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Drawn: 29/8/13 Draw num: 902

**3 4 6 29 34 39 7**

## TATTSLOTTO RESULTS

Drawn: 31/8/13 Draw num: 3351

**15 18 26 28 39 41 SUPP 11 42**

## OZLOTTO RESULTS

Drawn: 3/9/13 Draw num: 1020 Next draw:

**8 18 22 23 26 28 31 SUPP 7 34**

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# 3rd Polynesian Leaders Group Meeting

*Auckland, New Zealand, 30 August 2013, COMMUNIQUE AND OUTCOMES*

The Heads of Government of the member countries of the Polynesian Leaders Group (PLG) met in Auckland, New Zealand on 30 August 2013 for the third time since its inception in November 2011. The 3rd Polynesian Leaders Group Meeting was attended by the Prime Ministers of the Cook Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, the Premier of Niue, the President of French Polynesia, and Ministers from Tokelau and the Kingdom of Tonga. Apologies were conveyed from the Prime Minister of Tonga, Governor of American Samoa, and the Ulu of Tokelau for their non-attendance.

In the capacity of Observer, Aotearoa New Zealand was represented by Hon. Tariana Turia, Minister of Disabilities and Whanau Ora and Hon. Alfred Ngaro, National List MP; and Hawaii by Dr. Kamana'opono Crabbe, CEO of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

The Leaders, in their deliberations, confirmed the importance of the PLG Meeting to advance the interests of Polynesian peoples.

The Leaders welcomed and endorsed the remarks of the Outgoing Chair, Hon. Henry Puna, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands. The Leaders also acknowledged his significant contributions as Chair of the PLG for 2012-2013.

The Leaders unanimously elected and welcomed the President of French Polynesia as Chair of the PLG for 2013-2014, following a recommendation by the Outgoing Chair.

## MAIN OUTCOMES

On procedural matters, the Leaders:

- Reaffirmed their commitment to the continued preservation of Polynesian culture, traditions and languages as the common uniting foundation of the PLG, as per its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- Agreed that the Chair of the PLG would be rotated on an alphabetical basis. Furthermore, a joint Working Group of Officials would act as the Secretariat to support the Chair and advise Leaders as appropriate on any outstanding issues, including those that may impact upon the MOU.
- Reiterated the need for the PLG in these formative years to operate in a cautious and flexible manner, considerate of the respective resources of the

members.

- Directed the Working Group to develop and strengthen its working procedures and communication guidelines as soon as possible.

## POLICY ISSUES

The Leaders, in discussing priority areas for cooperation:

Mobility Between PLG Countries (Visitors, Labour, Goods and Services)

- Supported the need to increase quotas under the individual Seasonal Employment Schemes extended to Pacific Islanders by the Governments of New Zealand and Australia; and to expand sectors covered by such schemes, including trades related to reconstruction efforts, and agriculture.

- Noted that a number of PLG members already enjoy movement of workers between their respective countries, and there is scope for expansion to alleviate pressures on labour supply and demand.

- Encouraged the consideration of opportunities for labour mobility schemes amongst PLG countries, acknowledging that members should create sustainable employment for their own people in the first instance.

- Considered it incumbent on all PLG members to review respective labour requirements and consider how best to encourage and strengthen cooperation amongst PLG members in mobilising a sub-regional labour force.

- Noted that the freedom of mobility of tourists throughout the PLG could be facilitated by cross-border relaxation and schemes such as a Polynesian Pass (single entry authorisation to all PLG countries) or re-visitation of the Island Hopper initiative.

## Renewable Energy Cooperation

- Recognized the significant achievement of Tokelau in becoming the first small island nation producing 100% of its electricity from solar power.

- Acknowledged the advantage of a coordinated approach to RE financing by development partners, and the need to streamline the growing number and cost of regional organisations involved in RE development.

- Noted and supported the Draft Declaration on establishing a Regional Data Repository (RDR)

presented by the Minister of Education & Training of Tonga proposed to be signed by Pacific Island Leaders and Development Partners during the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York later this month.

## Other

- Noted the opportunities, which could be created by a sub-regional airline.

- Noted opportunities created by sharing best practices among PLG member countries, e.g. Fisheries

- Noted the resolution adopted by the French Polynesia Assembly reaffirming the democratic choice of its population to remain the strongly autonomous overseas country that it is.

## NEW INITIATIVES

### Hawaiki Submarine Cable

- Noted the presentation by Hawaiki Submarine Cable to lay a broadband communications trunk-line between Australia, New Zealand and the United States, and the development opportunities presented to Pacific Island Countries as a result of this private sector initiative.

- Noted Hawaiki Submarine Cable's offer to visit PLG member countries, upon request. Such visits would provide PLG member countries with further clarification on technical, financial and legal implications of the cable project. The timing of requests to be considered in the context of a projected deadline of December 2013.

### Nansen Initiative

- Noted and supported a presentation by the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, Hon. Henry Puna on the Nansen Initiative and endorsed the submission of the Initiative to the 44th Pacific Islands Forum in the Marshall Islands for the consideration of Leaders. The Nansen Initiative being a state-led, bottom-up consultative process intended to build consensus on a protection agenda addressing the needs of people displaced across international borders in the context of natural disasters, as well as the effects of climate change.

### Oceania 21

- Noted and supported a presentation by the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, Hon. Henry Puna on Oceania 21, and

the tabling of this concept at the 44th Pacific Islands Forum Meeting in the Marshall Islands for the consideration of Leaders. Oceania 21 is a regional platform established to promote and engage the international community on the region's common concerns pertaining to climate change, environmental preservation and sustainable management.

Marshall Islands Declaration on Climate Change for 44th Pacific Islands Forum

- Noted the resolution passed by the French Polynesia Assembly highlighting concerns at the proliferation of climate change related organisations and the need to ensure that climate change financing is clarified and channelled to population needs.

- Welcomed recommendation by French Polynesian President Gaston Flosse encouraging PLG member countries to embrace our Polynesian people displaced by climate change.

- Agreed that French Polynesia President Gaston Flosse table this resolution at the 44th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in the Marshall Islands.

## Hawaiian Affairs

- Noted and welcomed a presentation by Dr Kamana'opono Crabbe, Chief Executive Officer for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), on the functions and responsibilities of OHA, and the governance issues related to the aspirations of Native Hawaiians.

- On behalf of the PLG, French Polynesia President Gaston Flosse expressed the appreciation of Leaders for the presentation of gifts and the warmth of aloha from OHA.

## Concluding remarks

- Leaders expressed deep appreciation to the New Zealand Government for use of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) Auckland Office for the PLG meeting.

- French Polynesia President Gaston Flosse extended his appreciation to Leaders for their confidence in his Chairmanship and offered French Polynesia as host venue for the next PLG Meeting.

- Leaders noted the offer from French Polynesia President Gaston Flosse to host the Secretariat of the PLG.

# Good public response to first meeting on proposed Sovereign Wealth Fund



Mark Brown and Richard Neves at SWF meeting

By Charles Pitt

Minister of Finance Hon Mark Brown was clearly impressed by the large turnout for Monday evening's public meeting at the Sinai Hall to hear the views of the public on the proposal to set up a Sovereign Wealth Fund as a savings depository for revenue earned from our Manganese Nodules and sea bed minerals resources.

Up to 100 people heard Brown say only six people turned up for the public meeting to discuss the Tax Review. Brown inferred interest was high because the chance to earn very big money was at stake.

A good cross section of society was present. The House of Ariki was represented through President Travel Tou Ariki, whose presence was acknowledged by the Minister, representatives from the Koutu Nui with President Maria Henderson, former Cabinet Ministers Tapi Taio and Papa Dan Kamana, several Members of Parliament in George Magee (Tupapa-Maraerenga), Mona Ioane (Aitutaki), Mayor of Atiu Taoro Strickland and traditional

leaders like Tupe Short and Papa Tangaroa. Teresa Managrangi Trott from the Chamber of Commerce was present, several HOMs and heads of government agencies including Sonny Williams (Culture), Vaitoti Tupa (Environment), Terry Rangi (CEO BTIB), Russell Thomas (PSC), Jenna Davis (FSDA), Tingika Elikana (Justice) and also members of the business community and the general public.

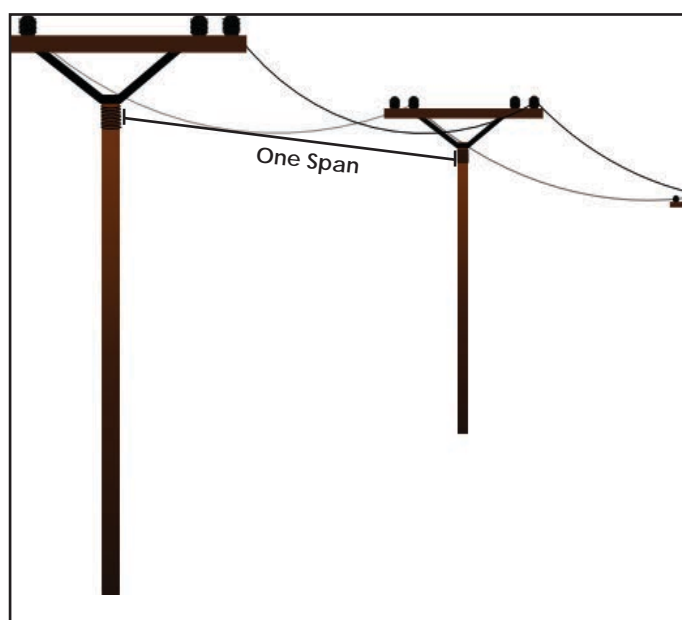
CICC Rev Patia opened the meeting with a prayer and Minister Brown made the opening remarks. Brown said it was important for people to have their say now in order that we be well prepared for the day harvesting of the resource begins.

MFEM Budget officer Christina Kauvai gave a brief outline of the Sovereign Fund proposal, how it might be managed and transparency issues. MFEM economist James Webb gave a brief talk on options for handling the revenue generated and deposited in the Fund along with the potential earnings from each option. All this background information can be found on



## SWITCH ON WITH TE APONGA UIRA

### Explaining connection costs



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MFEM's website.

Following this briefing the Minister opened up the floor to speakers. Many took the opportunity to express their views, some forthrightly. It was a lively meeting held together pretty well by Minister Brown. Speakers delivered their views mainly in Maori and these are reported in this issue in a separate report by Ruter Taripo. A brief English translation from a selection of comments is set out below, courtesy of Taripo.

**The following is a selection of issues raised at the SWF meeting**

"If the committee or Board for the SWF consist mainly of politicians only, then I have doubts, can we include other locals like Traditional Leaders onto the Board?"

"The project proposal illustrated on the screen is clear and looks very useful."

"Don't really understand the project proposal that is illustrated."

"We need to set a target and follow it."

"When is all this going to happen?"

"I support this project, but we need to also consult with our traditional leaders."

"I support the idea of the SWF although it appears a long process, therefore I recommend that we need to educate our young ones of these issues instead of always bringing in papa`ā to tell us what to do."

"My concern is, what is the role in this for the Cook Islands as a whole?"

"We must unite, all of us, so we will know what to do and how to do this, we don't need to end up with what had happened to Nauru."

"Can this diagram and project be translated into Reo Maori so our people and especially our pa-metua can have a better understanding of the issues discussed?"

"We need our young people to be familiar and understand these issues so they will be knowledgeable of the values related to this project."

"We also need to understand all of this and how it will affect our environment and our ocean."



Consultant Dick Emery at SWF Meeting

"We must be very careful how we deal with this and how the processes will affect us, our nation, our sea and environment."

For all comments see story by Ruter Taripo in this issue.

During the discussions, Brown spoke of the importance of ensuring our young people be encouraged to enter professions related to the sea bed minerals sector. He introduced Alex Herman (Legal officer at SBM Authority) and spoke of four other Cook Islanders training as engineers as examples of employment opportunities to be taken up by our young people. He said there would also be jobs in chemical engineering, off shore exploration and other specialized areas. He said in future our young people could be in demand and sought after by other Pacific nations as sea bed mining took hold in the region.

Former Finance Minister under a previous Demo government, Tapi Taio spoke of his involvement in the sector and experience with Norway's progress in deep sea mining. Taio acknowledged Norway's expertise and technological development in deep sea mining

(for oil) and said we should adopt their approach.

The overseas consultant who prepared the background papers to government's proposed Sovereign Wealth Fund, Dick Emery, was invited by the Minister to speak about the concept of sovereign funds. Emery told the audience about sovereign funds operated by other countries, including New Zealand and he spoke of the success of Norway's fund, the level of which currently sits at just under \$800 billion. Nauru, the Minister said, was a worst case example of a country which mismanaged its Fund, investing in high risk portfolios like property.

Earlier, MFEM economist James Webb, in response to a comment from Noeline Browne about the volatility of overseas financial markets, said our Sovereign Wealth Fund would invest overseas in well spread, low risk, low return portfolios. Investments would be offshore in order not to distort the local economy and to protect the Fund from any impact on the local economy from outside influences.

Minister Brown said there would be more public meetings

arranged to discuss the Fund proposal.

The meeting ended at 8pm with a closing prayer by Rev Patia.

A point of interest is that contrary to customary Cook Islands Party practice, this new policy item has not come through any CIP conference with supporting discussions and endorsement. How the political wing will reconcile the party faithful at grassroots level remains to be seen.

# Eat Less

## move more

Heart Foundation

# Sub-regional Training Workshop on Geo-DRM System for Pacific Countries

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) stationed in Thailand and Emergency Management Cook Islands (EMCI) a division of the Office of Prime Minister of the Cook Islands jointly organized a "Sub-regional Training Workshop on Geo-DRM System for Pacific Countries" in Rarotonga, Cook Islands from 2 to 6 September 2013 in collaboration with Red Cross Society, Red Cross Building, Rarotonga. The Pacific countries including Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, as well as SOPAC participated in the training workshop. Key Government Ministries like MOIP, Marine, NES, MET, Airport Authority, TAU, Health, INTAFF, Red Cross etc were also involved in the workshop and contributing to the GEO PORTAL.

The director of ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction (IDD) of UNESCAP, Dr. Shamika Sirimanne also represented UNESCAP with his staff and UN consultants in the workshop. The workshop was formally opened by the Speaker of the House of Parliament Mrs Niki Rattle.

"This is fantastic having UNESCAP support us here in the Pacific so we are in touch with what is happening globally", says Charles Carlson Director of

EMCI. "What's most encouraging is actually having our own ministries coming together to be part of this project".

The key objectives of the training workshops are to strengthen the capacity of the Pacific countries on disaster risk reduction through the establishment of Geo-Portal on Disaster Risk Management(DRM). In practice, the Geo-portal DRM for Cook Islands was installed in the server of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning (MOIP) of Cook Islands as test trials (<http://geodrm.maps.gov.ck:8080/geonetwork/>).

This workshop has contributed to improving the awareness and knowledge on geo-portal on DRM and strengthening the technical capacity of participants of the Pacific Islands on the establishment of geo-portal and the basic use of data for disaster risk assessment and management in the Pacific region.

Geo-portal on DRM is the integrated platform for DRM in Cook Islands by generating, managing and sharing the geo-spatial data, information and knowledge related to disaster management. The geo-portal on DRM is expected to contribute to addressing the disaster management in Cook Islands

including the prediction and assessment of disasters.

"This Geo Portal is crucial to our operation by having a database for both preparedness and response", says Carlson. "This will not only benefit EMCI but all ministries, agencies and the wider community".

This workshop is the first practical cooperation in the area of Geo-portal on DRM between UNESCAP and Cook Islands, as well as the Pacific countries to enhance the capacity of the Pacific countries on disaster risk reduction through establishment of networked geo-portal on DRM in the region.

## News Briefs *By TeRiu Woonton*

For nearly 2 months now, a Avatiu Fitclub was formed to help those who are wanting to lose weight and live a healthier lifestyle. Each week, the community initiative has invited various instructors to conduct classes, exercise regimes and weigh-ins. So far around 16 people have taken on the challenge to live a healthier lifestyle and more are encouraged to come forward and make a change for yourself. A Fight Do class will be held on Thursday at 5.30pm with Cha Siason, the Fight Do instructor and Personal Trainer from Top Shape Gym. Cost is \$2 and is open to all. The Avatiu Fit Club holds exercise programs at 6am and 5.30pm upstairs at the Avatiu Clubhouse from Monday's to Friday's.

The Clean Up the World Campaign, coordinated by the National Environment Service and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning is held on Friday the 13th of September and there has been a great response not only from Rarotonga but also the outer islands. The focus on this year's campaign is "Love Your Coast". Manihiki has made this campaign a community event and schools in Mauke, Enuamanu, Mitiaro and Atiu have signed up to help clean their coasts. Schools have also incorporated environmental and biodiversity matters into their education system and the island of Mauke has incorporated a workshop on proper waste disposal and biodiversity all into one week. Just under 250kg of rubbish was collected at last year's Clean Up the World event and included 115kg of non-recyclable general household rubbish as well as 44kg of miscellaneous material such as a rusted bicycle, pieces of iron roofing, and a microwave from the beach. NES is hoping that other community groups will also join in to help commemorate the event.





# Our Frontpage model Black Pearl pendant winner announced



Our frontpage guy for Herald Issue 682 is Marouna Mita, Customer Service Officer at the Bank of the Cook Islands. Marouna was one of the Mr. Lavalava contestants, unfortunately pulled out last minute due to family purposes. Check out our website [www.ciherald.co.ck](http://www.ciherald.co.ck) and facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ciherald](https://www.facebook.com/ciherald)

Cook Islands Tourism is proud to announce the winner of the Black Pearl pendant prize offered to visitors as an incentive for completing the 2012-2013 online visitor satisfaction survey. Metua Vaiimene, Director of Destination Development announced that John Lee of Whakatane in the Bay of Plenty, New Zealand is the winner of a brand new Cook Islands Black Pearl pendant valued at \$1500.

John Lee was among the 10,555 visitors surveyed via the online visitor satisfaction survey conducted by the New Zealand Tourism Research Institute (NZTRI) and the Auckland University of Technology (AUT) on behalf of Cook Islands Tourism Corporation. The winner was chosen randomly from respondents by the AUT research team.

The research approach taken was through the collection of email addresses from visitors. Visitors were encouraged to provide an email address if they wished to complete the online visitor survey and advised that

they would go into a draw to win a Cook Islands Black Pearl pendant.

Email addresses were then forwarded to NZTRI on a regular basis throughout the survey period which was April 2012 – March 2013. NZTRI then sent out an email with the survey link to the survey participant who was asked to complete the survey within one month of returning home.

Some of the key findings from the survey included the characteristics of our visitors, average length of stay, average spend whilst in the Cook Islands and overall visitor satisfaction.

