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21 August 2013

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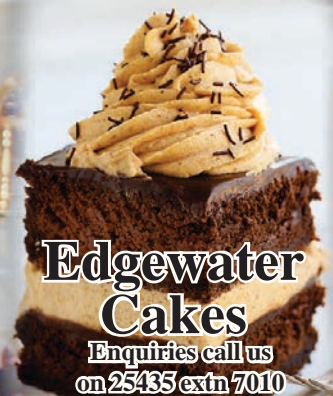
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# Wake up Cook Islands

## *It's time to pay for the free lunch*

In a recent meeting of local fishermen sharing their concerns about the off loading of by catch for local consumption by the Chinese fishing company Huanan the question of "What were the Chinese doing here anyway?" is a reflection of how naive we have been despite the many warnings that have been sounded by discerning individuals, none of whom are politicians.

Nearly 50 years ago the Cook Islands broke free from the shackles of political colonialism and set off on a journey steering our own vaka self determining our own destiny. Two captains of popularity and promise rather than capability have been at the helm, the Cook Islands Party and the Democratic Party.

Over loaded with a cargo of misadventures and anchored by corrupt practises, lies, broken promises, reckless spending, privilege abuses, hidden agendas and numerous counts of pilfering the public purse, both captains have blamed the other for the vaka being port bound. For nearly 50 years nothing has changed except the port itself.

The reason why the Chinese are in our midst is simple, take a look at the Court House and the Police Headquarters both deteriorating free gifts from the People's Republic of China (PRC). The sports stadium was courtesy of a low interest Chinese loan. Has the Court House made the Ministry of Justice more productive and efficient? What about the Police? Did the sports centre turn our netballers into winners internationally?

The Chinese practise of giving free gifts is to establish relationships that will eventual result in a reciprocating open door policy for both parties.

When our politicians were gloating over their accomplishments of these

freebies there was little concern or consideration of what our new found friends the PRC would want in exchange. Whenever that question was raised it was fobbed off by our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration Secretary Edwin Pittman who was advising our politicians at that time.

Once politically colonised, the Cook Islands are becoming economically colonised by our biggest source of external funding the PRC. The CIP Government on our unconsented behalf have made a sovereign commitment to a \$30 million commercial interest loan from the PRC to enable Rarotonga's infrastructure upgrade. How this loan is to be repaid is yet to be publically disclosed for fear of a hostile reaction and polling rejection.

Why the Chamber of Commerce have gone silent and not petitioned and harassed Government to a transparent disclosure is an indication they are compliant with the government's practise of seriously deficient principles of good governance.

What the Government is purposely withholding from public consumption and debate is this loan if unpaid will be written off by the Chinese as a grant. (This was done in Samoa) That is the likely scenario. Once the PRC convert this loan to a grant the Cook Islands then become liable and obligated to the Chinese, then we will see for certainty how much the free lunch is going to cost us in a sovereign context.

We have an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) covering millions of square miles of ocean and that's the primary interest of the PRC. Recently the European Union (EU) has expressed an interest in what can be harvested from our oceans.

As with the PRC our politicians

ignorantly celebrated our relationship with the EU with promises of external funding. Well like the PRC the EU are now pushing the take button. Just like we are taught it is God who gives and God who takes, so it is with the Chinese and the EU. They are now wanting to take in exchange for what we have been given.

James Ru of Sydney has hit the nail on the head when he wrote in a letter to the CI News published on 14 August, "*The Europeans come in the guise of friendship and offering pieces of silver and gold under the cloak of aid and assistance when in fact it's quite the opposite.*"

Ru's comments were in the context of the EU trying to get access for their purse seine fleets to Cook Island waters. Ministry of Marine Resources secretary Ben Ponia is on record for trying to sign off this agreement without consulting Cabinet. An angry Ponia was prevented by Foreign Affairs from doing so. If Foreign Affairs has any cognitive discernment they should be advising Cabinet to defer signing the agreement indefinitely and if this is detrimental to further EU funding so be it.

Quietly working away at a Cook Islands market share of sponsored aid is the Indian Government. Like every other new comer bearing gifts they too want something we have. Before it becomes apparent they too want access to our marine resources and onshore business approval all free hand outs from India must be graciously declined.

The sooner our gullible politicians understand there is no such thing as a free lunch and that aid donors see their gifts as investments that can be withdrawn upon the better.

The Prime Minister Henry Puna will accompany leaders from the Pacific Forum in December and at the invitation

of China they will visit the PRC. Their hosts are expected to lavishly give gifts and announce new multimillion dollar funding packages for the Pacific Nations.

Without offence to his hosts Puna should show courageous leadership to his Pacific peers and for the record decline further help from China including the receipt of machinery and pearl farming equipment he was discussing with them in his recent trip to Wellington.

The Prime Minister must not allow previous Chinese gifts to corner him into the obligation trap of repository. In October 2012 the PM's constituency of Manihiki was about to run out of diesel and facing an electricity black out. Of the fishing boats in out waters requested by Ben Ponia for urgent assistance only Huanan was willing to divert fishing operations for a 12 hour trip to Manihiki. Huanan arrived two hours before supplies were exhausted and off loaded 2,000 litres of diesel.

The cost of the diversion and the fuel was about \$20,000 and given as a gift to the Manihiki Island Council by Huanan. The Mayor of Manihiki Mrs Ngamata Napara later had a free trip to China.

Its gifts like these, the free machinery and the \$50,000 of computers that place the Prime Minister Henry Puna in obligation to the PRC who heavily subsidises their fishing fleet's fuel costs.

After nearly 50 years old we are still crawling around on all fours unable to stand unaided on our own two feet now more dependent than ever before. It's time to stop being beggars and live within our means standing on two feet proud of our sovereignty.

"*These powerful friends are simply predators and worse than sharks! Keep them out,*" quote, James Ru.

- by George Pitt

# Murienua should give young James a go

*By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition*

When James Beer, son of Puaikura and successful businessman ran for the Democratic Party in the last general elections, I earmarked him then for bigger things. Now that he is the Democratic Party candidate in this by-election in his home village of Murienua, I am now absolutely certain that he will be a valuable asset to our growing team of Members of Parliament and to the country as a whole. As leader I noticed his drive and determination to get to the bottom of things and to have things done successfully. In a sense, he has to have these qualities because in business, the decisions you make can make or break your future. That's why I'm glad he is our candidate in Murienua because he will bring into the Demo team purpose and strong work ethics. But he is not just that, in fact a very long time ago, in a trip I made with him to Fiji, I witnessed then a man with a strong sense of morals and principles when it comes to accountability of politicians.

At the moment the Government is publically struggling with maintaining its accountability to the public and the nation. Its governance structure and edicts have collapsed and top notch public servants are leaving in droves or being kicked out for what I believe to be having strong opinions about how this country of ours is to get better. But apparently it pays not to have such opinions; if you do you might find yourself out of the door. More poignant however in the public eye are allegations against the Minister of Marine Resources for allegedly criminal activities that amounts to corruption and bribery. And indeed because decisions by any Minister may find its way back to the collective nest of Cabinet, it is possible that others including the Prime Minister could well be implicated. That's besides the possessiveness of

the PM to leap frog around the world, apparently just to get away from the everyday grind of the country that he purportedly heads.

Now compare that scenario of deterioration and decay within the Cook Islands Party Government to the upcoming James Beer. Surely the people of Murienua will see wisdom in giving James Beer a go. That's what we Cook Islanders are known for, testing our resolve to realize the potential of young people. Young James as I have mentioned in last week's column is a Cook Islander of Mangaia and Rarotonga ancestry. He was also born and raised in Arorangi and has always lived in that area and specifically in Murienua. His father Don Beer Snr and brother Don Beer Jnr has always maintained strong work ethics with an attitude to give it a try. James follows in their footsteps and in fact may have exceeded his Dad and brother with the business empire he has managed to build against all odds. James has vision and drive and that's what we need.

