost over the years. Locals such as Punua Tauraa and Atiu tours are coordinating the visit with the help of Atiu Information Officer, Ngametua Mokoroa from Cook Islands Tourism towards the research efforts.



from left Dr Angela Clark, Punua Tauraa, Professor Nancy Tayles

The objective of the research visit is to gain helpful insight into the Rima Rau cave in particular the following are just some of the questions which

are anticipated to be answered. How many people are actually in the cave? What age were they? What sicknesses may have been present on the island at

the time? What evidence if any is there that they died a violent death or is the cave actually representative of a family burial site.

- Tourism Corp

Southern Group Expedition

The research team currently surveying some of the southern Cook Islands coral reefs polished up on their skills in Aitutaki early into the voyage.

The Cook Islands team is working in partnership with the Waitt Institute, one of the contributors to the Oceans 5 foundation.

"We are really excited to have this opportunity to survey our reefs using our locally based scientists, and are very grateful to the Waitt Institute for providing their vessel for us to operate from," says Dr Teina Rongo, of the Cook Islands Climate Change office, who is also the lead scientist of the expedition.

The team examined the status of the reefs for much of the southern Cook Islands. The percentage of living coral, reef fish species and invertebrates abundance (rori, vana, pa'ua etc) were recorded.

"Our team did very well combining their SCUBA diving skills with their underwater



Two research team members doing reef surveys in Mitiaro.

surveying skills," says Dr Rongo. The team comprises Dr Teina Rongo, Kelvin Passfield, Jacqui Evans and Graham McDonald of Te Ipukarea Society, Ben Tautu of the National Environment Service, Dr Mareike Sudek of the Pacific Islands Conservation Initiative, Jess Cramp of Oceans

5/Waitt Institute and divemaster Teariki Charles Rongo. "Oceans 5 is genuinely interested in supporting Cook Islanders in doing their own marine research. They also support sustainable fishing and will only assist with the establishment of marine

protected areas if the local people want it," said Kelvin Passfield. The research is contributing towards the Marine Park initiative with the information enabling a better understanding of the importance of coral reefs in the southern Cook Islands.

- Cook Islands Marine Park

Letter to the Editor

Response to Cook Islands Herald article

Dear Editor
I would like to address some of the issues that were raised on 30 July 2013. As a regular reader of the of the Cook Islands Herald I would expect that any article appearing in the Journal, whether it be an opinion piece, or a report would have some basic fact checking. It seems the article was nothing of the sort, and I nor anyone within MFEM will comment on an individual's circumstances in regard to tax. I will firstly talk to issues raised within the article and then I would like to indulge your readers on the recent flavour of George Pitt's articles.

Firstly on your story about the recent actions of MFEM in dealing with a tax payer.

I have checked the facts of the story with staff, I and the Manager of RMD are satisfied with the approach they have taken. Your story contains a number of significant errors, but as the Herald would well comprehend I am not in a position to respond publically on an individual taxpayers matters.

The Herald has highlighted an issue, which some in the community may be concerned about. I believe there is a public interest issue in regard to people who may be concerned that they have a specific medical condition which cannot be treated in the Cook Islands and who through mis-information believe that they will be prevented from leaving the Cook Islands to seek specific medical treatment due to unpaid tax.

Section 201 of the Income Tax Act allows the Revenue Management Division to prevent defaulting taxpayers from leaving the country. Previously, all taxpayers were required to seek a tax clearance

from Revenue Management before they travelled overseas. From 1 January 2003, Overseas Travel Prohibition Notices are issued by the Revenue Management Division in limited circumstances, these being:

- where the tax defaulted on is substantial; and
- no satisfactory arrangement has been entered into with Revenue Management for paying the overdue tax; and/or
- attempts by the Revenue Management Division to get the taxpayer to pay their tax have been futile.

Let me make this clear to your readership, the Revenue Management Division would not threaten a person's life or wellbeing in order to collect unpaid taxes. It is morally and ethically repugnant for your paper to suggest that people in MFEM throw the dice on people's lives and health at a whim.

All I will say on this particular case is that once Revenue Management Division became aware of the taxpayer's travel plans and his medical condition, they contacted him and lifted the Notice immediately.

As no one in MFEM is a health specialist we may from time to time rely on our colleagues from the Ministry of Health to verify the an individual's claims.

Secondly, on matters of a more personal matter. I must congratulate the Cook Islands Herald for their choice of photo in the article "Heartless Richard Neves terrorises sick man" on 30 June 2013. I do look foolish chewing my nails and I think the photo may have been taken during a deliberation over the Budget. George Pitt has written a number of colourful articles recently in both the Cook Islands Herald

and his newly launched Independent title. In both journals he has continually called for my dismissal due to what he perceives as poor performance, he of course has every right to do that. My future role in the position of Financial Secretary rests on my performance and the assessment made by the Public Service Commissioner and the Government.

