

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

2 October 2013 \$2 (incl VAT)

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Demos head to court over Murienua By-election outcome



Demo Murienua Candidate James Beer

By Charles Pitt

The Democratic Party candidate in the Murienua by-election held on 19 September 2013, local businessman James Beer, is to contest the outcome of the by-election won by the Cook Islands Party (CIP) candidate Kaota Tuariki by 219 votes to 194.

On Tuesday 1 October 2013, Beer filed a petition for inquiry in the High Court alleging the respondent (Kaota) committed acts of bribery within the meaning of S88 of the Electoral Act 2004.

Solicitor Tina Browne is acting for James Beer and filed the petition.

He alleges Kaota;

- directly or indirectly gave or offered to an elector valuable consideration in order to induce the elector to vote for him, or,

- directly or indirectly made gifts or offers to electors in order to induce them to procure or endeavor to procure his return or the vote of any elector, or

- in consequent of such gift or offer, procured or endeavoured to procure his return as candidate or the vote of any elector,

The particulars stated are;

- that during the campaign period leading up to the elections, Kaota directly or indirectly caused to be advertised on Cook Islands Radio free massages at his home. Electors were given free massages and free food in order to induce the

electors to vote for him.

- on 19 September Kaota gave to a person the sum of \$50 in order to induce the elector to vote for him.

The petition further alleges Kaota by himself or any other person on his behalf, either before or during an election, directly or indirectly gave or provided food or other provisions to the electors for;

- the purpose of corruptly influencing that elector or any other person to vote or refrain from voting ;or

- for the purpose of procuring himself to be elected.

The following particulars are stated;

- that on the morning of 19 September 2013 Kaota directly or indirectly arranged for electors to be transported to his home between the hours of 6am-9am for breakfast for the purpose of corruptly influencing their vote or procuring himself to be elected;

- that many electors had breakfast of bacon, ham & eggs before going to the voting booth;

- the petition names 15 electors allegedly involved.

Beer's petition asks the court to;

- declare Kaota not duly elected ;and/or

- declare the said election was void, and/or

- declare James Beer elected; and/or

Declare such other orders the court deems fit.

Public service recalls Demmke

By Charles Pitt

Patricia Tuara Demmke has been appointed the new Director of Employment Relations at the Ministry of Internal Affairs. She replaces Helen Maunga who is now Assistant Clerk of Parliament.

See page 8 for a feature on her.

Patricia told the Herald on Tuesday afternoon she is happy to be part of the Cook Islands public service once again, working with a diverse group of stakeholders in government, private sector, non-government organizations, donors and others. She is looking forward to working with those in new areas such as sea bed minerals, and is happy to provide assistance in the development of the legal framework as it relates to employment, health and safety.

She thanks the Secretary and staff for their warm welcome and looks forward to working with such a dynamic team.

Patricia is the daughter of the late kaveariki Ngapoko Tuara and Fred Tuara of Ngatangia.

Government proposed tax changes will fast drive de-population

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

Depopulation has been one of the main issues that I have been consistently speaking and writing about. It is an issue that the Opposition has been very worried about because of its effect on the economy and future of our country. The Prime Minister Henry Puna has also been giving the public his take on depopulation but unfortunately, while on the one hand he says he wants it to stop, his Government makes decisions that enable continuity of it.

There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that once these tax proposals by the Government gets the go ahead, there will be a massive exodus of people leaving this country, in particular young people, those between the ages of seventeen and twenty five years old. This is a particularly vulnerable age group because most of them are starting out with jobs or have none at all and are either single or just in early domestic and personal arrangements. There is nothing that stands in the way for them to catch that plane on a one way ticket out of here. That is a reality because it is happening and the Government, unfortunately, is now going to accelerate that outward movement.

If we examine this carefully, we will see that on the one hand, Government is not providing enough jobs for young people, nor is the private sector (who are struggling because of the lack of investment and poor Government intervention) and these tax changes proposals Government sets the scene for our people to be unwillingly forced out.


Increasing Value Added Tax (VAT) from 12.5% to 15% is going to increase the cost of goods and makes harder for consumers to acquire. That will be a major push factor for perhaps the middle aged and elderly as well. They will examine as to what is of value to the wages and salaries they draw.

The Government says they will increase money in the pockets of locals with higher taxation thresholds etc. But what they give gets absorbed by what one loses through the transitory nature of VAT.

At the moment the Minister of Finance is saying that all will be well and changes are due anyway to our taxation regime and in particular VAT. The explanation is very clear because it is there for all to see that this Government has spent excessively and has borrowed far too much. The Minister may not say that at all and his reliance on the Financial Secretary and the Economics Advisor of the Ministry of Finances and Economic Management (MFEM) is almost an assurance that these are not just ideas for discussions but for implementation. Increased tax is the one and only way for repayments to be made.

The Opposition is actually quite horrified with the Government plans and feels that the Minister's ability to decide for what is best for our people has been compromised quite severely by bureaucrats who are insensitive to the pains of the public. But why give away that sovereign power as a Minister of the Crown so that more taxes will be imposed? The answer is quite simple. The politicians in Government no longer have the answers; maybe they have never had them in the first place. This Government came into office and raised taxes to collect revenue for the Government. It introduced withholding tax, raised levies for some imported goods, increased departure tax, is taxing pensioners living in the Cook Islands while collecting their New Zealand pension and now wants to tax pensioners collecting the Cook Islands pension if they earn extra money. Frankly, depopulation is one sure way of devastating the Cook Islands into a position of being very difficult to recover from.

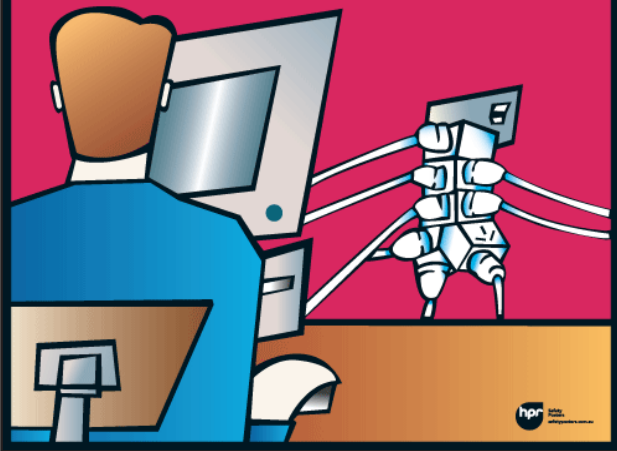




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Tax Information Sheet for Taxpayers

Taxpayers who receive above the minimum wage and receive no social welfare payments

From 1 January 2014 the marginal personal income rates will change. Marginal tax rates are only collected on the portion of income in that range. For example: every taxpayer in 2013 pays no tax on their first \$10,000 of their income, 25 per cent on their next \$20,000 of income, and then 30 per cent for every additional dollar above \$30,000.

2013 personal income tax rates	
Threshold / Income band	Marginal tax rates
First \$10,000	Nil
\$10,000 to \$30,000	25 per cent
\$30,000 upwards	30 per cent

2014 personal income tax rates	
Threshold / Income band	Marginal tax rates
First \$11,000	Nil
\$11,000 to \$30,000	18.5 per cent
\$30,000 to \$80,000	27.5 per cent
\$80,000 upwards	30 per cent

How will I be affected?

The table below outlines the tax changes for a range of gross incomes and the impact on final consumption. The VAT will increase from 12.5 per cent to 15 per cent – all taxpayers with taxable income of between \$10,739 and \$221,974 will be better off when including the VAT changes on average spending habits.

