

# COOK ISLANDS HERALD

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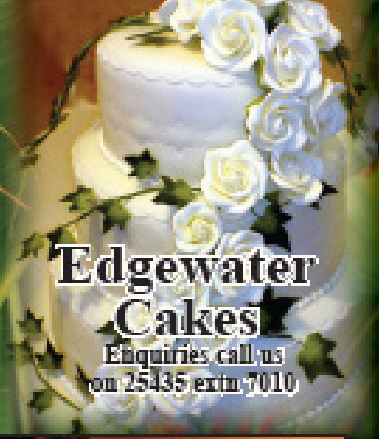
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# Apology

In the Cook Islands Herald of 25 September 2013 an article entitled “Did Tourism head Fua mislead the public ...” was printed in the Cook Islands Herald. That article was then featured on Cook Islands Television in advertisements for that edition of the Cook Islands Herald.

The article, and voiceover, made a number of statements that were defamatory of the Cook Islands Tourism Corporation, of Air Rarotonga, and of individuals concerned with both organizations.

The editor of the Cook Islands Herald, George Pitt as the author of the article and the Pitt Media Group as proprietor of Cook Islands Television now acknowledge that the allegations contained in the article were untrue. They recognize that in publishing false and defamatory material, the reputations of both those organizations and the individuals named in the article have been damaged.

The Pitt Media Group and all involved in writing and publishing the article sincerely apologize to Air Rarotonga Limited and Cook Islands Tourism Corporation.

We specifically apologize to Mr. Ewan Smith and Mr. Halatoa Fua for any hurt or distress that may have been caused and we unreservedly retract the article and the allegations made in the article.

## KARERE KI TE ITI TANGATA KUKI AIRANI

### Auraka tatou e akatika kia taki ia te tero VAT

*Na William Heather Jnr (Smiley),  
Tauturu Arataki O TE Tuu  
Akatanotano e te Democratic  
Party*

Kia Orana e te iti tangata Kuki Airani katoatoa. Mei te au tavini o te Atua i roto i te au akanoanga tuketuke, te Ui Ariki, Ui Mataiapo, Ui Rangataira e te Aronga Mana o to tatou nei basileia, n ate Atua e tautura mia ia kotou katoatoa. Kia Orana te aronga angaanga o te Kavamani, to te private e te vai atura. Kia Orana ta tatou anau mapu e te unga ma te potiki.

Kia Orana katoa ki te Tinomana ou, koia oki toku metua vahine a Mama Tokerau Munro. Akamaroiroi i te apai i to taua iti tangata ki runga, kia upokotu tatou l raro ake i taau

tamarumarunga. Kia Orana to te pa enua i vao, tua Tonga e te tua Tokerau.

Ko te taime mua teia i aku i te tuku karere atu ki roto i te nuti pepa mei teia rai te tu, no reira au l aroa atu ei ia tatou katoatoa. Kia kite mai kotou kare roa au, to matou arataki e to matou au mema paramani i roto i te tua patoi me kore ra akatanotano i mareka i teia akaarianga manako n ate Kavamani no te atui anga i ta taou au tero. Ko te tero oki, ko te moni teia e koi ia ana e te Ministry o te Moni ei akamatutu i te pute moni a te Kavamani ei akatere ia tatou.. Inara te ekoko nei matou e me ko teia au akatauianga i te tero, ka meitaki to taou orange l te au ra tatakita me ka kino atu. Toku manako ka mamae atu tatou e ka ngata

te au ngutuare i te tauta anga ia ratou.

Ko te akakakeanga maata a te tero koia oki ko te takianaga mei te tai ngauru ma rua e te aapa patene (12.5%) kit e tai ngauru ma rima patene (15%) o te tero VAT koia oki i roto i te reo papaa, Value Added Tax. Ko teia tero, me oko i tetai apinga mei roto i te toa, ka tutaki i a ia na runga ake te moni oko o te apinga taau e inangaro. Tera te aitehanga, kua moni atu te apinga.

E aa roa ia, te nagata nei oki tatou i te tutaki i te au kaiou e te oko i te kai kia ora taou e ta taou au anau, inara te akairi ia mai nei teia mate ki runga ia tatou. E aa roa ia tu Kavamani mei teia te tu. Te pakari nei oki te tero i tetai au mea ke mei te tero ki runga i tauu moni e kopae ana.(withholding



tax) e te vai atutra. Kare paa teia l rava. Te akaaroa ia tatou.

No reira e te iti tangata turu ia mau matou e tauta nei i te tamaki no tatou pouroa. Na te Atua e tauturu mai. Kia Manuia.



# Say no to purse seining fishing agreement between Cooks and EU

*By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition*

Fishing is one of the most passionate topics for Cook Islanders and lately it has been about fishing methods allegedly wiping out our fish. There have been a number of people stating opposition to a number of initiatives by the Ministry of Marine Resources. MMR under the leadership of Secretary Ben Ponia has come under much more scrutiny by the public because of his attitude to critics and the public including me as Leader of the Opposition.

Recently I questioned his practice of providing information to the public where he appears selective about data that could only support his and MMR's position. I alleged based on facts and his responses to the public debate that Mr Ponia has contradicted himself when he criticized a Report by Vaine Wichman looking at the fishing, and fisheries in the Cook Islands. He labeled it as a Report where the conclusion was reached before research was done and that was far from the truth. He promised then that a report in response will be done and that was two years ago.

In the last couple of days, he had discreetly made available (probably due to my prompting) a report done by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community called "The potential for interactions between commercial tuna fisheries and Cook Islands artisanal fisheries". This report may yet be read in its entirety but again, Mr Ponia appears to only select what is relevant for him and the advancement of his plans to sign an agreement between the Cook Islands and European Union on purse seining.

I ask all Cook Islanders to say no to this plan by the Government and by Mr Ponia. Purse seining is an incredibly unsustainable form of fishing where hundreds and thousands of tons of fish are swooped up in nets. Tons and tons of fish also die by being crushed as the nets are hoisted up by crane and other endangered species also get caught up in the nets.

The plan is for the Cook Islands to enable up to seven of the Spanish purse seiners into Cook Islands waters. The Spanish fleet has been hanging around the northern group for years now and has been sighted close to Penrhyn Island. They were there illegally.

We, Cook Islanders can learn from our Tahitian cousins who had banned purse seining fishing and have focused their resources on improving the fishing conditions and ability of their local fishing people. They said enough was enough and in fact they confirm the argument that there is more value to the locals and local economy of fish caught by locals than the licenses etc touted by the Government as the benefits.

I note that the Cabinet of the Cook Islands Government has said that the negotiations between the Cook Islands (MMR) and the European Union should not proceed until Mr Ponia has explained the facts to Cook Islanders. Again how many public meetings should Mr Ponia hold to qualify as majority representation of views? These public consultations are nothing more than shams, exercises in futility but at least it gives some members of the community an opportunity to air their views.

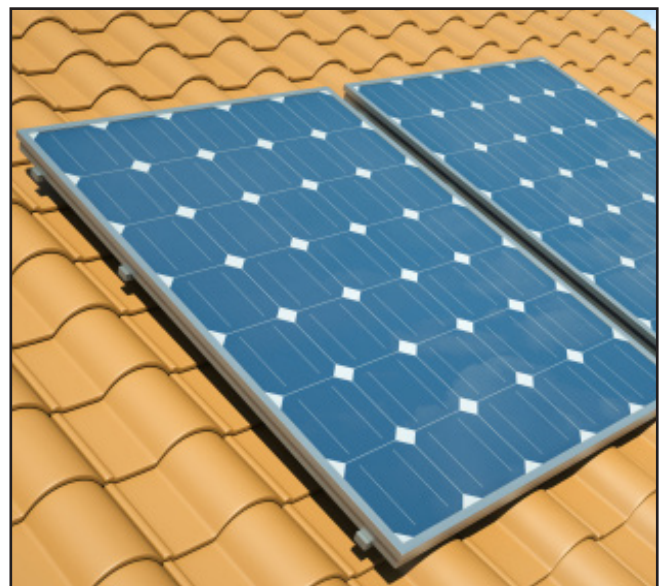
Interestingly the Minister of Finance said he is intrigued by the potential of expanding the skipjack fisheries through purse seining associated initiatives. Well, one should always take his comment as childish flippancy. And instead of saying no there and then, the Prime Minister prefers public consultation which is yet another example of his poor leadership and decision-making.

Let me say this however to our people and to the Government. This is one fight that we the Opposition will fight tooth and nail until we win. We will be guided by the sentiments of Winston Churchill when he uttered those famous words of "we will fight on the beaches" and indeed we will fight in Parliament, by petition, by legal means etc until the Government abandons the idea. Kia Toa.



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# Savings help deliver \$7.9m operating surplus, Fiscal deficit of \$6.4m a worry

By Charles Pitt

At his office on Wednesday afternoon at 2.30pm Finance Minister, Hon Mark Brown released government's quarterly report to 30 June 2013 which provides a "preliminary" view on the financial outcomes for government for the 2012/2013 financial year until the accounts are "audited."

The good news and key outcome for government from last year's budget is the operating surplus of \$7.9m.