Cook Islands Tourism will continue to partner with NZTRI & AUT on this survey which is fundamental to the overall strategy of the Corporation to develop robust data collection and analysis of the tourism industry. Similarly visitors to the Cook Islands in 2013 and 2014 have a chance to win a Cook Islands Black Pearl pendant if they participate in the new survey from 01 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

*Tourism Release*



## 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.





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## 'Uipā`anga 'Seabed Mining Fund' na te kātoatoa tātā`ia e Ruteria Taripo

I te ora 6 i te a`ia`i Mōnitē, rā 2 o Tepetema ki roto i te Sinai Hall i Avarua, kua rave`ia tēta`i `uipā`anga na te kātoatoa tei kāpiki`ia e te Minitiri o te Moni. Ko teia `uipā`anga kua riro rāi `e na te minita ngāteitei o te moni nā Mark Brown i `akatere `e pērā katoa tōnā au turuturu kite-karape i te tauturu `iā ia. Kua tae atu ki tēia `uipā`anga mei te `ā-nga`uru tūmā tangata.

Te `akakite nei a Mark Brown ē, `e ko te `akakoro`anga maata o tēia `uipā`anga no runga i te 'Sovereign Wealth Fund' (SWF), koia `oki, e moni teia te ka rauka mai na te ipukarea, na roto i te maini`anga o te papa-ta`ua moana (seabed mining). Te `akakite nei rāi `a Brown, `e ko te kā rauka mai, ka riro te reira `ei pu`apinga no tātou kātoatoa i te Kūki `□irani nei, no tā tātou tamariki `ē te au tamariki ka aru mai.

“Ea`a i reira ta tātou ka rave, mē kore, ka `akapē`ea tātou i tēia rāvenga te ka rauka mai?” i `o`ora mai ei te Minita a Brown ki te kātoatoa. Ko te manako ma`ata `oki i konei kia kite tō tātou `iti-tangata i tē tupu nei `ē kia piri atu tō tātou `iti-tangata ki roto i te au uriuri`anga manako tā`okota`i no runga i tēta`i au rāvenga kia `akamou`ia.

Te `akakite nei rāi `aia ē i teia nei, kāre `e moni i rauka ake, kāre oki te `anga`anga i `akakoro`ia i rave`ia ake. Noātu ra te reira, kua tuku mai te minita ngāteitei a Brown i tēta`i au tāmānako`anga no runga i te SWF.

Kua `ōronga atu i reira `a Brown i te tuātau ki te `iti-tangata kia `o`ora mai i tō rātou au manako. Kua `akaari mai i reira te au tangata i tuatua i tō rātou au manako no runga i te tāpura ma`ata.

Ko tēta`i au manako tei `ora`ora`ia mai e te `iti-tangata, koia ko:

- kia `iki`ia, kia tukuna katoa `ia atu tēta`i au tangata mei roto mai i te Aronga Mana ki runga i te kūmiti `akateretere o tēia putuputu`anga `ē kia auraka ē ko te au tangata-poritiki `ua
- a `ea teia `akakoro`anga i tupu ei?
- kia `iki`ia tēta`i (board) au mata no tēia putuputu`anga
- kare au e mārama ana i te `akano`ono`o`anga o teia SWF i runga i te papa-`akaariari
- kua papa ainei kōtou no teia au `akano`ono`anga?
- te turu nei au i te SWF, kia `ākara katoa `ia atu ki roto i te Aronga Mana
- te turu nei i teia, no te mea ra `oki e e roa te tuātau e tupu ei, no reira pēnei kia `āpi`i`ia tā tātou au māpū i teia e tupu nei kia kore tātou e `apai `ua mai rāi i te papa`ā i te `akakite mai kia tātou `ea`a tā tātou ka rave
- kia `āpi`i kia terēni `ia tō tātou `iti-tangata no runga i teia `akano`ono`o`anga kia mārama rātou i teia e tupu nei.
- `ea`a te tu`anga, te tūranga, te `anga`anga a te Kūki `□irani kātoatoa i roto i teia `akano`ono`o`anga?
- kia `ākara matatio tātou `e ka `akapē`ea tātou i te `akateretere`anga i teia, kia tā`okota`i tātou, kia kore tātou e kopekope āpōpō ake `ē kia kore tātou e tātarā`ara.

Kua `akakite rāi oki a Brown ē, `e tika rāi ka anoano `ia tātou kia `o`onu tō tātou mārama no tēia `akakoro`anga ma`ata `ē kia tūkatau tātou kātoatoa.

Kua `o`ora mai i reira te Kaumaiti, te Ariki Tou, i tōna manako, koia `oki, kia `anga`anga tā`okota`i tātou i te turuturu`anga i tēia `akakoro`anga, no te mea ka anoano`ia tō tātou, tō te `iti-tangata reo, te inangaro nei tō tātou au metua-pakari i te kite `ē te `akarongo i te tupu nei. No reira kia turu tātou, `ē kia matakite katoa tātou i te tā`anga`anga `anga `ē te `āmiri`anga o te au tūranga nātura kia kore e tākinokino`ia tō tātou ao-natura i te Kūki `□irani nei.

Te `akakite nei i reira a Brown ē te mataora nei aia no te au manako tei `ora`ora`ia mai `e te kātoatoa `ē te `ākara atu nei aia mei te kātoatoa rāi no te `uipā`anga te kā aru mai.





## Business Trade Investment Board

### Cook Islands

### Local Business profile of the Month

**Business Name:** Pasifik Cuisine

**Director(s) Name(s):** Tai & Aynsley TAPUVAE

**Email:** [tai\\_napa@hotmail.com](mailto:tai_napa@hotmail.com)

This family business has been operating very successfully since May 2012. They are to be found at Punanganui Market and the new Muri Market on selected days of the week. They offer food and 100% fruit smoothies with Cajun chicken meals with rice or salads or in a roll. Their main goal is to build a sustainable income for current employees, to maintain a high level of quality in food hygiene and their long term goal is to start their own processing factory.



### Rotary Business Week of Free Training – 3 Days

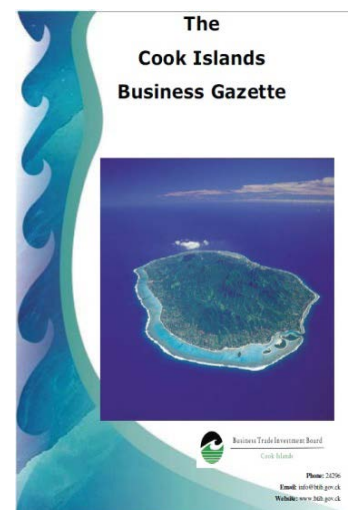
On August 6– 8, 2013, BTIB held three workshops as part of the Rotary Business Week. The modules varied in topics including some specialised modules and presenters. The added features of this year's training were the repeat of Website Designing and Healthy Soils Produce Healthy Crops due to their popularity last year plus the One on One Business Mentoring. Over a 3 day exclusive, workshops such as the One on One Business Mentoring Programme, targeted new businesses that were looking at ways of improving facets of business such as record keeping and business performance etc, which allowed the presenters Allan & Shirley Cann to conduct the workshop on business owners' premises. The modules and presentations were held at various times and locations throughout the course of the week and were presented by the BTIB Business Development Division. The Rotary Business Week free training programme was jointly funded by BTIB, the Rotary Clubs of Rarotonga, Wendouree, Victoria, AUSTRALIA and Cann Business Enterprises.



### GAZETTE

The BTIB Business Gazette was launched in April 2011. The popularity of the Business Gazette has seen a rise in the number of articles highlighted in the magazine. The Business Gazette offers a range of business related topics that are proving very popular with the Cook Islands business community. Since those early days the Business Gazette has added Foreign Investment News, Pacific News, BTIB News, Upcoming BTIB Events, Cook Islands Business Profiles, new business registrations, and Businesses for Sale as well as Advertising articles.

The Business Gazette can be purchased monthly for \$20.00 or annually for \$120.00. Please refer all enquiries to BTIB: **Phone:** 24296 - **Email:** [info@btib.gov.ck](mailto:info@btib.gov.ck)







# Relying on commitment

It's interesting to examine the motivating factors that will lead us to 100% generation of electricity from renewable energy sources on Rarotonga by the year 2020.

**What is it that will get us there?**

The analogy which some writers refer to in similar situations is the JFK example. Back in 1961 when President Kennedy set the target of landing a man on the moon within a decade, he had no idea how it would be done and neither did the space agency NASA. They had to figure it out along the way.

In a sense, we are taking the JFK approach. Back in 2011, we relied on nine diesel generators to produce virtually all our electricity. So when Government announced renewable energy targets of 50% power generation by 2015 and 100% by 2020 it was a like a jump into the unknown as no island territory in the Pacific community, except Tokelau, had made as complete a commitment to embracing renewable energy.

We started out without all the answers and with no guarantees.

We didn't have a clear idea of our renewable energy options except solar energy, and perhaps wind. Other renewable options were a mystery to us. We had no clue which other sources, like biomass and biofuel, would work in our situation.

We didn't know where the



SolarPanels and Wind Turbine

money to build the entire infrastructure and system needed to achieve the goal would come from.

We have yet to fully work out how we will operate a distributed generation system with power generation from diverse locations in contrast to the centralised generation system at the Avatiu power station we are used to.

We are carefully eyeing the intermittency impact on the electricity grid of progressively higher usages of renewable energy.

We are weighing the costs and

mechanics of energy storage so as to enable production of energy on demand as well as shift energy loads to periods of low or zero energy production.

Finally, we are working out how to make the system pay for itself given that the various renewable energy sources and distributed generation facilities will all have differing benefits and costs. At the end of the day, the electric grid cost still has to be recouped.

So, we are confronted by a number of issues for which we don't have tailor-made solutions or guarantees. But we work

them out one by one, one step at a time.

But here's the real question. What is the glue that holds everything together? What is it exactly that is going to make this transformation to renewable energy successful on Rarotonga? The answer in a nutshell is commitment. And we have that in spades.

There is great commitment allotted to renewable energy development by Government, TAU and development donors and this augurs well for the future.





# Tourism rejects locals in \$280,000 stuff up

## *Call for Chairman Smith to resign*

By George Pitt

Once again Cook Islands Tourism Corporation (CITC) has mismanaged a destination aid project without being held accountable or reprimanded. Littered with a history of fiscal and operational mismanagement, CITC seems to have no regard for how difficult it is to earn every cent that props it up. This time it's hard earned New Zealand tax payer's contributions packaged as Aid Funds.

Chairman of the Board, Ewan Smith, must accept ultimate responsibility for CITC's latest financial bungle, which was to the tune of \$280,000. Smith should do the right thing and fall on his sword.

In July 2012 CITC issued a 22 page tender document for "Location Film Shoot in the Cook Islands." Bidders were reminded the maximum budget available for the film and photographic contract was \$250,000. Despite three local production bidders submitting tenders the contract was awarded to an Australian company called Brave New World Communications Pty Ltd for \$249,650 plus and unqualified additional amount of \$27,204.16 a total of \$276,854.16.

This project was approved under the New Zealand Government's \$3 million aid funds for tourism to develop destination promotions.

Two of the local bidders with international production experience tendered more than \$50,000 less than the Australian company. Involved in the tendering process was

Finance Secretary, Australian Richard Neves who has a proven preference for hiring expats over Cook Islanders. Neves is known to insist tenders are also sought from overseas interests.

For the last two years local businesses have become disillusioned at the frequency of foreign consultants and companies being awarded contracts in preference of qualified Cook Islanders. A case in point being the \$2.5 million contract for the management of the Rarotonga infrastructure upgrade being recently awarded to a Samoan Company called KEW. A local company were advised their tender bid was unsuccessful and to their disappointment no reason was offered.

CITC like every other Government Ministry or Corporation has no Cook Islanders first policy to guide the tendering evaluation process. How long our politicians can ignore this abnormality is a monstrosity.

To make matters worse CITC informed Brave New World Communications they were the successful bidders before all the Cook Island companies had submitted their tenders. Embodied in their law unto themselves attitude CITC failed to notify Business Trade Investment Board (BTIB) of the Australian company's arrival in February 2013 to conduct business.

A BTIB staff noticed a production crew filming on location and checked if they had been permitted to work and discovered they hadn't been granted approval. When



Halatoa Fua and Ewan Smith

the Australian company had been advised to cease doing business, Tourism's CEO Halatoa Fua and Neves took exception demanding BTIB demonstrate the legal grounds for taking compliance action. Crown Law advised Fua to comply with BTIB legislation the Development Investment Act 1995-96.

Under pressure a meeting of the BTIB was convened and a Foreign Enterprise approval in retrospect was given on 22 February 2013. A team of seven technical people plus models were involved in the destination based production.

For some undisclosed reason CITC were unhappy with Brave New World's end product and refused to pay the full contract amount of finance. The Australian company took CITC

to court and won their claim against Tourism.

An embarrassed CITC have \$280,000 worth of product they are not satisfied with and unlikely to use in its current format, such a waste of money that no one is being made accountable for. The best thing CITC can do is recruit a local production crew to re edit the footage and reshoot where and if necessary.

Minister Bishop must put an end to this economic racism nonsense and implement a Cook Islanders first policy into the Tourism Ministry before it becomes an election issue.

*NOTE: A copy was forwarded to Tourism Corporation for comment. CEO Fua advised a response would be sent. As at time of printing no comment had yet been recieved.*



## Letters to the Editor

	2003-2012		1993-2002		Growth
	Numbers	% of total	Numbers	% of total	
New Zealand	579,783	59%	179,747	31%	400,036
Australia	140,790	14%	68,271	12%	72,519
US/CA/EU	222,278	23%	305,969	53%	(83,691)
Other	32,627	3%	27,559	5%	5,068
Total	975,478		581,546		393,932

**D**ear Editor  
The question frequently arises as to why the Cook Islands persists with underwriting flights from Los Angeles and Sydney. With the recent request for expressions of interest in the provision of long haul access to the Cook Islands it is timely to provide interested members of the Public with a perspective on why the Cook Islands is pursuing the the continuing option of underwriting long haul flights to Rarotonga.

To make a judgment on the soundness of this approach it is necessary to separate the commercial imperatives of a commercial airline operator from the economic benefits to the country. The recently published Covec report commissioned by MFEM, outlined the benefits for the Cook Islands economy of the route underwrite, particularly Los Angeles, a net economic benefit of \$6 million per year. The long term viability of the tourism industry is reliant on both short and long haul markets delivering variety in the type of visitor who arrives here in the Cook Islands. Most in the industry know that maintaining visitor infrastructure such as hotels, restaurants, rental and tour operators, requires a constant flow of visitors year round and this is crucial to the success of the tourism sector.

The Cook Islands tourism industry was founded at a

time when airlines made mid-Pacific stopovers en-route to the USA from Australia and New Zealand. During that time the Cook Islands developed an even distribution of visitor traffic originating from the northern and southern hemisphere source markets. Those were good days with a variety of ways to include the Cook Islands in a long haul multi-stop itinerary. The figures in the table below demonstrate that in the decade to 2002 our market was almost evenly split between the two hemispheres.

Mid Pacific stopovers and East-West links were then justified on the basis of 'added network value' however in the late nineties airline profitability came under pressure from greater competition that arose from progressively deregulating markets ( often referred to as open skies), increased privatization as governments moved away from owning airlines and continued consolidation of international carriers. 'Cherry picking' of lucrative non-stop routes began to the detriment of traditional airline route networks. The tragic events of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the US profoundly accelerated that realignment. From that point onwards there was no turning back to the route networks from which the Cook Islands had benefited since the beginnings of the tourism industry in the 1970s.

Additionally, commercial realities came into play and many airlines disappeared in the aftermath of 9/11. The low-cost leisure carrier Canada 3000 who had been running a highly successful business delivering Canadian visitors during our off-season months was a direct example of this.

In the drive to be commercially sustainable most airlines have stripped their networks of unprofitable routes and fare types. Cross subsidizing routes has been eliminated in favour of cost efficient non-stop flights between high volume destinations. These circumstances create a new challenge for the Cook Islands of how to maintain balance in year-round visitor flows and ensure that tourism businesses can survive, and employees can keep their jobs 12 months of the year. If we were to follow the model of commercially viable routes only, then our industry would have to survive on the short haul market from New Zealand and Australia alone, which would be commercially catastrophic for the industry.

Attracting visitors from New Zealand and Australia while they are enjoying their own summer is extremely challenging. The first half of 2013 highlighted this where New Zealand enjoyed exceptional weather right through to April with correspondingly slow

bookings for the South Pacific 'sun' destinations including the Cook Islands.

Another factor is that in 2001 the cost of fuel for one passenger to fly from Auckland to London was less than \$200. Today, that cost now approaches \$1,000, a five fold increase, with leisure airfares having changed little from what they were then. This demonstrates some of the realities of the deregulated airline market and the challenges for the Cook Islands as a very small bit player.

It may sound a simple proposition to have a long haul airline make a 'whistle stop' at Rarotonga en-route to Los Angeles from Auckland or Sydney. The reality is far from that perception, and we cannot continue to look nostalgically at the past. Our present focus must be on a model that can best accommodate the commercial requirements of an airline while achieving the economic needs of our country.

In the cold hard light of today's airline business models, these long haul leisure routes cannot make a commercial profit which explains why we have not seen a queue of enthusiastic airline newcomers on our doorstep. According to IATA, the international association which represents the majority of the airline industry recently

*Continued next page*



the average margin for the airline industry from 2003 to 2013 was 0.1%

Today's market dynamics require that airlines fill aircraft to an average of at least 80% of their capacity with a significant component of business and premium class fares to underpin the revenue required to make routes viable. While it is true that there are some long haul specialist leisure airlines such as Air Asia X, those carriers survive on thin margins on very high volume routes. Most do not, the Qantas withdrawal from the Auckland-Los Angeles route is a recent example of attrition in our region because of low yielding traffic.

Passenger traffic between Los Angeles and Rarotonga is predominantly leisure with few business or premium class travelers. To improve this, higher yield fares - and therefore lower underwrites - could be earned in future should we develop new internationally branded 5 star

resort accommodation as is the case in Fiji and Tahiti. Successful completion of the Vaimaanga Hotel would be a step in that direction.

In 2006, an agreement was reached between the Cook Islands and Air New Zealand to maintain a weekly non-stop flight between Rarotonga and Los Angeles whereby the Cook Islands Government underwrote the difference between the fares the leisure market will pay, and the cost of operating the route.

Although the route does not make a commercial profit on air fares, when the total spending of each traveler during their stay is included, there is an overall profit to our economy as shown in the Covec report.

The present rationale is not very different from those countries that have national carriers whose primary mandate is to deliver inbound tourism to their respective countries. Air Tahiti Nui, Fiji Airways, and Air Calin are

examples within our region.

So it could be said that the Cook Islands, rather than owning a national airline, has purchased the piece it needs to serve it's own economic needs from a very reputable commercial operator, Air New Zealand. This is a good example of a public private partnership.