Withholding tax will be removed from 1 January 2014, so interest earnings must be declared as part of your annual tax return. Bank accounts will require RMD numbers from 2015 which are available from the Revenue Management Division within MFEM.

Gross annual income	2013 tax paid	2013 net income less CINSF employee contribution	2014 tax paid	2014 net income less CINSF employee contribution	Less income tax paid	Fortnightly amount better off
\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 4,750	\$ -	\$ 4,750	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 9,500	\$ -	\$ 9,500	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 15,000	\$ 1,250	\$ 13,000	\$ 740	\$ 13,510	\$ 510	\$ 19.62
\$ 20,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 16,500	\$ 1,665	\$ 17,335	\$ 835	\$ 32.12
\$ 25,000	\$ 3,750	\$ 20,000	\$ 2,590	\$ 21,160	\$ 1,160	\$ 44.62
\$ 30,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 23,500	\$ 3,515	\$ 24,985	\$ 1,485	\$ 57.12
\$ 35,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 26,750	\$ 4,890	\$ 28,360	\$ 1,610	\$ 61.92
\$ 40,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 6,265	\$ 31,735	\$ 1,735	\$ 66.73
\$ 45,000	\$ 9,500	\$ 33,250	\$ 7,640	\$ 35,110	\$ 1,860	\$ 71.54
\$ 50,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 36,500	\$ 9,015	\$ 38,485	\$ 1,985	\$ 76.35
\$ 55,000	\$ 12,500	\$ 39,750	\$ 10,390	\$ 41,860	\$ 2,110	\$ 81.15
\$ 60,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 11,765	\$ 45,235	\$ 2,235	\$ 85.96
\$ 65,000	\$ 15,500	\$ 46,250	\$ 13,140	\$ 48,610	\$ 2,360	\$ 90.77
\$ 70,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 49,500	\$ 14,515	\$ 51,985	\$ 2,485	\$ 95.58
\$ 75,000	\$ 18,500	\$ 52,750	\$ 15,890	\$ 55,360	\$ 2,610	\$ 100.38
\$ 80,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 56,000	\$ 17,265	\$ 58,735	\$ 2,735	\$ 105.19
\$ 85,000	\$ 21,500	\$ 59,250	\$ 18,765	\$ 61,985	\$ 2,735	\$ 105.19
\$ 90,000	\$ 23,000	\$ 62,500	\$ 20,265	\$ 65,235	\$ 2,735	\$ 105.19
\$ 95,000	\$ 24,500	\$ 65,750	\$ 21,765	\$ 68,485	\$ 2,735	\$ 105.19
\$ 100,000	\$ 26,000	\$ 69,000	\$ 23,265	\$ 71,735	\$ 2,735	\$ 105.19

Tax Review recommendations announced

By Charles Pitt

On Thursday afternoon at a media conference at his office, Minister of Finance Mark Brown announced the recommendations of the Tax Review Committee.

The media was well represented with Matariki Radio, CI News, CITV and CI Herald. Officials present included Fin Sec Richard Neves, MFEM Economist James Webb, Senior Tax Advisor Craig Ashton and Internal Affairs Secretary Bredina Drollet.

The Minister said the proposed changes recommended are aimed at simplifying the tax system and ensuring the tax regime is fair and equitable. He said equity was important as government wanted to shift the tax burden away from those who could least afford it. For example, for those most at risk, there is a 10% increase in ongoing social welfare payments and a 25% increase in the local pension.

The recommendations for proposed changes are very comprehensive and detailed. The Minister said there would

be further public consultations and consultations with interested groups and also those who made submissions. He said the team would be visiting and holding discussion on Aitutaki on Monday but that no visits were planned to the northern group where people already pay up to 30% more on goods due to high freight rates.

He said Cabinet had seen the recommendations and that it was proposed to introduce the changes into parliament in December so the changes could come into operation on 1 January 2014 to coincide with the start of the financial year.

Details of the recommendations will be placed on the MFEM website later on Thursday afternoon.

The minister said the recommendations were options for changing the tax system and this was the first significant overall of the system since 1996. It was about a fairer distribution of the tax burden.

The Minister said it was about putting more money into people's pockets whether they be workers, pensioners

and low income earners.

Key changes likely to be of greater interest are;

- VAT to be increased from 12.5% to 15%

- the mandatory threshold for registering for VAT to be lifted from \$30,000 to \$40,000. The voluntary threshold to be raised from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

- the tax free limit raised from \$10,000 to \$11,000.

- Pensions and welfare payments are to be increased, for example pensions for those 60-69yrs will increase from \$400 a month to \$500. The new change is that the old age pension will now form part of a person's taxable annual income.

- Secondary tax to be abolished.

- Personal income tax to be reduced to give workers more in the pay packet. The tax rate for those on \$11,000-\$30,000 will drop from 25% to 18.5%. For those on \$30,000-\$80,000 the tax rate will drop from 30% to 27.5%. There will be a new tax rate of 30% for those on \$80,000 upwards.

- The minimum wage will increase from \$5 an hour but

the new level is to be decided at the end of the year. (Bredina Drollet advised a Minimum Wage Review Panel will be put together to consider the Minimum Wage. She said Regulations had been drafted which will be ready for the Minister in a month).

There are a range of changes proposed for import levies, those of interest are;

- removing the import levies on pork, sea freighted eggs, ice cream, and seasonal vegetables.

- Exempt pearl production from the excise regime.

- replace the \$65 gift exemption allowance on imported packages with a universal \$100 minimum rule except on goods that attract specific excise taxes.

Other proposals of interest are;

- Current company tax rates remain as they are however a review will be done in 2014/1015.

- No general capital gains tax.

- Eliminate tax exemption for international airlines.

Further information on the review recommendations appears on page 18.



Our Frontpage model Energy efficiency tips for clients



As noted in the email below(attachment), as of yesterday, TAU power bill distribution will have Energy efficiency tips imprinted on the back of the power bill note, some of the features for these new distribution mostly are;

- It's larger in size than the previous print,
- the EE Tips is printed on the back of each print, these EE Tips will demonstrate various EE tips message from time to time ranging from: EE Fridge EE Lighting, EE cooling, Best practice of EE, and many more,

Printed on the front page is "Energy consumption load profile", this shows over the period of year, I also believe that discounted rates to each consumers is also show on the front page

These changes had developed the past 12 - 15months with partner collaboration between ADB PEEP2 Team and TAU, this is small portion of the activity work plan under the ADB PEEP2 program specific to "Component 4 - Information Dissemination & Public Awareness" of the entire project components. If I may add, I like to acknowledge Apii (TAU CEO) and his staff for the hard work rendered (behind the scenes) and more importantly offering support at implementing EE in Rarotonga.

- Terekino (Tino) Vaireka

Our frontpage girl for Herald Issue 686 is 29 year old Krystle Solomon from Aroa. Krystle has a passion for being involved in youth programs and was also recently in the Kahiki music video clip. Krystle is also a strong woman of faith and doesn't go a day without thanking God. .Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck. and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald



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.

WORLD TEACHERS DAY ... *Apii Napa*



CITI Exec. Attending Nikao CICC

“A Call for Teachers” is the theme for this year’s World Teachers’ Day 2013.

World Teachers’ Day held annually on 5 October is a UNESCO initiative, a day devoted to acknowledging the work of and appreciating our teachers. The real point is this day is significant in terms of awareness, understanding and appreciation displayed by teachers to education and development.

Last Sunday the Cook Islands Teachers Institute or teacher’s union body attended Nikao CICC to start this week’s build up to World Teachers Day on Saturday 5 October 2013. The executives found it only appropriate that we start the week’s celebration by attending church, to kick off the week’s events hopefully celebrated by all schools here on Rarotonga and the Outer Islands.

