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*Goldmine Model, Luci is
wearing this beautiful pearl
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PM to attend official opening of Consulate and PALM meeting

By Norma Ngatamariki

Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, Hon Henry Puna, accompanied by Chief of Staff Liz Wright-Koteka, will be attending the official launch of the Cook Islands Consulate General Office on the 23rd of October. 60 people are expected to attend, consisting of Cook Island community leaders, local dignitaries and diplomats. The Prime Minister will present a carved pate (wooden drum) and kumete (wooden bowl) as the centrepiece for the Office.

The relocation of the Consulate Office from Symonds Street in Auckland to Manukau City was seen as an appropriate move, with the majority of Cook Islanders residing in South Auckland.

The PM then travels to Japan to attend the PALM Interim Ministerial meeting, which is

held every 3-4 years.

The Prime Minister met Japan Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Toshiko Abe in Auckland this year to discuss issues of mutual interest, including the Second PALM Ministerial Interim Meeting in Tokyo and Sendai, on 26 and 27 October 2013. The Interim Meeting of Pacific Foreign Ministers will cover a wide range of cooperation issues, including people-to-people exchange, trade and investment, marine order and sustainable resource management – as well as the Japanese sponsored Pacific Economic Fund (PEC), where Pacific Islands can access financial funding for projects. The Cook Islands have used this particular fund for the Renewable Energy scheme.

The Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) is a forum between the government



PM and Japanese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Toshiko Abe in Auckland in March 2013

of Japan and leaders in the Pacific region. The Pacific Alliance Leaders Meeting was established by Japan in 1997 in order to facilitate and strengthen relations with the leaders of the nations of the Pacific Islands Forum. Since its foundation,

PALM has become an important venue of dialogue between Japan and Pacific Island nations for important issues such as development aid and climate change.

The PM returns on the 29th of October.

KARERE KI TE ITI TANGATA KUKI AIRANI

Turu i to tatou au metua pakari, auraka kia tero ia

Na William Heather Jnr (Smiley).
Tauturu Arataki O TE Tug
Akatanotano e te Democratic
Party

Te karanga nei te tuatua a te pakari, "E akangateitei atu i toou metua tane e toou metua vaine, ei reira koe e upokotu ei". Te karanga katoa nei te tuatua, "Metua e ora nei, tiratiratu ei te tamariki, me ngaro ake te metua, aue aere te tamariki".

Toku irinaki anga, i roto i ta tatou akonoanga Maori e akangateitei ana tatou i to tatou au metua no te mea na ratou tatou i apai mai ki roto i teia nei ao e i ngaki e rako tangata ua mai tatou. Me akapera tatou ka tiratiratu te turanga o te au metua e pera to te iti tangata.

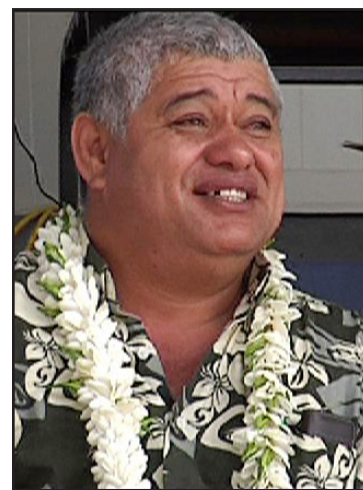
Inara i teia tuatau te kite nei tatou te arumaki maata nei te

Kavamani kia tero ia to tatou au metua pakari. Ko te au metua tikai tei angaanga ki Nuti Reni i to ratou tuatau i inuini ei, e kia koi ratou i te moni pakari o Nuti Reni, kua manako kia oki mai kite ipukarea akangaroi ei. Kua roa ake nei te tuatau kare roa ratou i tero ia ana. I raro ake i te akatereanga a taku Kavamani Demo, kua akanoo a Papa Sir Terepai Maoate, te Minita o te Moni i tetai au mataiti i topa ake nei, e auraka roa kia tero ia teia au metua. Kua turu ia aia e te Ruru Minita Demo no te mea te akapou nei teia au metua i ta ratou moni ki roto i te Kuki Airani. Te oko nei ratou i te kai, tutaki te uira e te taniuniu (telephone) e te vai atura ta ratou au akapouanga. Tera te aiteanga, e puapinga ta ratou e tauru nei ki roto i to tatou basileia na roto i te tutaki anga i

te VAT (tero akairi).

I teia tuatau kua manako te Kavamani a Henry Puna raua ko te Minita o te Moni a Mark Brown e kia tutaki tero teia au metua. Kua tukuna ia atu i reira e te aronga angaanga o te tero tetai au leta akakite e te tamataku i teia metua, kia tutaki mai i ta ratou tero tei akaoki ia te tareanga ki tetai au mataiti i topa ake nei. Kua riro mai teia ei ngata anga no teia au metua i te kimi anga ratou i te toru tauasini tara e te vai atura ei tutai. Takake mei te reira, ka tero katoa ia ratou e tai naguru ma rua e te haapa patene mei teia tuatau e aere ua atu ki mua. Aue te akaroa e.