Compare that with his rival who was a worker in public health and has never done anything other than that run of the mill job. He offers nothing for Murienua other than a reliance on what the Government could provide if he becomes part of the Government. That is a dangerous precursor and position to be in. In fact it sums up someone who wants to lead but he does not have the firepower to get going other than rely on others to do the work for him. To me that is absolute nonsense and I'm also always suspicious of people that say to me that I will stand for the community because they want me to strand. That suggests to me that CIP candidate Kaota Tuariki has a false impression of himself and of what he is going to do. In contrast James is very, very clear about what he wants to do. That's what the Demo and the people of Murienua wants, an MP with clarity. So gentlemen, ladies, youth of Murienua, GIVE YOUNG JAMES A GO.



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# Where is the Polynesian Leader's Group going?

*Is it time to review our membership of the Pacific's political structures?*

By Charles Pitt

The time has come for our government to take stock of its membership of the various political structures existing in the Pacific before we are overcome and sink under the sheer weight of bureaucracy and policy and developmental frameworks of the type that plague the EU and UN.

Even the SPC-Secretariat of the Pacific Community, appears to be heading the way of Brussels. Granted the SPC did review itself recently but its staffing has increased to 600.

While some regional framework will be necessary for Pacific cohesion, co-operation and management of regional resources, a review of our membership within existing political frameworks is timely given a change in focus in how we view ourselves and how we want the international community to view Pacific states. Collectively, Pacific states are viewed as part of "Oceania." Our PM has proposed we be viewed

as "Large Ocean States."

Where the Cook Islands is concerned, there's the Pacific Forum, the ACP (African/Caribbean/Pacific) Group, SIDS (Small Island Developing States), now the PLG.

A unified Polynesia is not a new idea. Unity however has come a step closer. The Polynesia Leader's Group (PLG) was formed in Samoa on 19 November 2011 however, it is like a car running on a quarter tank of gas. That's because nearly three quarters of Polynesia is not part of the group.

Not in, are Rotuma (Fiji), the NZ Maori (NZ), the Hawaiians (USA), and the Rapanui /Easter Islanders (Chile).

There are also large pockets of Polynesians living in NZ (estimated 70,000 Cook Islanders alone), Australia and Los Angeles (USA).

The PLG as a truly representative entity of Polynesia, has some way to go before it can emulate the MSG-Melanesian Spearhead Group.

The incompleteness is also

obvious in that the current group of eight founding members, Samoa, American Samoa, Tahiti Nui, Tonga, Niue, Cook Islands, Tokelau and Tuvalu is not inclusive in that they are represented solely by the political leadership. A leadership rooted in a legacy of colonialism, the western parliamentary system.

To be truly representative of Polynesia, Traditional Leaders also need to sit at the table with their political counterparts.

The underlying glue which cements this Polynesian group together is culture, tradition, language.

Just where is the PLG going? Despite several meetings, the PLG is yet to draw up a road map, establish a charter, a fully funded secretariat, develop policy and procedural frameworks, a plan and long term goals.

However, most importantly, given the existence of other forums, the PLG is yet to convince the majority of the people that it is a viable, necessary and credible entity. Public discussion on the PLG has been almost nil. The PLG has not even released a copy of the MOU signed in Samoa when the PLG was formed.

There have been several

attempts to unite Polynesia through the traditional leadership, one as early as the 1800's but more recent attempts have experienced teething problems.

In one recent attempt at Whaiora Marae in New Zealand on 11 September 2009, the group of Traditional leaders from all over Polynesia got so far as to establish the "New Foundation of the Royal Union of the Pacific Nations, named TE ALEPHA TE PAPA NUI A TE TAATA MAORI MAOHI NO TE MOANA NUI O KIVA" and appoint Ariki to look after various "portfolios." The Cook Islands was represented by several Ariki. Nothing further seems to have eventuated from this gathering.

It is not known if there will be another attempt on the part of the traditional leaders to form a Polynesian Group.

The political leaders might feel they will have a better chance of unifying Polynesia than their traditional counterparts however, it is clear both parties will have to eventually sit down together and a role will need to be found for the traditional leaders if they are to give their blessing to moves to unify the whole of Polynesia.

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# Norman still a member of the Cook Islands Party

By Charles Pitt

In his Judgment delivered on 7 August 2013 and received on 21 August 2013, Justice Hugh Williams has dismissed Atiu MP Norman George's application for a declaratory Judgment under the Declaratory Judgments Act 1908 that (a) he had resigned from the Cook Islands Party on 7 March 2011 and (b) that the CIP had behaved in an oppressive and unjust manner by denying a member of the party the right to resign.

It appears Norman's letter of resignation did not comply with the CIP constitution and was therefore invalid. The Justice said, quote:

"[30] That leads onto a consideration as to whether Mr George's correspondence. (particularly) his letter of 7 March 2011. amounted to a valid resignation from the CIP.

[31] The answer must be that it was not.

[32] Rule 6(1)(a) clearly sets out that resignations of members of the CIP must be by letter to the Secretary of the Electorate Committee of the constituency. Mr George did not comply with that straightforward requirement for valid resignation even though he must have known who the Electorate Secretary of his constituency was. He wrote to the President of the CIP. Although in his response to the CIP defence he

said the President declined his resignation instead of redirecting the resignation to the Electorate Secretary in Teenui - Mapumai., his letter of 7 March

2011 makes no request for his notification to be redirected. He did not even adopt the simple device of copying (and sending) his 7 March 2011 letter to his Electorate Secretary).

[33] Even when his non-compliance with Rule 6(1)(a) was pointed out in the CIP defence dated 6 May 2013 Mr George did not follow the simple procedure of "Writing a letter of resignation to his Electorate Secretary and then amending his pleadings as WAS his right to allege that at the very least such a letter would have been a valid resignation. It is difficult to see that the CIP would have had a defence to such an amended pleading."

**The following statement was issued by the Prime Minister at 1pm on Wednesday 21 August 2013.**

"Prime Minister Henry Puna has welcomed the decision by the High Court, which has determined the political party status of Norman George, the Member of Parliament for Teenui Mapumai.

The Court's decision dismissed an action brought by George that he had quit the Cook Islands Party on 7 March 2011; and that the CIP had "behaved in an oppressive and unjust manner"



by denying him the right to resign.

Justice Hugh Williams ruled that George "never validly resigned" from the CIP in accordance with the Party's Constitution.

The Declaratory Judgement means George remains a member of the Cook Islands Party.

The Prime Minister welcomed the decision saying it clearly firms up the Party's parliamentary numbers in the House, and that he looks forward to George's vote of support on issues of supply and confidence.

"Given that he is a party member, I also look forward to any financial contributions that

Norman may wish to make to the CIP, as well as policy input to the executive machinery, which helps the Government under its administrative mandate to govern until the next general election," the Prime Minister said.

The CIP maintained from the outset that George had a legal and moral obligation to resign from parliament and seek a fresh mandate from the constituency.

The Prime Minister says the CIP stands by the law and upholds the principle that prevents party-hopping by elected representatives, who are driven by the thirst for power rather than the interests of the people."

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# Our Cover Girl



*Our frontpage girl for Herald Issue 680 is 19 year old Lisiane Messine at Tereora College who is one of the many Cook Island Youth Ambassadors preparing for the Youth Ambassadors conference to be held in New Caledonia later in December this year. Lisiane has a passion for social work and likes to help people. Check out our website [www.ciherald.co.ck](http://www.ciherald.co.ck) and facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ciherald](http://www.facebook.com/ciherald)*

## News Briefs *By TeRiu Woonton*

**T**he soccer season for the 2013 Competition will officially kick off today, Wednesday 21st August. The newly introduced Under 11 Mix division will kick off this precedings together with the Under 17 Men's teams who will play every Wednesdays at the CIFA complex and Matavera School grounds. The U-11 mix teams will play at 4.15pm followed by the U-17 men's division at 4.50pm. In the opening matches Puaikura will take on Nikao Sokattak at the CIFA complex on field one while Matavera go head to head against Tupapa Maraerenga on field two. The Matavera School grounds will host Takuvaine and Avatiu for the third match, while Titikaveka cools its heels with a bye until the second round. The Under 14 Boys teams will square off first at 4.15pm followed by the senior women's outfits at 5.00pm on Thursday afternoon. Matavera's Under 14 Boy's team have proven to be strong contenders as seen last season and will be confident for this week's challenge against Tupapa Maraerenga. Fridays will see the Under 14 Girls play their first match of the season followed by the Premier Men's division between host Matavera and Tupapa Maraerenga.