Brown however skipped some of the small print in the report about the overall "fiscal deficit" being \$6.4m. Indeed, except for a single sentence in the report about the deficit, no other details appear nor any explanation as to how

government might address this deficit. It has to be a worry.

The issue of a fiscal deficit is a concern echoed by the Asia Development Bank (ADB). The ADB in their Macroeconomic Assessment of the Cook Islands Final Report dated June 2013, (placed on MFEM website 13 July 2013) refers to the budget being in deficit up to 2014 and perhaps 2015.

#### Matters of interest

-operational expenditure was under budget giving a surplus of \$7.9m,

-revenue collected was up thanks to a greater VAT and levy take due to increased commercial activity, and  
-less spending on personnel due to unfilled vacancies.

#### Cautionary note

In addition to the good news

above, the Minister points out that;

-the overall fiscal balance reveals a deficit of \$6.4m,

-28 Ministries overspent their operating budgets,

-this report is on the "general state" of the Crown's finances,

-the statement has been prepared on an "accruals" basis as far as practical and outlines income and expenses incurred which may not have been necessarily received or paid,

-the report is not intended to be a replacement for the final "audited" accounts, and

-some capital budgets have been rounded to the nearest \$million so appear "not to have been expended."

#### Report a diversion?

While this report is for the quarter ended 30 June 2013, it was not released until 2 October 2013. There is no explanation for the time taken to release the report. It opens up an argument as to pre-Murienua by-election tactics. It is noted that the release came after the Murienua by-election which was held on 19 September 2013. The Tax Review report was also released after the by-election, on 26 September 2013 although word is it could have been released a week before the by-election. The ADB Macroeconomic report went onto MFEM's website on 13 July 2013 but without any public announcement.

In any case the financial quarter release gives the Finance Minister some opportunity to divert attention if momentarily from other more pressing issues like the Tax Review recommendations and the grumbling noises from Grey Power.

It is good to see government exercising tighter controls over spending. Spending by agencies was down by 4%. The size of the surplus does not mean original estimates were too conservative although there had been some cutbacks. The public want to see better controls on spending.

Spending on personnel was down by nearly \$2m as vacancies through the public service remained unfilled. If government is not going to fill a number of vacancies then

Ministries need to look to focusing on priorities, core businesses and ways to achieve efficiencies with alternative processes or technologies.

#### Machinery of government needs some good oil

While government is looking to commit some millions of dollars to renewable energy over the next few years, it must not ignore the machinery of government, the institutions, processes and capacity which keeps the cogs turning. Without some good oil these mechanisms may fail.

Some government attention needs to be given to "resource restoration" at key agencies where capacity has become affected.

**Crown Law-** needs more resources to review legislation and progress draft bills.

**Audit Office-**needs resources to get Crown accounts up to date.

**Ministry of Commerce-**where is it?

**Maritime Surveillance-**needs a boost and more and better, faster local patrol craft. Protect our major resource or suffer the consequences.

**Security services-**non-existent. Major institutions lack basic security systems/devices/personnel. Anyone can stroll in through Parliament's back door and make off with a computer.

**Emergency services-** more centralized Ambulance/Fire service location needed. Set up Fire Service independent of Airport Crash Fire.

**Public service-**implement ADB Review recommendations. Condense, streamline, upskill.

**Statistics-**Set up a separate Department of Statistics and properly resource it. Black holes exist where data collection, collation and analysis are concerned.

**Minister for Business Innovation/Development-** establish a new portfolio. With some big, aid funded projects nearing the end, tourism accommodation nearing capacity and depopulation, there is an urgent need to diversify the economy and investigate further tourism related potential.

## GOOD NEWS



If you are receiving a New Zealand pension,  
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There will be no back taxing or tax on your pension.

- Wilkie Rasmussen



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## Letter to the Editor

**D**ear Editor,  
I am happy to see that the proposed changes are receiving a significant amount of coverage in the media and that there is now considerable discussion occurring in the community. We should not be fearful of robust discussion around policy issues which affect the country.

Fundamentally, taxation is the underlying agreement between a society (who agrees to be taxed in a certain way through legislation) and an elected government reciprocating through the provision of services and the redistribution of income and wealth.

When making a judgement around the proposed taxation package I would hope that initially people make a judgement on how the overall package will benefit them as individuals and their families. Understandably, there has been some focus on the VAT increase and the associated costs to households. We estimate that at most the average price increases from the VAT will add 2.3 per cent to cost of living to a household. It has also been recommended a number of inefficient import levies such as the 50 per cent levy that everyone pays on imported pork products be eliminated.

In putting our recommendations together we have sought to increase household income above and

beyond the impact of the price increases arising from increasing the VAT from 12.5 to 15 per cent. The flyers which were included in the Cook Islands News on 3 October and which are available on the MFEM website try to detail what these changes mean for people on different incomes.

On the individual income tax we are proposing that the tax-free threshold be increased by 10 per cent to \$11,000 for all taxpayers, that the middle income tax rate (on income between \$11,000 to \$30,000) be reduced from 25 per cent to 18.5 per cent, and income above \$30,000 will have a reduced rate of 27.5 per cent applied for earnings up to \$80,000.

We are proposing that pensions and ongoing social welfare payments will also have a large increase, ensuring that those most at risk receive the assistance they need (as they are unlikely to benefit from the personal income tax cuts). Pensions for those aged between 60 and 69 will be increased from \$400 a month to \$500 a month, those who are over 70 will have their pensions increased from \$500 to \$625 a month.

For those earning \$20,000 a year before tax, they will have \$835 more in their pocket if the proposed changes are adopted, so after paying for the 2.3 per cent higher prices from the VAT increase, that individual will still have around \$500 a year to

spend however they wish.

There is some commentary that the Government is just doing this to increase its revenue base. This is simply not the case, MFEM are interested in moving the obligation of who contributes to the tax base, we are seeking to move it away from the income that individual Cook Islanders and moving towards consumption. This means that tourists will contribute more to the tax base than what they do now.

In the long run we estimate that the tax changes will be Budget neutral – the Budget will be no better or worse off. In the short run, however, the changes will cost the Government around \$200,000 over three years.

So why do it? In a nutshell we are saying that for an initial investment of \$200,000, the Government will be able to give every household a boost to their disposable income, improve the fairness in the tax system, eliminate trade barriers, implement online tax returns, and increase the adequacy of social welfare payments. Real GDP (which removes the effects of inflation) will increase by around 1.7% and almost all households and business will receive some of this benefit.

For a \$200,000 cost to Government and no cost to households, I believe this is an exceptionally good investment.

It is obvious from the feedback

that there are concerns around timing, with MFEM proposing a start date of 1 January 2014. These were made quite clear to me at the recent meeting with the Chamber of Commerce. I acknowledge these are quite valid concerns, businesses in particular have taken bookings for accommodation from 1 January 2014 under the assumption on a VAT of 12.5 per cent. Additionally, there may be some administrative processes for business being able to accommodate the changes, such as accounting software phase.

It is important to note that MFEM is still in the consultation phase. There should have been a 'proposed tax changes' on the recently circulated tax information sheets, and I apologise for the confusion that this wording error may have caused – the published Review outlines tax proposals not confirmed tax policy. After the consultation period has passed, MFEM will be reviewing the public's views and submit the final recommendations to Government for final consideration. Then it is up to the Government to decide on how they, as the elected representatives of the Cook Islands progress the package. I look forward to the ongoing discussions.

*Yours Sincerely,  
Richard Neves  
Financial Secretary*



# Heather's \$55,000 China trip justified?

One of the Cook Islands Party government's least travelers, Minister of Infrastructure and Planning (MOIP) Teariki Heather, has finally blown his travel diet, caught the compulsive bug and flew out for China on Sunday 6 October for one week. No problem with that but if it was largely at the expense of the taxpaying public can it be fiscally justified?

A protocol bungle by the person organizing Heather's travel arrangements resulted in the People's Republic of China declining to fund the MOIP initiated \$55,000 trip for Minister his wife and four others. According to Heather's CEO Ben Mose, MOIP Secretary Mac Mokoroa, Tekao Herrmann from WATSAN and two engineers from New Zealand company Humes make up the Minister's travelling delegation.

Mose said the primary purpose of the trip was to check the quality of the water piping to be used for Rarotonga's multimillion dollar infrastructure up grade by Chinese company CCECC (Chinese Civil Engineering and Construction Company).

Neither the PRC Embassy in Wellington or CCECC was willing to fund this trip because they failed to see how the purpose and capital outlay could be justified. With the Civil list already plundered and less than \$30,000 left, it



Teariki Heather

makes this trip to China even more questionable. The CIP Government is reported to have overreached their credit good will with local travel agencies so the question of how or from where was the trip paid for?

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) most likely reluctantly paid for three travelers from the funds designated for the project but this still leaves the Minister and his Secretary to account for. How Neves signed off his approval allowing Heather to make this unnecessary costly trip brings into question the uneasy relationship that exists between them. Is this a sign Neves is compensating the Minister? As a result of the Donye Numa fiasco, Neves imposed some restrictions

on Heather's Ministerial activities which still hits a raw nerve.