On Tuesday on the radio talkback show – the theme would be based on the role of teachers.

By Friday and the last day of the school term hopefully schools in the Cook Islands would have joined in the celebration with their own planned event for World Teachers’ Day.

This Saturday, CITI executive members invite all teachers to come and first celebrate with us at St Joseph’s cathedral for mass in the morning at 8am.

Then at night we’d like to call upon all teachers to come along and help celebrate our Teachers Day over dinner at Aquarius. The night’s main celebration will be to acknowledge our retired teachers whom CITI have yet to in recognition for their services and commitment to the profession.

Experiences, stories and presentation of gifts are just some of the activities to happen on the night. This dinner starting at 6 pm hopefully will unite all of us teachers.

“A Call for all Teachers”.

Getting settled



Patricia Tuara - Demmke

By Charles Pitt

Patricia Tuara - Demmke has spent the last two days settling in as the new Director of Employment Relations at the Ministry of Internal Affairs. She replaces Helen Maunga who is now Assistant Clerk of Parliament.

Patricia, spoke to the Herald on Tuesday afternoon.

She was previously at the NZ High Commission as the Development Programme Coordinator and had been there two years involved in tourism, renewable energy and pearl projects.

At Internal Affairs she is also responsible for overseeing labour issues relating to occupational safety and dangerous goods. She has a

staff of three Inspectors. Two are based in Rarotonga and one in Aitutaki. The Senior Inspector, based in Rarotonga, looks after dangerous goods and also occupational health & safety. The other Rarotonga Inspector handles employment relations matters and worker's compensation. The Aitutaki based Inspector handles mainly dangerous goods and dangerous goods licensing.

Prior to working at the NZ High Commission, Patricia worked at Aid Management in MFEM from 2001-2006. When her husband worked in New Caledonia, she did some fishery work there as a consultant with SPC. She also worked at the Ministry for Marine Resources doing fisheries research up until

1996.

Patricia said she will be spending time on updating Bills and Acts. She wants to focus on policy development, development of procedures and training needs especially in relation to the Employment Act and Occupational Health and Safety area.

She said this will ensure the public has a clear understanding of the Ministry's policies and how that translates into procedures.

The Ministry's role in the area of contract disputes has changed from one of active involvement to being purely advisory with provision of information also. In the past much time was spent on trying to resolve disputes between

workers and employers over contracts. Now the parties are referred to the private sector for legal actions. The Ministry has no budget for lengthy and costly legal or enforcement actions through the courts.

Patricia is not sure what work will emerge for the Ministry out of the new sea bed minerals area in relation to safety, health and employment but feels they should be flagged for attention during the development phase of the legal framework for that sector.

Patricia has spent the past two days coming to terms with the broad nature of her responsibilities and she is looking forward to the challenges ahead. We wish her well in her new job.



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Muri/Avana pilot project success

It has been just over a year since the very first installation of a new domestic sanitation system under the Waste and Sanitation Improvement (WMI) Programme took place in the Muri-Avana area. At this stage total upgrades stand at approximately 95% (of 240 homes), a great success in terms of project implementation. Total completion is on track to be concluded by the end of this month.

The WMI Programme, which is being delivered by the WATSAN Unit of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning, is funded via the joint Australia and New Zealand aid programmes. The Programme aims to improve waste and sanitation

management, to protect public health and the lagoons of Rarotonga and Aitutaki. The largest work activity under the Programme was to pilot upgrades to domestic sanitation systems to bring them into compliance with the 2008 Sewage Regulations under the Public Health Act 2004. This line of work was to address the fact that most domestic sanitation systems were in a state of disrepair and were contributing to lagoon pollution and public health risks.

The success of the project has paved the way for continuing sanitation work. A formal visit to the WATSAN office at the Muri Meeting House by NZ Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Murray

McCully on Friday the 9th August culminated in the announcement that NZ would continue financial support for sanitation improvements, with a further \$10 million in grant funding to be provided over the next four years.

The European Union has also come to the fore to provide substantial financial input, committing around \$4 million in funding to the sanitation sector. This, along with the NZ funds will enable WATSAN to continue with sanitation upgrades to over 1,000 onsite sanitation systems across the islands of Rarotonga and Aitutaki over a 4-5 year period. It is likely that a similar approach will be utilised across the remainder of the Cook Islands.

Acting WATSAN Unit manager Tekao Herrmann said that this work will lead to substantial benefits for the health of the people and the ecosystems of the islands, and therefore to the ongoing economic development and security of the country.

Herrmann also notes that the success of the WMI programme is thanks to the hard work of WATSAN and MOIP staff and management, the Development Coordination Division of Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, Public Health, the contractors who conducted physical works, the people of Muri and Avana, and of course New Zealand and Australia for making the project possible through their funding.

Appreciation Notice

A big, big thank you to Good Samaritans Jenny Sorenson, Wayne Barclay, Rongo File, David Akanoa, Father Vincent Peters and Charles Muriwai. I live to breathe another day, all's well and God's blessing for your kindness.

- George Pitt



The value of maintenance

Much of our interest in renewable energy is driven by the hope of reducing the costs of electricity generation over the longer term if not immediately.

It's fair to say that goal is shared by industry, business, community, individuals; in one word, by everyone.

Not so long ago, we focused aspirations of lower costs fully on reducing the long term costs of diesel-generated electricity. This comprised squeezing efficiencies out of existing infrastructure, streamlining operations, investing in newer and better equipment and trying to keep a lid on the cost of fuel. We needed to do this while always delivering safe and reliable power.

The attraction of moving in the direction of renewable energy is the potential held for lower energy prices in the future and security of supply. Although we don't know when energy prices will come down, the logic of a direction change is nevertheless compelled by a simple thought. The access to renewable energy sources will be easier than diesel. Sunshine and wind for example are freely available to us, whereas there is both cost and insecurity in buying diesel imports at whatever price is set by whoever owns it on continents far away from us.

But to embrace the change, we



TAU Fuel facility Upgrade Project-Excavation Work New Daytanks

need to invest in infrastructure for the generation and distribution of renewable energy. The desire of reducing the long term costs associated with diesel-generated electricity has to be balanced with the high costs of investment concentrated at the front end of renewable energy development.

So while we embark on the construction of additional PV arrays to add to the existing supply of PV generated power on the grid, we remain busy with upgrades to our fire safety systems, fuel depot, and control monitoring systems at the power station.

To secure the best possible service in the delivery of electricity – in a stable and reliable fashion that is consistent

with our daily needs – the cost of power is a burden we must share. Currently, we do this in a calculated, structured way. Electricity billing for instance, is not only designed to recover fuel costs, it also incorporates maintenance costs. Tariffs have in-built components to pay for diesel and pay for upgrades and maintenance of the TAU distribution network.

Maintenance costs are a necessity for maintaining the TAU grid system, which distributes and delivers our electricity. Maintenance is a necessity now as a result of the need to sustain safe and reliable power to everyone's homes and businesses – and it will be a necessity in the future even when renewable

energy is the dominant source of electricity.

Investing in upgrades and maintenance is a firm part of TAU philosophy, which has been driving the more recent years of consistently high performance in service delivery. And it is a quality that translates into the present programmes of renewable energy development where future power systems will be subject to the same ingrained principles.

The Cook Islands is very much at an infancy stage in terms of renewable development but a concerted effort is being made to sculpt and shape the energy landscape to meet the objectives of reduced costs for the purpose of increasing security.