Three years ago, the agreement with Air New Zealand was renewed and expanded to include a once weekly service non-stop between Sydney and Rarotonga in addition to the Los Angeles service. The rationale behind this development was to increase the number of visitors from Australia and create an alternative gateway to and from the European and Asian markets. Since then, annual visitor arrivals from Australia have more than doubled. Cook Islands Tourism is embarking on a strategy to further expand traffic from these alternative source markets

along with growth in the US market. With the present underwrite agreement due to expire in October 2014, and before undertaking renewal of them, we are obliged to test the market to ensure we have the best commercial arrangements possible to achieve this strategy. MFEM in conjunction with Cook Islands Tourism has issued an invitation for suitable airlines to express their interest in providing on-going long haul access. It is intended that this process be completed in October with recommendations being presented to Cabinet for consideration. The long haul air access underwrite is a long term investment of a significant amount of public money. Readers are welcome to contact either myself, MFEM or Tourism officials for further information if they wish.

*Yours sincerely,  
Ewan Smith,  
Chairman, Cook Islands  
Tourism*

**D**ear Editor,  
I would like to provide your readers with an update on the recent process is seeking expressions of interest for the provision of long haul non-stop aviation services to the Cook Islands from November 2014 to November 2018. It is crucial that the approach taken for any continued financial support by the Crown needs to firstly be underpinned by analysis based on a strong basis of evidence, and secondly a testing of the market to ensure the Crown is achieving a value for money proposition. Ultimately, the decision to continue with an underwrite of some description will be made by the Government, after all they are the elected representatives.

The role of MFEM and

Cook Islands Tourism is to provide the best analysis they can to help inform this decision. MFEM and Cook Islands Tourism are working together to analyse the economic benefits, assess the need for long haul access to the Cook Islands, and finally test the market to ensure that any deal entered into is value for money for the Cook Islands taxpayer.

MFEM recently commissioned an economic analysis of both routes. The report which is available in full on [www.mfem.gov.ck](http://www.mfem.gov.ck) compares two scenarios. The first being when both routes operating are with the current underwrite arrangement. The second assumes the two routes did not operate and no underwrite was paid by the Crown but that those funds which would have been

spent on the underwrite were spent on alternate options by Government. It does not assume that money is saved.

The underwrite of a weekly return service from Sydney and from Los Angeles to Rarotonga cost the Crown \$11.8 m in 2011/12 and \$9.5 m in 2012/13. The Cook Islands Parliament approved an appropriation of \$12.5 m in 2013/14. If the final invoice for the underwrite exceeds that amount in 2013/14 then the Government can either: seek Parliamentary Authority to increase the appropriation; or it can utilise a little used Constitutional provision which allows for the Government to spend in excess of total appropriations by 1 and ½ per cent.

Two basic assumptions

are critical to the analysis: the average visitor stay; and spend. Information on visitor stay is sourced from the automated border processing system. On average, visitors stay around eight days (seven nights) in the Cook Islands. It is estimated that the average daily visitor spend is around \$200. This is based on a recent 12 month survey conducted in conjunction with the Auckland Institute of Technology. Changing these assumptions would obviously change the final analysis, but I believe it is the best information available to us and are therefore are defensible. The Covec Economics report summarised the following:

- L A X - R A R - L A X service is used by around 80% of visitors from the

*Continued next page*



## COOK ISLANDS HERALD ADVERTISING

US and Canada in at least one direction, and used by around 30% of visitors in the 'Other' category (mostly Europe). Ceasing the service would reduce international visitor arrivals by around 9,500 per year. These 9,500 visitors generated around \$15.5 m per year, making a net contribution to overall of GDP at just under \$6 m per year (1.8% of GDP).

• SYD - RAR - SYD service is predominantly used by Australian visitors, around 40% of visitors from Australia use it in at least one direction. Ceasing the service would reduce arrivals by around 2,200 per year. These 2,200 visitors generated around \$4 m per year, leading to a small net reduction in Cook Islands GDP of \$0.7 m.

Some may ask the question that why do we spend \$9.5 m when the net return to the economy is only \$6 m is the return. But as I outlined previously this analysis assumes that the amount paid by the Crown would be utilised for alternative spending by the Government. Therefore, the report is ultimately comparing the economic value of no underwrite and no service to Los Angeles and Sydney and alternative spending by Government against keeping the existing services through the underwrite and capturing the economic value of 11,700 additional visitors arriving on those two flights and staying in the Cook Islands and spending their money.

On this basis there is a strong policy argument to be made for maintaining the Los Angeles underwrite (or a similar portal where non-stop service to Rarotonga from mainland North America). The Covec report

essentially says that you are better off spending money to get the 9,500 visitors here into the Cook Islands where they will spend their money, then if you ceased the service and spent the money on other things. The argument for Sydney is not as compelling as Los Angeles, but ultimately it isn't costing the economy that much. However the Cook Islands Tourism Corporation have articulated a strategy for Sydney.

There is also the benefit of the on flow traffic to the outer Islands from these two flights, the cessation of the Los Angeles flight would have a significant economic impact on Aitutaki and Atiu.

The Cook Islands has a natural comparative economic advantage when it comes to tourism. As a destination it is a beautiful, politically stable, environmentally clean and safe environment. Obviously the economic efforts of the nation need to be focussed on leveraging off that advantage. Another aspect to take into account is the diversification of source tourism markets.

Relying on one industry is an economically challenging scenario, depending on one market within that industry makes it even more so, relying solely on short haul flights from Auckland leaves the Cook Islands further exposed to just one market in one industry.

MFEM and the Tourism Corporation have now sought expressions of interest for credible international operators for the provision of non-stop services to Rarotonga for a period of four years from November 2014 to November 2018.

*Yours Sincerely  
Richard Neves*

## The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

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### Best ever Android Apps

#### SnapPea

Working with a desktop application, SnapPea is the dead-simple way to move audio and video between your computer and your phone. While it's great at handling media files, it can do a lot more, including manage your apps, photos, and even send text messages from your computer.

#### Stitcher Radio

While there are a number of apps to keep your ears full of music, fewer focus on radio and podcasts. Stitcher is one such app, which lets you organize channels of content based on interests. It's even clever enough to notice what you like and dislike, and will assemble "Smart Stations" based off your preferences. If you're a podcast junkie, this app is essential.

#### Ted Talks

This unofficial TED app lets you search a video database containing over 1,200 TED presentations even if your device is not connected to the Internet. Alternatively, you can listen to the TedTalks radio-style audio stream, and bookmark and share videos on Facebook.



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# Sustaining the coastal fishery

*ACPII Fish Programme funded by the EU to contribute to sustainable and equitable management of fisheries in ACP regions*

*By Jo Akroyd*

**T**his project in the Cook Islands, is to provide technical assistance to review and update fisheries information and formulate Fisheries Management Plans for trochus, sea cucumber and the development of a national coastal fisheries policy.

## **Status of the fisheries**

In general terms the marine resources in Cook Islands have yet to be fully developed. Inshore fisheries and marine resources are at present predominantly utilised by Cook Islanders on a subsistence and artisanal basis.

The value of capture fisheries to the Cook Islands depends on the on-going sustainability at economically viable levels of key fish stocks and managing the impacts of fishing on the environment. Responsibility for managing inshore fisheries rests with the Cook Islands Government.

Currently there is an offshore fisheries policy and an Aquaculture Development Plan but no Coastal Fisheries Policy.

## **Sea Cucumber and trochus**

As sedentary and slow moving marine animals, sea cucumbers and trochus are extremely vulnerable to overharvesting in an unmanaged fishery. Apart from the Aitutaki trochus fishery, suitable conservation and management measures are not yet in place to ensure that these resources are sustainably harvested. In most other countries of the world, both trochus and sea cucumber fisheries have been overexploited, and stocks have declined to the point where there is no longer a viable fishery. Importers, who drive the demand for these resources, particularly in China where demand and prices are high, are now turning a lot of attention to the Cook Islands as a source, particularly for sea cucumbers.

Sea cucumbers are a vital component of a healthy ecosystem, where they play an important role in cleaning the sea floor. They feed



MP and mayor Mangaia

on dead plant and animal material (detritus) in the sand. Overharvesting of sea cucumbers in the Cook Islands can have serious ecological consequences for the health of our marine environment.

The Aitutaki trochus fishery is an excellent example of cooperation between MMR and the Aitutaki Island Council for resource management.

Similar to most other Pacific Island countries, the Cook Islands has limited data on levels of catch from coastal fisheries, a factor that complicates effective

management of these fisheries. MM have draft regulations for the Trochus and Sea Cucumber fisheries but, are not yet in force as until now there has not been community consultations. Distances between islands in the Cooks, logistics and the high cost of internal travel make broad stakeholder consultation challenging. In this regard assistance was requested from ACP Fish II to run workshops.

## **Project implementation**

A team including MMR staff, Ben Ponia, Kori Raumea, Sonny Tatuava, and Dorothy Solomona and ACP II Fish

consultant Jo Akroyd have been carrying out consultations on six of the Cook Islands - four in the north (Pukapuka, Manihiki, Rakahanga and Penrhyn) and two in the south Mangaia and Aitutaki.

The workshops have been very well received and there has been plenty of input and discussions from all the community groups. This information will feed into the development of the plans and policy.

## **Notes**

Jo and the team travel to Aitutaki Monday/Tuesday next week. She then returns to NZ.





# Mr Lavalava 2013 lineup

*Introducing the Mr Lavalava contestants*



**Name:** Benjamin Pekepo, 23 years  
**Works at:** CITC Liquor  
**Talent:** "Too good at my Korero Maori."



**Name:** Papa Williams, 29, from Penrhyn and Rarotonga  
**Works at:** Telecom  
**Hobbies:** Volleyball, singing and meeting new people.



**Name:** Patrick Arona, 22 years  
**Best feature:** Everything  
**Talent:** I'm good at sailing, building and a bit of everything.  
**Works at:** Timberland



**Name:** Ruautu Taripo, 18  
**Hobbies:** Rugby League  
**Work:** Renovation



**Name:** Bradley Heather, 21, single  
**Talent:** There's a range of things, I can't be more specific but I'm a quick learner!



**Name:** Malik, 15 years (youngest one in comp)  
**Best feature:** Friendly  
**Talent:** Physically active



**Name:** Noel Mani, 19 this year  
**Talent:** I hated the fact that I didn't do drama at school, I've been told I'm pretty good at it. At the moment we're doing a play and I'm pretty good at drama.



**Name:** Brian Rongo, 21  
**Best Feature:** My shoulders  
**Talent:** Cooking and fishing



**Name:** Rex Atirai, 19  
**Best Feature:** My personality, toes and nose!  
**Talent:** I like music, love to compose, perform and I like swimming



**Name:** Petero Teio

# Mr Lavalava the ultimate island warrior

By Te Riu Woonton

Fresh TV entertainers Goretti Chadwick and Anapela Polataivao better known as Pani and Pani are rockin' the island with their wits as they get ready for 'Mr Lavalava', the search for the ultimate island warrior this Friday night at Staircase Restaurant and Bar.

Aunties Pani and Pani have been working with Fresh TV for 2 years now, advising those who send in their dilemmas to the Fresh TV show. The Pani and Pani segment on Fresh TV goes without a script and many locals have dubbed it the best part of the show. "It's really funny because I don't even know what she's going to say next," says Anapela of Goretti, the two entertainers who find the best part about being in the showbiz is the fact that they work together and get along amazingly well.

This weekend Rarotonga will get to see Pani and Pani live, starting with the Mr. Lavalava Competition sponsored by Tangaroas Cove, Koka Lagoon Cruises, Topshape Gym, Topshape Hairdressers, Polynesian Rental Cars and Bikes, Henzart Productions, Tepepe Productions, Cook Islands Television, Maximo's T'z and Mena Fashions. Tickets



CITV Staff TeRiu Woonton and Nane Moetaua with Pani and Pani show hosts.

are \$65 for dinner and show and it is promised to be a very amusing night.

"The boys will be in great hands" says Goretti, "we have little challenges, for example, we'll tell them to go get us a

drink, just things like that". The vision is for Aunties Pans and Pans to travel to Samoa, Fiji and Tahiti to carry out the same competition and the winner from each competition will go on to the Grand International

Finale in New Zealand on an all expenses paid trip. On Saturday night, Pani and Pani will have an open mic night, which will also feature local talent. Tickets for Saturday night also are \$65 for dinner and show.

## Venture into food business leaves bad taste

After months of preparation and leg work into the initiation of a possible business venture with a foreign investor local women Nana Short has become the latest victim of business turning south.

Short who approached CITV explained that she was introduced by an uncle to assist his Tahitian Chinese friend in setting up a food business in the Cook Islands. "He wanted to invest in the Cook Islands," says Short, "such as setting up a restaurant or food business. I agreed to help and started facilitating paper work and approvals. It was a lot of work which I footed."

Short had been organizing her business partner's visa for the Cook Islands. He had

been residing in New Zealand for the past 3 years. In June, Nana's business partner made relocated to the Cook Islands with his young family, of which Short explains full visa documents were still pending awaiting medical clearances.

After the first initial weeks of being in the Cook Islands, Short explains that business proceedings between the pair had turned for the worse when her Tahitian partner had produced documents for Short to sign. "He came around to where I was staying," recalls Short of the incident, "and pretty much demanded that I sign a piece of paper." Feeling heckled into the situation Short queried the nature of the document and was told by her foreign business partner that his lawyer had informed him

Short's signature was needed to change the registration of the company vehicle into his own personal name. "To me I didn't understand this, either it's VAT or personal, you can't have it both ways," says short explaining the VAT process.

Several attempts were made on Short's part to contact both her business partners lawyer and hers in regard to the said document however "In the end I really felt threatened so I ended up signing it not knowing what I was signing but I just wanted to get rid of him."

When contact was eventually made with her partner's lawyer, Short explains that her suspicions had been confirmed, "He had just lied." A phone call to the said lawyer, he explained that her business partner had in

fact not been in contact with him nor had he given advice of the nature that the Tahitian had explained to Short.

Following this surprise Short sought counsel from her lawyer and put a halt to all the pairs business proceedings and in doing so, also to his residential and employment permit application to Immigration. "At no point did he make any attempt to find out from either my lawyer or his lawyer as to his immigration status."

CITV contacted immigration for a comment and was informed that while they had not looked into the particular case as of yet, they had been notified and worked on a case by case basis.

CITV also has not managed as yet to speak to the business partner in question.



# Ex-pat or Local?

By Carmel Beattie

An expatriate (sometimes shortened to expat) is a person temporarily or permanently residing in a country and culture other than that of the person's upbringing. The word comes from the Latin terms *ex* ("out of") and *patria* ("country, fatherland").

What do I call myself? I think of myself as a local but I suspect that other people consider me an expat or simply Australian. Of course, I AM an Australian by birth and some would say (often slightly annoyed) – by attitude. So, I guess that also means that, by the definition, I am also an expat. It is just that I am slightly uncomfortable with this tag as lately I feel it is considered to be a term for someone who is not necessarily connected to this country and somewhat 'fly by night' or an outsider who takes and does not give back.

There was a comment recently in the paper referring to the new executive of the Business & Professional Women's organisation as mainly expats however in that group we have 3 women of Cook Islands heritage and the balance are all women who have lived in this country for many years – I am probably the 'newbie' at 3.5 years. Would you consider yourself an outsider if you had lived in a country for upwards of 3.5, 10 or 20 years? In that particular organisation there are also many ethnic Cook Islanders including past and present Presidents, so why comment?

So, when does an expat actually become a local? I am guilty of having had a fixed view of expats myself – living in compounds, not connecting with the local population except as domestic staff, swilling champagne/gin etc and making vast amounts of money before leaving for greener pastures after a few years. This is not the situation here in the Cook Islands where I find that the

majority of people coming to this country for work throw themselves into life with enthusiasm and generosity – in other words they embrace the 'Cook Islands Way'. Whether it is for 2 years or the rest of their lives, they play an important part in life in this country and give back your welcome in abundance.

Naturally, if you move to a new country, you always bring your culture with you but that does not preclude you from being strong supporters of your new country or even looking to remain and give to your chosen home. Nothing showcases this more than the outpouring of pride and joy at the recent Permanent Residency ceremonies – people who had waited many years for the privilege of holding permanent residency in the Cook Islands celebrated their connection with their country of choice – I must admit to more than a twinge of envy at their good fortune and hope that one day, I can also participate in my own PR ceremony.

I have been very lucky, my first role here brought me into contact with an almost exclusively Cook Islands team who taught me much about the country, the people and the culture so I was able to assimilate quite quickly. Falling in love with all things Cook Islands – from the people and culture to the geography – was also easily done and I have found living here and being part of the community an easy transition. Most of my friends are ethnic Cook Islanders, married to one or have lived here most of their lives which again allows me an important and intimate perspective of Cook Islands society.

Not everyone is as lucky and not all may embrace life in the same way but I think the majority do. As the song says, 'I still call Australia home' but I also call Titikaveka my village



and Rarotonga my island. life and work contributes to Maybe I could be considered good things for our country a (way) Outer Islander? I am so please don't call me an happy being here and coming expat unless you mean it with from there and hope that my love.....

## VACANCY



### ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Te Ipukarea Society requires an enthusiastic, Administration Assistant to help manage the administrative duties associated with the Marine Park. This is part-time position, 15 to 20 hours per week, This may suit a school leaver looking for a start in the environment and conservation aspect, or someone requiring a flexible schedule.

Requests for terms of reference, and applications with a cover letter and accompany CV, should be sent [te.ipukarea.society.inc@gmail.co](mailto:te.ipukarea.society.inc@gmail.co). tel 21144 for more information.

### ACCOUNTS PERSON

Accounts person required for Shipping Company. Proficiency in Quickbooks Enterprise essential. Minimum 20 hrs to start, and may be required to work some Saturdays. Attention to detail, accurate record keeping and a methodical work ethic required. To apply, send your CV and covering letter to [umaint@oyster.net.ck](mailto:umaint@oyster.net.ck) Applications close Sept 10th.

# Our Attitude Towards God : The back or the face - which?

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

**W**hen man rides a horse he forgets God, and when he gets off the horse he forgets the horse." Human beings are generally very absent-minded. Jeremiah 2v.27 (NKJV) reads "...For they have turned their back to Me, and not their face. But in the time of their trouble they will say, 'Arise and save us.'" The Good News Bible reads "...you turned away from Me instead of turning to Me. But when you are in trouble, you ask Me to come and save you." John 3v.16 says "For God so loved the world that He send His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life." In spite of our unrighteous ways, God never turn His back on us. Because God saw many people wandering aimlessly, He send His Son Jesus Christ to bring all towards Him. Jesus is our Way, our Truth, and our Life. God never turn His back towards us, but rather His face. Let us look at The Attitude of Man Towards God. Either our face or our back is turned to God.

Those who turned to God, are...(1) **SEEKING HIM.** Jesus said in Matthew 7v.7-8 "...Seek and you will find...he who Seek find..." Psalm 27v.8 says "Thy face Lord will I Seek." God said to Solomon in II Chronicles 7v.14 "...if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and Seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins and heal their land." If we seek God, we will receive blessings. But if we don't, then we will continue to experience difficulties and problems.