With national funds, regardless of Neves' glowing reports of a reserves excess, being at an all time low, surely there were more cost effective ways to determine the quality of the pipes. One of the Hume engineers could have flown to China to inspect the piping. A half a meter length could have been flown to Auckland for an inspection. The pipe specifications could have forwarded to CCEE with the clear message anything less delivered to Rarotonga will not be accepted.

After being in possession of a draft project plan for a month the team will be reviewing it with CCEE before it is released for public consumption. The lack of public consultation on the biggest and most costly aid related project ever undertaken in the Cook Islands is a growing concern that will provoke a multi pronged public reaction that will become a sizeable nail in the CIP coffin.

With an advance team of

CCEE workers now on shore, they will expect the delayed project to be fast forwarded without public scrutiny of the project. The CIP government must make it explicitly clear to the Chinese the importance the Cook Islands attaches to democratic values and that the Cook Islands will not be hurried. Until landowners are satisfied and the public give a clear mandate after government conducts a comprehensive public debate and provides a convincing explanation of how the loans will be repaid, the Chinese can simply wait.

There must be no hidden agendas. How the CIP Government can agree to a \$50 million structured project before the overall plan is accepted unanimously and a feasible loan plan incorporated and the public consultation process is satisfactory completed, is a question they must be expected to answer within a transparent and accountable framework.

Not known for traveling overseas at a whim, Heather appears to acting out of character. Like the majority of Cook Islands politicians, all start with good intentions but are gradually seduced by the trappings and unlimited benefits Ministers have to navigate.

Are the indicators a smoke signal Heather has begun to tarnish his prudent travel reputation as a reaction to the Prime Minister's tortoise approach to appointing a deputy, and or, like some of the Ministry Heads he has seen the writing on the wall that the gravy train will cease after the next general elections and is embracing let's take as much as we can before the expiry date kicks in?



## 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.





## *Congratulations to Mrs Maruata Arii Pureau*

Ms Maruata Arii Pureau, commonly known as Aunty Maru has been nominated as this month's Woman of the month event. The South Pacific Commission Training Centre (SPC CETC), Cook Islands Graduates along with the Gender Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs has nominated Maruata Pureau in celebration of the 50th anniversary of CETC in Suva, Fiji. Maruata has experienced the best out of the CETC; in 1978 she travelled to Fiji with Daphne Herman from Mangaia to attend the 9 months training at the Commission Training Centre. Maruata says "The training program was good in the areas of Budgeting money and Time as well as various areas that are useful in our homes. Knowing how to improvise when in rural areas where resources are very limited. My first experience working the women of Nadroga, this community had one river that people use for drinking, washing clothes, bathing and swimming with animals such as cows and horses. Home Gardening was an area that we all participated in. We were also trained to build moulds for the pit-toilets." Because of her experiences, she thoroughly enjoys teaching and learning and is constantly learning about the teaching and learning attributes of life.

Aunty Maru is the eldest child in her family; her biological father is Moerau Luka Fortes of the Ngati Roimata Tribe and the Vakatini Tribe.

Aunty Maru belongs to the CICC Church, carrying out her role as a Deacon, Sunday school teacher and Assistant Secretary

for the Women's Fellowship. She has been a registered member of the Nikao CICC since the 29th of March 1970 and never fails to help with church functions. She is also a strong member of the Nikao Sunday School National Council. Aunty Maru is a woman with a very sharp memory, recalling the Te Au O Tonga Women's Federation Conference which was held in Mangaia in 1969, where she was secretary for the Te Au O Tonga Women's Federation. She is currently a member of the Cook Islands Child Welfare Association and a former Treasurer of the organization. With that she is also a founding member of the Cook Islands National Arts Theatre that toured New Zealand and Australia in 1970.

Our woman of the month attended Ukaveu Primary School in Atiu and attended Tereora College for Secondary school. After College, she attended the Cook Islands Teachers Training College in Nikao and like mentioned previously, attended the Community Education Training Centre in 1978. Aunty Maru even attended the Victoria University, and studied towards a Diploma in teaching English as second language.

A memorable experience Aunty Maru shares with us is her knowledge of cooking Rau Kaute (hibiscus leaves) and taro stalks, "I had organized that in Atiu for the women, as well as baking cakes and scones in pots over an open fire". She also brings to mind her life at University, amongst the students; she was the oldest at the age of 43. She was also a tutor for our Maori language at the Whitireia



Aunty Maru - Woman of the month of October Institute in Wellington.

Aunty Maru has big plans ahead of her – she is currently a member of the CICC Bi-Century, and is working on the Maori Bible proof readings in preparation of the Bi-Century 2021 to be staged in Aitutaki. She is also representing the Nikao CICC Church as planning committee to the National Women's Conference that will be held in 2014. She also hopes to complete a book which her eldest daughter has asked her to write; KNOCKS- good knocks and back knocks based on her experiences as a teacher and the changing patterns in the Education System including our language, our mother-tongue, Te

Reo Maori.

Aunty Maru is a firm believer in keeping te reo maori alive and stands up for what she believes is right and wrong, "what is important to me is for our mother tongue to continue living forever because it is a language given freely to us from God, for our country to live peacefully and for the Government to reconsider their decisions about the manganese that is on the market for mining. It will bring disaster to the country in the years to come."

To celebrate Aunty Maru's nomination, the Awards evening dinner will be held this Wednesday the 9th of October at 6.30pm at the Aquarius.

## 2013 Woman of the Month Sponsors:

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12. The Flametree Restaurant/Dinner Voucher
13. ANZ Bank/Sponsors Trophy
14. Aunty Kafo- Kafoteria Café – lunch for 2
15. International Olympic Committee - Olympic Solidarity.
16. CISNOC - Women in sport Commission/WOM Organising Committee

# Appeal by foreign investors upheld, leads to call by Commission for review of Act and Investment Code

By Charles Pitt

On Monday 7 October 2013 the Appeal Commission set up by BTIB Minister Mark Brown to enquire into an appeal lodged by foreign investors Mr and Mrs Worden of NZ, whose plans to purchase the Samade Resort on Aitutaki were rescinded by the former Board of the BTIB, released its decision.

The Commission upheld the investor's appeal and reversed the Board's decision and set the following amendments;

(a) Should the Samade be advertised for sale in future, the Worden's be given the first opportunity to purchase provided they comply with the investment code and requirements at the time the opportunity arises,

(b) The Worden's do not pursue any legal action for cost or damages arising out of their application to register as a foreign enterprise and this appeal is consistent with the undertaking given to the Appeal Commission by their legal counsel in its submissions,

© The Worden's application fee be reimbursed.

## Reasons the Commission upheld the appeal (Brief summary only)

1. The appeal was a matter of national importance.

2. The matter related specifically to the handling and processing of the application.

3. No application should be approved if it does not comply with the Code and handling an investor in such a way to allow them to make financial commitments and major changes based on an approval subsequently rescinded, needs review.

4. The Board's final decision was in accordance with the principles of the investment policy.

5. The application in the first instance met

the requirements of the Investment Code but should have been set aside as soon as the Board became aware of an interest by local investors.

6. The Board erred when it approved the application.

7. The foreign investor would not have pursued making application if it had been made clear to them and if they had been advised earlier that local interest would have priority.

8. Foreign investors rely on due process. The Worden's were subjected to treatment the Commission considered to be contrary to a standard promoted under the Act.

9. The Commission does not condone the oversight of the Board in approving an application that when measured against the Policy, did not meet its requirements and did not comply with the Code. It was simply the message that this inconsistency

sends to all foreign investors that the Commission decided warranted consideration as a matter of national importance.

## Conclusions

In its report the Commission made a number of conclusions. Among those conclusions, the Commission said it found this matter to be extremely challenging. The Commission saw the appeal as one between the Worden's and the Board and not between the Worden's and Hon Teina Bishop and Thomas Koteka. The Commission acknowledged that the Minister had the authority under the Act to ask the Board to reconsider its decision. The Commission said its decision was made based on the merits of the case and the various issues and submissions concerning the appeal.

## Recommendations

The Commission made three recommendations although the Herald understands it has

no powers to do so or that it was asked to.

1. Review the Code and the Act to improve the decision making process by the Board.

2. Strengthen the Act to allow the Board special powers to review any approval granted with authority to change such approvals based on clear and unambiguous criteria.

3. The Minister receive a summary of all applications prior to the Board meetings and also a copy of the minutes of Board meetings.

## Commission parties

The Commission was set up under the Development Investment Act 1995-96, Part VA, S23A.

Members included Mark Short (Chair), Mike Tavioni, John Herrmann, Sam Crocombe and Teuira Ka.

Local lawyer Brian Mason acted for the investors.

Martha Henry acted for the BTIB.



Members of Grey Power in Ngatangiaa on Tuesday



# Practice run for Grey Power

On Tuesday at 9am, members of Grey Power assembled in Ngatangia on the main road outside the home of Grey Power president Dennis Tunui to do a practice run for their planned march on Parliament.

Some 40, placard toting members went through their paces.

One member told the Herald she was not opposed to paying the tax but was opposed to paying two years back taxes.