What follows is my personal response to George Pitt.

"George I am only a novice in the intricacies and personalities of the Cook Islands, I don't think I will ever fully understand it, but does anyone, it is a small and complex community.

I recognise that you are a longstanding member of the Cook Islands community. You are an integral part of a functional and informed society, independent media which provides balanced reporting is crucial to a functional democratic State where politicians and bureaucrats like myself need to be held to account.

George, I have a thick skin. Like anyone I have a natural reaction to your articles, but I soon overcome and I will not bite back on your personal attacks.

You are free to pursue your profession as you please, it is for your readers and God to ascertain the sensibility and accuracy of what you write personally about me or others.

But be relaxed George I am content for you to write about me, paint whatever picture you like, be the artist you profess to be and let your paintbrush flow on your canvas. You are free to insult, question my integrity, credibility and professionalism, you are a journalist and that is your right to do, as an artist your

work interpretable, some may think it's wonderful and expressive, others may think it is rubbish.

As the vitriol flows on to the canvas you are welcome to continue writing material which describes me as the heartless overpaid expatriate ogre within the Ministry of Finance and you can continue to call for the Prime Minister or the Minister to dismiss me.

You are free to mock me every week with articles and photos, because ultimately people either believe you or they don't. So, in your next article, do me the pleasure of comparing me to some of the more despicable personalities which have existed, in our times, I am sure you can come up with something, or you can I suggest a competition amongst your readers.

You can write weekly about me if you wish, but I will not engage you on personal attacks, I will engage you on matters of policy substance and what I perceive to be factual errors in reporting.

George, when I met you in Apia back in 2011 you told me you were a Pastor and a man of God. I am not an outwardly religious person but ultimately I do believe that we will be held to account one day, in all humility I believe god will be ok with how I have conducted myself.

With all respect to you, your family and your continued efforts to be balanced."

Thank you for publishing my full reply, I trust in future, that the Pitt media group will balance their reporting and seek both sides, MFEM are happy to provide a response where we can, but I guess sensationalism sells regardless of who you damage along the way

*Regards
Richard Neves
Financial Secretary*

Agriculture to interest children



Kiriau Turepu

By Norma Ngatamariki

Agriculture is a possible way to improve our future," says Minister for Agriculture Kiriau Turepu, who is a firm supporter in the Agricultural Project that is currently in action. The project, which is located behind Takitumu School, aims to gain the interest of our young children so that agriculture may be carried on in the later future. "So many kids want to work in an office, not out on the plantation!" Turepu exclaims. He is hoping that the project will offer some sort of positive exposure to the children, as they will be educated in various areas of agriculture. He also hopes that the project will be invigorating for the children

The project currently has a number of seedlings, which are still in their trays. Lettuce, tomatoes, bok choy (Chinese cabbage) and cucumbers are amongst the variety of vegetables that are being grown in the makeshift greenhouse. The general public has also taken an interest in the project and is offering to purchase seedlings by the tray. "It's amazing," Turepu says. "People have already placed orders on what vegetables they would like to buy." A portion of the proceeds will go towards Takitumu School, so that the school is able to purchase proper resources. Turepu would also like to acknowledge those who have assisted in the creation of the project for their unwavering support.

The **COMPUTER MAN** Tech Tips

Phone 24979 Email: sales@thecomputerman.co.ck

Best ever Android Apps

Gibberbot

Armed with the right software, it's pretty easy for someone to tap into your cell-phone network and read all the text messages and chatting you're doing over your device. Gibberbot obscures all this data so that it looks like "gibberish" to a hacker. This free, open-source chat client offers fully encrypted chatting over Gchat, Facebook, and Jabber. Must be used in conjunction with Orbot, the official Tor client for Android.

Google+

Social networks need mobile apps to thrive, and Google+'s is a fine start for the platform that arrived in July 2011. The app taps into conventions established by other online social networks, like Facebook and Twitter, while finding some of its own strengths at the same time. Google+ Mobile works fairly well, due to a smart design and comprehensible interface.

Instagram

The most robust photo sharing social network, recently acquired by Facebook for \$1 billion, finally came to Android after a two years of iPhone-only love. Instagram for Android lets you put folksy filters on dull photos with a single tap, and quickly share them on Twitter, Facebook, and Tumblr.



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Cook Islander back from world class academy

By Norma Ngatamariki

Alex Herman, Senior Legal Officer for Seabed Mineral Authority, has recently returned from a trip to Greece. She tells the Herald of her experience and time spent at Rhodes Academy.

Can you give me a brief description of your time spent in Greece? (Popular tourists destinations that you visited perhaps etc.)

My time in Greece was based on the island of Rhodes, which is the largest of the Greek Islands. Rhodes is historically significant place to have the Rhodes Academy because the foundations of maritime law are linked to the development of Rhodian Customary Law, dating to around the 8th century AD.