\$283,000 approved for Seabed Minerals Project

The Seabed Minerals Authority (SBMA) is pleased to inform the public that the CITAF –Cook Islands Technical Assistance Fund Coordinating Committee (FCC) has approved the issuing a Project Approval Notification (PAN) for the Legislative and Regulations Review and International Tender Process project. It has taken months of dedicated work by the SBMA Authority, PSC and the FCC to finalise this approval, which was signed off last Wednesday afternoon at the Office of the Public Service Commissioner in Avarua.

SBM Commissioner Paul Lynch said that “This is a historic step forward in the steady development of the potential Seabed Minerals sector in the Cook Islands. This generous funding of \$283, 013 provided by CITAF will allow for the drafting of national Regulations from September 2013 to 30 June 2014, to secure the Regulatory Framework for Seabed minerals activities in the Cook Islands. All resulting Regulations will be based on best international standards and cover important preliminary topics, like Licensing and Environmental standards for the Exploration activities that are anticipated to take place



over the next 3 to 5 years. The Cook Islands Government’s vision is that our Seabed minerals sector will continue to be a leading standard in the setting of an effective Regulatory Framework related to future seabed minerals activities. This funding will help the SBMA deliver on that expectation for the benefit of all Cook Islands, our stakeholders and our future business, investment and development partners”

Paul Lynch signed the PAN on

behalf of the SBMA

Daphne Ringi signed on behalf of the OPSC.

The PAN is now monitored by Development Coordination Division (DCD) in MFEM.

The signing was witnessed by the NZ High Commissioner, Joanna Kempfers, who stated that-

“New Zealand is delighted to be able to support the Cook Islands in ensuring that the regulatory and legal environment governing seabed exploration

and mining is strong and robust.

The establishment of the correct framework at the outset is fundamental to ensuring that the wealth from deep sea minerals is returned to the Cook Islands as it should be”

Funding is released when the OPSC and DCD receive the following:

- PAN is signed by all parties
- Signed contract between the agency and selected TA
- Cash flow forecast for the project

Tax proposals signal start of CIP’s election campaign

By Charles Pitt

When he announced the proposed changes recommended after what was the first comprehensive review of the tax system since 1996, Finance Minister Mark Brown may well have signaled the start of the Cook Island Party’s (CIP’s) campaign for the 2014 general election.

Despite the attraction of increases in take home pay and pensions, what the public will find difficult to digest is the increase in VAT from 12.5% to 15%. This increase is bound to dominate public discussions over the next few months.

With the proposed changes timed to be implemented on 1

January 2014, government may be taking a big gamble because the increase in VAT comes during tourism’s low season. This low season may or may not persist through to May 2014. As retailers pass rising costs onto consumers, locals may decide to tighten their belts even further, impeding what little cash flow already exists.

The Herald has received reports from local retailers that while New Zealanders make up the majority of visitors, they tend to look then move on without parting with their money. Better reports are being received about Australian visitors. They are “spenders.” Retailers say Australian visitors rarely leave a shop empty handed even if

the item they wanted is not available.

A local accountant who handles the accounts for many small businesses is disturbed that many of his clients are worse off now than they were last year. He told the Herald many are struggling and experiencing little or no cash flow. He was concerned that MFEM may have lost touch with the little people who operate within a separate economy where the benefits of tourism do not trickle down.

Some locals have expressed concerns about the legal minimum wage. One retailer told the Herald she couldn’t understand why the Cooks were being compared by MFEM to the likes of Samoa and Fiji.

While the minimum wage in the Cook Islands may be higher than in other Pacific nations, she maintained that comparison was irrelevant where depopulation is concerned. Cook Islanders are leaving for higher pay in NZ and Australia. What is needed is for the gap between our minimum wage (\$5 per hour) and that of NZ (\$13.75 per hour), to be narrowed. \$5 an hour is a tool for overseas owned establishments to generate higher profits which may be siphoned offshore.

What is clear is that the proposals will soon become an election issue. Some of the proposals like the VAT increase, have no linkage to any mandate within the CIP’s 2010 election manifesto.

September teachers' of the month

by *Apii Napa*

Last week Thursday the Cook Islands Teachers Institute—the teacher's union body together with teachers from Titikaveka College, Nukutere, St Joseph and Rutaki Primary school gathered once again to acknowledge their respective recipients to the award of Teacher for this Month of September at Aquarius.

This is our third celebration since July. So far nine recipients from nine schools on Rarotonga have assisted CITI in our teacher of the month campaign to help drive membership numbers up, as in the past, numbers of membership have been declining to our teachers' union group.

The Teacher of the Month campaign will continue next year as we will be going out to schools in the southern and northern group islands to encourage our teachers to join.

Congratulations to our teachers from Nukutere with full membership, hopefully this move will motivate other schools to come on board.

CITI's newly elected executives are: Ms Nga CHARLIE (President), Ms Anna RAURU (Vice President),

Ms Helena PAULO (Gen. Secretary), Ms Taiti HOSKING (Treasurer), Ms Elizabeth KAPI (Primary School Rep.) together with Women's Network representatives Ms Jane KORA (Coordinator) and Mrs Apii NAPA (Secretary).



Teacher recipients for the month of September...
Ripou HOSKING, Luci TUTAKA, Teitirua NUBONO, Marama DENNY



Mrs Ripou HOSKING – Titikaveka College



Ms Luci TUTAKA – St Joseph school



Mrs Teitirua NUBONO – Nukutere



Mrs Marama DENNY – Rutaki school

What do you think of your 'TEACHERS'?

by *Apii Napa*

World Teachers' Day is celebrated annually on 5 October, I asked these students at Tereora of what they thought of their teachers'?



Y12 – Bouchard SOLOMONA

I think my teachers are good, because they really want us to pass.



Y12 – Benjamin UNUIA

Teachers are good – they interact, motivate - allowing us to achieve. They push us to get high grades and influence us to pass.



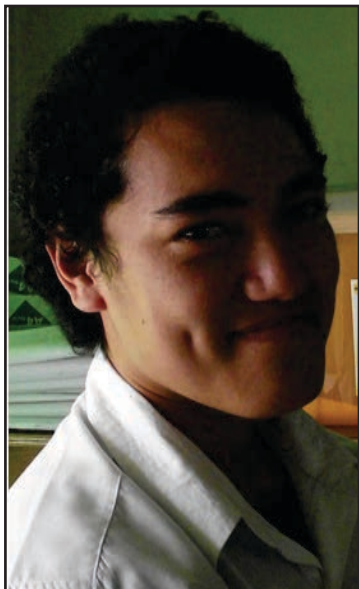
Y12 – Kora KORA

Don't really like teachers at Tereora – because they call students names. The teachers have high expectations, which is alright, but can be too overboard.



Y11 – Gordon TEATAI-ARIKI

I think teachers are good, they help students with their school work.



Y11 – Jamie RENNIE

Teachers are supportive – they help me to learn.



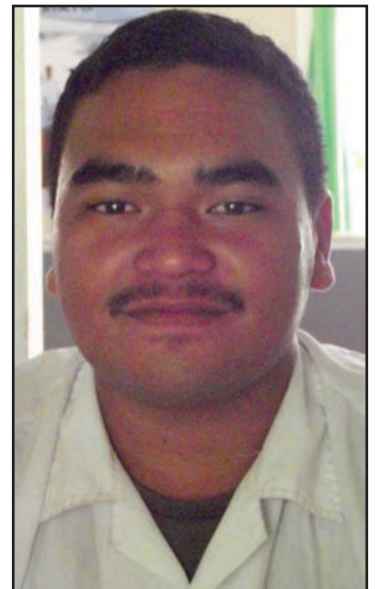
Y11 – Great TARIPO

They are helpful, they encourage us to push ourselves and do tasks on time.