While government officials are tasked with applying the law which incidentally was introduced by a Democratic Party government, the Herald understands the growing concern on the part of the elderly is beginning to concern the CIP Cabinet as the general election looms.

This is a valid concern because despite the legal requirements, this issue is becoming "political." Even the NZ government must also be careful it is not seen internationally to be deliberately interfering in Cook Islands internal affairs or applying unfair pressure or bullying tactics. Granted the Cook Islands did sign an agreement with NZ to apply the law, however no laws are set in concrete and nations are free to amend legislation or agreements through parliament if internal affairs so dictate.

While Grey Power membership is small and those receiving the NZ pension number about 278, it is the effect they can have on voting at election time.

In general elections, families tend to vote as a "bloc." If just one member of a family is upset, this



can affect the way an entire family household. Taxing the elderly therefore will add pressure to those families. It will be a burden to bear and that was not the intention of the tax review-surely.

Elderly members living with their families will be contributing to the upkeep of the wider



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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: Prices correct as at 2 October 2013. The "Seat" option includes a carry-on bag (up to 7kg) but no checked baggage. Airfare Travel Period: RAR to AKL/WLG/CHC 9 to 31 December 2013. Deal Ends: 22 October 2013. Fares include \$65 Departure Tax. The above fares include a non-refundable service fee of \$20 per one-way journey for bookings made through our Travelcentre. Travel Agent service fees may apply. Customers who purchase fares using Airpoints Dollars will be required to pay in cash the government and airport charges. These fares do not accrue Airpoints Dollars and are not eligible for upgrades and or companion tickets. Return airport and government costs will vary. Seats are limited and may not be available on all flights. **Cancellation/change fees:** General terms & conditions, special fare terms and conditions and Airpoints terms and conditions apply. See your Air New Zealand representative for full details.



# How to connect your solar plant to the grid

If you look at your latest power bill you will see a list of tips to save energy through better efficiency. The tips suggest you can save quite a bit of energy and money through efficient cooling, appliances, lighting, good practices and renewable energy.

The tips explain that a solar panel can help you with water heating or with lower electricity costs if your panel is tied to the grid through the 2kW net-metering scheme. This scheme allows you to export an amount of excess electricity produced by your solar plant to the electricity grid and in return you receive credit for it from TAU.

Processing your latest power bill you that can be done quickly within a day. If you want to know more about how the scheme works contact TAU's renewable energy officers and they will be happy to guide you. The challenge with solar for both TAU and investors is combating intermittency. The sun (and wind for that matter) does not supply energy continuously but in sharply fluctuating amounts ranging from abundance to zero. These fluctuations can happen in seconds and minutes have to be balanced to avoid erratic supply and damage to both the grid during delivery and household appliances on the receiving end. The TAU strategy is to keep adding PV plants to the grid to the maximum extent possible without But the aim of government is to generate power completely from renewable energy sources and to do away with diesel. The date set for this target is 2020. The reasons for adopting this policy are various and include the wish to avoid emitting greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, to diversify our sources of energy, and to reduce diesel imports that are subject to rising prices.

In the meantime, TAU will continue to explore other renewable energy options that will be required as 2020 approaches, such as mini-hydro and waste-to-energy plants that can supply energy in a more continuous fashion. In the meantime, TAU will continue to explore other renewable energy options that will be required as 2020 approaches, such as mini-hydro and waste-to-energy plants that can supply energy in a more continuous fashion. In the meantime, TAU will continue to explore other renewable energy options that will be required as 2020 approaches, such as mini-hydro and waste-to-energy plants that can supply energy in a more continuous fashion.





# Developing the academic potential of the young



By *Norma Ngatamariki*

The Ministry of Education held an Education Conference which began on Tuesday the 8th of October and will run for three days. The core areas which the Conference lays emphasis on are: Early Childhood Education, Literacy (with the inclusion of both Maori and English) and Numeracy.

The Conference was held in two separate locations, with the official ceremony taking place at the Sinai Hall. The Conference itself will be held at the University of the South Pacific (USP) Rarotonga Campus.

"This has come about following substantial evidence to support the importance of these three areas as having a positive impact in laying a solid foundation for formal schooling age," says representative of the Ministry of Education (MOE), Strickland Upu. The Conference will act as a pathway, where both teachers and students can interact so that

the academic potential of school children will be fully realized. Many opportunities will be presented in order to broaden the current learning system and to access other future learning possibilities.

Currently, there are three main objectives in which the Conference hopes to achieve:

(a) To provide opportunities for enhancing the capacity and capability of teachers and support systems to raise the achievement of learners.

(b) To inspire and motivate teachers to constructively engage in inquiry learning through the construct and application of research to inform their practice.

(c) To reiterate the importance of knowing one's language, culture, knowledge systems and practices as first foundations of learning as well as connect to those of the global world in order to achieve success.

With the modern twenty-first century, teachers are continually

trying to further their current level of technology and instilling them into the education system. Adaptability and development are crucial elements that are part of the Conference. The teacher's strategies, new and improved ways of delivering information and opinions are valued contributions to the discussions.

The Conference will feature four keynote speakers:

Janet Gaffney, who is a Professor of Educational Psychology-Literacy in the School of Curriculum and Pedagogy at the University of Auckland. The title of her keynote address is 'Bringing Worlds for Students Literacy Learning'. Her passion and commitment to children's literacy began with her teaching experience with Native Americans.

Cath Rau is a Chairperson for Kia Ata Mai Educational Trust sponsored by the University of Waikato. Cath's keynote speech will be based on the merits of

learning contexts that give priority to (Maori) language, culture and identity development. Cath has been working for quite some time in this area and it has provided her with many opportunities.

Manutai Leaupepe lectures in the School of Critical Studies in Education in the Faculty of Education, University of Auckland. Her keynote address is titled 'Living the Dream: Taking your place locally and within the wider world globally'. Leaupepe is of Cook Islands, Tahitian and Kiribati heritage and has been involved within the Early Childhood Care Education sector for almost 25 years.

Roberta Hunter is a Senior Lecturer in the Institute of Education, Massey University. In her keynote address she will talk about ways to develop equitable opportunities for Pasifika learners to engage in mathematical practices. Hunter is also of Cook Islands descent and completed her Doctorate in 2007.



Members of Grey Power in Ngatangia on Tuesday morning having a practise run for their march on Parliament



# Practice run for Grey Power





# Training workshop to build skills



By Norma Naqatamariki

The Cook Islands Family Welfare Association (CIFWA) hosted a Volunteer Confidential Counselling and Testing (VCCT) training workshop, which began on Monday 7th October and was held at the Parekura Conference Centre next to CITV. The training workshop will be running right throughout the week and will conclude on Friday 11th October.

This particular workshop was funded by both AusAid and NZAid for a period of five years, with each year showing better results.

CIFWA, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, have gathered participants, including staff and Youth Peers from both organizations in order to discuss issues concerning proper procedure in carrying out STI testing and offering counselling sessions to those in need of it. "I think it's very important for maintaining the number of counsellors, especially here in the Cook Islands," says Rongo File, the Executive Director of CIFWA.

The workshop not only aims to add a multitude of people in its ranks, but also to increase awareness and further educate existing volunteers on new and improved ways of counselling skills. It consists of group work and discussions, with each group sharing ideas and personal opinions about the matter at hand.

The training workshop offers the necessary skills required in order to carry out sessions based on Sexual Reproductive Health within the community, youth groups as well as in schools. "It's a bonus to have those skills on hand and it ensures that it builds the capacity of our young people," File says.

## The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

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### Best ever Android Apps

#### EasilyDo

If you're the forgetful type, EasilyDo is your savior. Once you hook the app up to a slew of supported social and calendar services, it suggests simple actions from a unified dashboard. Did you know it's Susie's birthday? EasilyDo will suggest to send her a message and even include a gift. It makes the little things easier, and proves its worth with saved time.

#### Field Trip

Part amateur historian, bargain hunter, and gourmet, Field Trip alerts you to articles, deals, and factoids relating to the world around you. Once activated, it keeps tabs on your location and displays cards drawing from sources like Zagat, Scoutmob, Arcadia, and others. Perfect for tooling around a strange city or learning more about your hometown.

#### FxCamera

Not every smartphone running Android has a great camera, so get better photos with the help of a little software. The free app FxCamera adds filters and effects, like "toy" and fisheye lens, to enhance even modest pictures. It also helps to arm yourself with some additional tips for getting better photos from your phone.

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# Get ready for Hula mania!

By Charles Pitt

**H**ula mania is go! It's all on in December folks. What promises to be the greatest and the biggest dance competition the Cook Islands has seen to date, an extravaganza staged by Nesian Mana Polynesia Power, an internationally renowned dance company owned by Perth, Australia based Cook Islander Miha Mitchell.

Mitchell and his wife Rima are back on the Rock and readying the show for its two December performances. Mitchell told the Herald on Tuesday he has spoken with Prime Minister Henry Puna whom he has invited to open the show. He said the PM was very supportive.

The competition is confirmed for the National Auditorium in December from 20-21.

It is the sixth Hula competition organized by the company and it was originally to be staged in Australia. However, Mitchell decided to bring the

extravaganza to Rarotonga.