**O**n Wednesday the 28th August, the Cook Islands Youth Ambassadors will be hosting a Winter Youth Ball, themed black and gold masquerade in aid of their trip to Noumea at the end of this year for the Pacific Youth and Sports Conference. The Winter Youth ball is for boys and girls aged 15 to 18 and encourages youth in formal social settings. Students are selling tickets at \$25.

**T**he Wichman Family is having a movie fundraiser on Saturday the 31st of August in aid of their family reunion. The Joe and Teura Wichman family are expecting about 120 family members to attend the reunion, held in Auckland, Rotorua in February next year for a week. There will be more fundraising efforts leading up to the reunion however in the mean time they are starting with a movie night fundraiser to the Movie "Wolverine" in 3D, since the Empire Cinema has now joined the global shift to enhancing audience cinema experience by moving from the 35 mm cinematography film experience to the latest and new digital platform, DCP. For a ticket, get in touch with Ine on 56749

## Cook Islands Times "on line."

**T**he Cook Islands Times is now "on line" and readers can access it via the facebook site for the Cook Islands Herald. The Times goes on line each Friday with the latest news.

# Desperate running on empty Taxmen chasing the easy beats

**M**inistry of Finance Richard Neves has set his mad taxmen on a desperate witch hunt of tax harvesting among those less likely to resist his team's interpretation of the tax laws. Its little wonder Neves' nick name of Neneva is being reinforced by those who feel the force of this invasive tax force.

Whether its individual Cook Island nationals, businesses or institutions, no one is being spared the arrogance and nonnegotiable uncompromising demands of those targeted by neneva Neves' heartless tax collectors. Intelligent political observers within the Cook Islands Party and Government are seriously unsettled by a voting backlash similar to one expected from the Grey Power pensioners and the Cook Islands Worker's Association.

An accumulation of political deficits for the CIP engineered from one ministry is becoming an overdraft in the political bank. With diminishing political credit reserves to fall back on, the CIP are taking a risk by turning a blind eye to Neves' end justifies the means actions. There is a strong flavour of arrogance brewing in the bowels of the Finance Ministry which must be pruned before it outgrows the political ability to defuse it.

With an over pitched budget for the sake of a politics of supply, the fragile primary revenue sources already are forecasting a straining of the structural integrity and intelligence of the budget. A supplementary budget before the end of 2013 is the confirmation the creatively bankrupt Neves is recession tinkering with a single dimensional eggs in one basket recovery underwritten by tourism.

In the meantime Neves' answer to his fiscal short fall crisis is to raise fees and raid pensioner piggy banks and the reserves of those being targeted who pose the least resistance.



Richard Neves - "Boss, I've got easy beats Te Aponga for five years"

Under pressure to be seen to be earning his grossly obese salary Neves has resorted to the addition of carbon dating collectible taxes. A soft target, Te Aponga Uira the country's best managed State Owned Enterprise has been bullied into a five year backdated sum of about \$120,000. Te Aponga's meticulously documented account has made them easy pickings for Neves' tax net.

Te Aponga has been judged on a difference of interpretation. The desperate revenue invaders have decided non-taxable allowances such as medical and electricity should have been taxed. Their non negotiable judgement is Te Aponga's highly qualified accountants and the auditors have been wrong and are punished with a demand of a five year back tax assessment be paid.

It's more like someone in the Finance Ministry on a felicitous mission of forensic fiscal investigating has noticed Te Aponga through prudent financial management has funds

in hand and a way was invented to get their grubby hands on it.

It is about time the same forensic texture is applied to the likes of Ewan Smith and John Tierney's Air Rarotonga who have received sizeable tax breaks while they have a financial stock pile in overseas off shore banks (More of this soon).

The sooner the real culprits of tax skimming, local businesses and tourism accommodators who are hoarding funds in off shore accounts have the blow torch turned on them the fairer our tax burden will become. For too long the small businesses have been subsidising big businesses. Why is that too hard for neneva Neves and his tax wombats?

Instead of advising Te Aponga of a new interpretation to this revenue process Neves' tax mob have relished the moment to score points after finding the needle in the hay stack. Neves' lot makes Geoff Stoddart look like the brother of Jesus while they are the first cousins of

Lucifer.

Neves shameless pursuit of drastic budget balancing activities is a reaction to the CIP Government's refusal to demonstrate the political will and stomach cut backs to reduce the public service's unsustainable wage bill. Having pitched too high without a surety of new tax streams and guestimating projected revenues, the budget with certainty is doomed to fracture. Eventually this fiscal window dressing will be seen for what it is.

Go chase the real culprits Neves, those who continue to defy the Ministry of Finance because they are political parasites who have substantial offshore accounts and hypocritically and shamelessly suck the financial blood out the country for their self interests. How Neves can sleep at night earning \$300,000 catching the easy beats while the long time big tax skimmers continue to rout the system is unredeemable.

- by George Pitt

# CIBPW hold AGM

## Wanted

A unique Cook Islands logo for the  
**Cook Islands Marine Park**

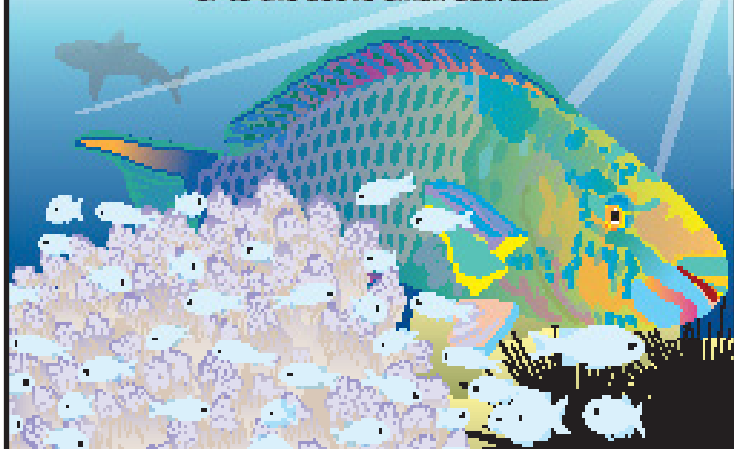
Here's your chance to design a unique logo for our Cook Islands Marine Park. The competition is open to everyone resident in the Cook Islands and to all Cook Islanders living elsewhere.

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:

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The annual general meeting for the Cook Islands Business and Professional Women's Association was held on Monday 19th at Paradise Inn and saw the election of a new committee to serve for the 2013/14 term. The Association has been in the Cook Islands since 1991 and over the past 22 years has established positive business and professional networking opportunities for the women of the Cook Islands recently honouring leading women's achievements with the 2013 Women of the Year won by Manihiki business woman, Rangī Mitaera.

Outgoing President Jenner Davis chaired the meeting and reported on the achievements of the committee over the past year reminding members of the goals of the organisation and the motto of "Networking, Development, and Leadership in Action". Davis went on to say "As you can see, the possibilities are wide and varied about how CIBPW can develop itself. We are not limited to interactions and networking with our membership but really we have the ability to have a voice in all issues impacting women in the Cook Islands."

She then went on to list the achievements accomplished by the outgoing committee from quiz nights fundraising for Women's cricket and education opportunities for young exchange students to, pledging support to the Emerging Pacific Women's Leadership Program and Vital Voices, mentoring advice to primary caregivers and exploring ways in which the association can provide solid assistance to women in business. Jenner Davis went on to urge the new committee to look for ways to support youth leaders saying "The young people of the Cook Islands are thirsty for knowledge, mentoring, opportunities—I encourage the next executive to look at more ways in which BPW can interact with this vital segment of our community."