Y11 – Tekao TAIRI

They are kind – they share their food when I 'patipati'.



Y11 – Tetauru TETAURU

Funny, when they are stressed or tired, they let it all out on us students. Their actions are are funny.

Local trainees impress



Terekino Vaireka and Sommai Phon Amnuaisuk

By Charles Pitt

The four day training session for government and private sector personnel in carrying out energy audits was completed on Thursday at the Edgewater Resort.

The training was an ADB funded in-country activity under PEEP 2 (Pacific Energy Efficiency Programme-phase two) designed to build local capacity within government and the private sector to do energy audits.

Team leader for training is Project Director Sommai Phon Amnuaisuk from IIEC-the International Institute for Energy Conservation and he spoke with the Herald on Friday morning. He is assisting ADB's local team, Felix Gooneratne and Terekino Vaireka.

Sommai is accompanied by two other trainers and they have already conducted training in PNG, Samoa and Tonga. Now they head for Vanuatu, the last on their list.

During the four day session, locals have been put through modules 1 and 2. Sommai and his team return to Rarotonga after mid January 2014 to conduct more technical training in modules 3 and 4.

For these modules, local trainees will be involved in data collection and field work.

According to Sommai, the Cook Islands is near the top in terms of achieving the training outcomes. He said the locals were quick learners and the quality of their presentations was very good.

Sommai said the Cook Islands has made significant progress under PEEP 2. When he returns next year he would love to visit Aitutaki and Mangaia.

The **COMPUTER MAN** Tech Tips

Phone 24979 Email: sales@thecomputerman.co.ck

Best ever Android Apps

Symphony of Eternity

If you liked 1980s and early 1990s RPGs or early Final Fantasy games, you'll love Symphony of Eternity. There's a clear plot: Two adventurers meet the princess of a fallen kingdom, and all three go hunting for a mythical wish-granting weapon to set everything right.

Temple Run

Temple Run couples great graphics with a very simple, arcade-like premise. In Temple Run, you play an Indiana Jones doppelganger clutching a golden icon, and your goal is to run away from evil eagle-gorilla monsters by tilting and swiping your way through obstacles in your path. The first Android release from March 28 was too buggy for prime time.

Draw a Stickman: EPIC Free

Taking a page from Drawn to Life, Draw a Stickman follows a player-created stickman's journey through a dangerous landscape to save his or her player-created best friend. The play is smooth, and engaging with many things to manipulate or destroy. The free version has five stages to unlock, but also some very unfortunate ads. I recommend springing for the \$1.99 version.

7 inch Budget Android Tablet

1GHz CPU, 512MB, 800x400 5 Point Capacitive Screen, Wi-Fi, 4GB Memory, Android 4.2, 0.3MP Front & Rear Cameras, SD Card Slot
3 Months Warranty

\$199

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World Teachers Day celebrated at Tereora

by *Apii Napa*

Tereora College student leaders from each Anau group – Tekou, Ikurangi, Temanga and Maungaroa together with Mr Karl Payne put together a ‘skit’ depicting certain teacher characteristics at assembly on Friday. Staff and students were in fits of laughter at last Friday’s presentation. It was Tereora’s way of celebrating World Teachers’ Day come this Saturday 5 October 2013.

The principal role was smartly played like Mr Haque in normal attire except the jandals by Tekou student leader – Rangi Piri, in staff morning brief setting. You only had to hear the students then you’d realize who their character was.

We had Ms. Hosking “I’m the ‘poti”, we had Mrs Ngaau – “what is depreciation?” we had Mr Jones “Hi everyone, I’m talking to myself again” and the famous math’s teacher to wrap up the mornings performance.

Well done ‘Anau’ leaders for that exciting performance, enjoyed by everyone at Tereora.



Ms. Hosking – Lesseine Messine
“I’m the poti and today my cup of tea is important.”



“Sunshine” - Charlie Charlie – the Maths teacher Ms Ma....

June Hosking wins Marine Park Logo Competition

By Charles Pitt

June Hosking of Mauke is the winner of the Marine Park Logo Competition.

The announcement was made by Acting Prime Minister Hon Mark Brown in the Cabinet Room at 10.30am last Friday. Jaewyn McKay representing the Marine Park Committee was present as was June's mother Here Allan.

Brown presented Hosking with the first prize of \$500.

Brown said there were 25 entries from Rarotonga and the outer islands, including four from New Zealand. The Prime Minister selected the winning entry not knowing the names of the entrants. The standard was high and the PM highly commended all entries said Brown.

Hosking thanked God, her sister Edna and her mother for her inspiration.

June Hosking gave the following explanation for her design.

Rationale:

To be effective the Cook Islands Marine Park must be a national effort- a nation identifying with issues that affect us all. A successful marine park management plan will strike a balance between the needs of the people and needs of the environment both now and into the future.

Our people must be empowered to design, own, implement, and enforce that management plan.

A cultural exchange between the 8 language groups of the Cook Islands will result in a strong marine park management plan that draws from the best of our local knowledge, culture, rai practices, traditional and modern problem solving solutions. It will acknowledge existing management strategies used by various families, villages, and islands so that their efforts will no longer stand alone, but be recognized not only for their local benefit, but the benefit they provide to us all.

For this reason I have included



Mark Brown, June Hosking with mother Here

the northern people groups, even though at this stage they are not within the marine park. All of our cultural practices, expertise and experiences, both good and bad, are needed if we are to achieve an excellent marine park management plan for the Cook Islands. Whilst our management plan is designed for our sustainability, we also recognize that we share a body of water with the rest of the world so actions nationally and internationally, both positive and negative, result in consequences for us all.

We are the part of the world and cannot separate ourselves from it. Whatever we do within our waters impacts those outside of it, e.g. if we allow overfishing in our oceans it is not only our stocks being wiped out. And whatever the world does impacts us, e.g. overproduction of CO2 causing ocean acidification, imported plastic and toxic waste damaging our environment, and over demand internationally of our marine resources can strip us bare.

The figures are linked with heads facing inwards to express a coming together of ideas.

The feet are facing outwards

because we have a standing outside of the Cook Islands, our marine park is recognized and our voice will be heard at the international stage.

In the center are images representing fish and reef, reminding us of the need and balance between humans needs (the fish) and the environment's needs (the reef).

The fish represents food and income; note the hook at the end of the tail. However, it also carries new life, a developing egg, under its belly to remind us that our future depends upon sustainable practice.

The reef represents our fragile environment; both the coral and seaweed are critical to our future and endangered. Without plants to photosynthesis we lose 50% of the world's oxygen supply. Without the coral reefs we stand to lose a vast amount of marine biodiversity. The more reef loss the more we are exposed to damage by cyclones, sea surge, tsunamis, and rising waters.

NB the positioning of the seaweed with the coral is also an allusion to an uto, a hint of te au pa enua, also a part of our marine park.

Colours:

This logo was designed to be flexible and economic to reproduce, so looks effective with single colour, two colours, three colours, or black and white (see the following page for logo colour variation options and potential ways to use it- incorporating wording; also a few examples of it at a very small size so you can see how it is sized). My colour preferences are as follows:

Deep blue: represents the ocean. The circle within the rectangle of blue represents that we share a common body of water with the world. Effects from within ripple out and vice-versa.

Gold: our nation's wealth- a united people rich in cultures, language and creativity.

Cyan: as the centre part of the circle, it represents our marine park within the rest of the world's ocean and seas (dark blue).

Green: a healthy land, as a part of our marine park, bringing health to our waters.