Those who turn to God are.. (2) **TRUSTING HIM** Instead of trusting God, Adam and Eve trusted the devil, and they got removed from the Garden

of Eden. Psalm 37v.39-40 says "But the salvation of the righteous is from the Lord, He is their strength in the time of trouble. And the Lord shall help them and deliver them, He shall deliver them from the wicked, And save them, Because they TRUST in Him." Those who turned their faces to God trusted Him completely regardless of their situation. In the Bible is an illustration of a man called Job. When Job lost everything, his wealth and possession, this was what he said in Job 13v.15 "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." In chapter 42 of the Book of Job, God "...restored Job's losses and gave Job twice as much as he had before." and in v.16 of chapter 42 "Job lived 140 years, and saw his children and grandchildren for 4 generations." Jeremiah 17v.7 says "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord. And whose hope is the Lord." So friend, let us all turn our faces to God, **SEEKING and TRUSTING Him.**

Finally, those who turn to God are...(3) **SERVING HIM** Joshua said in Joshua 24v.14-15 "...fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth,...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." The Apostle Paul said in Acts 20v.19 'serve the Lord with all humility.' Our reading in Jeremiah 2v.27 says "...For they have turned their back to Me, and not their face. But in the time of their trouble they will say, 'Arise and save us.'" I'm sure all of us can identify with this verse, either during our past when things were going well for us, or even during these present times. The question is, "What

## Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



should be our attitude towards God?" The answer is, **SEEK HIM** by reading and studying the Word of God, by going to church regularly, and by praying to God. **TRUST HIM** completely, regardless of our situation. Job said "Though He slay me I will

still trust Him." Jeremiah 17v.7 says "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose hope is the Lord." **SERVE HIM** sincerely and in truth. Serve Him with all humility. May God bless you and your family! Te Atua te arua!

### VACANCY



Te Aponga Uira

### VACANCY - ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN

To work on TAU's Electrical Distribution System.

Applicants can uplift a copy of the job description and application form from the office of Te Aponga Uira, or by contacting Bettina Akania on 20054 or email [bakania@electricity.co.ck](mailto:bakania@electricity.co.ck).

Applications close 3:00 p.m., Wednesday 18th September 2013



# OMG! Exams in TWO WEEKS!

By Norma Ngatamariki

Hi there! Can you believe it's already the third term of the school year? I most certainly can't. This year has just whizzed past and it really got me thinking about how much time is left. Seniors in Tereora College (that's Year 11, 12 and 13) are currently preparing for their End of Year Exams (since we didn't have any Mid-Year Exams). For Year 11 students, this might be a bit daunting because it's their first time, but as for Year 12 and 13 students...well, let's just say that we've "been there, done that". I know that I've been talking about this topic before, but it's that time of the year and we just have to face up to it. That's right, people, I'm talking about the studying.

It's not the most popular topic

to talk about with teens and it can never compete with the latest gossip (because we teens sure like to run our mouths). Studying. Grr. The word itself scares me. To most teenagers, studying means locking yourself in your room, completely isolated and burying your head in a book. Not necessarily so. Different teens have different ways of studying. Some like to draw pretty pictures and graphs, stick them on a wall and try to memorize them (these are the Visual learners), some will plug in their headphones, blast the volume up and listen to music while reading notes (obviously Audio learners), some actually like to write out their notes (the Writing learners) while others actually learn when they do their activities (Kinetic

learners). Every teen has their own individual style that they adapt to. It's really up to you on how you want to go about studying.

However, there are some essential things that need to be carried out. In order for you to study properly, and to ensure that what you've studied actually stays in your brain, you must: 1) Eat healthy. Fruits and vegetables stimulate the brain and get your mind working, while junk food makes you slag off. 2) Get plenty of rest. Now I know, from experience, that teenagers like to stay up late to try and cram all these last minute notes in their heads. It works for some, but it's actually quite damaging to your brain. Don't put your head through that kind of torture and get a

good night's sleep. 3) Keep away from distractions. That includes new television series, gossip and koka. I find that if you keep on putting off the studying, the less knowledge you gather.

Here's some words of advice from our very own principal. Exams should be senior's first priority because: it's actually good practice for the real thing in November. Anau and subject teachers will be working closely with their students to ensure that they are getting as much learning going on as possible. Also, the results could be used to estimate grades. If you're sick on your death bed or something, then the results from your End of Year Exams will be used as a compassionate grade.

It's good to study early, but go at your own pace too.

## Changing for the better

By Hareta Tiraa Passfield

Only two more weeks till mock exams, I am so not looking forward to that. Especially math, I don't understand how people can understand algebra. I just don't get math. I don't even know my times tables. How embarrassing, 10 year olds know their times tables and then there's me, a 15 year old who doesn't.

For once this week I wasn't stuck on what to write about. I decided to write about something that has been bothering me for a long time. Every Monday I go to school and everyone asks me how my weekend was. I always say the same thing. "It was alright, what about yours". I recently asked a 13 year old this question and

they responded with something that made me sick to my stomach. She said "It was so cool, I went out cruising and then got wasted". This came from a 13 year old. She is only in year 9! Our generation sickens me. When you're 13, you are supposed to be at home on facebook or spending time with your family, and not out "living it up". I find it horrible that there are 13 year olds that are out getting drunk. Not only is it illegal, it's disturbing. Where are their parents!

When I'm at the movies and I'm outside, I see kids hanging outside rehab hoping that they are gonna get in. They think that they are so cool. But they just look like little wannabees. I even see 15 year olds and 16

year olds that are getting into rehab. I just don't understand our generation. We are only young and when we are older, we'll have time to do all of that stuff. Now is the time for us just to have fun, and yes that is possible without alcohol and drugs. I can have fun without alcohol, why can't these losers!

There are so many reasons why you shouldn't drink, it causes so many problems. Fatal accidents, dramas, alcohol poisoning, when you are under the influence you can get taken advantage of by a stranger. Before people drink they don't think about the aftermath that alcohol can cause. All the people that I know that go out and go drinking think that they are so cool because

they can lie to their parents, get out of the house and they drink and get wasted, then get home in the morning with a bad hangover. How does this make them cool? Because they can lie and get away with it? Because they can get drunk and do stupid things they will regret the next day? You want to know what's cool? Doing things that your age group are suppose to be doing. Don't any of you feel bad lying to your parents faces? They gave you everything and how do you repay them? If 13 years olds are doing these things now, imagine what it will be like in 10 years time, there will be 10 year olds out there getting wasted. It's time for our generation to make a change for the better.

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



got water?  
Do your part, be water smart!

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2013  
International Year of  
Water Cooperation

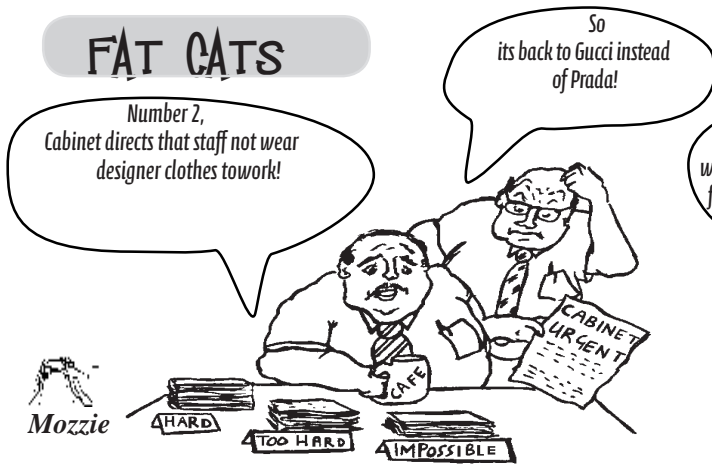
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MINISTRY OF  
INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

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

## FAT CATS



Apparently, at the Pacific Leader's Forum chin wag in the Marshalls, the Kiwi leader has marshaled up a \$5 million gift to share out among four Small Island States, the Cooks included. Typical of Kiwi generosity, the moolah will be spread over 5 years! Good grief! What can China offer?



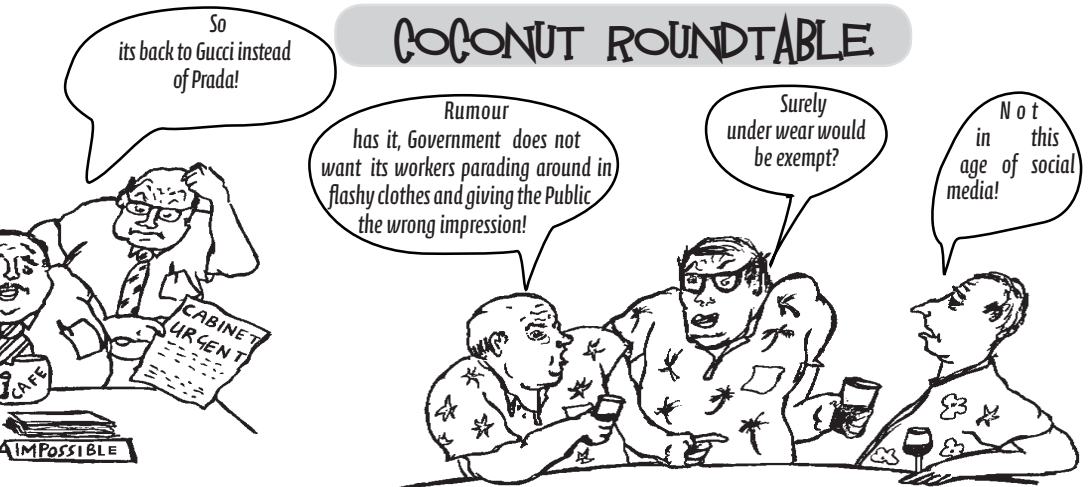
Whisper chooks is that one unhappy local has left a top government agency and others may follow soon as concern grows about the proliferation of ex-pats in government jobs ahead of locals. It is even beginning to concern some members of Cabinet. The situation is not unlike a Gilbert and Sullivan opera. Even ex-pats here on the holiday stage stand a better chance of singing the employment aria than any local! Mind you it's helpful when you audition before other ex-pats! Maybe Tourism Corp can use this as a marketing tool! Visit the Cook Islands, have a holiday, get a job!



Will MMM-Mighty Magee Man, be starting up his own political party soon? A more important question is will MMM stand in Tupapa-Marearenga next election or relocate to family held territory in Manihiki? It could get crowded up north and this may force the PM to travel south to seek safer stomping grounds in Aitutaki. If he does, look for Aitutaki airport to go fully international so the PM can fly out from there!



Police report they have been trying to solve the mystery of a water leak in their



# CHOOKS CORNER

WITH BIG RED



magnificent Chinese built and generously gifted building. The most modern methods of detection were rendered useless due to the absence of a major clue, the plans of the water system for the building. Well the Boys in blue are trained to deal with criminal not construction maintenance issues.



The loud whisper is Big Norm wants to organize a Vote of No Confidence in Madame Speaker of the House and have The Pak reinstated! If government had a few clues, it would, before the House sits again, amend the anti-party hopping legislation following the High Court finding that parts of it were unconstitutional.



On the topic of Constitutional law, a chooks asks how confident can we be in the wallahs at Crown Law Office detecting conflicting provisions and shortcomings in other enactments? The latest finding, prompted by a Big Norm application for a declaratory Judgment, has the potential to turn the government on its head. How closely did Crown Law examine the Sea Bed Minerals Act for any provisions which may be unconstitutional? It wouldn't hurt

to have one last gander. And it had better be done before the moolah starts pouring in!



Why is it chooks that important historical documents always seem to get "lost?" Take for instance, the old Lands and Survey file from the 1880s which detailed how the definition of the "Crown" adopted by the old Federal parliament, came about in relation to who owns the "sea bed." The ownership matter was defined in law following an extensive land survey exercise. Then, families owned the land from the top of the mountain down to the reef. However, on the recommendation of the surveyor, only the land surveyed from the foothills to the mean high tide mark became recognized in law. The surveyor had recommended the Crown be responsible for the lagoon but not the actual sea bed itself, out to the reef. The interior land was to remain as uninvestigated land under the Crown and kept for use as a future reserve. The question in this modern day, when boundaries have been extended, is who owns the sea bed out to the continental shelf? The same sea bed that has the nodules. Some say the "family

strips" now extend from the foothills and out along the sea bed as far as the 200 mile EEZ boundary.



Oh dear chooks! Local fishermen up in arms because local eateries are not taking their fresh fish to make sashimi! But where would the restaurants be getting their ultra-fresh fish from chooks if not straight off a local boat? Could they be thawing out the cheap frozen stuff off the Chinese boat and passing it off as fresh? May be some restaurant sashimi customers should begin enquiring if the fish is fresh or was frozen!



Rumour has it chooks, an invitation is to be sent to Kensington Palace inviting Prince Willie, Kate and Georgey boy to our celebration in 2015 of 50 years of self government! Replies are yet to be received from the Pope and Lady Gaga to their invites. It is also rumoured the Rolling Stones may perform live outdoors at the BCI stadium. Cliff Richard will do a lap of the track with the flaming torch before lighting the giant umu prepared by T&M Heather.

Cook Islands  
**HERALD**  
**PMG**  
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VACANCIES



**TELECOM COOK ISLANDS CEO**

After almost 5 years in the position our current CEO is due to leave the Company at the end of February, 2014.

The Company has begun the search for his replacement with the intention of appointing the new CEO in sufficient time to allow for a reasonable "hand-over" period. The CEO reports to the Board of Directors of Telecom Cook Islands and is responsible for leading the Company in continuous improvement for customers. Telecom Cook Islands aims to be "The #1 telco under the Pacific Sun".

The Board of Directors is seeking an energetic, experienced leader to maintain the Company's recent momentum and step it up another notch. They are specifically looking for someone with telecommunications experience who can set strategic direction, performance manage a business end to end, manage multiple stakeholders and provide exceptional people leadership with a clear customer focus.

If you share that vision and believe you have the energy, vision, experience and leadership qualities to lead Telecom in pursuit of this goal, we want to hear from you.

Please send your application and CV to:

ceo@telecom.co.ck or post it to:

CEO

Telecom Cook Islands

PO Box 106

Avarua

Rarotonga

To be received no later than Monday 9 September 2013



**DIRECTOR OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS**

The Ministry of Internal Affairs is seeking a highly motivated and qualified person to lead the Labour and Employment Relations Division. This is an extremely challenging and rewarding role in a dynamic environment that has a diverse range of responsibilities including:

- The management of staff
- The successful administration and implementation of the new Employment Relations Act 2012
- Managing the regulation of Dangerous Goods
- The administration of the Workers Compensation Scheme
- The administration of the Employers Liability Insurance

To be successful the applicant must have a tertiary degree in either: Employment Relations, Economics, Public Policy or Law and 5 years professional experience. If you are interested in leading a team of capable professionals in this exciting and fast changing area, a full job description and information pack is available upon request. Please contact Eva Mapu, phone 29370 or email admin@intaff.gov.ck

Applications must be addressed to the Secretary of the Ministry. The deadline for applications is 6 September 2013 at 4pm.

VACANCY



Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning

**VACANCY – WATSAN TECHNICAL COORDINATOR**

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning invites applications for the posts of WATSAN Technical Coordinator in its Water, Waste and Sanitation (WATSAN) Unit. This is an exciting opportunity to work with a new team, tasked with making improvements in infrastructure, policy and practice that will contribute to protecting and enhancing the lagoon and ocean environments around our islands.

We are seeking a suitably qualified, experienced, highly motivated and enthusiastic person to assist the WATSAN Unit Manager and WMI Programme Manager in coordinating implementation and delivery of tasks and outcomes across a number of critical work programmes.

The role will involve day to day administration and project management, as well as requiring liaison with relevant government agencies, local communities and the private sector. Specifically the scope of tasks for this position will not necessarily be limited to the following but shall include:

- Provide technical input to the implementation of a programme of upgrading onsite sanitation systems on Rarotonga and Aitutaki, including participation in sanitation systems' site inspections and assessments, review of wastewater plans and designs, coordination with Public Health Inspectors, coordination and oversight of works carried out by third party contractors engaged by the Ministry, and attendance at related meetings, discussions and workshops
- Prepare such technical, project management and progress reports and associated documentation as are required by the Programme Manager for implementation of the programme
- Undertake such additional tasks as may be instructed from time to time by the WATSAN Manager and/or Programme Manager in connection with the work of the WATSAN Unit

In addition to relevant qualifications, the successful applicant will have a demonstrable track record of work experience in a relevant trade or professional field, with emphasis in the sanitation/wastewater sector being an advantage, strong communications skills and an enquiring, analytical mind.

For this position, an interest in or understanding of water, wastewater and environmental protection will be a distinct advantage. Above all, the successful candidate must be passionate about making a difference to the long term well-being of the Cook Islands.

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

Secretary

Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning

PO Box 120

Rarotonga

The closing date for applications is Friday, 20 September 2013. For more information please contact Tangi Taoro by phone on 20-321 or by email at tangi.taoro@moip.gov.ck

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  
General Manager  
Cook Islands Ports Authority  
Ara Tapu  
Avatiu  
Rarotonga  
Tel No.: +682 21921  
Fax No.: +682 21191  
E-mail: [bim.tou@ports.co.ck](mailto:bim.tou@ports.co.ck)

**New Hope Church**

**Parekura Conference Centre**

*Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you*

**Sunday at 10.30am**

PUBLIC NOTICE



Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Cook Islands Chamber of Commerce will be held on:

Date: Thursday 26th September 2013  
Time: 4.30 p.m.  
Venue: Trader Jack's Restaurant, Avarua, Rarotonga

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome by the President
2. Confirmation of Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from these Minutes
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Auditor's Report
7. Sub Committee Reports
8. Nomination and approval of Auditor for 2013 – 14
9. Election of Officers
10. General Business

All members and intending members are urged to attend.

Enquiries to the Chamber office: phone 20 925 or e-mail [chamber@commerce.co.nz](mailto:chamber@commerce.co.nz)



**PRICE ORDER 10/2013**

**PURSUANT** to the Control of Prices Act 1966 and the powers delegated to me as provided under section 30 of the said Act, I hereby make the following Order:

- 1 This Order is cited as Price Order 10/2013 and shall come into effect on the 29th day of August 2013 for **TRIAD PACIFIC PETROLEUM LTD.**
- 2 Maximum selling prices for fuel imported into the Cook Islands shall be at a rate specified in the schedule below except the island of Aitutaki.
- 3 For the Outer Islands, prices established have been reviewed and updated to include freight, wharfage, boating, reefing, drum/container cost, evaporation and cartage costs.
- 4 Value Added Tax is included in the prices herein set. Import Levy is exempt for Outer Islands excluding Aitutaki as per Exemption Order 03/09/2010.
- 5 All previous references in any Price Order as to the selling prices listed in this Order are hereby revoked upon effective dates above.
- 6 The prices herein set are the maximum that may be charged although less may be charged if so desired.