CIBPW went on to elect their patron which remains Helen Henry. The new committee members are

- President – Glenda Tuaine
- Vice Presidents – Shannon Saunders and Carmel Beattie
- Treasurer – Liz Koteka
- Secretary – Karlene Pynenburg
- Committee members – Georgia Langdon, Krick Barraud and Louise Wittwer
- Immediate Past President – Jenner Davis

The new committee will meet within the next two weeks to go over plans for the coming year so watch out for CIBPW events and projects and support the business and professional women of the Cook Islands. If you wish to join the association please contact President Glenda Tuaine via email on glenda@motone.biz, Treasurer Liz Koteka - ljkoteka@oyster.net.ck, or Secretary Karlene Pynenburg – karlene@thecomputerman.co.ck



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# Recapping development

While it appears slow-moving and there is still a way to go, renewable energy development has nevertheless advanced quickly in recent years.

It's worthwhile to recap lest we forget.

At TAU we have been exploring renewable energy for a while. This is something you would expect TAU to want to do because the cost of fuel is a major factor in the structure of the price that customers pay for their electricity usage. So it's natural to investigate renewable energy as a supplement or potential alternative to diesel fuel generated power. In recent years, TAU even included this wish in its corporate mission statement.

To understand the development that is taking place, one needs a starting point. For TAU this point is the existing power station and distribution network or electric grid. For the longest time, TAU operated a system based only on burning diesel fuel to generate electric power. But the call in recent years is for a new system of power generation from renewable energy sources such as the sun and wind to be incorporated, integrated if you like, with the old system.

As you can imagine challenges aplenty abound. Yet it had/has to be managed in a way without threatening the safety and reliability of the electric grid. And,



Generators inside the power station importantly, without drowning TAU finances in a sea of red ink.

It is in this light that one should view the net-metering scheme introduced in November 2009. This scheme gave economic incentives to customers interested in grid-tied renewable energy installations allowing them to earn credit over time for excess energy fed back into the grid. The response was overwhelming.

Similarly, the construction of a ground-mounted PV array in the car park of the Te Aponga premises in Tutakimoa in November 2011

was an early exploration of PV potential. Likewise, a raft of studies into economic viability, energy storage, grid integration of renewable generators and others has helped to point the direction forward.

Government has also given robust support, putting in place policy targets of 50% renewable energy production by 2015 and 100% by 2020.

Then last year we saw PV arrays obtained through donor assistance and erected atop the roofs of the Ministry of Education

and two TAU buildings. The result is an increase in the share of renewable energy electricity generation on Rarotonga. The benefits resulting from the savings on fuel cost was passed forward to the public beginning December 2012 with a 5 percent discount given TAU customers who paid their accounts on time.

In the near future TAU will continue to erect more PV arrays to supply the grid and is currently investigating suitable and available sites.



# Westpac announces successful Grant applicants

Westpac today announced the names of the successful applicants of the Westpac Women's Education Grants. The program offers financial assistance to primary school, high school or secondary college girls and women studying at a tertiary institution or women currently working who wish to return to study.

This is the fourth time Westpac has offered 5 grants in the Cook Islands. A total of 49 grants were made available across the Pacific region.

"Since we started our women's grant program in 2011, more than 160 women and girls across the region have been able to stay at school longer through the financial assistance Westpac provided," said Brett Hooker Westpac Cook Islands General Manager. "In some cases, this financial aid could stretch up to three years and we think this makes a significant difference, not just for the woman or girl but for the benefit of the community."

"Studies show time and time again that the greater the education of women and the more they participate in the economy, the more dynamic and more growth is experienced in that country. For the women and girls themselves, it's not just about having a better education – it's also about increased confidence and higher self esteem. Just as importantly, it's sending a message to the community about gender equity and that women and girls have the right to education as much as men and boys."

Judges awarded the grants based on responses to the question: "What are you doing to make a difference in your community? Why do you do this?"

"Our question this year really focused on how women and girls contribute to the community and how they're becoming the leaders of tomorrow. We received some great responses," said Mr Hooker Westpac Cook



Rosa, Liilani, Ngaruaine, Sandrina

Islands General Manager. "We chose the following applicants for their excellent responses."

Liilani Fua & Xaeon Peyroux both of Tereora College each win a grant of \$500. Meanwhile Nga Corina Ngatamariki, Aketui Tuakeu both of Aitutaki together with Ngaruaine Tangimataiti of Rarotonga each win a grant of

\$1,000.00 towards the cost of their education.

"Congratulations to our successful applicants and thank you to everyone who applied for a grant. We truly hope we're making a difference to the successful women and girls who receive a grant and of course, to the development of our country

too," said Mr Hooker Westpac Cook Islands General Manager.

Westpac's Pacific operations cover the Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. There are more than 50 Westpac branches and agencies, 100 In-store Banking outlets and 100 ATMs throughout the Pacific.



Westpac Staff(right) Aitutaki with successful grant applicants.

# Why we should maintain our New Zealand Citizenship status – a Health perspective

by Charlie Rani

You don't know how lucky you are to be a Cook Islander living in the Cook Islands until you get a health referral to New Zealand.

In late December, my wife Mata was complaining about a lump in her left breast. With much curiosity we went to the hospital already assuming that it was breast cancer. Mata was admitted straight away. According to the doctor, this was a serious case and that Mata would be required to go to New Zealand as a health referral patient.

In New Zealand, Mata had a lumpectomy which saw her left breast removed. She was also given options for post-treatment of which she chose to undergo 5 weeks of radiation treatment. She is still in Auckland waiting for her final results and also clearance from her oncologist which is expected at the end of the month.

Personally, I have come to appreciate the assistance that the New Zealand Government and the Cook Islands Government gives us by providing this health referral system. And I thank the fore-thought of Papa Arapati for choosing

to retain our New Zealand citizenship.

I met this New Zealand Maori lady who has been waiting in line for her lumpectomy for 3 years. I was overwhelmed because here was Mata: a referral from Rarotonga, and it seems to us that Mata by-passed the system and was admitted straightaway. She didn't have to wait in the queue like the New Zealand Maori lady but was treated straight away.

Following the lumpectomy, the Oncology Doctor mentioned the 3 post-op treatments. For anyone to go through chemotherapy costs about \$92,000.00, and for radiation therapy costs about \$70,000.00. The third option was for less serious cases and involved taking daily medication. For Mata, it was option 2, she had to do 5 weeks of radiation treatment at the Auckland Hospital.

So for 5 weeks every day, Mata had to be transported to the hospital for her treatment. Her daughter Sunielia did this for part of the time and when I arrived there I continued till her treatment was complete.

As part of the 'referral' the Auckland Hospital was supposed to provide her

with courtesy transport to meet her daily treatment, and be on time. But because my sister offered her car, Mata was required to provide a weekly mileage report to the Health in order for them to arrange reimbursement for fuel.

Mata was also put straight on the emergency benefit and despite the small amount it helped with accommodation and also subsists with meal and incidentals and doctor visits.

We were blessed to be shouted a trip over to Melbourne to see the birth of Mata's new grandson. In Australia, we found out with those on Medicare that were New Zealand citizens were not covered for treatment of non-communicable diseases, and for those in a similar situation to Mata, they would have to come up with A\$25,000.00.

It has been a tiring process for Mata as she went through this but we are counting our blessings, and would like to express our gratitude to be New Zealand citizens, and to praise our previous Government administrators that have paved the way with this health referral scheme as it was just a blessing.

## Minister Heather in Penrhyn

*Photo by Paul Maoate*



# Improving network quality



Telecom CEO Jules Maher, with Carl Glassie re-terminating all phone connections at their pillar boxes as part of their effort to improve the network quality in anticipation of the O3B service that is due for launch on the 1st of November. Installation of the satellite dishes for the service have already been completed. The first four O3B satellites were launched in late June with another four expected to be launched in late September. The O3B service will provide Telecom customers with fibre-like speeds.