Hosking said the northern group was not included in the Marine Park but she hoped they would one day.

Sea bed minerals youth debaters report



By Teina Mackenzie

We had our first event after school Friday – presentations at the Seabed Minerals Authority by Alex Herman, Paul Lynch and Darryl Thorburn and Krystina Tatuava from Ministry of Finance and Economic Management did a segment with James Webb and MFEM staff on hand for the question and answer session. We then moved debaters for presentations at TIS Cook

Islands premises by Teina Mackenzie then Joe Bridger from National Environment Service did a segment. Caroline Tiria of the Seabed Minerals Authority had nourishing food ready for the kids when they arrived at the Seabed Minerals Authority straight after school!

It was absolutely fantastic and the young people are S.P.E.C.T.A.C.U.L.A.R.....They are:
Van picture (l-r): Teiva Teaurere,

Nick Henry, Dylan Giva, Maine Upokokeu Heleina Strickland, Hareta Passfield, Tehere Koteka, Moana Fukofuka, Matthew Atuatika, Teu Metuakore, Marise Noovao. Kneeling (l-r): Myria Rongo, Teau Puna Vano Avatiu Harbour picture (l-r): Teiva Teaurere, Dylan Giva, Marise Noovao, Teu Metuakore, Matthew Atuatika, Teau Puna Vano, Moana Fukofuka, Tehere Koteka,

Heleina Strickland, Maine Upokokeu, Hareta Passfield, Myria Rongo, Nick Henry Students from five different schools and they all just gelled so well and enjoyed the first knowledge-gaining event....I had to break them up to deliver them home)

Was fantastic....so excited for our next event Monday after school!
Ka kite,



Summary Information for Business

A complete review of the implications for businesses is contained in section 5.2 of the main Review.

Import levies

- Most of the current levies on imports will be removed. This will result in cheaper access to pork, eggs, seasonal fruit and vegetables and ice cream for restaurants and retailers.
- The remaining levies on sugary drinks, alcohol, tobacco, and fuel production will now also be levied on local producers. Domestically produced pearls will remain exempt from levies.
- Alcohol and sugary drink levies will be refined so they relate to the volume of sugar or alcohol rather than the product price. Local producers of soft drinks can reduce the amount of tax they will have to pay by reducing their added sugar content.

VAT

- The VAT rate will increase from 12.5 per cent to 15 per cent, resulting in an increase in retail prices by less than 2.3 per cent.
- The mandatory registration threshold will increase to \$40,000. Those companies below this level are not required to register, but can elect to do so if they turnover more than \$20,000 in gross sales a year.

Personal income tax

- PAYE will become simpler with the elimination of the secondary tax concession (although individuals will still need to notify employers if they are working more than one job). Residents and non-residents will now be taxed at the same rates, further simplifying PAYE.
- The personal income tax cuts will increase the take-home pay of almost all employees at no cost to employers.
- The increase in take-home pay is above-and-beyond the VAT increase for most households, and will therefore increase domestic consumption.
- The increase in take-home pay should also encourage greater labour force participation. The elimination of the secondary concession should encourage more employees to work more hours in a single job rather than split their labour hours (as they will now be taxed the same rate regardless of how many jobs they choose to work).
- Some businesses may face higher labour costs from an increase in the minimum wage. The increase will be *at least* 12 cents an hour from 1 January 2014, but may be higher.

Company taxes

- The company tax rates will not change, but there will be a review of the business operating environment in 2014/15. A capital gains tax will not be implemented at this time.
- Airlines will be taxed at the same tax rates as all other businesses in the Cook Islands.

Administrative recommendations

- E-filing of company, PAYE and VAT returns should ease the administrative burden of making regular returns.
- The establishment of the Financial Outreach Office within Revenue Management Division will aid MFEM in assisting businesses with tax matters and financial literacy.

The loving and Caring hands of God

Part 2

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

In Part 1 of this theme I stated that there are so many negative things affecting our lives. This article is purposed to encourage you to know that regardless of the situation and challenges we face in life, the loving and caring hands of God is always there to lift us up and to encourage us to move on in life.

In the Book of Jeremiah 18v.1-6 is the story of the Potter and the Clay. The Potter is symbolic of God and the Clay is symbolic of you and I. v.4-6 reads "And the vessel that he made was marred (ruined) in the hand of the potter, so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make. Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the Lord, "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!" The focus of this article is in v.6 where God says "...so are you in My hand..." The word "...hand..." refers to the nature of God. It means 'what God do.' The Bible speaks of the Powerful hand of God; the Healing hand of God; the Loving hand of God; the Skillful hand of God; the Gentle hand of God; the Kind hand of God; the Saving hand of God and so on. In Psalm 31v.5(Message Bible Version) David said "I'm safe in Your hand." The question is "Whose hands are you putting yourself in?" We are like a clay in the potter's hand. Like a potter, God is Shaping us. Molding us. Fashioning us. God can only do what He desires for us if we put ourselves in His hand. God can do His best once we

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

put ourselves in His hand.

The potter gives purpose to the clay. Before, the clay has no value, no worth, and no purpose! (this is a picture of our past). When the potter takes the clay and develops it, it becomes an item of great value and purpose! Our family, our friends, our jobs, can not make us valuable, and bring purpose to our lives, only the Potter (God) can do that! God wants to make you and I valuable. God has plans and purpose for your life.

The reason why we're still having problems is because the Potter is still working on us. Know that God is working on each one of us! The Apostle Paul put it this way in Philippians 1v.6 (NLT) "And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." In other words God is saying "I've started working in you, and I'll finish it!" So God is saying "What are you criticizing him about? I haven't finished with him yet! There's a lot more work to be done!" He is also saying "I'm molding you, I'm shaping you, here a little, there a little!" God forgives of our wrong doings. He is faithful to forgive us of all our sins!

There is no such thing as 'a clean clay'! All Clay are 'Dirty'! Yet the hands of God reached out to us! to save us! this dirty clay! Even though the clay is so dirty! God is saying "There is nothing I can not do even with a very dirty clay!" Jesus said in Mark 10v.27 "With men it is



impossible, but not with God, for with God all things are possible." There is no one that God can not reach-out, even in the dirtiest situation to change that person! You must understand that there are people who have plans and purposes intended to destroy your life, to dirty your life! So, put yourself in God's hands! That nail pierced hands! That nail scarred hands! Know and understand that the hand of the Potter is a rough hand, a nailed scarred hands, yet they are Kind! Powerful! Healing hands! Safe hands, and so on. When was the last time you put yourself in the hands

of God? We don't get what we want because we're in the wrong hands! Many Christians are asking God to come to them yet they're in the wrong place! In order to get God's blessings! position yourself in the right place and experience the Hands of God working positively in your life. Friend, God can and will help you and I!

Regardless of the situation that you are in, be encouraged and put yourself in the hands of God to guide you, to care for you, to protect you, because He loves you. May you have a God blessed week - te Atua te aroa.

The environment around me

By Norma Ngatamariki

As I type this, it's raining buckets outside. I watch as bullets of water pelt down onto the road with such ferociousness, that it causes a mini-earthquake on the gravel. I'm having English at the moment, but I've completed all of work, so there's really nothing to do... except type up this article. For some reason, the rain reminds me of when I first came to the beautiful paradise that is Rarotonga.

I'm really glad to be a resident of this tropical island, with its tranquil beaches and jolly people. I first arrived on this island in the year 2004, from cold and wintry Auckland. I was only eight years old at the time, so you could just imagine how overwhelming it was to be in a new place, in a new country even. The first thing that hit

me was the heat. I couldn't believe that temperatures as hot as 40 degrees were even possible. I felt as if I was being smothered. Dad was standing next to the conveyor belt, waiting for our chilly bin of Kentucky Fried Chicken. It was for the relatives that we were going to stay with, as a sort of payment. I was probably going to snack on it later anyway.