The show will run for four hours on each night and thousands of dollars will be on offer as prizes. Five Cook Islands judges had already been selected; three from the Cook Islands, one from New Zealand and one from Australia.

The show will culminate in the crowning of the King and Queen of Hula Dance. It is the sixth such dance competition his company has organized. The last was held in Sydney in October 2011.

Mitchell says there is still time for local dancers and teams to enter and he can be contacted on Ph 75 750.

Miha's business has been in operation for 30 years and is run by his family members based in Perth, Western Australia. Miha's company has its own dancers and drum band and specializes in professional Pacific/Polynesian entertainment. Their shows also include Cook Islands food.

Miha is a proud Cook Islander



Rima and Miha Mitchell

and has taken his team of performers around the world to perform in countries like Canada, Japan, Spain, Europe, USA (Las Vegas). In March this year, Miha and his company have a six month contract to perform in China.

In all his overseas travels, he and his team have been tireless

advocates for Cook Islands tourism and culture. As such they have been and continue to be good ambassadors for the Cook Islands.

Miha is a New Zealand born Cook Islander whose family hails from Aitutaki. He first came to the Cook Islands in 1975 at the age of 13 years.

**Internationally Acclaimed NESIAN MANA POLYNESIAN POWER presents...**

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The Best of the Best in Cook Islands Cultural Performing Arts through music, song & dance will present its self in Rarotonga, Cook Islands in search of the Greatest Hula Dancers & be crowned King & Queen of Hula Worldwide!

Presented by Nesian Mana Production

**An Event not to be missed!**

**National Auditorium Rarotonga, Cook Islands**

**Fri 20th & Sat 21st December 2013**





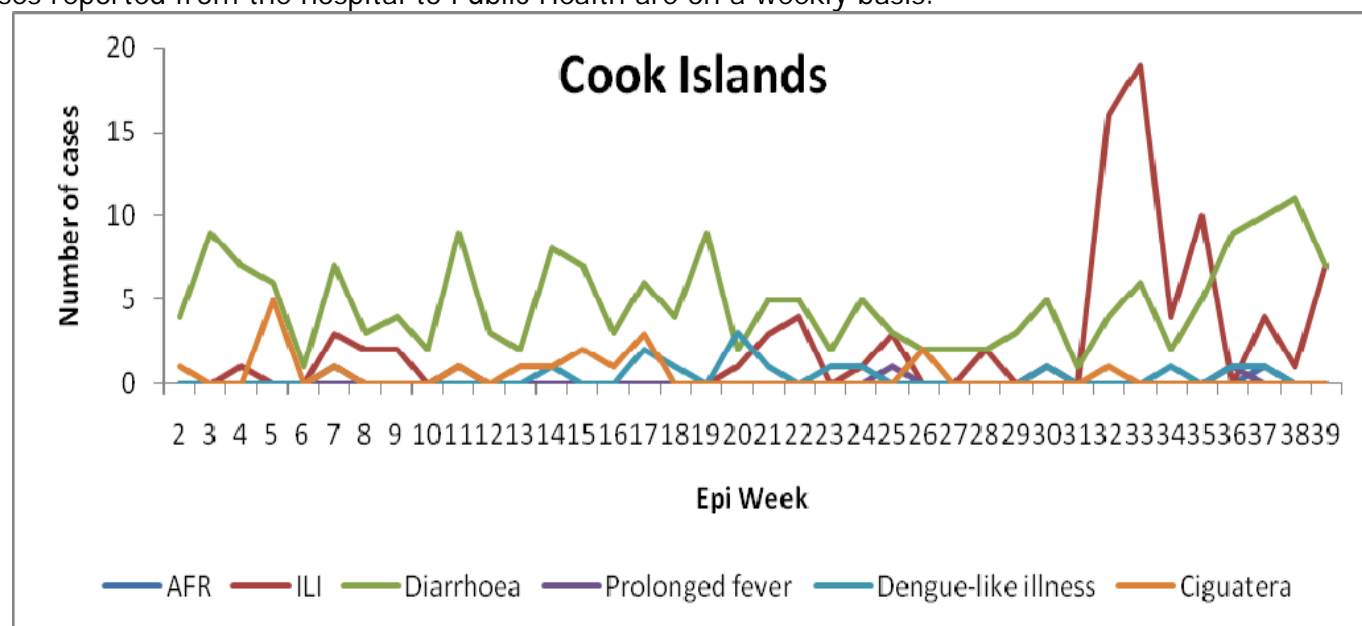
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09.10.2013

**ESR Stakeholders Report – September 2013**

The ESR Unit, Community Health Services, with the assistance of the Acute Emergency doctors, has been involved with the Hospital Based Active Syndromic Surveillance of the diseases/conditions mentioned below, and reporting them weekly and monthly to WHO.

Cases reported from the hospital to Public Health are on a weekly basis.



Remarks: No outbreak detected

Table1: Cumulative number of cases reported for the month of **September 2013** Weeks 36-39.

Syndromes	Cases	Advice
Acute Fever & Rash (AFR)	1	<i>ILI</i> : Prevention: - Practice good hand hygiene (hand washing) - Practice good respiratory hygiene (proper cough/sneeze etiquette) - Stay away from people who are obviously sick. - Keep warm  <i>Diarrhoea</i> : Hand hygiene and good sanitation in the home is vital to prevent the spread of germs. <i>DLI</i> : Keep home/yard tidy and get rid of possible mosquito breeding places.
Influenza-like illness (ILI)	12	
Diarrhoea	37	
Prolonged Fever	1	
Dengue-like illness (DLI)	2	
Ciguatera	0	

**Meitaki Maata**  
**ESR UNIT, Public Health Department**  
**Cook Islands**



# News Briefs *By TeRiu Woonton*

## Raising funds for Miss South Pacific

Teuira Napa will be representing the Cook Islands at this year's Miss South Pacific event which is to be held in Honiara, Solomon Islands. The pageant will run from the 1st to the 7th of December and while Teuira is at BYU in Hawaii on a scholarship studying towards a degree in Business and Tourism, she will come back to Rarotonga at the end of this month to prepare herself for the Miss South Pacific Pageant. A small team of 4, which includes Teuira's mother, Tarani, her chaperone Georgina Keenan Williams and Clee Marsters will be travelling alongside our Miss South Pacific Representative. If more funds are raised, then 2 more people will go to help assist. In terms of fundraising, there will be a Quiz Night on Wednesday the 16th of October at the Rarotonga Golf Club, \$120 per team. Before the actual quiz, there will plates of food for sale, a selection of BBQ and roast. There will also be an auction, with many art pieces to be auctioned off. The quiz will commence at 7pm with Jenner Davis as quiz master. Prizes will include a getaway weekend to Aitutaki, shopping vouchers and TAVs and Tarani's Craft and pearls vouchers. Teuira's fundraiser night will be sometime next month; where there will be a sneak preview of what Teuira will wear at the Miss South Pacific event as well as her new talent, which will be choreographed by Georgina Keenan Williams. For tickets to the quiz night, you can contact Ellena Tavioni at TAVS or Tarani Napa at Tarani's Crafts and pearls.

## Pink Ribbon Zumba

This Thursday the 10th of October is International Pink Ribbon Day appeal and to celebrate, a zumba session will be held at the TSA stadium at 5.30 to 7pm. Tickets are selling at \$7 and all proceeds will go towards the Breast Cancer Foundation. There will be spot prizes to be given away during the zumba session and the Fabulous Frankie will be zumba instructor. During the day, members of the Breast Cancer Foundation will have a stall in front of Westpac selling Pink Ribbon merchandise and the pink ribbons in support of the Pink Ribbon Day appeal.

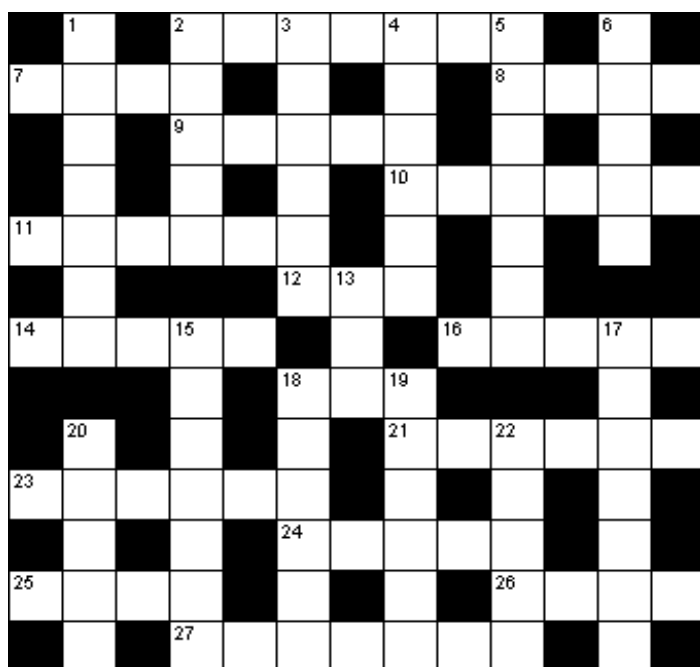
## Rugby 7's in Heaven

The annual 7s in Heaven Tournament will be held on Thursday the 31st of October through to the 2nd of November. There are 16 mens teams this year: Rebels, Avatiu Rugby, Mareko's (Resident Samoans), Tauae Bulls, General Transport Tabusoro (Resident Fijians), Porirua Magic (NZ), Titikaveka Telecom Titans, Araura Enuu, Shuzi Flying Dragons, Teimurimotia Stallions (Defending Champions), Bombay Hawks (NZ), Island Car & Bike Hire Arorangi Cowboys, AS Manu Ura (Tahiti), Titahi Bay Panthers (NZ), Tupapa Panthers & Atiu Warriors. Lara Sadaraka, Organizer for 7s in Heaven tells Radio Cook Islands that corporate tickets have sold out quick this year and a huge turnout is expected at this year's event. Thursday and Fridays entry is \$8 for adults, and children 5-12 years is \$3. Saturday finals, adults entry fee is \$10 and \$5. A 3 day pass is available at ANZ, \$22 for adults and \$9 for kids. Theme for this year's 7s in Heaven event is Play Hard!