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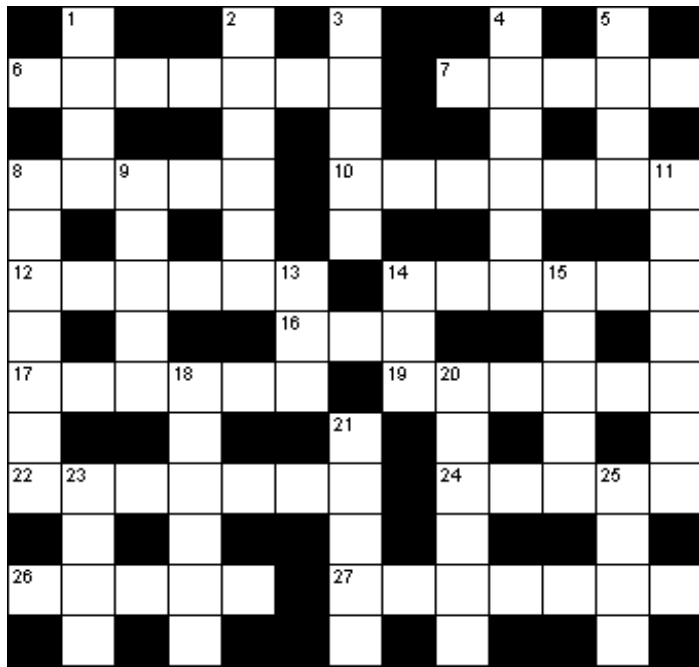
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# CROSSWORD



## Across

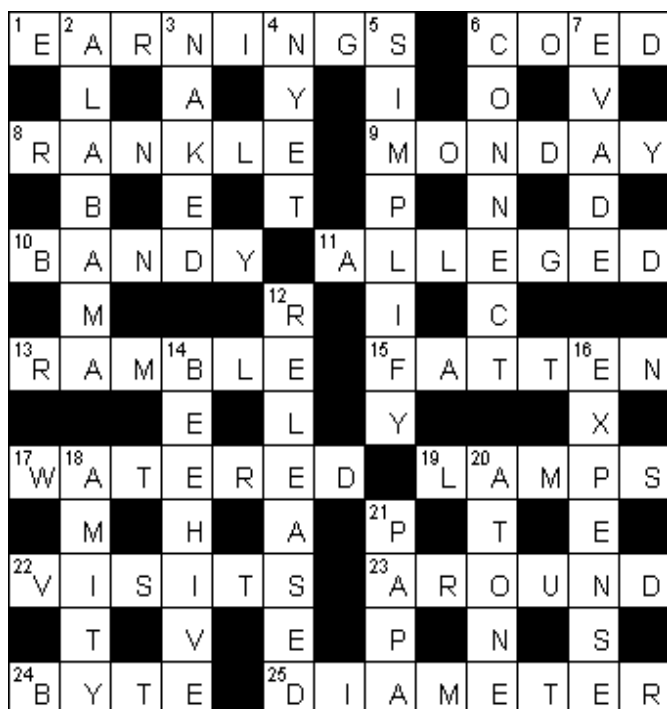
- 6. Luggage
- 7. Female horses
- 8. Run away
- 10. Performance of music
- 12. Antiaircraft fire
- 14. Heavenly body
- 16. Before
- 17. Wretchedness
- 19. Mind
- 22. Long curl
- 24. Like musk
- 26. Departing
- 27. Covering

## Down

- 1. Torch
- 2. Manoeuvre

## 3. Swerves

- 4. Boat basin
- 5. Second letter of the Greek alphabet
- 8. Prison
- 9. Finds pleasing
- 11. Method of raising money
- 13. Lock opener
- 14. Vigour
- 15. Narrow joining pieces
- 18. Locomotive
- 20. Ask to come
- 21. Severely simple
- 23. Image of a deity
- 25. Compassionate



# The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

Phone 24979 Email: [sales@thecomputerman.co.ck](mailto:sales@thecomputerman.co.ck)

## Best ever Android Apps

### WordPress

WordPress is one of the most popular blogging platforms, boasting over 25 million software downloads and 15,000 plug-ins. If you wish to blog while away from your computer, this WordPress app will let you do just that, but on your Android phone. Bloggers can quickly create drafts, edit posts, and approve comments without the need for a Mac or PC.

### Tumblr

Tumblr is another popular microblogging platform that lets users quickly share and caption photos, quotes, chats, links, and more. Its app recently received an interface makeover that makes updates even easier.

### Vine

Let me be emphatically clear: Vine is not a great app. It is, however, a great service that lets you shoot and share six second, endlessly looping videos. Six seconds may not seem like much, but Vine can be used to make everything from tiny movies to miniature animations. On Android, its potential is held back by some weird audio issues, and the inability to toggle between the front and rear facing cameras. Once the developers lick these (and other) problems, Vine will be a great app for Android.



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# Learning Quality Table Side Care workshop to be held in Rarotonga

This week sees the distinct privilege of hosting internationally renowned Master Sommelier Cameron Douglas. Douglas will be on Rarotonga to deliver The Bond Store facilitated workshops as part of the 2013 Air New Zealand Cook Islands Tourism Awards.

Chairman Alister Stevic is excited about having someone of Mr Douglas' calibre in on Rarotonga "Cameron is New Zealand's first and only Master Sommelier with the Court of Master Sommeliers worldwide, and the South Pacific Director for the Global Guild of Sommeliers. That means he is one of a very select few in the world to hold such prestigious title, in addition Mr Douglas is head of the Wine and Beverage programme at the AUT".

Stevic continued on to say that 'the workshops are focused on providing 'Quality Table Side Customer Care' and will cover topics from greeting customers, taking orders, matching wines with foods and a whole host of other topics at internationally recognised standards".

Two workshops will be run on Rarotonga, Thursday 22nd August at either 9-11am or 2-4pm at The Edgewater Resort & Spa and in Aitutaki, Friday 23rd August, 10:30-12:00am at The Boat Shed. Places are restricted to 45 per session so you will need to register quickly to secure a position. Register with Mousie Skews at [mousie@islandhopper.co.ck](mailto:mousie@islandhopper.co.ck).

## Rarotonga clubs dominate Bowls finals

By Ben Mose

Rarotonga Bowling Clubs dominated the 2013, Bowls Cook Islands Lawn Bowls Championship at the Rarotonga Bowling Green at Tutakimoa during the last 3 weeks. Out of the 32 medals available, Rarotonga ran away with 8 valuable medals, left Aitutaki and Atiu both on 6 and Mangaia on 4. The best positive news that came out of this Championship is the numbers of Junior Bowlers, 7 of them and all featured in the finals.

Congratulations to the 2014, World Bowls Singles "Champion of Champions" to compete in NZ next December 2014. Ladies Singles Champion, Tai Tangi from the Rakahanga BC. Men Singles Champion, Peter Totoo from Mangaia BC.

For the Record  
2013, Lawn Bowls National Championship's Results:

### Ladies Fours.

- 1st Rarotonga BC
- 2nd Mangaia BC

3rd= Atiu/Aitutaki BC

### Men's Fours

- Dennis Tokorangi Memory Trophy

1st Aitutaki BC

2nd Rarotonga BC

3rd = Mauke/ Atiu BC

### Ladies Triples

1st Nukuroa BC

2nd Rakahanga BC

3rd = Rarotonga/Atiu

### Men's Triples

1st Aitutaki BC

2nd Mauke BC

3rd = Raro/Nukuroa

### Ladies Pairs

1st Rarotonga BC

2nd Atiu BC

3rd = Aitutaki/Mangaia

### Men's Pairs

1st Atiu BC

2nd Aitutaki BC

3rd = Aitutaki/Mangaia

### Ladies Singles

1st Rakahanga BC 2nd Mauke

BC 3rd = Rarotonga/NZ

BC

### Men's Singles

1st Mangaia BC 2nd Rarotonga

BC 3rd= Raro/Atiu BC



Master Sommelier Cameron Douglas



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- Senior Engineer – strong project management + PC skills
- Manicurist/Pedicurist - experienced
- Massage & Beauty Therapist - experienced

We also welcome applications from experienced Chefs, Food Service and Bar Staff to assist with our ongoing business needs.

To apply email: [work@pacificresort.com](mailto:work@pacificresort.com) or visit one of our resorts in Rarotonga or Aitutaki and complete an employment application form. Ph: 20 427 for further info.

# "Wedding of the Century"

## What people are talking about this week!

by Jeane Matenga.