It was the first time I saw a beach with real coconut trees. You don't see many of those at the pools at Papatoetoe. I was taken aback at the sheer beauty of the sand, sun and water. We were at the Social Centre, one of the most popular places for family gatherings. It's 2013 and it hasn't changed much, save for the amount of rubbish that's littered along the beach. Oh, not to mention the graffiti on the toilet cubicle that served as a changing room (no one,

except a desperate person, would actually use it as a toilet). When you're a kid and you don't know any better, you'd think that Rarotonga was a utopia, unspoiled by any form of modern-day creation. Now that I'm older and a little wiser, my opinion of that has changed altogether.

I remember the feeling of being surprised when I realized that this island had a town, complete with a Shopping Centre, police station, internet cafes' and banks. Okay, so it wasn't as rural as I thought it would be. Now that I'm seventeen, I appreciate that we have all of these things, even though we are just a dot on the map. There's a rubbish bin next to Westpac that looks as if it's emptied only once a month, which is probably the case. I don't remember it being that full when I was eight.



So yeah. There are a lot of commercialized changes going on. Some for the worse and some for the better. Our youth are leaving because they believe that Rarotonga cannot offer them the same opportunities other places can. These people are right in some ways, wrong in others. They have the occasional holiday but then they return overseas. The question is, what can we do to stop our youth from leaving the environment in which they were born in?

Exams are important

By Hareta Tiraa Passfield

Yes! Last few days of school then holidays! I'm so happy! Two weeks of doing nothing, sounds great doesn't it? This year has flown by so fast it's unreal. It feels like just a few weeks ago I was new to being a year 11 and now it's almost over. I can't say I'm sad that this year is over, actually I'm so glad this year has almost finished! I guess the only bad thing about the year almost being over is the fact that us seniors have our exams which totally sucks.

Seeing as our exams are important I thought I'd write about them. I don't know that much about how to study properly cause these will be my first real exams. But here's what I do

know. If you need extra help don't be shy to go and ask a teacher! If you're scared or think that maybe that won't help you can always ask the smart kid in your class or go to another teacher that teaches the same subject, sometimes it's easier talking to them.

My geography teacher told me to make mind maps which are basically all the most important stuff written on a big paper. Make everything shorter so it's easier to remember. Use bright colours so that it stands out. Then stick those papers on a wall in your room, preferably a wall that your bed is facing so you can study from the comfort of your room. Don't forget to make it big!!

If you're stressing out go see our school counsellor or if you don't go to Tereora or just don't want to go see someone, you can take time away from studying and do something relaxing. Maybe go to the beach and try forget all your worries. I meditate when I get stressed. It may seem strange but it really does help.

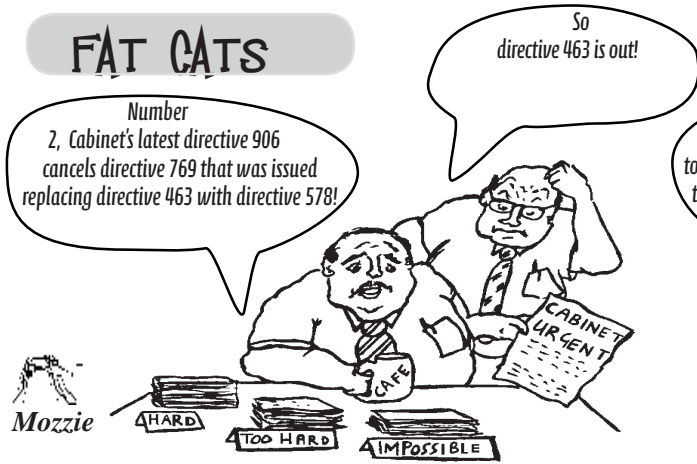
Getting together with some friends is also a good idea but make sure you actually study and not just gossip! Going the library is a good idea cause that way you can't talk that much.

There are those things like phones and Facebook that keep us from studying. For me Facebook is a big thing, I'm always on it. Which is really bad cause I should

be studying. So what you can do is that for maybe 1 hour to 2 hours each day while studying give all your electronics to a family member to hide from you so you can't be tempted. I once tried to deactivate my Facebook account, I lasted like 2 days. That was a fail!

Don't be afraid to ask for help from anyone, no question is a stupid question. These exams are a big deal especially for those people that have not gotten enough credits from internals to pass the year. Try your very hardest at each and every single exam. If you want to pass, you've got to believe you can pass! Be confident in yourself and good luck to everyone with studying

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Oh dear chooks! High Lord Mandarin of the Machinery stopped on the gangway because the fare has not been paid! A search of the kitty reveals the bag is bare! Where did all the gold coins go? The Sherriff needs to get out and rob more of the poor so the High Lord Mandarin can sail the seas eastward! Word is the Emperor of the East is not happy the High Lord's travel was arranged by underlings!



Media mogul adds new meaning to the Raro Kiss, giving it a new name, "Raro head Butt." Folks in Atupa became concerned to spot media Mogul spread eagled on the tarmac! Even the Funeral Director rushed to the scene not with a tape measure, but a chair for the crash victim to sit on! Police managed to squeeze the incident into their report three days later! Question arises who should pay the \$50 ambulance fee if it is ordered by the chaps in blue?



Are the people on Mauke more savvy when it comes to electronic gadgets chooks? Chook on the Rock wondered why his relies on Mauke sent him a Nokia cell phone. Did Nokia open up an assembly plant

CHOOKS CORNER
WITH BIG RED



there for cell phones? Maybe there's more going on in Mauke than we think!



Chook writes, "With the low pressure with water around our area in Matavera for the last few nights, I have been forced to cart water from the tap next door for cooking and for toilet use. It makes me feel like I'm in a third world country doing this!" What say ye, Direktor Hoff de vawter services?



After Finance Minister Brown released his grand tax plan last Friday, did the Demo shadow Cabinet go into weekend camp to analyze the maze of proposals and surface with a counter public relations strategy mapping out the Demo way for taxation? Demos be warned, the CIP election campaign starts with these proposals and if the Demos fail to produce their own proposals soon, they will find

themselves coughing CIP dust as they try to catch up. The CIP has seized the high ground. When the review was announced, the Demos should have worked on their own review and timed their announcement to come out just before the CIP one! But that is strategy chooks!



Grumpy, short stay tourists annoyed at standing in line at the cop shop for yonks waiting for a local driver's license should spare a thought for the poor locals who go in the get their papers renewed only to find they have to stand in line for yonks behind a long line of tourists who have already been standing in line for yonks!



How about that hearty breakfast served up by the CIP Disciples on the morning of the by-election? A re-enactment of the last supper? Now we are just waiting for the principals involved to be hauled

before the Heresy Court! Can the Demos nail this case? Others say they should wash their hands of it!



Massey University Albany campus quiz in local Auckland North Shore community paper asks what was Robert Sell famous for? Answer is as a restaurateur. Use of the word "was" in the question implies Bob is no longer among the living. Wrong! Bob, 96 yrs old, is alive and well on Rarotonga, at Kii Kii.



Word from visitors to the Arorangi Hilton is that former goggle-box Sports Presenter, Sky Flake, is ensconced in maximum security! By himself!



A pensioner revolt is looming chooks as more and more of the old tykes grumble they will refuse to fork out for back taxes to fund travel jaunts for Ministers overseas.