Rhodes is an interesting place and has Greek, Turkish, and Italian influences – so there are acropolises, castles, mosques all in the same place.

In terms of how I spent my time in Rhodes, the majority of it was in classes, workshops, and preparing for the next day of classes! Although on the weekends, the whole class went on day trips to places such as Lindos and the island of Symi, which were beautiful places.

Can you elaborate more on the course outline that they have at the Rhodes Academy?

The Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy is an international collegial institution that runs a three week intensive course of lectures and seminars. The basic objective of the Rhodes Academy is to promote the rule of law in the world's oceans.

Week one is devoted to an introduction, history and overview of the conventional and customary law and practices concerning the modern Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Week two typically focuses in greater detail on specific topics such as marine resources and delimitation. Week three centers around topics such as navigation and the marine environment

The coverage of topics is quite extensive.

In addition to the classes and

workshops, there is a written and oral exam which you need to pass in order to gain a diploma.

How did you find the lectures? Are they any different to that of Auckland University?

The lectures were full on. To give you an idea, each class has around 3 readings each about 20 pages in length (some up to 100!), with 3 classes a day, we had 42 classes in total. And then in each lecture there is a lot of coverage and discussion of the issues. So basically we covered in 3 weeks, what you would typically cover in a semester.

The Rhodes Academy is different to Auckland University because we had the benefit of leading scholars and judges teaching on their particular fields, whereas at Auckland you would probably only have one lecturer. And that is what makes Rhodes Academy "world-class" because it is able to provide excellent teachers, and cover a wide range of topics including current topical issues (I still think Auckland Law School is a great institution).

I really enjoyed the course because you are fully immersed in the law of the sea, and it allows you to quickly understand the legal issues at play and how they relate to the bigger picture.

I tend to have a narrower focus at work on seabed minerals, and this course was great in terms of opening my eyes to the other maritime issues, some of which have a direct influence on seabed minerals. For example the delimitation of maritime boundaries and the continental shelf.

How did it feel, being the only Cook Islander who attended the Academy?

I felt privileged to be the first Cook Islander in the Rhodes Academy, and it gave me added incentive to do well in the course. I think my background was valuable because I was able to contribute the perspectives and views of a Pacific island nation, as most of the class were not familiar with the Cook Islands. So you learn as much



Alex Herman

from the course as you do from your classmates.

I hope that my participation in the Rhodes Academy will encourage other Cook Islanders to apply, and you don't necessarily have to have an interest in seabed minerals. You could have a fisheries or marine protection background.

I understand that there was a range of practical, hands-on activities. What exactly did that entail?

Yes, in addition to the classes, the Academy ran several interactive workshops based on the topics being covered that week. Typically you are put into groups, and everyone is expected to participate fully and present at least once in front of the class.

We were given problems based on current topical issues some of which are unresolved in the law such as biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction and asked how we would resolve it.

The workshops were fun as we negotiated maritime boundaries, held moot court session, and debated unsettled issues.

Has the information that you've gathered changed your perspective on how you view local issues concerning seabed minerals here in the Cook Islands?

Yes, it has – in the sense that it

has enhanced my understanding.

For one, you cannot view seabed mineral issues in a vacuum – there are many other relevant issues and perspectives to consider. From an international perspective, we have obligations under UNCLOS which we must meet in order to develop our resources, and this needs to be reflected in our national laws. And then there are different interests within our waters, such as fisheries, and marine protection.

Secondly, it has been interesting learning about the origins of our rights to develop our seabed resources through UNCLOS, which overall is viewed as a huge achievement of the international community through compromise and cooperation between states. This is important for us consider in moving forward.

I think one of the main issues we currently have with seabed minerals is that there is not enough information out there for our people which leads to misinformation and misconceptions. That is something we are working on, we already have a website (www.seabedmineralsauthority.gov.ck) and along with the Advisory Board we are working towards releasing seabed related publications.

TE MAEVA NUI

na Rutera Taripo

TE RA UTI`ANGA REVA

I te pōpōngi Mōnitē rā 5`Aukute 2013, kua rave`ia te tu`anga pu`apinga o teia rā mei tei mātau`ia mei te mata`iti 1965 mai. Koia oki, ko te tuatau tēia i riro mai ei tātou ei kavamani nā tātou rāi e`akaterere, kā 48 mata`iti i tēia nei, mei tā tātou e matau nei i te kāpiki e ko Te Maeva Nui. Kua`akamou`ia`oki te tāpura “Taku Peu Māori Ka Ora” no tēia`akaepaepa`anga i tēia mataiti 2013. Kua putuputu mai te kātoatoa ki te`Are Karioi Nui no te tu`anga openga o te Uti`anga Reva i te`akararangi atu ma te`akangāteitei anga i teia rā ma`ata no tātou i te Kuki`Airani. Kua tae mai ki teia rā ma`ata te au mata mei ngā tu`anga e toru i runga i te`enua`ē pērā katoa te au mata o te au turuturu tei māoraora`ua mai te au tu meitaki mei roto mai i tā ratou putuputu`anga. Kia`akameitaki`ia teia vaerua māoraora. Kua rave`ia rāi teia`anga`anga na roto i te au`akano`ono`o`anga tei matau`ia e kua riro rāi na te Minita Ngāteitei na Teariki Heather i`akakoukou i te au karere no te Maeva Nui o teia mata`iti 2013. Kua rave`ia mai i reira te oronga`anga rē a te au pupu`ura. Ka oronga ia atu me rauka mai.