Photos by Nior Photography (Junior Marsters)

If you were planning a wedding, you'd probably want the new Mrs. Parker to be your wedding planner. She's not actually planning to be a wedding planner, but if there was a degree for wedding planners, she'd receive top honours. 'Belle' as she is known had always dreamed of the fairy tale wedding, that once-in-a-lifetime moment when you say 'I do' to the man you love more than anything else in the world. So when it came to her very own, she was determined to ensure it would be perfect. And that meant research, research, research - one year of research in fact. If you think one year of research is extravagant, think again, weddings are a glamorous, sophisticated affair, and there is just so much involved in achieving that 'wow' factor. It's the most special day of your life, you can choose to play it down, or you can plan to go all out and make it special for both you and your man, as well as, all your friends and family whom you have invited.

In the Cook Islands, you can let your family throw you a wedding, or you can govern every detail yourself. So 'Bride and Groom' magazine and the Internet became one of Belle's best friends. She slept weddings, ate weddings, drank weddings, woke weddings, every spare minute was consumed with weddings.

Allen only wanted a simple wedding but he eventually conceded to Belle's plea that they would only get married once.

So Allen just focused on the budget of the wedding and let Belle take care of the rest. It kind of worked because Belle was based in New Zealand where she had chosen to take care of her ill mother with the blessing of Allen, and Allen remained in Rarotonga to work. So in order for her to get things done from this end, she had both Allen and her trusted friend who asked not to be mentioned to do all the running around.

Those who were at the wedding were able to see the effort and planning that went into this wedding. Everything from her dress to the reception was consistent with the 'Black Pearl' theme and her favourite colours of blue (representing the ocean) and yellow.



# Cook Islander succeeds as a lawyer

**K**ia Orana  
I came across Charlie Piho through certain circles in Auckland and when I heard of his achievement I was really proud as a Cook Islander and wanted to also share this with the Cook Islands especially those youth who aspire to become lawyers as well as to succeed. I also acknowledge other recent graduates who themselves have reached successful educational accolades in law such as Alex Herrman and Lena Wong.

## So what is his achievement?

Charlie Piho came first or top law student in the Bachelor of Law degree program at the University of Auckland Technology (AUT) in 2012. Charlie received the Dean's award for top undergraduate student in the LLB or LLB (Hons) degree. In March 2012 he received the Criminal Law Prize from AUT for achieving the highest academic mark in the Criminal Law paper. He achieved top academic marks in the following papers: Remedies in Private Law, Commercial Transactions, Resources Management Law, and Equitable Remedies. Charlie graduated with an LLB (Hons) degree. This success has seen Charlie sought after by one of the top commercial law firms in New Zealand, Kensington Swann, where Charlie has been employed in their Auckland office since the beginning of 2013, beginning his experience in the legal corporate world. The AUT law program has an emphasis on Commercial law.

Charlie's Cook Island heritage stems from the Northern Group. His grandmother was Hakimata Maroroa (also known by two other names Puruai and Toka). She was born in Penryhn, and his grandfather his namesake Charlie (Ti'are) Piho was born in Rakahanga. His family home is in Matavera where his father lives. He teaches



Charlie Piho  
Maths at Nukutere College and his mother teaches English in Hong Kong.

Charlie attended Auckland Grammar School where he achieved an A University Bursary.

Charlie was also President of the AUT Maori and Pacific Law Association, Third Year Rep of the AUT Law Student Association (2011) and Pacific Student Leader (2012).

Apart from the excitement of law Charlie is a big basketball fan, this is his other passion. In 2007, he played professional basketball for the Auckland Stars. From November 2011 to May 2012 he played for the Harbour Heat basketball association (North Harbour).

I asked Charlie what words of advice would he give to young people. He said this:

"Keep an open mind, be inquisitive, and learn! By failing to get an education, young people are only cutting down their potential career paths. I would advise young students to keep their options open by getting an education. During our youth, very rarely do we know exactly what we want in life. Don't limit all that the world has to offer by discounting the value of education."

I just wanted to share the above to highlight a Cook Islands success story!!

*Meitaki maata  
Sholan Ivaiti*



The wedding dress was sewn by well-known Lisa H Design who collaborated with Belle on the design. The top part of the dress represented the parau shell. The material used was pure white chiffon laden with white pearls and Swarovski crystals which represented the colour of the inside of the pearl shell.

All 3 rings, the engagement, and both wedding bands were designed by John Kaulima with the engagement ring using a true black Manihiki Pearl which Belle had purchased from Mona Mato.

This wedding brought together the best from all over the globe. The invitations and scrolls reflecting the theme were handmade in the Philippines by Madeline Gibson. The candy bars for the kids and cameras for the guest tables came from the US. The wine glasses for the wedding couple and guess book with the pearl setting came from China. While the wedding favours were made by Chocolate by Insignia in New Zealand. The confetti, parasols were from myweddingstore.co.nz. The 10-tier cake which had blue sprays and edible silver pearls were made by Thelma at Cake a Couture and were on stands that had the couple's names, wedding love and wedding date. And there was real cutlery at the reception, none of the plastic stuff.

But by large much of the work was done here. Tina Matapo did the reception set up with the bowties and chairs in the theme. The whole tent of desserts was done by Mr & Mrs Parker and family, and Allen's family from here and overseas. T&M Heather did the catering for Allen's side. Belle's aunties Mene and Tita, and all Belle's family and friends did the catering for Belle's side. And of course, Mona Mato was the MC.

No doubt those who attended were in awe of the setup, enjoyed the great food, and had a fabulous time.

Now there are just so many people that Belle and Allen wanted to thank and they will do that in a proper 'official acknowledgement' in the paper, so please don't take any offence if I have left you out in this story. But they would like to thank their parents, their siblings, their families, their friends and everyone involved in helping them with their wedding from 1 year ago to Thursday 15th August 2013 (the special day).

For now the happy couple are extremely pleased with their wedding, that the honeymoon is taking backstage. When I asked Belle where they were going, she laughs 'down the beach under the coconut tree'. LOL Belle! You and Allen have the rest of your life to honeymoon - enjoy the lifetime honeymoon.

# Scenes from Minister Heather's trip to Tongareva

*Photos courtesy of Paul Maoate*



# Living above average *Part 1*

*By Senior Pastor John Tangi*

**T**oo often many people do not live life the way God wanted them to live. For this article I am going to draw on some Biblical lessons from 1 Chronicles 4v.9-10 (NKJV) to encourage us in "LIVING ABOVE AVERAGE". The Bible reading says "Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, because I bore him in pain. And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, 'Oh, that You would bless me in deed, and enlarge my territory, that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain'. So God granted him what he requested."

We must understand that God never meant for us to live an average life. He purposed for us to live in victory and dominionship! To be rulers! God called us to do great works for Him, to be achievers! Too often we settle for less, accepting less than what God has for us. The question is, 'What was it that Jabez did that sets him apart from the crowd?' In the midst of 600 other names, his name stands out as a man who was above average. If we are going to learn anything about living above average from Jabez, then it starts with having a Dream!

Lesson 1 is WE NEED A DREAM! Jabez had a Dream that God would give him more land! In 1 Chronicles 4v.10 Jabez prayed to God "Please bless me and give me a lot of land...(CEV) Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory...(NKJV)" The difference between young Joseph in the Old Testament and his average brothers was that, Joseph had a dream. Joseph knew that he was purposed for great things because he had a dream. People who have a dream stand out in the crowd. Dare

to dream of something great for your life, dare to dream great works you can do for God. Colossians 3v.23 reads "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." Jabez thought big and he spoke big "...bless me and give me a lot of land..." In v.10 it says "...God did just what Jabez had asked." Ask God for a DREAM, "...old men..." says the Book of Joel "...shall dream dreams and young men shall see visions." (Joel 2v.28)

Lesson 2 is WE NEED A GROWING FAITH We need to believe that God can accomplish the dream through us. Jabez not only had a Great DREAM, but he CONFESSED it. The Book of Romans tells us that "Faith comes by hearing..." (10v.17). As we CONFESS our Dream we hear it, and we become inspired, and committed to it! It encourages us to believe that it can be done! In Mark 9v.23 Jesus tells us that "Everything is possible for him who believes." No dream is without its opposition, that's why Jabez said, "Be with me so I will be safe from harm..." Jabez has no special talent instead he had a growing faith, believing in his confession to God. When you add confession to your dream it builds up your faith! When someone talks of greatness in God and believing for big things we say they are arrogant and proud. The Apostle Paul recognized this and said in Philippians 4v.13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (NKJV). In Daniel 11v.32 it says "The people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits." (NKJV) Friend, what's arrogant and

## Encouragement Column

*With Senior Pastor John Tangi*



proud about believing and confessing the Word of God? God meant for us to be raised up and not to be put down. Thinking big requires you to stretch your faith to the limit. That's how you develop a growing faith. Big Dream and Big Confession requires Big Faith. In Luke 17v.5 the apostles said to Jesus "Increase our faith." Jesus

said "You are people of little faith." The disciples came to understand that their faith was 'stagnant' it was so small when it could have been much bigger.