Cook Islands
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TENDERS



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

School Stationery and Consumables Tender Notice

Tenders are invited for the bulk supply of School Stationery and Consumables for the 2014 school year.

Stationery and Consumables quality and specifications can be uplifted from the Ministry of Education office or download from MOE website: www.education.gov.ck or contact Terangi Charlie of Finance Management Division on phone 29357, fax 28357 or email terangi@education.gov.ck

Tender submission will close @ 4.00pm Friday 4th October 2013

Tenders shall be in a sealed envelope
MOE Stationery and Consumables Tender14
Secretary of Education,
Ministry of Education, PO Box 97
Rarotonga, Cook Islands

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

News Briefs *By TeRiu Woonton*

As a lead up to Breast Cancer Awareness month, Excil Shipping has decorated their office pink in support of breast cancer awareness. Maru Apera tell Cook Islands Herald that the idea of getting behind the event is in honor of friends and family who have lost their loved ones to breast cancer. The office, which is decorated with pink balloons and pink ribbons will have a sausage sizzle stall on Saturday the 5th of October at the CITC building centre, where all proceeds are to go towards the Breast Cancer Foundation.

On Tuesday the 1st of October, the Are Pa Metua members celebrated the International Older Persons Day. The Are Pa Metua members took part in a list of fun and recreational activities, including a zumba lesson and computer lessons. A major highlight of the day was the opening of the Cook Islands National Disability Council headquarters, which is conveniently situated next door to the Are Pa Metua.

Tuesday the 01st of October marked the 21st birthday anniversary of the longest serving local tour- Captain Tama's Lagoon Cruise's. Despite the weather yesterday, the team at Captain Tama's operated as normal business, taking what could've been 120 guests but unfortunately came down to 15 guests to the motu to celebrate. Not only is the 21st birthday a major event for Captain Tama, the 19th wedding anniversary of Captain Tama's Lagoon cruise owners Tama and Lyn Tuavera falls on the same day. Therefore celebration will be big, with a combined party this Saturday. The longest serving staff member, known as Katu who started at Captain Tama's when he was only 14, along with the crew at Captain Tama's is glad to have the first ever crew members back here for the big event, Aaron Apii and 'Captain Pinky'. Starting off with one boat and just 2 staff members, Captain Tama's Lagoon Cruise's has grown rapidly over the years and is now considered to be world famous, with returning guests from all over the world come back for more than 1 cruise. Tama now has 4 glass bottom boats, one of them was recently bought in early June, and named Te Pua Neinei, after his wife Lyn, who received the name 'Te Pu Neinei O te Ra' on the day of their wedding. Amongst the many accomplishments of Captain Tama's, the Lagoon Cruise's also won a prestigious Air New Zealand Cook Islands Tourism Award 2011/12 for their commitment to culture and was a finalist in the

Tourism Attractions section. The biggest highlight for Captain Tama's is looking after the guests, keeping them well entertained and happy and with people quoting them "by far the best tour out" and over 3,000 people following the "Captain Tama's Lagoon Cruise" facebook page, it proves to be true. Tama would like to welcome all those who have helped in any way with the success of Captain Tama's Lagoon Tours to come to the party this Saturday at 6pm at Muri Beach, with a surprise at 8pm.

This Thursday, Nukutere College will commence their annual English and Maori Speech Competition. The 30 students participating in the speech competition will come from 3 divisions; juniors, intermediates and seniors. The 15 Maori speeches will be based on "My Own Beauty" and the 15 students assigned to English speeches will base their speeches on a variety of topics including drinking and driving. The speech competition will kick off at 8.30am at the St Joseph's Hall.

The Black and Gold Masquerade Youth ball kicks off tonight and the committee team is expecting a huge turnout. IDCK staff tells Cook Islands Herald that more young boys than girls have been into the clothing shop to purchase outfits for tonight's exciting event which will see one king and one queen announced at the end of the night and a number of spot prizes to be given away. All proceeds will go towards the Cook Island Youth Ambassadors who will depart for Noumea at the end of the month to attend the Pacific Youth and Sports Conference.

Over 20 young women from Rarotonga will be leaving Rarotonga in a week's time for The Mrs. Carter World Tour in New Zealand. The Beyonce concert will be held from the 16th to the 19th of October at the Vector Arena in New Zealand. The Mrs. Carter Show World Tour is the fastest selling tour ever at Vector Arena and is said to exceed Vector Arena's maximum attendance records for a single artist, which has previously been held by Justin Timberlake, Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift and Roger Waters. Tickets have been selling fast, many of them already sold out and the many Cook Islanders who are going to attend are counting down the days, planning, printing special T-Shirts to wear to the concert and filling their newsfeed on the social site facebook with updates on the tour.

PUBLIC NOTICE

RESULTS FROM THE PUKAPUKA MONSTER RAFFLE DRAW

	Amount:	Winning ticket	Ticket name	Contact details
1st	\$50,000.00	6902	Vik Rai	72492
2nd	\$20,000.00	4431	Aropati Parau	042389821
3rd	\$10,000.00	6617	Rave	24689
4th	\$5,000.00	7137	Mura Herman	22869
5th	\$2,500.00	3147	William Rikiau	31531
6th	\$1,500.00	5775	Emillie Pierce	20708/51269
7th	\$1,000.00	3219	Fai-Ma	55040/43014
8th	\$500.00	2718	Andrew mana	095775615615
9th	\$500.00	3467	Jnr Plumber	31068/74200
10th	\$500.00	8697	Oscar Numa	21912/54192
11th	\$200.00	1207	Pekeretio Walemaki	41060
12th	\$200.00	1333	Yato Villiage	Pukapuka
13th	\$200.00	2982	Reka Taia	0210818954
14th	\$200.00	7323	Caroal Aarei	74446
15th	\$200.00	8949	Mii Tp	52241/50897
16th	\$100.00	7995	Te Ana May Taylor	20394
17th	\$100.00	4862	Malaehi Aidam Daniel	55270
18th	\$100.00	6559	Patience Vainerere	c/-taina
19th	\$100.00	2795	Pakitonga Nio	0212216001
20th	\$100.00	4528	Paloma Keil	22589

Congratulations to all the winners.

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PH: 27185 for further information

PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

The Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Authority Invites interested members of the Public to attend a Public Consultation Meeting at the SINAI HALL, Avarua CICC Church On Thurs 3rd October 2013 At 5.30pm - 8.00pm

Excil shipping in the pink

By Maria Tanner

For the staff members of Excil shipping located at Avatiu wharf it was no hard decision to go all pink, "the idea had been bouncing around in the lead up to October," says staff member Maru Apera. The team collectively compiled a list of family and friends they had lost, suffered or are still battling with breast cancer. "It was something that we could not bypass for this year," added Apera.

Internationally the month of October is recognized as breast cancer awareness month which is observed annually on the 10th day of October.

Although a small team the Excil shipping staff are dedicated to executing this challenge and have been overwhelmed by the support and encouragement they have achieved from customers, families, work colleagues, and friends and have been inspired to go one step further going "All Pink" for the entire month of October in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness and have appropriately decked out the Excil shipping office in pink themed decorations, balloons, and of course the well recognized pink ribbon of breast cancer awareness.

"It is our hope through raising awareness and showing our support we can reach out to as many men and women out there in our community," said Apera.

A passionate Apera says the chosen theme for her and her staff members is "Until there is a cure, there is always hope."

This Saturday the 5th October the Excil shipping team will be located outside the CITC building centre sizzling up a breast cancer awareness sausage sizzle fundraiser, the community are invited to pop down this weekend and take chance in helping to play their part in the fight against breast cancer with "all" proceeds donated to the Cook Islands Breast Cancer Society.