Given under my hand and seal this 29th day of August 2013  
  
Brian Terence Hagan  
Chairman for the Price Tribunal



Madeleine Sword  
Member for the Price Tribunal

**SCHEDULE OF PRICE ORDER**

ITEM	WHOLESALE TO Retailers/Bulk Users	RETAIL PRICES TO CONSUMERS IN			Effective Date
		Rarotonga	Southern Group	Northern Group	
PETROL	2.31	2.59	2.86	2.92	August 29, 2013
DIESEL	2.08	2.36	2.67	2.73	August 29, 2013





# 3rd Polynesian Leaders Group Meeting

*Auckland, New Zealand, 30 August 2013, COMMUNIQUE AND OUTCOMES*

The Heads of Government of the member countries of the Polynesian Leaders Group (PLG) met in Auckland, New Zealand on 30 August 2013 for the third time since its inception in November 2011. The 3rd Polynesian Leaders Group Meeting was attended by the Prime Ministers of the Cook Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, the Premier of Niue, the President of French Polynesia, and Ministers from Tokelau and the Kingdom of Tonga. Apologies were conveyed from the Prime Minister of Tonga, Governor of American Samoa, and the Ulu of Tokelau for their non-attendance.

In the capacity of Observer, Aotearoa New Zealand was represented by Hon. Tariana Turia, Minister of Disabilities and Whanau Ora and Hon. Alfred Ngara, National List MP; and Hawaii by Dr. Kamana'opono Crabbe, CEO of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

The Leaders, in their deliberations, confirmed the importance of the PLG Meeting to advance the interests of Polynesian peoples.

The Leaders welcomed and endorsed the remarks of the Outgoing Chair, Hon. Henry Puna, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands. The Leaders also acknowledged his significant contributions as Chair of the PLG for 2012-2013.

The Leaders unanimously elected and welcomed the President of French Polynesia as Chair of the PLG for 2013-2014, following a recommendation by the Outgoing Chair.

## MAIN OUTCOMES

On procedural matters, the Leaders:

- Reaffirmed their commitment to the continued preservation of Polynesian culture, traditions and languages as the common uniting foundation of the PLG, as per its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- Agreed that the Chair of the PLG would be rotated on an alphabetical basis. Furthermore, a joint Working Group of Officials would act as the Secretariat to support the Chair and advise Leaders as appropriate on any outstanding issues, including those that may impact upon the MOU.
- Reiterated the need for the PLG in these formative years to operate in a cautious and flexible manner, considerate of the respective resources of the

members.

- Directed the Working Group to develop and strengthen its working procedures and communication guidelines as soon as possible.

## POLICY ISSUES

The Leaders, in discussing priority areas for cooperation:

Mobility Between PLG Countries (Visitors, Labour, Goods and Services)

- Supported the need to increase quotas under the individual Seasonal Employment Schemes extended to Pacific Islanders by the Governments of New Zealand and Australia; and to expand sectors covered by such schemes, including trades related to reconstruction efforts, and agriculture.

- Noted that a number of PLG members already enjoy movement of workers between their respective countries, and there is scope for expansion to alleviate pressures on labour supply and demand.

- Encouraged the consideration of opportunities for labour mobility schemes amongst PLG countries, acknowledging that members should create sustainable employment for their own people in the first instance.

- Considered it incumbent on all PLG members to review respective labour requirements and consider how best to encourage and strengthen cooperation amongst PLG members in mobilising a sub-regional labour force.

- Noted that the freedom of mobility of tourists throughout the PLG could be facilitated by cross-border relaxation and schemes such as a Polynesian Pass (single entry authorisation to all PLG countries) or re-visitation of the Island Hopper initiative.

## Renewable Energy Cooperation

- Recognized the significant achievement of Tokelau in becoming the first small island nation producing 100% of its electricity from solar power.

- Acknowledged the advantage of a coordinated approach to RE financing by development partners, and the need to streamline the growing number and cost of regional organisations involved in RE development.

- Noted and supported the Draft Declaration on establishing a Regional Data Repository (RDR)

presented by the Minister of Education & Training of Tonga proposed to be signed by Pacific Island Leaders and Development Partners during the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York later this month.

## Other

- Noted the opportunities, which could be created by a sub-regional airline.

- Noted opportunities created by sharing best practices among PLG member countries, e.g. Fisheries

- Noted the resolution adopted by the French Polynesia Assembly reaffirming the democratic choice of its population to remain the strongly autonomous overseas country that it is.

## NEW INITIATIVES

### Hawaiki Submarine Cable

- Noted the presentation by Hawaiki Submarine Cable to lay a broadband communications trunk-line between Australia, New Zealand and the United States, and the development opportunities presented to Pacific Island Countries as a result of this private sector initiative.

- Noted Hawaiki Submarine Cable's offer to visit PLG member countries, upon request. Such visits would provide PLG member countries with further clarification on technical, financial and legal implications of the cable project. The timing of requests to be considered in the context of a projected deadline of December 2013.

### Nansen Initiative

- Noted and supported a presentation by the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, Hon. Henry Puna on the Nansen Initiative and endorsed the submission of the Initiative to the 44th Pacific Islands Forum in the Marshall Islands for the consideration of Leaders. The Nansen Initiative being a state-led, bottom-up consultative process intended to build consensus on a protection agenda addressing the needs of people displaced across international borders in the context of natural disasters, as well as the effects of climate change.

### Oceania 21

- Noted and supported a presentation by the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, Hon. Henry Puna on Oceania 21, and

the tabling of this concept at the 44th Pacific Islands Forum Meeting in the Marshall Islands for the consideration of Leaders. Oceania 21 is a regional platform established to promote and engage the international community on the region's common concerns pertaining to climate change, environmental preservation and sustainable management.

Marshall Islands Declaration on Climate Change for 44th Pacific Islands Forum

- Noted the resolution passed by the French Polynesia Assembly highlighting concerns at the proliferation of climate change related organisations and the need to ensure that climate change financing is clarified and channelled to population needs.

- Welcomed recommendation by French Polynesian President Gaston Flosse encouraging PLG member countries to embrace our Polynesian people displaced by climate change.

- Agreed that French Polynesia President Gaston Flosse table this resolution at the 44th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in the Marshall Islands.

## Hawaiian Affairs

- Noted and welcomed a presentation by Dr Kamana'opono Crabbe, Chief Executive Officer for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), on the functions and responsibilities of OHA, and the governance issues related to the aspirations of Native Hawaiians.

- On behalf of the PLG, French Polynesia President Gaston Flosse expressed the appreciation of Leaders for the presentation of gifts and the warmth of aloha from OHA.

## Concluding remarks

- Leaders expressed deep appreciation to the New Zealand Government for use of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) Auckland Office for the PLG meeting.

- French Polynesia President Gaston Flosse extended his appreciation to Leaders for their confidence in his Chairmanship and offered French Polynesia as host venue for the next PLG Meeting.

- Leaders noted the offer from French Polynesia President Gaston Flosse to host the Secretariat of the PLG.



# Good public response to first meeting on proposed Sovereign Wealth Fund



Mark Brown and Richard Neves at SWF meeting

By Charles Pitt

Minister of Finance Hon Mark Brown was clearly impressed by the large turnout for Monday evening's public meeting at the Sinai Hall to hear the views of the public on the proposal to set up a Sovereign Wealth Fund as a savings depository for revenue earned from our Manganese Nodules and sea bed minerals resources.

Up to 100 people heard Brown say only six people turned up for the public meeting to discuss the Tax Review. Brown inferred interest was high because the chance to earn very big money was at stake.

A good cross section of society was present. The House of Ariki was represented through President Travel Tou Ariki, whose presence was acknowledged by the Minister, representatives from the Koutu Nui with President Maria Henderson, former Cabinet Ministers Tapi Taio and Papa Dan Kamana, several Members of Parliament in George Magee (Tupapa-Maraerenga), Mona Ioane (Aitutaki), Mayor of Atiu Taoro Strickland and traditional

leaders like Tupe Short and Papa Tangaroa. Teresa Managrangi Trott from the Chamber of Commerce was present, several HOMs and heads of government agencies including Sonny Williams (Culture), Vaitoti Tupa (Environment), Terry Rangi (CEO BTIB), Russell Thomas (PSC), Jenna Davis (FSDA), Tingika Elikana (Justice) and also members of the business community and the general public.

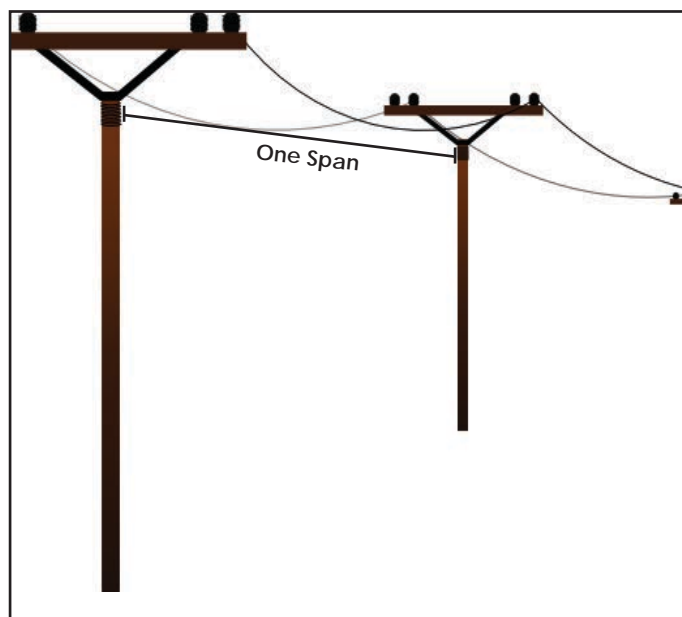
CICC Rev Patia opened the meeting with a prayer and Minister Brown made the opening remarks. Brown said it was important for people to have their say now in order that we be well prepared for the day harvesting of the resource begins.

MFEM Budget officer Christina Kauvai gave a brief outline of the Sovereign Fund proposal, how it might be managed and transparency issues. MFEM economist James Webb gave a brief talk on options for handling the revenue generated and deposited in the Fund along with the potential earnings from each option. All this background information can be found on



## SWITCH ON WITH TE APONGA UIRA

### Explaining connection costs



What are the costs of an the upfront costs. electricity connection?

It depends on the extension/ offering a special deal that augmentation required.

A span is the distance \$2000. TAU will pay the costs between two posts. TAU of a full span. This is strictly usually pays the first half span; "first come, first served" until the customer pays the rest of funds run out.

[www.teaponga.com](http://www.teaponga.com)

MFEM's website.

Following this briefing the Minister opened up the floor to speakers. Many took the opportunity to express their views, some forthrightly. It was a lively meeting held together pretty well by Minister Brown. Speakers delivered their views mainly in Maori and these are reported in this issue in a separate report by Ruter Taripo. A brief English translation from a selection of comments is set out below, courtesy of Taripo.

**The following is a selection of issues raised at the SWF meeting**

"If the committee or Board for the SWF consist mainly of politicians only, then I have doubts, can we include other locals like Traditional Leaders onto the Board?"

"The project proposal illustrated on the screen is clear and looks very useful."

"Don't really understand the project proposal that is illustrated."

"We need to set a target and follow it."

"When is all this going to happen?"

"I support this project, but we need to also consult with our traditional leaders."

"I support the idea of the SWF although it appears a long process, therefore I recommend that we need to educate our young ones of these issues instead of always bringing in papa`ā to tell us what to do."

"My concern is, what is the role in this for the Cook Islands as a whole?"

"We must unite, all of us, so we will know what to do and how to do this, we don't need to end up with what had happened to Nauru."

"Can this diagram and project be translated into Reo Maori so our people and especially our pa-metua can have a better understanding of the issues discussed?"

"We need our young people to be familiar and understand these issues so they will be knowledgeable of the values related to this project."

"We also need to understand all of this and how it will affect our environment and our ocean."



Consultant Dick Emery at SWF Meeting

"We must be very careful how we deal with this and how the processes will affect us, our nation, our sea and environment."

For all comments see story by Ruter Taripo in this issue.

During the discussions, Brown spoke of the importance of ensuring our young people be encouraged to enter professions related to the sea bed minerals sector. He introduced Alex Herman (Legal officer at SBM Authority) and spoke of four other Cook Islanders training as engineers as examples of employment opportunities to be taken up by our young people. He said there would also be jobs in chemical engineering, off shore exploration and other specialized areas. He said in future our young people could be in demand and sought after by other Pacific nations as sea bed mining took hold in the region.

Former Finance Minister under a previous Demo government, Tapi Taio spoke of his involvement in the sector and experience with Norway's progress in deep sea mining. Taio acknowledged Norway's expertise and technological development in deep sea mining

(for oil) and said we should adopt their approach.

The overseas consultant who prepared the background papers to government's proposed Sovereign Wealth Fund, Dick Emery, was invited by the Minister to speak about the concept of sovereign funds. Emery told the audience about sovereign funds operated by other countries, including New Zealand and he spoke of the success of Norway's fund, the level of which currently sits at just under \$800 billion. Nauru, the Minister said, was a worst case example of a country which mismanaged its Fund, investing in high risk portfolios like property.

Earlier, MFEM economist James Webb, in response to a comment from Noeline Browne about the volatility of overseas financial markets, said our Sovereign Wealth Fund would invest overseas in well spread, low risk, low return portfolios. Investments would be offshore in order not to distort the local economy and to protect the Fund from any impact on the local economy from outside influences.

Minister Brown said there would be more public meetings

arranged to discuss the Fund proposal.

The meeting ended at 8pm with a closing prayer by Rev Patia.

A point of interest is that contrary to customary Cook Islands Party practice, this new policy item has not come through any CIP conference with supporting discussions and endorsement. How the political wing will reconcile the party faithful at grassroots level remains to be seen.

# Eat Less

## move more

Heart Foundation



# Sub-regional Training Workshop on Geo-DRM System for Pacific Countries

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) stationed in Thailand and Emergency Management Cook Islands (EMCI) a division of the Office of Prime Minister of the Cook Islands jointly organized a "Sub-regional Training Workshop on Geo-DRM System for Pacific Countries" in Rarotonga, Cook Islands from 2 to 6 September 2013 in collaboration with Red Cross Society, Red Cross Building, Rarotonga. The Pacific countries including Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, as well as SOPAC participated in the training workshop. Key Government Ministries like MOIP, Marine, NES, MET, Airport Authority, TAU, Health, INTAFF, Red Cross etc were also involved in the workshop and contributing to the GEO PORTAL.

The director of ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction (IDD) of UNESCAP, Dr. Shamika Sirimanne also represented UNESCAP with his staff and UN consultants in the workshop. The workshop was formally opened by the Speaker of the House of Parliament Mrs Niki Rattle.

"This is fantastic having UNESCAP support us here in the Pacific so we are in touch with what is happening globally", says Charles Carlson Director of

EMCI. "What's most encouraging is actually having our own ministries coming together to be part of this project".

The key objectives of the training workshops are to strengthen the capacity of the Pacific countries on disaster risk reduction through the establishment of Geo-Portal on Disaster Risk Management(DRM). In practice, the Geo-portal DRM for Cook Islands was installed in the server of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning (MOIP) of Cook Islands as test trials (<http://geodrm.maps.gov.ck:8080/geonetwork/>).

This workshop has contributed to improving the awareness and knowledge on geo-portal on DRM and strengthening the technical capacity of participants of the Pacific Islands on the establishment of geo-portal and the basic use of data for disaster risk assessment and management in the Pacific region.

Geo-portal on DRM is the integrated platform for DRM in Cook Islands by generating, managing and sharing the geo-spatial data, information and knowledge related to disaster management. The geo-portal on DRM is expected to contribute to addressing the disaster management in Cook Islands

including the prediction and assessment of disasters.

"This Geo Portal is crucial to our operation by having a database for both preparedness and response", says Carlson. "This will not only benefit EMCI but all ministries, agencies and the wider community".

This workshop is the first practical cooperation in the area of Geo-portal on DRM between UNESCAP and Cook Islands, as well as the Pacific countries to enhance the capacity of the Pacific countries on disaster risk reduction through establishment of networked geo-portal on DRM in the region.

## News Briefs *By TeRiu Woonton*

For nearly 2 months now, a Avatiu Fitclub was formed to help those who are wanting to lose weight and live a healthier lifestyle. Each week, the community initiative has invited various instructors to conduct classes, exercise regimes and weigh-ins. So far around 16 people have taken on the challenge to live a healthier lifestyle and more are encouraged to come forward and make a change for yourself. A Fight Do class will be held on Thursday at 5.30pm with Cha Siason, the Fight Do instructor and Personal Trainer from Top Shape Gym. Cost is \$2 and is open to all. The Avatiu Fit Club holds exercise programs at 6am and 5.30pm upstairs at the Avatiu Clubhouse from Monday's to Friday's.

The Clean Up the World Campaign, coordinated by the National Environment Service and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning is held on Friday the 13th of September and there has been a great response not only from Rarotonga but also the outer islands. The focus on this year's campaign is "Love Your Coast". Manihiki has made this campaign a community event and schools in Mauke, Enuamanu, Mitiaro and Atiu have signed up to help clean their coasts. Schools have also incorporated environmental and biodiversity matters into their education system and the island of Mauke has incorporated a workshop on proper waste disposal and biodiversity all into one week. Just under 250kg of rubbish was collected at last year's Clean Up the World event and included 115kg of non-recyclable general household rubbish as well as 44kg of miscellaneous material such as a rusted bicycle, pieces of iron roofing, and a microwave from the beach. NES is hoping that other community groups will also join in to help commemorate the event.

**\$5 CAPPED**  
**\$5 CALLING**  
UP TO AN HOUR FOR NATIONALY  
LANDLINE TO LANDLINE - ISLAND TO ISLAND



# Our Frontpage model Black Pearl pendant winner announced



Our frontpage guy for Herald Issue 682 is Marouna Mita, Customer Service Officer at the Bank of the Cook Islands. Marouna was one of the Mr. Lavalava contestants, unfortunately pulled out last minute due to family purposes. Check out our website [www.ciherald.co.ck](http://www.ciherald.co.ck) and facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ciherald](https://www.facebook.com/ciherald)

Cook Islands Tourism is proud to announce the winner of the Black Pearl pendant prize offered to visitors as an incentive for completing the 2012-2013 online visitor satisfaction survey. Metua Vaiimene, Director of Destination Development announced that John Lee of Whakatane in the Bay of Plenty, New Zealand is the winner of a brand new Cook Islands Black Pearl pendant valued at \$1500.

John Lee was among the 10,555 visitors surveyed via the online visitor satisfaction survey conducted by the New Zealand Tourism Research Institute (NZTRI) and the Auckland University of Technology (AUT) on behalf of Cook Islands Tourism Corporation. The winner was chosen randomly from respondents by the AUT research team.