I will conclude Part 2 of this article in the next issue of the Cook Islands Herald next week.

May you have a God blessed week. Te Atua te aroa.

# The Teenage Dream

By Norma Ngatamariki

Teenagers. They're not something to be taken so lightly. They can change their moods as quickly as they change clothes. Parents find that we can be a bit of a handful at times, so they have to be careful around us. We can snap at any moment or we can be complete angels (which isn't very often). I would know, I've been through it (and still going through it). When you reach your teens, at around the age of 13 to 14, you have a lot going on in your life. But, trust me, that's just the beginning.

Fact Number One: Teenagers are rebels by nature. When we're younger, we tend to hang onto every word our parents told us and did everything they asked.

When Mum said "Go out and rake the rubbish," you didn't argue with her. And if you did, she kept a kikau broom on hand. But now that we are older and we've learnt a few things about life (like how to make up an excuse to avoid doing chores), we've become more craftier. We want to do things at our own pace and love to (Oh, how I love this word) PROCRASTINATE. If you don't know what it means, it's just when you're setting yourself back on purpose, so you can avoid doing all the nasty chores. It's a bad habit to pick up on, but I don't know a single teen who doesn't procrastinate.

Fact Number Two: Material things matter. Nowadays, it's about who has the latest Apple iPhone or Samsung Galaxy, which shoes goes

with this dress, which bike is more popular on the road, whose boobs are bigger etc. (Just joking about the last part). It's true. If you don't have any kind of technology of ANY sort, then...good luck trying to survive in this modern age. Teens communicate with each other through their phones more than they do face-to-face! That is some scary stuff. Things like facebook, Twitter and Instagram are social networks that can be addicting for teenagers. My advice for the parents out there: get your kids to join something, or even better, let them get a job! Spending too much time on things like, the latest technology can be a tad unhealthy. There has to be a balance of some sort.

Fact Number Three:

Expressing the Attitude. With time, teenagers have gotten a lot bolder and they're "expressing" their opinions more. With the introduction of the No Smacking Law over in New Zealand (not that it will ever be applied here), teens aren't afraid to speak their minds. I reckon that there is a borderline between expressing your mind and just being plain cheeky. I've seen it happen firsthand. Teenagers standing up to their teachers (in some cases they're right), getting into fights because of the "He-Said-She-Said" Game. In some situations, it can be funny but, to be honest, I think some of us are wise cracks. We actually like stirring up mischief.

And that is a lesson to be learnt on your typical teenager!

# How to get fit

By Hareta Tiraa Passfield

This week could not be going more slowly. It's only Wednesday. I am counting down the days till this term is over. Because after that it's only 3 more weeks of school and then exams, but what comes after is what I can't wait for. HOLIDAYS! I am so excited it's unreal. I have been looking forward to it since the very first day school started.

I really had no idea what to write about this week, I'm only telling you this so I can use more words so I can get to my target amount. I actually get paid for writing this, but need to get enough words down! Even as I sit here next to my 20 year old cat Sooty

and write this I still have no idea what I'm going to write about. I'm just going to take a break and come back to it.

Okay, so I've gone and made me tea and while I was making tea, it came to me. I am going to write about fitness and how to get fit. I might not be the best person to talk about this seeing as I'm not actually that fit. I only exercise when I have to in P.E and when I'm feeling fat, so then I go for a run but then won't go again for like a couple of weeks till I feel fat again.

But I do take P.E and I actually do know a thing or two about how get fit. Well first of all you're not going to get fit or healthy if you don't

eat healthy and exercise regularly. Most of you know this but yet you only ever do one of these things. So yeah, eat healthy, meaning cut out all sugary foods, a big one is fizzy drink. Did you know that some may be carcinogenic? For those of you who don't know what that is, it is something that causes cancer. So yeah cut down on fizzy drinks, also lollies and chips. Carbs are another big thing. Don't cut them all out but cutting down would be a good idea. Our tuck shop needs to sell more healthy food. There is nothing really healthy there. Sometimes I go there and they don't even have water! What kind of tuck shop is that?

Then there is the exercise part; I know it's hard to get motivated. Trust me I know! Something that works for me is having a work out buddy. That helps you get motivated because you want to prove to that person that you are not lazy. There is no excuse for not doing exercise; Zumba classes are only \$2! You can't say you can't afford that. If you're not so good at dancing you can always run, swim or cycle. One of the main ways teenagers get fit here is joining sports teams and clubs.

So keep this all in mind when you're trying to get fit and healthy. Living a healthy life style is always a good choice

**You can make a difference! Do Your Part**



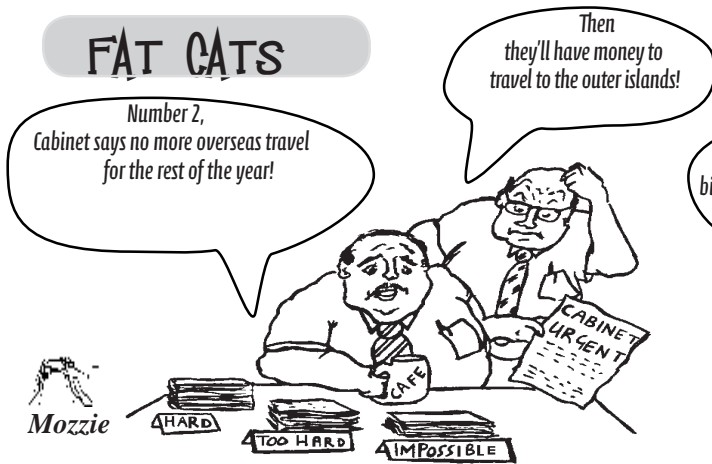
**OFF THE TAP!!**



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

**MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING**

## FAT CATS



## COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Whisper chooks is the next sitting of parliament will be filmed by Film Raro as a reality show for TV. Trouble is the producers cannot decide if it is to be a horror show, a Korean or Shortland Street type soapie, a Travel show, a fishing show, a cooking show, a situation comedy, a drama, a talk show or a children's programme! However, the producers have decided it will be a soapie about politicians traveling around the world sampling the different ways to cook fish, talking about it, becoming dramatic when they are booked into economy class instead of business class then behaving like children when their luggage is lost!

The EU has some way to go to catch up to the Chinese if they want our fish! That's why the EU plan to engage 6 Spanish purse seiners because their nets can scoop up 600 tonnes of tuna at a time! Ole!

Notice the Chinese fishing boat parked at Avatiu Harbour right at the end where the passage is. Why? Perhaps for a quick getaway should the Police Commissar be spotted running along the wharf clutching a summons in his hand!

Oh dear chooks! The CIP could be rubbing the Demo's contender for the Murienua Heavyweight title bout on September 19th, up the wrong way! Not content with massaging the CIP contender for the title, some in the Demo camp have been getting the good



oil and rub down in the CIP gym! But are they massaging the muscles or the brain?

It's a sad sign of the times chooks that the majority on the new executive of the Business and Professional Women's Association are ex-pats.

Local chook observes, should not the Commissar of Police be barking at the Rass man to not butt in while an official investigation is underway? If every Sherlock and his bloodhound began encroaching on the Police investigation into Bishop and carrying out their own investigations, would this not jeopardize the Police case? C'mon Holmes, let the coppers do their job!