Ko tēta`i mea umere i tupu i tēia mata`iti, noātu e kua no`o atu te au pā`enua ma te tāmataora atu rāi ki runga i tō rātou au`enua tātakita`i, kua anoano rāi te iti-tangata no tērā au`enua (e no`o nei ki Rarotonga) kia mono`ia to rātou`enua ki roto i te Maeva Nui i Rarotonga nei. No reira, kua piri atu ki roto i te Maeva Nui te au pupu Rarotonga mei te Vaka Takitumu, Vaka Puaikura, Oire Nikao, Tapere Tupapa/Maraerenga`ē kua piri katoa atu, mei Rarotonga nei i te mata i tō rātou au`enua, te`enua Mangaia, Mauke, Nukuroa, Atiu, Tongareva`ē te Fuinga o Niva.`E ta`i-nga`uru au pupu i te kātoatoa`anga i reira i piri ki roto i tēia`akaepaepa`anga no teia mata`iti.`E toru i reira au`enua kāre rātou i mata`ia koia ko Araura, Pukapuka`ē Rakahanga. Mei tei mātau`ia i te au mata`iti pouroa, e rave`ia ana`e itu au kapa i roto i te`epetoma okota`i, inārā, no tēta`i au tā`ī`ī rava kore o te moni turuturu, kua`akaiti`ia mai te au kapa ki te`Ura Pa`u, Kapa Rima`ē te`Ūte`ē pērā katoa te au pō tāmataora`epetoma, ki te 3 pō.

Noātu rā, kua mataora, kua māruarua`ē kua teitei te rave pākau ā te au pupu kātoatoa. Ko tēta`i mea umere tāku i kite atu, kua kī tikāi te`Are Karioi Nui i ngā pō e toru i te rave`ia`anga te au tāmataora a te au pupu`ura. E`akakite`anga rāi tēia nā tātou kātoatoa i tō tātou inangaro i tō tātou Reo`ē tā tātou Peu Māori mei tā te tāpura e karanga nei ē, “Taku Peu Māori Ka Ora” No reira e te iti-tangata, ko tō tātou Reo Māori, tā tātou Peu Māori, ko tō tātou ia mana ariki, mūrangā mata`ei parau`ang nā`au,`ei parau`anga nāku,`ei parau`anga nā tātou kātoatoa. Kia Orāna.



Vaka Puaikura i te Ra Utianga Reva

ĀPETOMA REO MĀORI KŪKI 'AIRANI NO AOTEAROA

na Rutera Taripo

No te mea `oki ē kua pu`apinga`ia `ē kua meitaki tikāi te `Epetoma Reo Māori Kūki `Airani tei rave `ia i te mata`iti 2012, i topa ake nei, kua tāmanako`ia kia rave akaou`ia i teia mata`iti 2013.

Te `akakite nei oki te Minita o te Pacific Islands Affairs a Hekia Parata, e ko tēta`i rāvenga meitaki teia no te `akapāpū `uātu rai ē te ora nei `ē te tupu nei te Reo Māori Kūki `Airani. Ko teia `epetoma i reira mei te rā 4 – 10 o Aukute tei `akano`o`ia no teia `akakoro`anga pu`apinga o te Reo. Te `akakite nei a Parata, ē ko te tāpura no te Reo i tēia mata`iti 2013, koia `oki ko “TOKU REO, UTUUTU`IA RA”

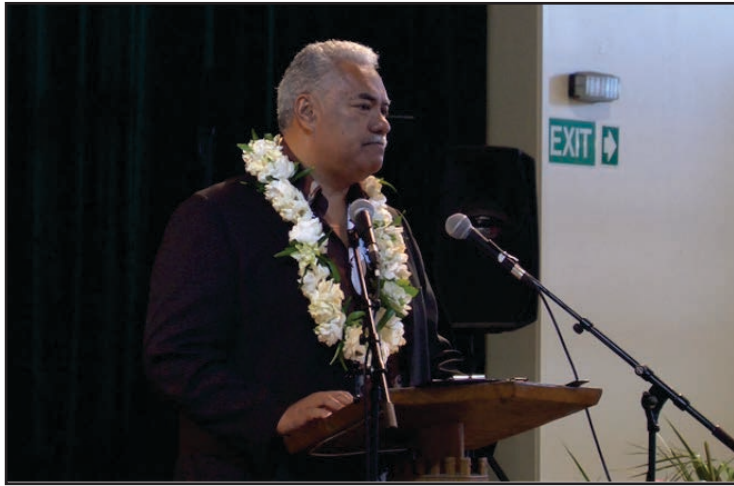
Te umuumu `ia nei te `iti-tangata i roto i te au matakeinanga tātakita`i kia tātomo, kia mou mai `ē kia tākave ma te turuturu `ē te tā`anga`anga i tō tātou Reo nō te uki āpōpō `ē tō `amuri mai.