The research approach taken was through the collection of email addresses from visitors. Visitors were encouraged to provide an email address if they wished to complete the online visitor survey and advised that

they would go into a draw to win a Cook Islands Black Pearl pendant.

Email addresses were then forwarded to NZTRI on a regular basis throughout the survey period which was April 2012 – March 2013. NZTRI then sent out an email with the survey link to the survey participant who was asked to complete the survey within one month of returning home.

Some of the key findings from the survey included the characteristics of our visitors, average length of stay, average spend whilst in the Cook Islands and overall visitor satisfaction.

Cook Islands Tourism will continue to partner with NZTRI & AUT on this survey which is fundamental to the overall strategy of the Corporation to develop robust data collection and analysis of the tourism industry. Similarly visitors to the Cook Islands in 2013 and 2014 have a chance to win a Cook Islands Black Pearl pendant if they participate in the new survey from 01 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

*Tourism Release*



## 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.





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3. Don't delay see the Good Guys Now!!!



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**4 STAR**  
**APPLIANCES**  
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1. Hire Purchase and 1 Year Warranty on all Products
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**FREE PICK UP** of Old  
Fridge /Freezer and Drop Off  
of new ones..



## MOTOR CENTRE

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## 'Uipā`anga 'Seabed Mining Fund' na te kātoatoa tātā`ia e Ruteria Taripo

I te ora 6 i te a`ia`i Mōnitē, rā 2 o Tepetema ki roto i te Sinai Hall i Avarua, kua rave`ia tēta`i `uipā`anga na te kātoatoa tei kāpiki`ia e te Minitiri o te Moni. Ko teia `uipā`anga kua riro rāi `e na te minita ngāteitei o te moni nā Mark Brown i `akatere `e pērā katoa tōnā au turuturu kite-karape i te tauturu `iā ia. Kua tae atu ki tēia `uipā`anga mei te `ā-nga`uru tūmā tangata.

Te `akakite nei a Mark Brown ē, `e ko te `akakoro`anga maata o tēia `uipā`anga no runga i te 'Sovereign Wealth Fund'(SWF), koia `oki, e moni teia te ka rauka mai na te ipukarea, na roto i te maini`anga o te papa-ta`ua moana (seabed mining). Te `akakite nei rāi `a Brown, `e ko te kā rauka mai, ka riro te reira `ei pu`apinga no tātou kātoatoa i te Kūki `□irani nei, no tā tātou tamariki `ē te au tamariki ka aru mai.

“Ea`a i reira ta tātou ka rave, mē kore, ka `akapē`ea tātou i tēia rāvenga te ka rauka mai?” i `o`ora mai ei te Minita a Brown ki te kātoatoa. Ko te manako ma`ata `oki i konei kia kite tō tātou `iti-tangata i tē tupu nei `ē kia piri atu tō tātou `iti-tangata ki roto i te au uriuri`anga manako tā`okota`i no runga i tēta`i au rāvenga kia `akamou`ia.

Te `akakite nei rāi `aia ē i teia nei, kāre `e moni i rauka ake, kāre oki te `anga`anga i `akakoro`ia i rave`ia ake. Noātu ra te reira, kua tuku mai te minita ngāteitei a Brown i tēta`i au tāmānako`anga no runga i te SWF.

Kua `ōronga atu i reira `a Brown i te tuātau ki te `iti-tangata kia `o`ora mai i tō rātou au manako. Kua `akaari mai i reira te au tangata i tuatua i tō rātou au manako no runga i te tāpura ma`ata.

Ko tēta`i au manako tei `ora`ora`ia mai e te `iti-tangata, koia ko:

- kia `iki`ia, kia tukuna katoa `ia atu tēta`i au tangata mei roto mai i te Aronga Mana ki runga i te kūmiti `akateretere o tēia putuputu`anga `ē kia auraka ē ko te au tangata-poritiki `ua
- a `ea teia `akakoro`anga i tupu ei?
- kia `iki`ia tēta`i (board) au mata no tēia putuputu`anga
- kare au e mārama ana i te `akano`ono`o`anga o teia SWF i runga i te papa-`akaariari
- kua papa ainei kōtou no teia au `akano`ono`anga?
- te turu nei au i te SWF, kia `ākara katoa `ia atu ki roto i te Aronga Mana
- te turu nei i teia, no te mea ra `oki e e roa te tuātau e tupu ei, no reira pēnei kia `āpi`i`ia tā tātou au māpū i teia e tupu nei kia kore tātou e `apai `ua mai rāi i te papa`ā i te `akakite mai kia tātou `ea`a tā tātou ka rave
- kia `āpi`i kia terēni `ia tō tātou `iti-tangata no runga i teia `akano`ono`o`anga kia mārama rātou i teia e tupu nei.
- `ea`a te tu`anga, te tūranga, te `anga`anga a te Kūki `□irani kātoatoa i roto i teia `akano`ono`o`anga?
- kia `ākara matatio tātou `e ka `akapē`ea tātou i te `akateretere`anga i teia, kia tā`okota`i tātou, kia kore tātou e kopekope āpōpō ake `ē kia kore tātou e tātarā`ara.

Kua `akakite rāi oki a Brown ē, `e tika rāi ka anoano `ia tātou kia `o`onu tō tātou mārama no tēia `akakoro`anga ma`ata `ē kia tūkatau tātou kātoatoa.

Kua `o`ora mai i reira te Kaumaiti, te Ariki Tou, i tōna manako, koia `oki, kia `anga`anga tā`okota`i tātou i te turuturu`anga i tēia `akakoro`anga, no te mea ka anoano`ia tō tātou, tō te `iti-tangata reo, te inangaro nei tō tātou au metua-pakari i te kite `ē te `akarongo i te tupu nei. No reira kia turu tātou, `ē kia matakite katoa tātou i te tā`anga`anga `anga `ē te `āmiri`anga o te au tūranga nātura kia kore e tākinokino`ia tō tātou ao-natura i te Kūki `□irani nei.

Te `akakite nei i reira a Brown ē te mataora nei aia no te au manako tei `ora`ora`ia mai `e te kātoatoa `ē te `ākara atu nei aia mei te kātoatoa rāi no te `uipā`anga te kā aru mai.





## Business Trade Investment Board

### Cook Islands

### Local Business profile of the Month

**Business Name:** Pasifik Cuisine

**Director(s) Name(s):** Tai & Aynsley TAPUVAE

**Email:** [tai\\_napa@hotmail.com](mailto:tai_napa@hotmail.com)

This family business has been operating very successfully since May 2012. They are to be found at Punanganui Market and the new Muri Market on selected days of the week. They offer food and 100% fruit smoothies with Cajun chicken meals with rice or salads or in a roll. Their main goal is to build a sustainable income for current employees, to maintain a high level of quality in food hygiene and their long term goal is to start their own processing factory.



### Rotary Business Week of Free Training – 3 Days

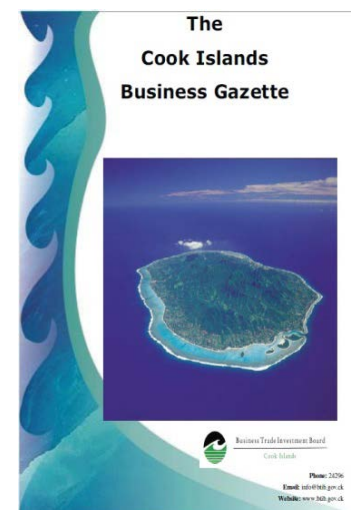
On August 6– 8, 2013, BTIB held three workshops as part of the Rotary Business Week. The modules varied in topics including some specialised modules and presenters. The added features of this year's training were the repeat of Website Designing and Healthy Soils Produce Healthy Crops due to their popularity last year plus the One on One Business Mentoring. Over a 3 day exclusive, workshops such as the One on One Business Mentoring Programme, targeted new businesses that were looking at ways of improving facets of business such as record keeping and business performance etc, which allowed the presenters Allan & Shirley Cann to conduct the workshop on business owners' premises. The modules and presentations were held at various times and locations throughout the course of the week and were presented by the BTIB Business Development Division. The Rotary Business Week free training programme was jointly funded by BTIB, the Rotary Clubs of Rarotonga, Wendouree, Victoria, AUSTRALIA and Cann Business Enterprises.



### GAZETTE

The BTIB Business Gazette was launched in April 2011. The popularity of the Business Gazette has seen a rise in the number of articles highlighted in the magazine. The Business Gazette offers a range of business related topics that are proving very popular with the Cook Islands business community. Since those early days the Business Gazette has added Foreign Investment News, Pacific News, BTIB News, Upcoming BTIB Events, Cook Islands Business Profiles, new business registrations, and Businesses for Sale as well as Advertising articles.

The Business Gazette can be purchased monthly for \$20.00 or annually for \$120.00. Please refer all enquiries to BTIB: **Phone:** 24296 - **Email:** [info@btib.gov.ck](mailto:info@btib.gov.ck)







# Relying on commitment

It's interesting to examine the motivating factors that will lead us to 100% generation of electricity from renewable energy sources on Rarotonga by the year 2020.

**What is it that will get us there?**

The analogy which some writers refer to in similar situations is the JFK example. Back in 1961 when President Kennedy set the target of landing a man on the moon within a decade, he had no idea how it would be done and neither did the space agency NASA. They had to figure it out along the way.

In a sense, we are taking the JFK approach. Back in 2011, we relied on nine diesel generators to produce virtually all our electricity. So when Government announced renewable energy targets of 50% power generation by 2015 and 100% by 2020 it was a like a jump into the unknown as no island territory in the Pacific community, except Tokelau, had made as complete a commitment to embracing renewable energy.

We started out without all the answers and with no guarantees.

We didn't have a clear idea of our renewable energy options except solar energy, and perhaps wind. Other renewable options were a mystery to us. We had no clue which other sources, like biomass and biofuel, would work in our situation.

We didn't know where the



SolarPanels and Wind Turbine

money to build the entire infrastructure and system needed to achieve the goal would come from.

We have yet to fully work out how we will operate a distributed generation system with power generation from diverse locations in contrast to the centralised generation system at the Avatiu power station we are used to.

We are carefully eyeing the intermittency impact on the electricity grid of progressively higher usages of renewable energy.

We are weighing the costs and

mechanics of energy storage so as to enable production of energy on demand as well as shift energy loads to periods of low or zero energy production.

Finally, we are working out how to make the system pay for itself given that the various renewable energy sources and distributed generation facilities will all have differing benefits and costs. At the end of the day, the electric grid cost still has to be recouped.

So, we are confronted by a number of issues for which we don't have tailor-made solutions or guarantees. But we work

them out one by one, one step at a time.

But here's the real question. What is the glue that holds everything together? What is it exactly that is going to make this transformation to renewable energy successful on Rarotonga? The answer in a nutshell is commitment. And we have that in spades.

There is great commitment allotted to renewable energy development by Government, TAU and development donors and this augurs well for the future.





# Tourism rejects locals in \$280,000 stuff up

## *Call for Chairman Smith to resign*

By George Pitt

Once again Cook Islands Tourism Corporation (CITC) has mismanaged a destination aid project without being held accountable or reprimanded. Littered with a history of fiscal and operational mismanagement, CITC seems to have no regard for how difficult it is to earn every cent that props it up. This time it's hard earned New Zealand tax payer's contributions packaged as Aid Funds.

Chairman of the Board, Ewan Smith, must accept ultimate responsibility for CITC's latest financial bungle, which was to the tune of \$280,000. Smith should do the right thing and fall on his sword.

In July 2012 CITC issued a 22 page tender document for "Location Film Shoot in the Cook Islands." Bidders were reminded the maximum budget available for the film and photographic contract was \$250,000. Despite three local production bidders submitting tenders the contract was awarded to an Australian company called Brave New World Communications Pty Ltd for \$249,650 plus and unqualified additional amount of \$27,204.16 a total of \$276,854.16.

This project was approved under the New Zealand Government's \$3 million aid funds for tourism to develop destination promotions.

Two of the local bidders with international production experience tendered more than \$50,000 less than the Australian company. Involved in the tendering process was

Finance Secretary, Australian Richard Neves who has a proven preference for hiring expats over Cook Islanders. Neves is known to insist tenders are also sought from overseas interests.

For the last two years local businesses have become disillusioned at the frequency of foreign consultants and companies being awarded contracts in preference of qualified Cook Islanders. A case in point being the \$2.5 million contract for the management of the Rarotonga infrastructure upgrade being recently awarded to a Samoan Company called KEW. A local company were advised their tender bid was unsuccessful and to their disappointment no reason was offered.

CITC like every other Government Ministry or Corporation has no Cook Islanders first policy to guide the tendering evaluation process. How long our politicians can ignore this abnormality is a monstrosity.

To make matters worse CITC informed Brave New World Communications they were the successful bidders before all the Cook Island companies had submitted their tenders. Embodied in their law unto themselves attitude CITC failed to notify Business Trade Investment Board (BTIB) of the Australian company's arrival in February 2013 to conduct business.

A BTIB staff noticed a production crew filming on location and checked if they had been permitted to work and discovered they hadn't been granted approval. When



Halatoa Fua and Ewan Smith

the Australian company had been advised to cease doing business, Tourism's CEO Halatoa Fua and Neves took exception demanding BTIB demonstrate the legal grounds for taking compliance action. Crown Law advised Fua to comply with BTIB legislation the Development Investment Act 1995-96.

Under pressure a meeting of the BTIB was convened and a Foreign Enterprise approval in retrospect was given on 22 February 2013. A team of seven technical people plus models were involved in the destination based production.

For some undisclosed reason CITC were unhappy with Brave New World's end product and refused to pay the full contract amount of finance. The Australian company took CITC

to court and won their claim against Tourism.

An embarrassed CITC have \$280,000 worth of product they are not satisfied with and unlikely to use in its current format, such a waste of money that no one is being made accountable for. The best thing CITC can do is recruit a local production crew to re edit the footage and reshoot where and if necessary.

Minister Bishop must put an end to this economic racism nonsense and implement a Cook Islanders first policy into the Tourism Ministry before it becomes an election issue.

*NOTE: A copy was forwarded to Tourism Corporation for comment. CEO Fua advised a response would be sent. As at time of printing no comment had yet been recieved.*

## Letters to the Editor

	2003-2012		1993-2002		Growth
	Numbers	% of total	Numbers	% of total	
New Zealand	579,783	59%	179,747	31%	400,036
Australia	140,790	14%	68,271	12%	72,519
US/CA/EU	222,278	23%	305,969	53%	(83,691)
Other	32,627	3%	27,559	5%	5,068
Total	975,478		581,546		393,932

**D**ear Editor  
The question frequently arises as to why the Cook Islands persists with underwriting flights from Los Angeles and Sydney. With the recent request for expressions of interest in the provision of long haul access to the Cook Islands it is timely to provide interested members of the Public with a perspective on why the Cook Islands is pursuing the the continuing option of underwriting long haul flights to Rarotonga.

To make a judgment on the soundness of this approach it is necessary to separate the commercial imperatives of a commercial airline operator from the economic benefits to the country. The recently published Covec report commissioned by MFEM, outlined the benefits for the Cook Islands economy of the route underwrite, particularly Los Angeles, a net economic benefit of \$6 million per year. The long term viability of the tourism industry is reliant on both short and long haul markets delivering variety in the type of visitor who arrives here in the Cook Islands. Most in the industry know that maintaining visitor infrastructure such as hotels, restaurants, rental and tour operators, requires a constant flow of visitors year round and this is crucial to the success of the tourism sector.

The Cook Islands tourism industry was founded at a

time when airlines made mid-Pacific stopovers en-route to the USA from Australia and New Zealand. During that time the Cook Islands developed an even distribution of visitor traffic originating from the northern and southern hemisphere source markets. Those were good days with a variety of ways to include the Cook Islands in a long haul multi-stop itinerary. The figures in the table below demonstrate that in the decade to 2002 our market was almost evenly split between the two hemispheres.

Mid Pacific stopovers and East-West links were then justified on the basis of 'added network value' however in the late nineties airline profitability came under pressure from greater competition that arose from progressively deregulating markets ( often referred to as open skies), increased privatization as governments moved away from owning airlines and continued consolidation of international carriers. 'Cherry picking' of lucrative non-stop routes began to the detriment of traditional airline route networks. The tragic events of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the US profoundly accelerated that realignment. From that point onwards there was no turning back to the route networks from which the Cook Islands had benefited since the beginnings of the tourism industry in the 1970s.

Additionally, commercial realities came into play and many airlines disappeared in the aftermath of 9/11. The low-cost leisure carrier Canada 3000 who had been running a highly successful business delivering Canadian visitors during our off-season months was a direct example of this.

In the drive to be commercially sustainable most airlines have stripped their networks of unprofitable routes and fare types. Cross subsidizing routes has been eliminated in favour of cost efficient non-stop flights between high volume destinations. These circumstances create a new challenge for the Cook Islands of how to maintain balance in year-round visitor flows and ensure that tourism businesses can survive, and employees can keep their jobs 12 months of the year. If we were to follow the model of commercially viable routes only, then our industry would have to survive on the short haul market from New Zealand and Australia alone, which would be commercially catastrophic for the industry.

Attracting visitors from New Zealand and Australia while they are enjoying their own summer is extremely challenging. The first half of 2013 highlighted this where New Zealand enjoyed exceptional weather right through to April with correspondingly slow

bookings for the South Pacific 'sun' destinations including the Cook Islands.

Another factor is that in 2001 the cost of fuel for one passenger to fly from Auckland to London was less than \$200. Today, that cost now approaches \$1,000, a five fold increase, with leisure airfares having changed little from what they were then. This demonstrates some of the realities of the deregulated airline market and the challenges for the Cook Islands as a very small bit player.

It may sound a simple proposition to have a long haul airline make a 'whistle stop' at Rarotonga en-route to Los Angeles from Auckland or Sydney. The reality is far from that perception, and we cannot continue to look nostalgically at the past. Our present focus must be on a model that can best accommodate the commercial requirements of an airline while achieving the economic needs of our country.

In the cold hard light of today's airline business models, these long haul leisure routes cannot make a commercial profit which explains why we have not seen a queue of enthusiastic airline newcomers on our doorstep. According to IATA, the international association which represents the majority of the airline industry recently

*Continued next page*



the average margin for the airline industry from 2003 to 2013 was 0.1%

Today's market dynamics require that airlines fill aircraft to an average of at least 80% of their capacity with a significant component of business and premium class fares to underpin the revenue required to make routes viable. While it is true that there are some long haul specialist leisure airlines such as Air Asia X, those carriers survive on thin margins on very high volume routes. Most do not, the Qantas withdrawal from the Auckland-Los Angeles route is a recent example of attrition in our region because of low yielding traffic.

Passenger traffic between Los Angeles and Rarotonga is predominantly leisure with few business or premium class travelers. To improve this, higher yield fares - and therefore lower underwrites - could be earned in future should we develop new internationally branded 5 star

resort accommodation as is the case in Fiji and Tahiti. Successful completion of the Vaimaanga Hotel would be a step in that direction.