Latest craze spotted is young riders speeding along the Queen's Highway on their iron horses with both feet on the handle bars while leaning back with both hands behind their head! What movie was this in? Don't these turkeys know what will happen to them if they come a cropper? Another favourite is riding at speed with the front wheel

up in the air! These jokers need to be on the next LA flight to seek work in Tinsel Town as Stunt men!

Perhaps the reason "The Rak" was fired was because he thought he was "Parliament." Sometimes when public servants have been in one job for too long, they acquire "MOS"-Ministry Ownership Syndrome. 24 years is a long time for any person to be in one job.

Now that work on the new extension to the Pukpuk's Hostel is chugging along, when will work start on the Palmerston Island Hostel, the Tahitian Hostel, the Samoan Hostel and the Niuean Hostel? What about a Hostel for all those who do not fit into all the afore-mentioned Hostels?

Tourist remarks on the helpful nature of the blue Tsunami signs which point visitors in an inland direction. On reaching the back road, tourist says he looked for another sign indicating where to go from there. There being no more signage, gut instinct suggested he keep moving inland, through private

properties avoiding angry homeowners, towards the hills, then up the hills through dense bush, swarms of dengue mosquitoes and agitated centipedes, to a safe position.

The problem targeting masses of budget tourists from Kiwiland is that you end up with a bunch of whingers and moaners among the pack. One moaner who complained bitterly at the high cost of a cup of coffee, was staying in a hotel costing \$300 a night! Another Kiwiland moan merchant staying in low cost budget accommodation wanted an even cheaper room rate but had booked a rental car for near \$50 a day! Most Kiwis are splendid visitors but who needs moaners like these?

If you tourist types don't like sight of or feel between your toes of doggie doo dahs on Muri beach, then stop feeding the dogs!

Who is this "Neeves" the daily papyrus says is employed at MFEM? When did this person start and where is he from?

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# “Sonde” celebration for the new QR



By Maureen Hilyard

**S**onde” was the name of a poem written and presented by Palmerston descendant and poet, Mariana Powell, at a special family celebration for the new Queen’s Representative, Tom Marsters. “Sonde” (Sunday) was read in the vernacular of the old people of Palmerston Island, and was an entertaining tale about when Tom Tom (as he is called by the family) and the boys who were living with Mama Twin at the time, would take turns to pick up Mariana’s grandmother, Mama Ketia, for Sunday lunch. She hated riding on the pushbike, but she endured the uncomfortable ride so that she could spend the luxury of a Sunday with her family in Kakirori.

Mariana is one of the few members of the Marsters clan who can still speak the “language of the old people” with such authenticity, and her poems retain many of the unique phrases that were part of the daily conversation with

elderly family members. They brought special memories back for Tom who was raised by his grandmother, Mama Ann and her sister Mama Twin, within an environment of this unique form of the English language which is only spoken by the people of Palmerston Island.

Such was the impression made by her second poem called “Palmerston”, it had just about everyone engaging in similar wishful thinking and hankering for a chance to visit the little atoll themselves. MP John Henry and former MP and Prime Minister, Joe Williams, stated that they had never been to Palmerston but were keen to visit if the new QR could arrange a trip. In his response, Tom himself admitted with some regret that it has been nearly 30 years since he last visited the island.

Tom suggested that perhaps he and MP John Henry might visit the island around about Constitution Celebration time and share in the fun of their Te Maeva Nui Float parade. This

year’s parade with its 18 floats and 4 spectators, as described by Island Secretary Arthur Neale in his emailed message, certainly provided much hilarity. Arthur stated that with Palmerston ingenuity, anything that had wheels became a float, and he was able to confirm that the standard of the floats was high, the creativity unbelievable, and everyone had fun. Other messages of congratulation from Palmerston were also read out to Tom and the gathering. They were from one of the island’s eldest residents, Mama Aka, and from the Mayor of Palmerston, Bob Marsters.

Over one hundred people from the many branches of the Marsters family, attended the event which was held on Tuesday 13 August 2013 in the garden of Mitiaro MP Tangata Vavia whose wife, Linda, is also from the Marsters-Powell family. A committee had been organising the event since the QR announcement was initially made. Trying to find

a convenient date was the main sticking point but the ‘Sonde’ after his inauguration was deemed particularly appropriate. Several of the family who had travelled from overseas for the official engagement were also able to participate in this special event. In the informal part of the occasion after a beautiful lunch, various family members related some of their earlier “contacts” with Tom either on the rugby field, in the boxing ring, on the tennis court, or in politics, and “roasting” him in ways that only members of a family can do with each other. All in good fun.

At the conclusion of the event, as the Chairman of the Board originally established to build the Palmerston Hostel, Tom charged the family with the task of electing a new Board committee to finally complete this project. A Palmerston family meeting will be held at the Vavia residence on Sunday 25 August at 4pm, for this purpose.

VACANCY



**ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)**

The Ports Authority invites suitably qualified persons with experience in undertaking Environment Impact Assessments to complete a report for the Orongo Project on the island of Aitutaki.

The Orongo Project will entail

- The rebuilding and development of the wharf frontage area together with ancillary buildings,
- The widening and deepening of the existing Aitutaki Passage,
- The development of a small boat Marina Basin (in front of the Fishing Club Building.)

A Terms of Reference (TOR) document, for the completion of the EIA together with some scheme plans showing the works required to be considered within the project area are available from the office of the Ports Authority, Avatiu upon the registration of your credentials with the Authority. Or you may e-mail your credentials to [bim.tou@ports.co.ck](mailto:bim.tou@ports.co.ck) who will respond accordingly.

The EIA report for the Orongo Project is required to be completed within four months of acceptance of a successful tenderer and such tenderer must be available and become involved in public consultations and transparency during the reports preparation.

During this time the successful tenderer will be required to work with the Project Co-ordinator on all matters pertaining to the successful completion of the EIA through to the reports acceptance by the National Environment Service.

Submissions of interest with details of experience together with tendered amount to complete the EIA must be delivered to the address below at or before 3.00 PM on the 4th September 2013.

The Ports Authority will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by tenderers in connection with the preparation or delivery of tenders.

**ADDRESS DETAILS**

Bim Tou  
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Cook Islands Ports Authority  
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Avatiu  
Rarotonga  
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Fax No.: +682 21191  
E-mail: [bim.tou@ports.co.ck](mailto:bim.tou@ports.co.ck)

VACANCY



**COOK ISLANDS GOVERNMENT  
VACANCY: CLERK OF PARLIAMENT**

Applications are invited for the position of Clerk of Parliament. The Clerk of Parliament is responsible to the Speaker.

This position provides constitutional support for the operation of Parliament and committees and provides expert advice on parliamentary procedures, make administrative arrangements for meetings of the House and committees, and arrange for parliamentary activities to be printed and published.

The Clerk is responsible for the following matters:

- Noting all procedures of the house and its committees
- Carrying out duties and exercising powers conferred on the Clerk by law or by Standing Orders and practice of the House
- Acting as the Principal Officer of the Office of the Clerk and managing that office efficiently, effectively, and economically
- Ensuring that staff of the Office carry out their duties and maintain proper standards
- Under the direction of the Speaker, making an official report of the proceedings of the House and its committees.

Statutory Relationships - The Clerk of Parliament is appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendation of the Speaker.

The Clerk of Parliament has the same financial management responsibilities to the Speaker as any other departmental chief executive has to his her Minister.

Applicants will be expected to have a;

1. Bachelors degree in management, public administration or relevant field
2. Five (5) years Senior Management with proven track record.

The job description and application form can be collected from the Office of the Public Service Commissioner, or downloaded from the OPSC website [www.psc.gov.ck](http://www.psc.gov.ck).

Closing time and date of application is 3:00pm, Friday 30 August 2013. Late applications will not be considered.

Please address applications to:

Mr Russell Thomas  
Public Service Commissioner  
Office of the Public Service Commissioner  
PO Box 24  
Rarotonga  
Cook Islands

For more information please contact Russell Thomas on phone 29421 or email [russell.thomas@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:russell.thomas@cookislands.gov.ck)

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