I te `enua ko Aotearoa, ko te `iti-tangata Kūki `Airani, `e 22 patene `aia i te katoa`anga o te iti-tangata Patifika i Aotearoa, `ē , te kitea mai nei, `e ta`i (1) rāi i roto i te ono tangata te kā kite i te tuatua i te Reo Kūki `Airani.

No reira ko te `akakoro`anga pu`apinga o tēia epetoma Reo, koia oki, ko te akaepaepa`anga i tō tātou Reo `ē tā tātou Peu, ma te turuturu atu i te `āpi`i`anga, i te tāmou`anga `ē te tā`anga`anga i te Reo i te au tuātau kātoatoa `ē kia upokotū `uātu rāi.



Scenes from Te Maeva Nui



Honouring God in your job - a missionary opportunity

Part 1

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

For this article I will be speaking about Honouring God In Your Job or Workplace : A Missionary Opportunity. If you do a good job, you will always have a job. Perhaps this might not be true in every case. Nevertheless, in Acts 1v.8 Jesus said, "You shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." Every Christian who is in a workplace or a job is given the opportunity to witness in their Jerusalem (job or workplace). If we honour God in our work, then the power of that witness will spiritually impact our friends in our workplace. Sometimes we act and live contrary to what the Bible says. As Christians, we should not be doing things that are not honouring to God. The Bible commends hard work. Work is an important part of our lives, and the Bible makes that absolutely clear!

Paul wrote to the Thessalonian Church and condemned those who would not work. In II Thessalonians 3v.10 Paul said "For when we were with you, we commended you this, if anyone will not work, neither shall he eat." v.11 "For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busy bodies."

The Bible commends hard work and condemns laziness. The Book of Proverbs curses laziness in work Proverbs 18v.9 (GN) reads "A lazy person is as bad as someone who is destructive." Galatians 6v.7 says "Whatever a man sows, this he will also reap." If you sow laziness, you will not eat!

Jesus said in Matthew 5v.16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." God want

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

us to use our jobs, our place of work, as 'lamp-stands!' "We are the light of the world!" said Jesus in Matthew 5v.14 God never purposed for His people to huddle together or stick around together in clean and shining places, otherwise darkness will still remain! God wants you and I to be 'lights in the darkness!' God sees you and I as 'Children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, amongst whom you shine as lights in the world.' (Philip. 2v.15)

I Peter 2v.11-12, v.15 reads (CEV) "Dear friends, you are foreigners and strangers on this earth. So I beg you not to surrender to those desires that fight against you. Always let others see you behaving properly, even though they may still accuse you of doing wrong. Then on the day of judgement, they will honour God by telling the good things they saw you do....God wants you to silence stupid and ignorant people by doing right."

Know that our jobs are more than for the purpose of earning a living. It is an avenue for revealing Jesus Christ in us! Not through what we say (verbal witness), but rather what we do (visible witness). As Christians, we are called to do all things to the glory of God!

In the Old Testament of the Bible in Daniel 6v.1-5, we will see that Daniel is an excellent example of how we can begin to honour God through our job. Daniel worked in unfavourable conditions and when his critics tried to run Daniel down, they couldn't find anything wrong to blame Daniel. However, what



they noticed is that, Daniel is a person who honoured God!

We honour God in our job by being HONEST. No charges could be laid against Daniel, because there is no evidence of corruption or personal gain. Now-a-days we see people accused of corruption and the use of their Offices or positions for personal gain! Our character or our true nature can be revealed through our work. As a person of integrity, a Christian should not take

advantage of his employer or employees. 'Come on, it's okay, everyone else is doing it.' This is the kind of lie Satan would want you to believe. Remember, you represent God in your work place! We honour God in our job by being HONEST.

I will continue with this subject next week in the next issue of the Cook Islands Herald.

May you and your family have a God blessed week – te Atua te aroa.

School Holiday: *Part two*

By Norma Ngatamariki

Hello! This week has been chockablock with stuff going down because of Te Maeva Nui. So where have you been? Did you head down to the National Auditorium and catch some of the dancing and singing action? Well, lucky you. Due to unfortunate circumstances, I didn't make it to any of the performances (which really sucks, because I was offered complimentary tickets). Bummer for me. But I hope you had better luck than I did. From what I hear, every single performance was fantastic. Congratulations to all the districts and outer islands that danced on stage. A welcome back to Vaka Takitumu and congrats for making the front page of Cook Islands News.