In 2006, an agreement was reached between the Cook Islands and Air New Zealand to maintain a weekly non-stop flight between Rarotonga and Los Angeles whereby the Cook Islands Government underwrote the difference between the fares the leisure market will pay, and the cost of operating the route.

Although the route does not make a commercial profit on air fares, when the total spending of each traveler during their stay is included, there is an overall profit to our economy as shown in the Covec report.

The present rationale is not very different from those countries that have national carriers whose primary mandate is to deliver inbound tourism to their respective countries. Air Tahiti Nui, Fiji Airways, and Air Calin are

examples within our region.

So it could be said that the Cook Islands, rather than owning a national airline, has purchased the piece it needs to serve it's own economic needs from a very reputable commercial operator, Air New Zealand. This is a good example of a public private partnership.

Three years ago, the agreement with Air New Zealand was renewed and expanded to include a once weekly service non-stop between Sydney and Rarotonga in addition to the Los Angeles service. The rationale behind this development was to increase the number of visitors from Australia and create an alternative gateway to and from the European and Asian markets. Since then, annual visitor arrivals from Australia have more than doubled. Cook Islands Tourism is embarking on a strategy to further expand traffic from these alternative source markets

along with growth in the US market. With the present underwrite agreement due to expire in October 2014, and before undertaking renewal of them, we are obliged to test the market to ensure we have the best commercial arrangements possible to achieve this strategy. MFEM in conjunction with Cook Islands Tourism has issued an invitation for suitable airlines to express their interest in providing on-going long haul access. It is intended that this process be completed in October with recommendations being presented to Cabinet for consideration. The long haul air access underwrite is a long term investment of a significant amount of public money. Readers are welcome to contact either myself, MFEM or Tourism officials for further information if they wish.

*Yours sincerely,  
Ewan Smith,  
Chairman, Cook Islands  
Tourism*

**D**ear Editor,  
I would like to provide your readers with an update on the recent process is seeking expressions of interest for the provision of long haul non-stop aviation services to the Cook Islands from November 2014 to November 2018. It is crucial that the approach taken for any continued financial support by the Crown needs to firstly be underpinned by analysis based on a strong basis of evidence, and secondly a testing of the market to ensure the Crown is achieving a value for money proposition. Ultimately, the decision to continue with an underwrite of some description will be made by the Government, after all they are the elected representatives.

The role of MFEM and

Cook Islands Tourism is to provide the best analysis they can to help inform this decision. MFEM and Cook Islands Tourism are working together to analyse the economic benefits, assess the need for long haul access to the Cook Islands, and finally test the market to ensure that any deal entered into is value for money for the Cook Islands taxpayer.

MFEM recently commissioned an economic analysis of both routes. The report which is available in full on [www.mfem.gov.ck](http://www.mfem.gov.ck) compares two scenarios. The first being when both routes operating are with the current underwrite arrangement. The second assumes the two routes did not operate and no underwrite was paid by the Crown but that those funds which would have been

spent on the underwrite were spent on alternate options by Government. It does not assume that money is saved.

The underwrite of a weekly return service from Sydney and from Los Angeles to Rarotonga cost the Crown \$11.8 m in 2011/12 and \$9.5 m in 2012/13. The Cook Islands Parliament approved an appropriation of \$12.5 m in 2013/14. If the final invoice for the underwrite exceeds that amount in 2013/14 then the Government can either: seek Parliamentary Authority to increase the appropriation; or it can utilise a little used Constitutional provision which allows for the Government to spend in excess of total appropriations by 1 and ½ per cent.

Two basic assumptions

are critical to the analysis: the average visitor stay; and spend. Information on visitor stay is sourced from the automated border processing system. On average, visitors stay around eight days (seven nights) in the Cook Islands. It is estimated that the average daily visitor spend is around \$200. This is based on a recent 12 month survey conducted in conjunction with the Auckland Institute of Technology. Changing these assumptions would obviously change the final analysis, but I believe it is the best information available to us and are therefore are defensible. The Covec Economics report summarised the following:

- L A X - R A R - L A X service is used by around 80% of visitors from the

*Continued next page*

## COOK ISLANDS HERALD ADVERTISING

US and Canada in at least one direction, and used by around 30% of visitors in the 'Other' category (mostly Europe). Ceasing the service would reduce international visitor arrivals by around 9,500 per year. These 9,500 visitors generated around \$15.5 m per year, making a net contribution to overall of GDP at just under \$6 m per year (1.8% of GDP).

• SYD - RAR - SYD service is predominantly used by Australian visitors, around 40% of visitors from Australia use it in at least one direction. Ceasing the service would reduce arrivals by around 2,200 per year. These 2,200 visitors generated around \$4 m per year, leading to a small net reduction in Cook Islands GDP of \$0.7 m.

Some may ask the question that why do we spend \$9.5 m when the net return to the economy is only \$6 m is the return. But as I outlined previously this analysis assumes that the amount paid by the Crown would be utilised for alternative spending by the Government. Therefore, the report is ultimately comparing the economic value of no underwrite and no service to Los Angeles and Sydney and alternative spending by Government against keeping the existing services through the underwrite and capturing the economic value of 11,700 additional visitors arriving on those two flights and staying in the Cook Islands and spending their money.

On this basis there is a strong policy argument to be made for maintaining the Los Angeles underwrite (or a similar portal where non-stop service to Rarotonga from mainland North America). The Covec report

essentially says that you are better off spending money to get the 9,500 visitors here into the Cook Islands where they will spend their money, then if you ceased the service and spent the money on other things. The argument for Sydney is not as compelling as Los Angeles, but ultimately it isn't costing the economy that much. However the Cook Islands Tourism Corporation have articulated a strategy for Sydney.

There is also the benefit of the on flow traffic to the outer Islands from these two flights, the cessation of the Los Angeles flight would have a significant economic impact on Aitutaki and Atiu.

The Cook Islands has a natural comparative economic advantage when it comes to tourism. As a destination it is a beautiful, politically stable, environmentally clean and safe environment. Obviously the economic efforts of the nation need to be focussed on leveraging off that advantage. Another aspect to take into account is the diversification of source tourism markets.

Relying on one industry is an economically challenging scenario, depending on one market within that industry makes it even more so, relying solely on short haul flights from Auckland leaves the Cook Islands further exposed to just one market in one industry.

MFEM and the Tourism Corporation have now sought expressions of interest for credible international operators for the provision of non-stop services to Rarotonga for a period of four years from November 2014 to November 2018.

*Yours Sincerely  
Richard Neves*

## The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

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Working with a desktop application, SnapPea is the dead-simple way to move audio and video between your computer and your phone. While it's great at handling media files, it can do a lot more, including manage your apps, photos, and even send text messages from your computer.

#### Stitcher Radio

While there are a number of apps to keep your ears full of music, fewer focus on radio and podcasts. Stitcher is one such app, which lets you organize channels of content based on interests. It's even clever enough to notice what you like and dislike, and will assemble "Smart Stations" based off your preferences. If you're a podcast junkie, this app is essential.

#### Ted Talks

This unofficial TED app lets you search a video database containing over 1,200 TED presentations even if your device is not connected to the Internet. Alternatively, you can listen to the TedTalks radio-style audio stream, and bookmark and share videos on Facebook.



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# Sustaining the coastal fishery

*ACPII Fish Programme funded by the EU to contribute to sustainable and equitable management of fisheries in ACP regions*

*By Jo Akroyd*

**T**his project in the Cook Islands, is to provide technical assistance to review and update fisheries information and formulate Fisheries Management Plans for trochus, sea cucumber and the development of a national coastal fisheries policy.

## **Status of the fisheries**

In general terms the marine resources in Cook Islands have yet to be fully developed. Inshore fisheries and marine resources are at present predominantly utilised by Cook Islanders on a subsistence and artisanal basis.

The value of capture fisheries to the Cook Islands depends on the on-going sustainability at economically viable levels of key fish stocks and managing the impacts of fishing on the environment. Responsibility for managing inshore fisheries rests with the Cook Islands Government.

Currently there is an offshore fisheries policy and an Aquaculture Development Plan but no Coastal Fisheries Policy.

## **Sea Cucumber and trochus**

As sedentary and slow moving marine animals, sea cucumbers and trochus are extremely vulnerable to overharvesting in an unmanaged fishery. Apart from the Aitutaki trochus fishery, suitable conservation and management measures are not yet in place to ensure that these resources are sustainably harvested. In most other countries of the world, both trochus and sea cucumber fisheries have been overexploited, and stocks have declined to the point where there is no longer a viable fishery. Importers, who drive the demand for these resources, particularly in China where demand and prices are high, are now turning a lot of attention to the Cook Islands as a source, particularly for sea cucumbers.

Sea cucumbers are a vital component of a healthy ecosystem, where they play an important role in cleaning the sea floor. They feed



MP and mayor Mangaia

on dead plant and animal material (detritus) in the sand. Overharvesting of sea cucumbers in the Cook Islands can have serious ecological consequences for the health of our marine environment.

The Aitutaki trochus fishery is an excellent example of cooperation between MMR and the Aitutaki Island Council for resource management.

Similar to most other Pacific Island countries, the Cook Islands has limited data on levels of catch from coastal fisheries, a factor that complicates effective

management of these fisheries. MM have draft regulations for the Trochus and Sea Cucumber fisheries but, are not yet in force as until now there has not been community consultations. Distances between islands in the Cooks, logistics and the high cost of internal travel make broad stakeholder consultation challenging. In this regard assistance was requested from ACP Fish II to run workshops.

## **Project implementation**

A team including MMR staff, Ben Ponia, Kori Raumea, Sonny Tatuava, and Dorothy Solomona and ACP II Fish

consultant Jo Akroyd have been carrying out consultations on six of the Cook Islands - four in the north (Pukapuka, Manihiki, Rakahanga and Penrhyn) and two in the south Mangaia and Aitutaki.

The workshops have been very well received and there has been plenty of input and discussions from all the community groups. This information will feed into the development of the plans and policy.

## **Notes**

Jo and the team travel to Aitutaki Monday/Tuesday next week. She then returns to NZ.





# Mr Lavalava 2013 lineup

*Introducing the Mr Lavalava contestants*



**Name:** Benjamin Pekepo, 23 years  
**Works at:** CITC Liquor  
**Talent:** "Too good at my Korero Maori."



**Name:** Papa Williams, 29, from Penrhyn and Rarotonga  
**Works at:** Telecom  
**Hobbies:** Volleyball, singing and meeting new people.



**Name:** Patrick Arona, 22 years  
**Best feature:** Everything  
**Talent:** I'm good at sailing, building and a bit of everything.  
**Works at:** Timberland



**Name:** Ruautu Taripo, 18  
**Hobbies:** Rugby League  
**Work:** Renovation



**Name:** Bradley Heather, 21, single  
**Talent:** There's a range of things, I can't be more specific but I'm a quick learner!



**Name:** Malik, 15 years (youngest one in comp)  
**Best feature:** Friendly  
**Talent:** Physically active



**Name:** Noel Mani, 19 this year  
**Talent:** I hated the fact that I didn't do drama at school, I've been told I'm pretty good at it. At the moment we're doing a play and I'm pretty good at drama.



**Name:** Brian Rongo, 21  
**Best Feature:** My shoulders  
**Talent:** Cooking and fishing



**Name:** Rex Atirai, 19  
**Best Feature:** My personality, toes and nose!  
**Talent:** I like music, love to compose, perform and I like swimming



**Name:** Petero Teio



# Mr Lavalava the ultimate island warrior

By Te Riu Woonton

Fresh TV entertainers Goretti Chadwick and Anapela Polataivao better known as Pani and Pani are rockin' the island with their wits as they get ready for 'Mr Lavalava', the search for the ultimate island warrior this Friday night at Staircase Restaurant and Bar.

Aunties Pani and Pani have been working with Fresh TV for 2 years now, advising those who send in their dilemmas to the Fresh TV show. The Pani and Pani segment on Fresh TV goes without a script and many locals have dubbed it the best part of the show. "It's really funny because I don't even know what she's going to say next," says Anapela of Goretti, the two entertainers who find the best part about being in the showbiz is the fact that they work together and get along amazingly well.

This weekend Rarotonga will get to see Pani and Pani live, starting with the Mr. Lavalava Competition sponsored by Tangaroas Cove, Koka Lagoon Cruises, Topshape Gym, Topshape Hairdressers, Polynesian Rental Cars and Bikes, Henzart Productions, Tepepe Productions, Cook Islands Television, Maximo's T'z and Mena Fashions. Tickets



CITV Staff TeRiu Woonton and Nane Moetaua with Pani and Pani show hosts.

are \$65 for dinner and show and it is promised to be a very amusing night.

"The boys will be in great hands" says Goretti, "we have little challenges, for example, we'll tell them to go get us a

drink, just things like that". The vision is for Aunties Pans and Pans to travel to Samoa, Fiji and Tahiti to carry out the same competition and the winner from each competition will go on to the Grand International

Finale in New Zealand on an all expenses paid trip. On Saturday night, Pani and Pani will have an open mic night, which will also feature local talent. Tickets for Saturday night also are \$65 for dinner and show.

## Venture into food business leaves bad taste

After months of preparation and leg work into the initiation of a possible business venture with a foreign investor local women Nana Short has become the latest victim of business turning south.

Short who approached CITV explained that she was introduced by an uncle to assist his Tahitian Chinese friend in setting up a food business in the Cook Islands. "He wanted to invest in the Cook Islands," says Short, "such as setting up a restaurant or food business. I agreed to help and started facilitating paper work and approvals. It was a lot of work which I footed."

Short had been organizing her business partner's visa for the Cook Islands. He had

been residing in New Zealand for the past 3 years. In June, Nana's business partner made relocated to the Cook Islands with his young family, of which Short explains full visa documents were still pending awaiting medical clearances.

After the first initial weeks of being in the Cook Islands, Short explains that business proceedings between the pair had turned for the worse when her Tahitian partner had produced documents for Short to sign. "He came around to where I was staying," recalls Short of the incident, "and pretty much demanded that I sign a piece of paper." Feeling heckled into the situation Short queried the nature of the document and was told by her foreign business partner that his lawyer had informed him

Short's signature was needed to change the registration of the company vehicle into his own personal name. "To me I didn't understand this, either it's VAT or personal, you can't have it both ways," says short explaining the VAT process.

Several attempts were made on Short's part to contact both her business partners lawyer and hers in regard to the said document however "In the end I really felt threatened so I ended up signing it not knowing what I was signing but I just wanted to get rid of him."

When contact was eventually made with her partner's lawyer, Short explains that her suspicions had been confirmed, "He had just lied." A phone call to the said lawyer, he explained that her business partner had in

fact not been in contact with him nor had he given advice of the nature that the Tahitian had explained to Short.

Following this surprise Short sought counsel from her lawyer and put a halt to all the pairs business proceedings and in doing so, also to his residential and employment permit application to Immigration. "At no point did he make any attempt to find out from either my lawyer or his lawyer as to his immigration status."

CITV contacted immigration for a comment and was informed that while they had not looked into the particular case as of yet, they had been notified and worked on a case by case basis.

CITV also has not managed as yet to speak to the business partner in question.

# Ex-pat or Local?

By Carmel Beattie

An expatriate (sometimes shortened to expat) is a person temporarily or permanently residing in a country and culture other than that of the person's upbringing. The word comes from the Latin terms *ex* ("out of") and *patria* ("country, fatherland").

What do I call myself? I think of myself as a local but I suspect that other people consider me an expat or simply Australian. Of course, I AM an Australian by birth and some would say (often slightly annoyed) – by attitude. So, I guess that also means that, by the definition, I am also an expat. It is just that I am slightly uncomfortable with this tag as lately I feel it is considered to be a term for someone who is not necessarily connected to this country and somewhat 'fly by night' or an outsider who takes and does not give back.

There was a comment recently in the paper referring to the new executive of the Business & Professional Women's organisation as mainly expats however in that group we have 3 women of Cook Islands heritage and the balance are all women who have lived in this country for many years – I am probably the 'newbie' at 3.5 years. Would you consider yourself an outsider if you had lived in a country for upwards of 3.5, 10 or 20 years? In that particular organisation there are also many ethnic Cook Islanders including past and present Presidents, so why comment?

So, when does an expat actually become a local? I am guilty of having had a fixed view of expats myself – living in compounds, not connecting with the local population except as domestic staff, swilling champagne/gin etc and making vast amounts of money before leaving for greener pastures after a few years. This is not the situation here in the Cook Islands where I find that the

majority of people coming to this country for work throw themselves into life with enthusiasm and generosity – in other words they embrace the 'Cook Islands Way'. Whether it is for 2 years or the rest of their lives, they play an important part in life in this country and give back your welcome in abundance.

Naturally, if you move to a new country, you always bring your culture with you but that does not preclude you from being strong supporters of your new country or even looking to remain and give to your chosen home. Nothing showcases this more than the outpouring of pride and joy at the recent Permanent Residency ceremonies – people who had waited many years for the privilege of holding permanent residency in the Cook Islands celebrated their connection with their country of choice – I must admit to more than a twinge of envy at their good fortune and hope that one day, I can also participate in my own PR ceremony.

I have been very lucky, my first role here brought me into contact with an almost exclusively Cook Islands team who taught me much about the country, the people and the culture so I was able to assimilate quite quickly. Falling in love with all things Cook Islands – from the people and culture to the geography – was also easily done and I have found living here and being part of the community an easy transition. Most of my friends are ethnic Cook Islanders, married to one or have lived here most of their lives which again allows me an important and intimate perspective of Cook Islands society.

Not everyone is as lucky and not all may embrace life in the same way but I think the majority do. As the song says, 'I still call Australia home' but I also call Titikaveka my village



and Rarotonga my island. life and work contributes to Maybe I could be considered good things for our country a (way) Outer Islander? I am so please don't call me an happy being here and coming expat unless you mean it with from there and hope that my love.....

## VACANCY



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# Our Attitude Towards God : The back or the face - which?

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

**W**hen man rides a horse he forgets God, and when he gets off the horse he forgets the horse." Human beings are generally very absent-minded. Jeremiah 2v.27 (NKJV) reads "...For they have turned their back to Me, and not their face. But in the time of their trouble they will say, 'Arise and save us.'" The Good News Bible reads "...you turned away from Me instead of turning to Me. But when you are in trouble, you ask Me to come and save you." John 3v.16 says "For God so loved the world that He send His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life." In spite of our unrighteous ways, God never turn His back on us. Because God saw many people wandering aimlessly, He send His Son Jesus Christ to bring all towards Him. Jesus is our Way, our Truth, and our Life. God never turn His back towards us, but rather His face. Let us look at The Attitude of Man Towards God. Either our face or our back is turned to God.