## School holidays soccer

For the 2 week school holiday break, the Cook Islands Football Association (CIFA) will be keeping kids entertained with fun soccer activities and games this Thursday te 10th of October. Age group is from 5 to 13 years of age, and activities will be held at the CIFA complex in Matavera. The event is free to attend as well as a FREE bus pick up and drop off transportation. Look out for flyers on the pickup and drop off locations or call CIFA on 28980.

# CROSSWORD

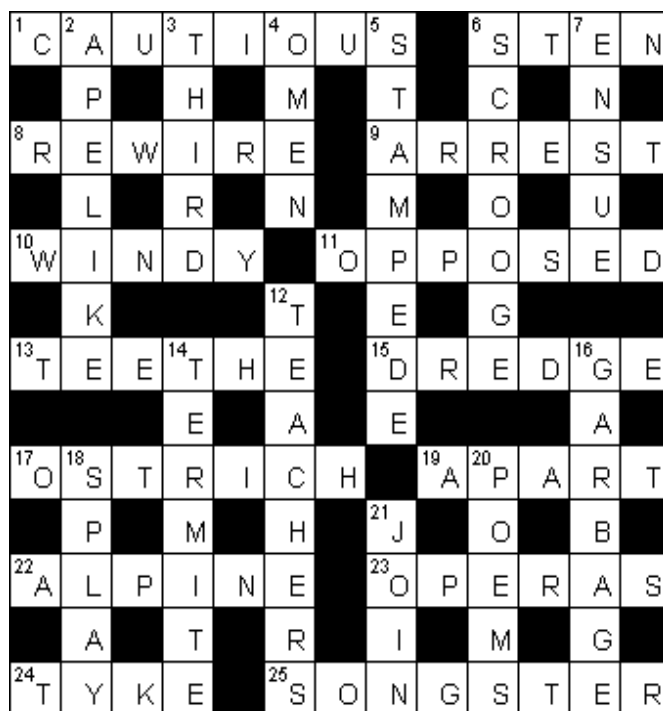


**Across**

- 2. Person that settles (7)
- 7. Disgusting (4)
- 8. Yellow cheese coated with red wax (4)
- 9. Interior (5)
- 10. Trader (6)
- 11. Hang loosely (6)
- 12. Not wet (3)
- 14. Mounted combat (5)
- 16. Transport (5)
- 18. Attach by stitches (3)
- 21. Flowing out (6)
- 23. Rule (6)
- 24. Large cat (5)
- 25. Enormous (4)
- 26. Female sheep (4)
- 27. Member of a senate (7)

**Down**

- 1. Vent in the earth's crust (7)
- 2. Toss (5)
- 3. Coloured (6)
- 4. Arrogant (6)
- 5. Boat race (7)
- 6. Worries (5)
- 13. Regret (3)
- 15. Arm coverings (7)
- 17. Gave new title (7)
- 18. Darkening of the skin by sunlight (6)
- 19. Amount a thing weighs (6)
- 20. Counterfeit (5)
- 22. Tree insect (5)



# Pacific Resort Hotel Group dominates at 20th Annual World Travel Awards

Pacific Resort Hotel Group is once again proud to announce that Pacific Resort Aitutaki has dominated at the Asia & Australasia regional ceremony for the 2013 World Travel Awards, capturing three major titles, also qualifying the 5 star boutique resort as finalists for the "World's Leading" category.

The Wall St Journal promotes the event as the "Travel Industry's equivalent to the Oscars" and at this year's red carpet ceremony on October the 1st, Pacific Resort Aitutaki was awarded "Australasia's Leading Boutique Resort", "Cook Islands' Leading Resort" and "Cook Islands' Leading Villa Resort". The prestigious World Travel Awards Asia & Australasia Gala Ceremony 2013 was held at Anantara Dubai The Palm Resort & Spa in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

All regional winners will now

compete head to head in a final round of voting to decide who will triumph in WTA's world awards—the ultimate accolade in the travel and tourism industry. The winners are announced on the night of the WTA Grand Final in December.

Pacific Resort Aitutaki has certainly been in the limelight in 2013 and this success has come hot on the heels of recent announcements of Pacific Resort Aitutaki being honoured as the "South Pacific Property of the Year" at the HM Awards for Hotel and Accommodation Excellence 2013 as well as the recipient of Seven Star Global Luxury Award 2013.

Greg Stanaway, CEO of Pacific Resort Hotel Group is proud of Pacific Resort Aitutaki's achievements, "I am delighted that the combined efforts of our owners, management team and staff is being recognised



Greg Stanaway, CEO of Pacific Resort Hotel Group

with these accolades as we continue to enhance our guest experience at Pacific Resort Aitutaki", he said. "More importantly it is an acknowledgement by our global travel partners that they have great confidence in our product and our delivery".

World Travel Awards

was established in 1993 to acknowledge, reward and celebrate excellence across all sectors of the tourism industry. Today, the WTA brand is recognised globally as the ultimate hallmark of quality, with winners setting the benchmark to which all others aspire.

## Women and the media

By Norma Ngatamariki

**O**n Tuesday 8th, the Herald spoke to Tait Brimacombe, a PhD candidate from The University of Adelaide, Australia. She is currently in the process of conducting her own research with regards to Communication for Development and Gender and, primarily, how women gain access to certain information and their role in the media industry.

"The first stage of any research is to write up a proposal, which is also accompanied by a literature review," says Brimacombe, who began carrying out her own investigation in February, during the previous year. The research itself is expected to last for a period of three to four years, with the second year being more practical, with actual field work, data collection and first-hand research (one-on-one interviews etc.). Prior to arriving on Rarotonga, Brimacombe has visited countries such as Vanuatu and Fiji. She has noticed similarities between our nations

, concerning issues of where women are heavily involved in modern day society. These issues include media coverage (whether it be in advertising, documentaries, newspaper articles or Public Health posters) on women and how they are represented as a whole, the content of these media forms, politics, domestic violence and economic opportunities (such as employment issues).

Brimacombe has closely studied the matter of female empowerment, in terms of their own personal voice being heard in their respective communities. "I was quite surprised to hear that in the Cook Islands there was a Women's Council and that they nominate someone for Woman of the Month and acknowledge their achievements in society," she says. Brimacombe is also looking at gender equality issues where, in some circumstances, men are looked upon more favourably than women or vice versa. "We must engage both men and women on order



Tait Brimacombe

to achieve gender equality." She has thoroughly enjoyed her experience so far, as it has enabled her to meet new people as well as broadened her knowledge on her area of study.

Brimacombe has applied for a Government funded scholarship, which allows her to receive a minimum wage income without

intervening with her research. She plans on obtaining a position in a research unit for a large corporation and putting the knowledge she has attained to good use.

She will be in the Cook Islands until December and hopes to visit an outer island at some stage.



# Offering forgiveness

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

For this article of encouragement I want to speak on a subject that challenges many of us in our lives, and that is FORGIVENESS! We can not move forward successfully in life with an "unforgiving" attitude.

We are going to look at "WHY we should forgive those who hurt us!" In Matthew 18, Jesus spoke the Parable of the "Unforgiving Servant". In this parable, Jesus gave 3 reasons why we should forgive.

Firstly, we need to forgive those who hurt us BECAUSE GOD HAS FORGIVEN US! Ephesians 4v.32 reads "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you." When we understand how much God has forgiven us, it causes us to want to forgive others. If we have a hard time forgiving others, we will have a hard time letting go of that hurt in us. Remember that we are living in the light of God's love and grace through the finished work of Jesus Christ for us on Calvary! God has forgiven us, and we should forgive others also.