The only Te Maeva Nui event that I did manage to attend was the Float Parade. Half the island turned up and probably all the tourists. I watched as people braved the rain, sat on footpaths and waited in anticipation. The participants of the Float were preparing down at the Avatiu Wharf, so that's where I ran, camera and all. Maria (the amazing news presenter that you see on your television screen) lent me her awesome camera so I just went nuts. Snapping photos of fantastic people alongside their floats and seeing the excitement on their faces inspired me to take genuine photos. At the roundabout in town, we waited for the honorable guests to arrive, which were the Ministers Teariki Heather and Tom

Marsters. Everybody got a bit rowdy at this, but it didn't spoil the overall mood.

I have a few Float favorites, even though everybody was fantastic. I take my hat off to the ladies of Akatokamanava with their "Te Tangi O Te Pu!" theme. I could tell that it really took the judges by surprise because it was so different. They had like a mini-pageant going on with all their girls lined up in front of the VIP tent. I was taken aback by the array of colours that they used for the costumes and, of course, their conch shells.

Another two that were unusual but quite funny were the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning (MOIP). MOIP had based their Float on an Ariki Investiture, which was quirky

and cool. They actually had an umu ("underground oven") on the back of a truck and real life warriors. It was like a slice of heritage was driving past the marquee because it was really old-fashioned. The commentator had a real sense of humor too, which had everybody cracking up, even the politicians. The Ministry of Justice has an actual car wreck at the back of their General Transport with "victims" inside of it. This gave it that realistic, scary-but-funny effect. They had an awesome commentator too, screaming out messages about not drinking and driving, staying safe on the road etc. When I was taking pictures, I was laughing my butt off at all the drama. Even Sonny (the MC) managed a smile at their antics.

Teenage love

By Hareta Tiraa Passfield

How's everyone's holidays going? Mine so far are great seeing as I'm writing this week's article from Auckland, New Zealand. It's pretty cold here but I'm slowly getting used to it. I've had a pretty full on two weeks. You're never going to guess what I'm doing this Friday. I'm going to watch Film Raro again! Yeap, that's right this Friday at 6pm Film Raro is going to be shown again right here in New Zealand. I'm praying its going to be a big hit here like it was back at home. So to all those people that were in Film Raro, we're going to be even more famous but this time internationally! Yay! So excited.

Back to what I was actually going to write about, which is TEENAGE LOVE, I put it in captals just to stress how much of a big thing it is. Well at least I think it is, I don't know what you think of it. Movies now days make love seem so easy, they all go along the same lines. They meet, they fall for each other then a problem arises and they end up angry at each other but then they either realise that it was a big misunderstanding or that they just can't live without each other. We have grown up think that this is how love works and how it will be for us, but it never does. How many people actually have this happen to them? Here it's more like they see each other

but instead of actually going up to her/him, they find out their number and start texting them. This is usually how most relationships start here. After a little texting the boy musters up the courage to ask the girl to meet. They do, then that's the start a new relationship.

I'm so sick of like 12 and 13 year olds thinking that they are in love with their boyfriends. I'm like, you've been dating for two weeks and have meet up with each other once and it was so awkward. You can't be in love. You just think you are because of what you are seeing in those stupid romance movies. I'm actually kind of being a hypocrite seeing as I used to be one of those 12 and 13 year olds that thought

she was in love. But I wasn't in love, I wanted so badly to be in love I just thought it was love. I wish I could go back, I was silly. You shouldn't say those 3 words unless you mean it with all your heart. "I love you" is now said like it means nothing. I personally think love is one of the strongest words in the dictionary. Along with hate and no. Love is more than just a word, it's the strongest feeling. Love can cause people to do some pretty silly things. But it can also cause people to do something amazingly romantic. The moral of this is just don't fall too easily, your heart will get broken and people will be mean so don't going handing out the word love like its nothing.