Those who turned to God, are...(1) **SEEKING HIM**. Jesus said in Matthew 7v.7-8 "...Seek and you will find...he who Seek find..." Psalm 27v.8 says "Thy face Lord will I Seek." God said to Solomon in II Chronicles 7v.14 "...if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and Seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins and heal their land." If we seek God, we will receive blessings. But if we don't, then we will continue to experience difficulties and problems.

Those who turn to God are.. (2) **TRUSTING HIM** Instead of trusting God, Adam and Eve trusted the devil, and they got removed from the Garden

of Eden. Psalm 37v.39-40 says "But the salvation of the righteous is from the Lord, He is their strength in the time of trouble. And the Lord shall help them and deliver them, He shall deliver them from the wicked, And save them, Because they TRUST in Him." Those who turned their faces to God trusted Him completely regardless of their situation. In the Bible is an illustration of a man called Job. When Job lost everything, his wealth and possession, this was what he said in Job 13v.15 "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." In chapter 42 of the Book of Job, God "...restored Job's losses and gave Job twice as much as he had before." and in v.16 of chapter 42 "Job lived 140 years, and saw his children and grandchildren for 4 generations." Jeremiah 17v.7 says "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord. And whose hope is the Lord." So friend, let us all turn our faces to God, **SEEKING and TRUSTING Him**.

Finally, those who turn to God are...(3) **SERVING HIM** Joshua said in Joshua 24v.14-15 "...fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth,...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." The Apostle Paul said in Acts 20v.19 'serve the Lord with all humility.' Our reading in Jeremiah 2v.27 says "...For they have turned their back to Me, and not their face. But in the time of their trouble they will say, 'Arise and save us.'" I'm sure all of us can identify with this verse, either during our past when things were going well for us, or even during these present times. The question is, "What

## Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



should be our attitude towards God?" The answer is, **SEEK HIM** by reading and studying the Word of God, by going to church regularly, and by praying to God. **TRUST HIM** completely, regardless of our situation. Job said "Though He slay me I will

still trust Him." Jeremiah 17v.7 says "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose hope is the Lord." **SERVE HIM** sincerely and in truth. Serve Him with all humility. May God bless you and your family! Te Atua te arua!

### VACANCY



Te Aponga Uira

### VACANCY - ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN

To work on TAU's Electrical Distribution System.

Applicants can uplift a copy of the job description and application form from the office of Te Aponga Uira, or by contacting Bettina Akania on 20054 or email [bakania@electricity.co.ck](mailto:bakania@electricity.co.ck).

Applications close 3:00 p.m., Wednesday 18th September 2013

# OMG! Exams in TWO WEEKS!

By Norma Ngatamariki

Hi there! Can you believe it's already the third term of the school year? I most certainly can't. This year has just whizzed past and it really got me thinking about how much time is left. Seniors in Tereora College (that's Year 11, 12 and 13) are currently preparing for their End of Year Exams (since we didn't have any Mid-Year Exams). For Year 11 students, this might be a bit daunting because it's their first time, but as for Year 12 and 13 students...well, let's just say that we've "been there, done that". I know that I've been talking about this topic before, but it's that time of the year and we just have to face up to it. That's right, people, I'm talking about the studying.

It's not the most popular topic

to talk about with teens and it can never compete with the latest gossip (because we teens sure like to run our mouths). Studying. Grr. The word itself scares me. To most teenagers, studying means locking yourself in your room, completely isolated and burying your head in a book. Not necessarily so. Different teens have different ways of studying. Some like to draw pretty pictures and graphs, stick them on a wall and try to memorize them (these are the Visual learners), some will plug in their headphones, blast the volume up and listen to music while reading notes (obviously Audio learners), some actually like to write out their notes (the Writing learners) while others actually learn when they do their activities (Kinetic

learners). Every teen has their own individual style that they adapt to. It's really up to you on how you want to go about studying.

However, there are some essential things that need to be carried out. In order for you to study properly, and to ensure that what you've studied actually stays in your brain, you must: 1) Eat healthy. Fruits and vegetables stimulate the brain and get your mind working, while junk food makes you slag off. 2) Get plenty of rest. Now I know, from experience, that teenagers like to stay up late to try and cram all these last minute notes in their heads. It works for some, but it's actually quite damaging to your brain. Don't put your head through that kind of torture and get a

good night's sleep. 3) Keep away from distractions. That includes new television series, gossip and koka. I find that if you keep on putting off the studying, the less knowledge you gather.

Here's some words of advice from our very own principal. Exams should be senior's first priority because: it's actually good practice for the real thing in November. Anau and subject teachers will be working closely with their students to ensure that they are getting as much learning going on as possible. Also, the results could be used to estimate grades. If you're sick on your death bed or something, then the results from your End of Year Exams will be used as a compassionate grade.

It's good to study early, but go at your own pace too.

## Changing for the better

By Hareta Tiraa Passfield

Only two more weeks till mock exams, I am so not looking forward to that. Especially math, I don't understand how people can understand algebra. I just don't get math. I don't even know my times tables. How embarrassing, 10 year olds know their times tables and then there's me, a 15 year old who doesn't.

For once this week I wasn't stuck on what to write about. I decided to write about something that has been bothering me for a long time. Every Monday I go to school and everyone asks me how my weekend was. I always say the same thing. "It was alright, what about yours". I recently asked a 13 year old this question and

they responded with something that made me sick to my stomach. She said "It was so cool, I went out cruising and then got wasted". This came from a 13 year old. She is only in year 9! Our generation sickens me. When you're 13, you are supposed to be at home on facebook or spending time with your family, and not out "living it up". I find it horrible that there are 13 year olds that are out getting drunk. Not only is it illegal, it's disturbing. Where are their parents!

When I'm at the movies and I'm outside, I see kids hanging outside rehab hoping that they are gonna get in. They think that they are so cool. But they just look like little wannabees. I even see 15 year olds and 16

year olds that are getting into rehab. I just don't understand our generation. We are only young and when we are older, we'll have time to do all of that stuff. Now is the time for us just to have fun, and yes that is possible without alcohol and drugs. I can have fun without alcohol, why can't these losers!

There are so many reasons why you shouldn't drink, it causes so many problems. Fatal accidents, dramas, alcohol poisoning, when you are under the influence you can get taken advantage of by a stranger. Before people drink they don't think about the aftermath that alcohol can cause. All the people that I know that go out and go drinking think that they are so cool because

they can lie to their parents, get out of the house and they drink and get wasted, then get home in the morning with a bad hangover. How does this make them cool? Because they can lie and get away with it? Because they can get drunk and do stupid things they will regret the next day? You want to know what's cool? Doing things that your age group are suppose to be doing. Don't any of you feel bad lying to your parents faces? They gave you everything and how do you repay them? If 13 years olds are doing these things now, imagine what it will be like in 10 years time, there will be 10 year olds out there getting wasted. It's time for our generation to make a change for the better.

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



got water?  
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International Year of  
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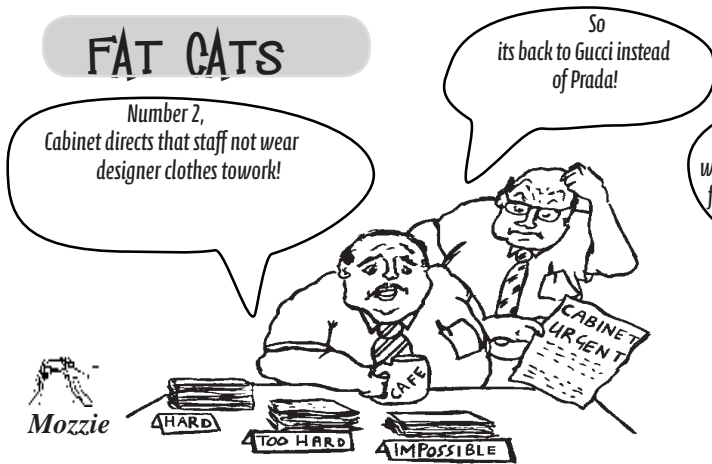
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MINISTRY OF  
INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

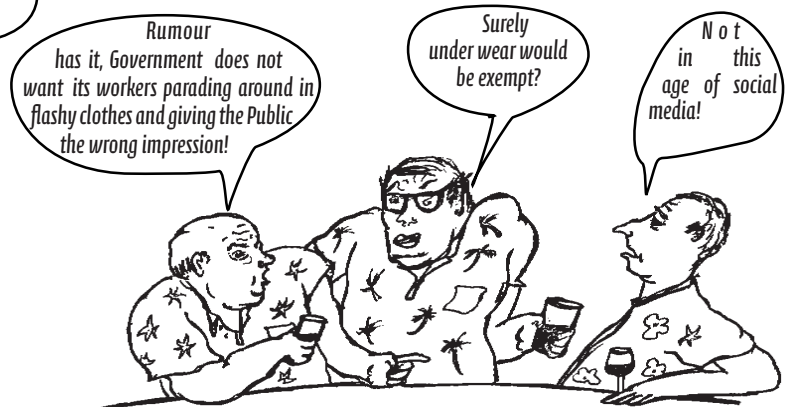
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## FAT CATS



## COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Apparently, at the Pacific Leader's Forum chin wag in the Marshalls, the Kiwi leader has marshaled up a \$5 million gift to share out among four Small Island States, the Cooks included. Typical of Kiwi generosity, the moolah will be spread over 5 years! Good grief! What can China offer?



Whisper chooks is that one unhappy local has left a top government agency and others may follow soon as concern grows about the proliferation of ex-pats in government jobs ahead of locals. It is even beginning to concern some members of Cabinet. The situation is not unlike a Gilbert and Sullivan opera. Even ex-pats here on the holiday stage stand a better chance of singing the employment aria than any local! Mind you it's helpful when you audition before other ex-pats! Maybe Tourism Corp can use this as a marketing tool! Visit the Cook Islands, have a holiday, get a job!



Will MMM-Mighty Magee Man, be starting up his own political party soon? A more important question is will MMM stand in Tupapa-Marearenga next election or relocate to family held territory in Manihiki? It could get crowded up north and this may force the PM to travel south to seek safer stomping grounds in Aitutaki. If he does, look for Aitutaki airport to go fully international so the PM can fly out from there!



Police report they have been trying to solve the mystery of a water leak in their

# CHOOKS CORNER



WITH BIG RED

magnificent Chinese built and generously gifted building. The most modern methods of detection were rendered useless due to the absence of a major clue, the plans of the water system for the building. Well the Boys in blue are trained to deal with criminal not construction maintenance issues.



The loud whisper is Big Norm wants to organize a Vote of No Confidence in Madame Speaker of the House and have The Pak reinstated! If government had a few clues, it would, before the House sits again, amend the anti-party hopping legislation following the High Court finding that parts of it were unconstitutional.



On the topic of Constitutional law, a chooks asks how confident can we be in the wallahs at Crown Law Office detecting conflicting provisions and shortcomings in other enactments? The latest finding, prompted by a Big Norm application for a declaratory Judgment, has the potential to turn the government on its head. How closely did Crown Law examine the Sea Bed Minerals Act for any provisions which may be unconstitutional? It wouldn't hurt

to have one last gander. And it had better be done before the moolah starts pouring in!



Why is it chooks that important historical documents always seem to get "lost?" Take for instance, the old Lands and Survey file from the 1880s which detailed how the definition of the "Crown" adopted by the old Federal parliament, came about in relation to who owns the "sea bed." The ownership matter was defined in law following an extensive land survey exercise. Then, families owned the land from the top of the mountain down to the reef. However, on the recommendation of the surveyor, only the land surveyed from the foothills to the mean high tide mark became recognized in law. The surveyor had recommended the Crown be responsible for the lagoon but not the actual sea bed itself, out to the reef. The interior land was to remain as uninvestigated land under the Crown and kept for use as a future reserve. The question in this modern day, when boundaries have been extended, is who owns the sea bed out to the continental shelf? The same sea bed that has the nodules. Some say the "family

strips" now extend from the foothills and out along the sea bed as far as the 200 mile EEZ boundary.



Oh dear chooks! Local fishermen up in arms because local eateries are not taking their fresh fish to make sashimi! But where would the restaurants be getting their ultra-fresh fish from chooks if not straight off a local boat? Could they be thawing out the cheap frozen stuff off the Chinese boat and passing it off as fresh? May be some restaurant sashimi customers should begin enquiring if the fish is fresh or was frozen!



Rumour has it chooks, an invitation is to be sent to Kensington Palace inviting Prince Willie, Kate and Georgey boy to our celebration in 2015 of 50 years of self government! Replies are yet to be received from the Pope and Lady Gaga to their invites. It is also rumoured the Rolling Stones may perform live outdoors at the BCI stadium. Cliff Richard will do a lap of the track with the flaming torch before lighting the giant umu prepared by T&M Heather.

Cook Islands  
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**PMG**  
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Te Riu Woonton

VACANCIES



**TELECOM COOK ISLANDS CEO**

After almost 5 years in the position our current CEO is due to leave the Company at the end of February, 2014.

The Company has begun the search for his replacement with the intention of appointing the new CEO in sufficient time to allow for a reasonable "hand-over" period. The CEO reports to the Board of Directors of Telecom Cook Islands and is responsible for leading the Company in continuous improvement for customers. Telecom Cook Islands aims to be "The #1 telco under the Pacific Sun".

The Board of Directors is seeking an energetic, experienced leader to maintain the Company's recent momentum and step it up another notch. They are specifically looking for someone with telecommunications experience who can set strategic direction, performance manage a business end to end, manage multiple stakeholders and provide exceptional people leadership with a clear customer focus.

If you share that vision and believe you have the energy, vision, experience and leadership qualities to lead Telecom in pursuit of this goal, we want to hear from you.

Please send your application and CV to:

ceo@telecom.co.ck or post it to:

CEO

Telecom Cook Islands

PO Box 106

Avarua

Rarotonga

To be received no later than Monday 9 September 2013



**DIRECTOR OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS**

The Ministry of Internal Affairs is seeking a highly motivated and qualified person to lead the Labour and Employment Relations Division. This is an extremely challenging and rewarding role in a dynamic environment that has a diverse range of responsibilities including:

- The management of staff
- The successful administration and implementation of the new Employment Relations Act 2012
- Managing the regulation of Dangerous Goods
- The administration of the Workers Compensation Scheme
- The administration of the Employers Liability Insurance

To be successful the applicant must have a tertiary degree in either: Employment Relations, Economics, Public Policy or Law and 5 years professional experience. If you are interested in leading a team of capable professionals in this exciting and fast changing area, a full job description and information pack is available upon request. Please contact Eva Mapu, phone 29370 or email admin@intaff.gov.ck

Applications must be addressed to the Secretary of the Ministry. The deadline for applications is 6 September 2013 at 4pm.

VACANCY



Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning

**VACANCY – WATSAN TECHNICAL COORDINATOR**

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning invites applications for the posts of WATSAN Technical Coordinator in its Water, Waste and Sanitation (WATSAN) Unit. This is an exciting opportunity to work with a new team, tasked with making improvements in infrastructure, policy and practice that will contribute to protecting and enhancing the lagoon and ocean environments around our islands.

We are seeking a suitably qualified, experienced, highly motivated and enthusiastic person to assist the WATSAN Unit Manager and WMI Programme Manager in coordinating implementation and delivery of tasks and outcomes across a number of critical work programmes.

The role will involve day to day administration and project management, as well as requiring liaison with relevant government agencies, local communities and the private sector. Specifically the scope of tasks for this position will not necessarily be limited to the following but shall include:

- Provide technical input to the implementation of a programme of upgrading onsite sanitation systems on Rarotonga and Aitutaki, including participation in sanitation systems' site inspections and assessments, review of wastewater plans and designs, coordination with Public Health Inspectors, coordination and oversight of works carried out by third party contractors engaged by the Ministry, and attendance at related meetings, discussions and workshops
- Prepare such technical, project management and progress reports and associated documentation as are required by the Programme Manager for implementation of the programme
- Undertake such additional tasks as may be instructed from time to time by the WATSAN Manager and/or Programme Manager in connection with the work of the WATSAN Unit

In addition to relevant qualifications, the successful applicant will have a demonstrable track record of work experience in a relevant trade or professional field, with emphasis in the sanitation/wastewater sector being an advantage, strong communications skills and an enquiring, analytical mind.

For this position, an interest in or understanding of water, wastewater and environmental protection will be a distinct advantage. Above all, the successful candidate must be passionate about making a difference to the long term well-being of the Cook Islands.

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

Secretary

Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning

PO Box 120

Rarotonga

The closing date for applications is Friday, 20 September 2013. For more information please contact Tangi Taoro by phone on 20-321 or by email at tangi.taoro@moip.gov.ck



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  
General Manager  
Cook Islands Ports Authority  
Ara Tapu  
Avatiu  
Rarotonga  
Tel No.: +682 21921  
Fax No.: +682 21191  
E-mail: [bim.tou@ports.co.ck](mailto:bim.tou@ports.co.ck)

**New Hope Church**

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**Sunday at 10.30am**

PUBLIC NOTICE



Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Cook Islands Chamber of Commerce will be held on:

Date: Thursday 26th September 2013  
Time: 4.30 p.m.  
Venue: Trader Jack's Restaurant, Avarua, Rarotonga

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome by the President
2. Confirmation of Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from these Minutes
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Auditor's Report
7. Sub Committee Reports
8. Nomination and approval of Auditor for 2013 – 14
9. Election of Officers
10. General Business

All members and intending members are urged to attend.

Enquiries to the Chamber office: phone 20 925 or e-mail [chamber@commerce.co.nz](mailto:chamber@commerce.co.nz)



**PRICE ORDER 10/2013**

**PURSUANT** to the Control of Prices Act 1966 and the powers delegated to me as provided under section 30 of the said Act, I hereby make the following Order:

- 1 This Order is cited as Price Order 10/2013 and shall come into effect on the 29th day of August 2013 for **TRIAD PACIFIC PETROLEUM LTD.**
- 2 Maximum selling prices for fuel imported into the Cook Islands shall be at a rate specified in the schedule below except the island of Aitutaki.
- 3 For the Outer Islands, prices established have been reviewed and updated to include freight, wharfage, boating, reefing, drum/container cost, evaporation and cartage costs.
- 4 Value Added Tax is included in the prices herein set. Import Levy is exempt for Outer Islands excluding Aitutaki as per Exemption Order 03/09/2010.
- 5 All previous references in any Price Order as to the selling prices listed in this Order are hereby revoked upon effective dates above.
- 6 The prices herein set are the maximum that may be charged although less may be charged if so desired.

Given under my hand and seal this 29th day of August 2013  
  
Brian Terence Hagan  
Chairman for the Price Tribunal



Madeleine Sword  
Member for the Price Tribunal

**SCHEDULE OF PRICE ORDER**

ITEM	WHOLESALE TO Retailers/Bulk Users	RETAIL PRICES TO CONSUMERS IN			Effective Date
		Rarotonga	Southern Group	Northern Group	
PETROL	2.31	2.59	2.86	2.92	August 29, 2013
DIESEL	2.08	2.36	2.67	2.73	August 29, 2013