Secondly, BECAUSE RESENTMENT (OR FEELING BITTER) DOESN'T WORK. Resentment or feeling bitter always hurts us more than anybody else. In the Book of Job we're told that resentment doesn't work. In Job 5v.2 it reads "To worry yourself to death with resentment would be a foolish, senseless thing to do." Sometimes when we're so filled with hate or bitterness we do foolish things. Ecclesiastes 7v.9 reads "It's foolish to hold a grudge." No matter how bitter we are towards the person who hurt us (maybe our mother, father, ex-husband or wife, a student at school, maybe a former friend who betrayed us) it is not going to change the past. Bitterness will never solve the problem. It never hurts the

## Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

person who offended us, it hurts us! The person who hurt us maybe living a normal life; and may have forgotten the hurt he or she has caused us! Yet we're still bitter, and being angry! "Some people stay healthy until the day they die. Others have no happiness at all. They live and die with bitter hearts." It's unhealthy. God is saying, we need to learn to forgive! Jesus said on that Cross on Calvary "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Thirdly, we need to forgive others BECAUSE FORGIVENESS IS SOMETHING WE NEED TO HAVE. WE NEED FORGIVENESS IN THE FUTURE. We can't expect others to forgive us if we are not willing to forgive them. Jesus said in Matthew 6, "... if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." What you sow is what you reap! If you are a forgiving person, then you will be forgiven. But if you are an unforgiving person, then don't expect forgiveness from others.

If we have problems with others try and sort them out before moving on in life. Don't take our old "unforgiving heart attitude" from one day to the following day. Leave them behind because life must move on! Psalm 51v.10-12 (New Living Translation) reads "Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me again the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you."

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



## New Hope Church

Parekura Conference Centre

*Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you*

**Sunday at 10.30am**

# EAT LESS

# MOVE MORE

HEART FOUNDATION

# The Holidays are here! Holler!

*By Norma Ngatamariki*

I am doing a weird victory dance in celebration for... da-da-da-dah! The beginning of the holidays! At long last, students have been released from school to enjoy the next two weeks of freedom. Although Term Three wasn't as long in comparison to the other school terms (Term Three was only eight weeks, while Term One and Term Two lasted for twelve friggin' weeks!) As you all probably know, I'm working at Cook Islands Television, as usual but...we have two new additions to the staff. That would be Dean Tangata, who will be taking on the challenge of being a CITV news reporter and Nadia George, proffesh editor and creator of awesome advertisements.

As a trio, we are working our way through this holiday, tackling each and every news

item that we come across. Yeah, things have become more livelier around here with those two around. I still have to wake up early, which is the only downside but other than that, it should be a great holiday. My mum had been waiting for this day, as she no longer has to deal with the "Mum, I'm broke. Can I have some money?" that I usually throw at her. She couldn't wait to throw me out of the house and get me back to work. I didn't blame her. I was looking forward to going to work anyway.

What are you doing these school holidays? Driving around in search of entertainment? Or you could stop wasting petrol and get a job, like what Dean, Nadia and I have done. We are feeling so accomplished right now because we actually have something to do with

our lives. I write stories for the Cook Islands Herald, Dean takes up the camera and films while Nadia is armed with a camera of her own. I've even come up with a name (it might sound a bit tacky, but I really don't care) The CITV Teen Trio. We are the second generation after Te Riu, Tiniura and Sally (these are the people who were in CITV before us).

Anyway, here's a random thought. It's nearly the end of the year, with only two more months to go! Then we can look forward to the real holiday, which is a whopping six weeks! That means Christmas and New Year's is not too far, and I know for a fact that teenagers love these two holidays in particular. For seniors, we only have about two weeks of school and then it's the dreaded exams. Make the most of it and, e



kotou ma, don't forget to study! It may seem like the holidays now but we don't have that much time. Also, don't give your parents grief by having an accident on the road. Boys ma, don't speed to impress the girls. We'll only think that you're stupid and irresponsible. Girls, look after yourself this holiday. I don't want anyone to arrive with black eyes or a cast on their leg because they got into a fight.

## Holiday fun

*By Hareta Tira Passfield*

As the school holidays have started I have decided to write about all the fun things you can do while being on school holidays. Being on an island that is surrounded by water and is only 31km around there is a very limited amount of things you can do. The most obvious choice would be to go to the beach but after a while you get sick of the stickiness of the salt water, the sand in your hair and hot blearing sun on your body. Other things you can do is go to the waterslide, and after that you can go to the beach or try and have a swim at the Rarotongan.

Try finding a job, I know

that can be boring but your making money and you can do whatever you want to do with it. Plus it takes up your time and gives you something to do. If you're worried about not having time to chill with friends or watch TV, try and get a part time job, like me.

Other things to do while being on holidays is go the library (well that's if you like to read like me). The library is one of my favourite places. It's the only place I can get any peace and quiet. Or if you like your TV like me just spend your days watching TV while eating food. Only downside to that is that you'll probably put on a few kilos (like me). If you're

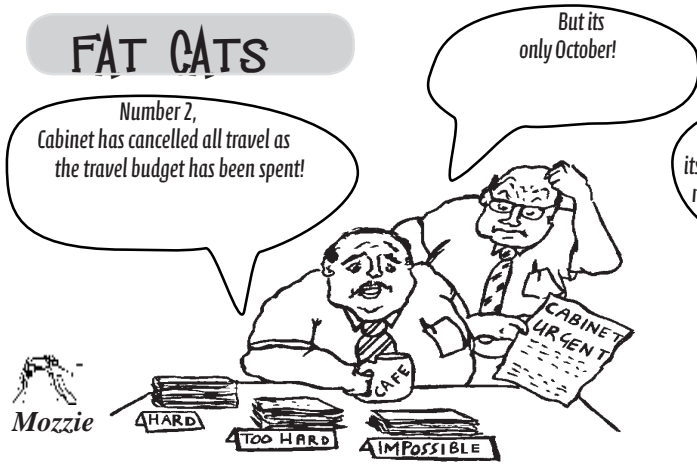
really stuck on what to do while on holidays, you can always try be creative and write a story, draw, write a poem. One of the things I do every holidays is visit the Sheraton. If you have never been there you should go! It's like walking through another world. Some people think that the graffiti is vandalism but I personally think it's beautiful (well some of it at least). There are some amazing pieces of art work on the walls. Every time you go there, there is always something different. It always amazes me that there are people out there with so much talent. There isn't much else to do on such a tiny island but as long as you've

got a TV or friends you'll be fine. Also for the next week there are the Mount Albert grammar games so you could always go and watch them, and check out the hot guys if you're a girl.

Unfortunately teachers are losing the true meaning of holidays, holidays are meant to be spent doing anything but school work but I have to go back to school next week for exam prep, how lame is that? I also know other students have homework. Why do teachers do this to us? We have like 14 years of school, then 3-6 years in university then we have to spend the rest of our lives working. We need all the work free holidays we can get.



**FAT CATS**



**COCONUT ROUNDTABLE**



Uni Media Studies Cook Islander in Auckland, Dante Numa, appeared on the Kiwi soapie "Shortland Street" recently as a cleaner. The "bit" part lasted all of about two minutes!



Local Chook reports overhearing at the market, a vendor saying when she was approached to pay for her rental that she won't pay because she is a land-owner! Local Chook is puzzled because, is not the market on Crown land?



Word in Clergy circles is God's call to an assistant Pastor's role at the Ngatangia CICC can no longer be put on hold by the CIP President Rau Nga. Only able to serve one master he'll be turning his back on the second love of his life for the cloth. While he's yet to make his political retirement announcement Papa Rau may have had the vision the VP Rosie Blake had to get off the CIP vaka before it sinks.



It looks like the cruel CIP government is about to do a back flip on the NZ pension back tax after publically stating they could not override or interfere with neneva Neves running of the MFEM. Why has it taken so long for Elvis to show some compassion? Who was the political dummy who said let them march and entertain us?



Before the soccer season there were

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protests the Puaikura Football Club had been infiltrated by a new slushy president. A recent check of the points table needs to be fully investigated because the new questionable president's Puaikura FC is leading the points on all divisions except one and recently thrashed Football Cook Islands super coach Newnham's Matavera team 36 nil. Don't expect that record to be broken.



Wasn't Big Mac supposed to be hosting the SOPAC chin Wag at the Edgewater and the cocktails afterwards? But Big Mac has toddled off to China! To an even more important chin wag there and cocktails?



Good to spot on Monday's goggle-box offering, the QR Tom, Tom at the SPOAC egg heads chin wag at the Edgewater. Seems Tom Tom is keen on keeping his hand in when it comes to manganese nodules!



Left, right, left, right! Rumours are floating around that Uniform minded

Cookies cannot enlist in the Kiwi Defence Forces until they have been resident in Kiwiland for five years! Could the Rahsah enlighten us on this?



Removing the levies from eggs and pork spells a death sentence to those local, entrepreneurial producers hoping to expand their businesses and in the process assist with import substitution. What's the point now of investing in a pig processing plant to cull the high numbers of pigs in the outer islands? Wild pigs on some outer islands are wreaking havoc with agriculture. Talk about killing the porkie that laid the golden ham!



The way prices on goods seem to rise and rise, how will we be certain the VAT hike up to 15% on 1 Jan next year, did not actually take place before Christmas this year? Could the price Police go out now and record prices on a range of items and do a comparison after 1 Jan?