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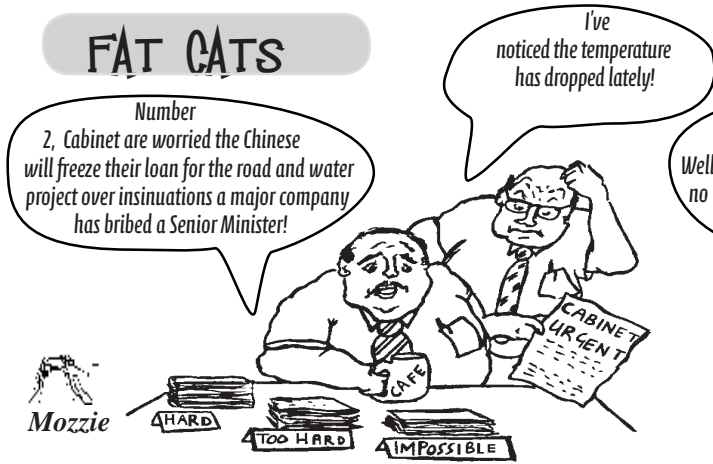
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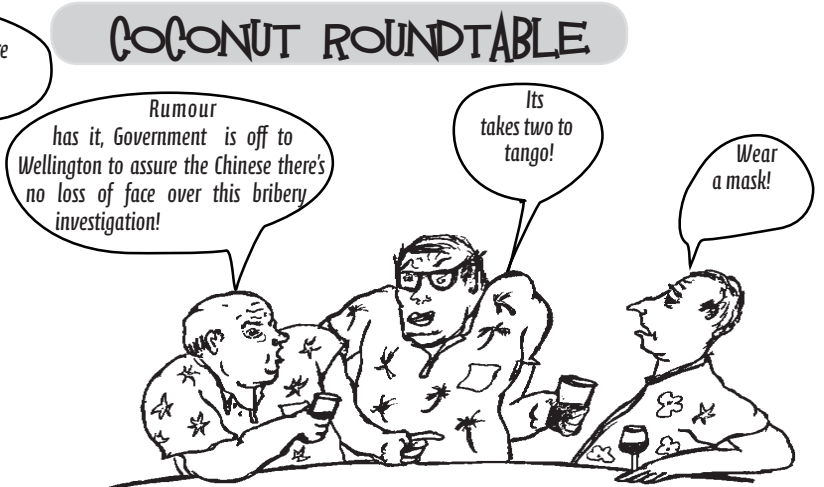
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FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



The anti local neneva Neves is at it again! Rather than employ a local, he's recalled out of retirement bean counter Kevin Carr to mentor him through his bungling of the job he's over paid to do. At least the former fin sec is flexible and has a heart for locals, welcome to the fray steady as it goes Carr.



Wonder if his boss Wilkie knows his king maker Drolley is in his recruiting efforts making all kinds of offers should the Demos take office under his master minding. In desperation he's offering whatever you want in return for doing what he's paid to do and will claim copyright as well. Take it from the Red Rooster never trust a Drolley promise, he won't win one vote for the Demos. Time to let him go Wilkie or you'll spend another four years in the political jail.



Word is Drolley is predicting a CIP win in Murienua because Beer hasn't recruited him to mastermind his campaign. The only thing Drolley can mastermind is a Demo failure like he did in Tupapa, Takuvaine and Pukapuka. The CIP might make him an honorary member for helping them defeat the Demos.



Speaking about the Demo wonder boy Drolley, his friend neneva Neves must be wondering what happened to Drolley's big suck up to the Ocker shameless boasting he can protect Neves and control the media from bad press?

CHOOKS CORNER
WITH BIG RED



Drolley can't control zilch let alone his control fetish. It's a wonder he's still on the Demo pay roll seeing he spends most of the time doing his own business and power building. Drolley thinks Demo MPs are accountable to him. It's a wonder they put up with his addiction for power and control. The sooner he is dumped the sooner new members will join and give the Demos a chance of victory.



Sponsors for this year's Constitution celebrations are getting thinner and leaner, what happened to the Tourism lot, major sponsors in the past but noticeable absent this year. Chairman Smith had no problem directing \$300 thousand to Aitutaki for his close friends hitch hiking frequent travellers Mike Henry and Teina Bishop's fishing club. Nice cosy little club with the bar being named after their Aid friend from bully land McCully. Maybe with their own version of Trader Jacks hopefully we might just see less of the couple of wombles strutting themselves around Avarua like peacocks.



Instead of Hua Nan Fisheries

sponsoring Te Maeva Nui at Bishop's insistence they should be paying the still outstanding fishing licenses on four of their fishing vessels.



Whisper chooks is Ken the king of paddle craft has asked the PM for the tidy sum of \$75,000 to build a working model of a revolutionary new ocean going craft that will ferry 60 passengers to Aitutaki at the staggering speed of 14 knots! If the working prototype proves successful, plans are to seek a measly \$35 million to build a full scale commercial version! Question is where will the moolah come from? It has to come from overseas aid as local taxes only raise about \$90 million in a year and that all goes on keeping the pen pushers and paper shufflers active.



Seems some local fishermen are up in arms over the arrival of the Chinese seeking "our" tuna! Oh dear, didn't know we had an ownership tag on these migratory fish! Where have these people been when during the last two years the Herald has been warning about the coming of the Chinese? Asleep? Suddenly

these people have woken up-but too late! While these yahoos attention has been diverted to fretting over the Chinese, the Kiwiland papa'a has been sneaking in and slowly and quietly taking over the country!



"Is there a Doctor in the House?" Noticed how parliament has changed chooks? It wasn't that long ago that the House was dominated by Doctors! Doctors here, Doctors there, Doctors, Doctors everywhere! Dr PM Sir Tom Davis, Dr PM Joe Williams, Dr PM Sir Pupuke Robati, Dr PM Robert Woonton, Dr PM Sir Terepai Maoate! And don't forget Dr Matenga! Now the House is dominated by Lawyers! Manihiki Lawyer PM Puna! Tongareva lawyer Oppie Leader Wilkie! Aitutaki lawyer Mona Ioane! Atiu lawyer Big Norm! What and who next chooks?



It's musical chairs at the House of Pearls chooks as CEOs come and go! First a certain person got in then was beat-tiened off for the former boss then he is about to be begiven the shove as the Kiwis exert their muscle on funding and the failure to deliver!

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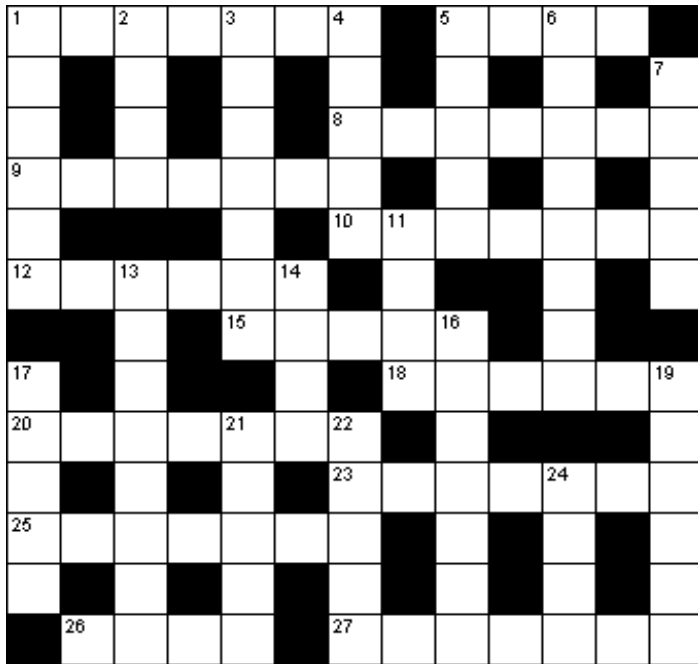
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Across

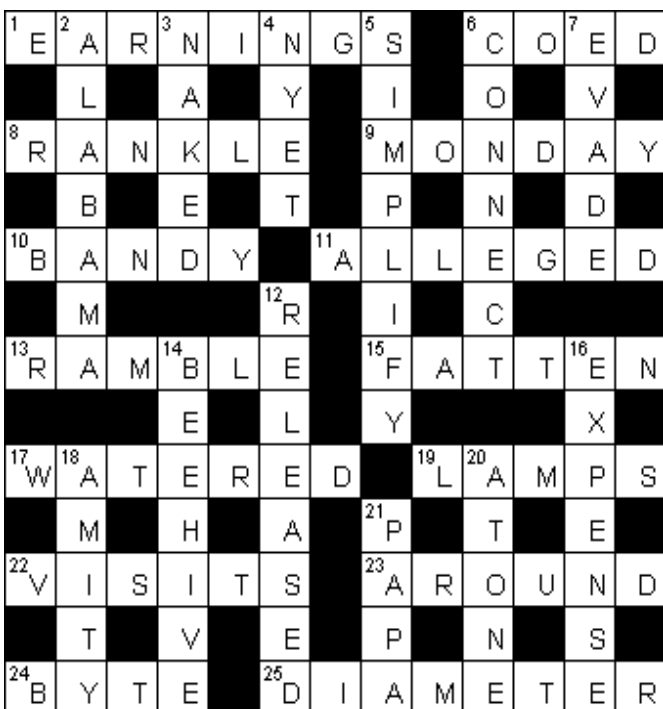
- 1. Having stripes (7)
- 5. Of like kind (4)
- 8. Person who sells saddlery (7)
- 9. Function (7)
- 10. Energetic (7)
- 12. Collect (6)
- 15. Arranges (5)
- 18. Faculties (6)
- 20. Sandy shores (7)
- 23. Fur hunter (7)
- 25. Foreknow (7)
- 26. Covetousness (4)
- 27. Mistrust (7)

3. Fuss (7)

- 4. Gave a measured amount (5)
- 5. Republic in NE Africa (5)
- 6. Discoverer of America (8)
- 7. Dress (5)
- 11. Tibetan oxen (4)
- 13. Preliminary test (5,3)
- 14. Charge per unit (4)
- 16. Governing bodies (7)
- 17. Behind (5)
- 19. Shoot forth (6)
- 21. Hurried (5)
- 22. Simmers (5)
- 24. Attitude (4)

Down

- 1. Powerful (6)
- 2. Tear down (4)



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