Local advert for a part-time cleaner asks applicants to forward their CV. Now

what would one put on a CV for cleaning? Is there a USP Degree course for this profession? How about Undergraduate Diploma in the Theory of Advanced Broom and Mop techniques? Certificate in Dusting of Fine Particles? Bachelor of Home Science Degree in Particle Settlement and Behavioral Physics? PhD in the effects of Organic Cleansing Products on various surfaces including pink coated fingernails on women aged over 35 yrs?



Here's a bright, simple, radical idea for tax reform chooks! Raise VAT to 15% but abolish all income tax! How will government make up the \$28m it gets from income tax? Simple! Raise the Tuna foreign boat licensing fee to \$500,000 per year. Have a set quota of 60 licenses for foreign vessels. This will raise \$30m per year. Can foreign vessels afford to pay this amount? If they are desperate for our fish, they will! Also offer foreign boats some incentives like cheap fuel, low port fees, cheap power and an exemption from VAT. The rise in VAT will also pay for increases to pensioners and those on welfare.

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# Pope Francis - History's Final Pontiff?

An author who predicted Pope Benedict XVI would be the first pontiff in nearly 600 years to resign believes the election today of Jorge Mario Bergoglio as the 266th Roman Catholic pontiff lines up with a medieval prophecy that would make him the "final pope" before the End Times.

Tom Horn, co-author with Cris Putman of the book "Petrus Romanus: The Final Pope is Here," told WND today Bergoglio's selection was a "fantastic fulfillment of prophecy."

His book examines St. Malachy's "Prophecy of the Popes," said to be based on a prophetic vision of the 112 popes following Pope Celestine II, who died in 1144.

Malachy's prophecies, first published in 1595, culminate with the "final pope," "Petrus Romanus," or "Peter the Roman," whose reign ends with the destruction of Rome and the judgment of Christ.

Horn has said a pope of Italian descent would fulfill the prophecy, noting Bergoglio is the son of Italian parents and a Jesuit.

"Being a Jesuit is a very important aspect of our prediction in our book," Horn told WND in an email.

Citing his book, Horn said the name "Petrus Romanus" in the prophecy "implies this pope will reaffirm the authority of the Roman Pontiff over the Church and will emphasize the supremacy of the Roman Catholic Faith and the Roman Catholic Church above all other religions and denominations, and its authority over all Christians and all peoples of the world."

Horn pointed out the Jesuits order was organized "to stop Protestantism from spreading

and to preserve communion with Rome and the successor of Peter."

As WND reported, Horn and his co-author, Cris Putnam, predicted in their book Benedict would step down, making way for history's "final pope."

The 2012 prediction Remarkably, Horn told WND, more than 60 years ago a Belgian Jesuit theologian and academic named Rene Thibault came up with the date 2012 as the culmination of Malachy's prophecies.

Horn points to reports that Benedict made his decision to resign last year, before announcing it in February.

Thibault's was published in French only four months before Thibault died.

Horn and Putnam translated the Belgian priest's rare 1951 book, "The Mysterious Prophecy of the Popes," into English.

"Adopting the methodology of a mystic as well as a scholar," Horn and Putnam write in the first chapter of their book, Thibault "makes a compelling case that 'The Prophecy of the Popes' is a real supernatural prophecy."

Horn noted Thibault is among many Catholic leaders, including popes, cardinals and priests, who have affirmed Malachy's work, which was kept in the Vatican archives for five centuries before it was first published.

He said Thibault used a number of methods of cryptographic analysis to come up with the date 2012, including calculating the average length of papal reign up until the time he wrote his book.

"In other words," Horn and Putnam write, "2012 was seen as an end-times 'event horizon' by at least one Jesuit priest



Pope Benedict XVI

before most readers were born."

St. Malachy, an Irish saint and the archbishop of Armagh, who lived from 1094 to 1148, described the "final pope" this way: "In the extreme persecution of the Holy Roman Church, there will sit Peter the Roman, who will nourish the sheep in many tribulations; when they are finished, the City of Seven Hills will be destroyed, and the dreadful judge will judge his people."

As WND reported, he described the penultimate pope, which Horn believes is Benedict, as "Gloria Olivae," or "Glory of the Olive."

Benedict was not a Benedictine priest, yet he chose the name of the founder of the Order of Saint Benedict, which also is known as the Olivetans

The symbol of the Benedictine order includes an olive branch.

That Bergoglio--the final Pope on St. Malachy's list and

the one prophesied to reign over the church as it enters the Great Tribulation period--named himself after Saint Francis of Assisi is intriguing given that shortly before his death Assisi prophesied that at the time of the tribulation a man would "be raised to the Pontificate, who, by his cunning, will endeavor to draw many into error and death... Some preachers will keep silence about the truth, and others will trample it under foot and deny it...for in those days Jesus Christ will send them not a true Pastor, but a destroyer" [Works of the Seraphic Father St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226), Washbourne, 1882 AD, 248].

Furthermore, in naming himself after Assisi, Bergoglio branded himself after an Italian (Roman) priest whose original name was Francesco di Pietro (Peter) di Bernardone -- literally, Peter the Roman.



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1. Social Economic and Institutional Expert
2. Protected Areas System Field Level Consultant
3. Biodiversity Mainstreaming Field Level Local Consultant

Background:

UNDP is supporting the Government of the Cook Islands to build national and local capacities and actions to ensure effective conservation of biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystem functions within and around marine and terrestrial protected areas.

Under the overall guidance from the Multi-Country Office based in Samoa, the national consultants will be part of a team led by an international consultant to develop a project document which meets UNDP and GEF requirements for approval, in consultation with local counterparts and UNDP.

Terms of Reference:

The Terms of Reference of the consultancies are available in the following link: <http://www.ws.undp.org/content/samoa/en/home/operations/procurement/>

Applications Submission:

Consultancy proposals should be sent via email to [procurement.ws@undp.org](mailto:procurement.ws@undp.org) no later than 20 October 2013, clearly stating the title of consultancy applied for. Any proposals received after this date will not be accepted. Any request for clarification must be sent to the e-mail indicated above. Incomplete, late and joint proposals will not be considered and only offers for which there is further interest will be contacted.

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# News Briefs *By TeRiu Woonton*

## International Disaster day

This Sunday the 13th of October is International Disaster Awareness day. Pat Farr, Co-Ordinator for the Cook Islands National Disability Council says Red Cross have great plans in place for the upcoming event, however we can all take individual responsibility as well. "We are encouraging each person, community, Vaka to think of friends or neighbors who are less able and to discuss with them any help they might need, before a disastrous event takes place." The idea was bought about after Mataiti Mataiti, a man whose disability came about in 2007 after eating parrot fish and came down with fish poisoning was walking home from Arorangi to Nikao after work during the tsunami warning and no-one stopped to give him a lift, or even tell him what was going on. Mataiti quotes in a story, "I was really angry about the situation I was in: as I was coming home, vans, pickup trucks, cars were passing me heading for higher ground with families. What's surprising to me is that some of those who passed me know me well and know my disability and I know them well. One van passed me and the lady looked me in the eye but didn't stop or call out". The religious advisory council will be promoting the idea, seeing as the International Disaster Awareness Day falls on a Sunday this year.

## Fiji Day on Saturday 12 Oct

The Fijian community here in Rarotonga will be celebrating Fiji Day this Saturday with a fun family day. Ben Bolatagici, President for the Fijian Community in the Cook Islands says they are expecting a huge turnout this weekend and would like to welcome employers of fellow Fijian workers and local friends to join in on the day. Celebrations will consist of traditional games, a feast and lots of mixing and mingling. Fiji day will be held at the Avatea field from 1pm onwards.

## Business Mentors to visit

The Pacific Business Mentors will again be visiting Rarotonga and Aitutaki during the week of the 11th to the 15th November 2013. The Pacific Business Mentors often visit Rarotonga and Aitutaki, on a programme fully funded by the NZ Aid Programme in order to create employment and assist economic development in the Pacific. Mentors usually come to Rarotonga every 6 months during May and November and trainers come in between the mentors; in February and August and have been doing so for over 3 years now. Past programmes have seen more than 10 businesses benefit from this programme. The Chamber of Commerce is now accepting applications from new businesses who would like to take part in the free programme. To sign up contact Lyn at Chamber of Commerce on 20925.

## Annual Junior Spring Ball

Next week Friday is the annual Junior Spring Ball, held by the Rotaract Club of Rarotonga. The ball is for children aged 4-12 years of age and will be held at the Ngatangia Clubhouse. There will be a float parade commencing at 5pm starting at the Te Uki Ou Primary School, making its way to the Ngatangia clubhouse. Theme for the night is 'cartoon characters'. All proceeds are to go towards constructing a water fountain at the Punanga Nui playground. Tickets are selling for \$7, for a ticket contact Pauline on 71002, Cheryl on 56179 or Valentino on 52733. Pauline Dean from Rotaract tells Radio Cook Islands that tickets have been selling well and it is expected to be a great turnout.

## Mire Tama to take place again

The Mire Tama competition will take place yet again this year after being well-liked by the audience for the past two years. The Mire Tama Competition is a competition is made to discover and promote the Cook Islands young talent. The competition for our local youth focuses mainly on public speaking, public presentation and talent. The Mire Tama Competition will take place on Thursday the 17th of October.

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