Kua akari katoa ia mai i roto i te Tax Review (akarakara ki roto i ta tatou akatereanga tutaki tero) e te inangaro nei te Kavamani te tero katoa i to tatou au metua tei koi i te moni pakari o te



Kuki Airani nei. Mei te mea e, e angaanga ke atu taau, ka tero ia i reira taau moni pakari. Kare atura o teia au metua tauturu ke atu ka rauka mai.

No reira turu ia mai te Demo, kare matou e tero i te aronga pakari.

Anti - corruption commission rejected by Government

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

The Minister of Finance should hang his head in shame with his response about the suggestion for the Government to establish an anti-corruption commission. He made this statement sometime ago. To even say that it would be used to pursue certain individuals or companies to achieve other people's agendas insults the intelligence of many interested in setting it up. Those members of the public I have spoken to on this matter see the need because the watch dog bodies we currently have are weakened by the hovering interests of Government. Whether the Prime Minister Henry Puna, the Minister of Finance Mark Brown or any other Government Minister likes it or not, their term in Government has caused a deterioration of the effectiveness of such bodies. Reduced funding, outdated terms of references and slowness has created a loss of faith and trust by the public in such bodies.

What is more damaging and probably fatal, is the fact that this Government simply cannot fail to divorce its decisions in the appointment of the people onto these bodies that it has made from being perceived by the public as political favours or political patronage. That's the key point and this Government has failed miserably to reverse such perception instead it has enhanced it. Both the PM and Minister of Finance are champions of furthering such enhancement because they are both afflicted by an old Cook Islands Party ailment of "looking after their own". The Democrats may also do this but to a lesser extent and I have and am and have been advocating appointments on merit. This is a different and new Democratic Party under my leadership. It is much more aware and sensitive.

The Minister must think he is in a Parliamentary debate with me where he may have the license to let his tongue loose

on subject matters in the print media. In my radio comments on my regular Monday morning show, I never as he claimed said that I want to get rid of Nikki Rattle as Speaker and don't want John Tangi as Clerk of Parliament or Allan Parker as Auditor-General. I used these positions to illustrate unwanted corrupt practices with regards to the so called "earmarking" of John Tangi preceding advertisement for the position. It is also obvious to me that the Minister did not understand my reference to Russell Thomas, the Public Service Commissioner. It was to the fact, that he advertised for the position of Clerk after the earmarking of John Tangi for the position. To me that gave the impression of corruption and he would add to it if he proceeded with the appointment. In essence that has not been answered by the Minister who is trying too hard to be a smart wit.

John Tangi was a former Democrat MP and served only one term. But whether one is a Democrat or not I will not tolerate shortcutting process as favour. Whatever the motives of the PM here in terms of favouring John Tangi may well be a matter for the sitting Tupapa MP George Maggie to ponder. There is a now a legal challenge to the decision by the Speaker who told me she took action because of Rakanui's failure in his performance review. I venture to add perhaps because Rakanui's demise was the result of his alleged misdeed with the law which was dismissed by the Court. Note editor that not once did I advocate or defend Rakanui. I'm simply stating facts and consequences.

I really think that the Minister needs to get off his high horse and eat a bit of humble pie. He has made some monumental gaffes as a Minister. Tax here, tax there, tax everywhere even the elderly. To accuse me of paranoia does not really stack up. I have a mission though and that is to kick the Minister and PM out of office.



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Chinese fishing company responds to request from Leader of the Opposition

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9th October 2013

Hon Wilkie Rasmussen
Office of the Leader of the Opposition
PO Box 138
RAROTONGA

Dear Mr. Rasmussen,

We refer to your letter of 14th August 2013, and apologize for the delay in replying.

Our advice is that as there is a Police inquiry on foot, which we should not respond at this time to your queries. We hope, however, that we will be in a position to do so after those inquiries of Minister Bishop are completed.

Yours faithfully



Huang Fuxiong
CHAIRMAN
HUANAN FISHERY (COOK ISLANDS) CO., LTD.

Comments by Wilkie Rasmussen

That I would like Huanan to give us a comprehensive list of gifts, amounts of money not just paid by Huanan but also by the parent company Luen Thai. This includes airfares, hotel expenses etc. Hopefully that will assist the police in its investigation of Minister Teina Bishop and further gifts can be given to the number of charitable organizations in the Cook Islands. The company can get that list of organizations from MFEM.



BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

We the Family of PAPAMAMA POKINO, sadly announce his passing away in Auckland on Sunday 13 October 2013.

He will be returned to Rarotonga for his burial. His funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.

For inquiries please contact his daughter Liz Tiro on 55 557 or Sharon Maoate on 52 092.
Na Te Atua te Aroa.

VCCT Workshop participants



Participants for VCCT (Volunteer Confidential Counselling and Testing) on the last day of the training workshop.
Photo by Norma Ngatamariki

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Our Frontpage model Put tax reform on

hold, exempt NZ pension from tax

By Charles Pitt

With the general election about a year away, Finance Minister Mark Brown should seriously consider putting the proposed tax reforms "on ice" and taking the proposals through to the election as an "election issue."

The reason for this is, in six months time MP's focus will be on winning their seats back. This job will be made harder if the tax reforms are introduced next January and not seen to be delivering the promised results and benefits. CIP MPs will then be bogged down in trying to convince the electorates the tax reforms were necessary.

The Democratic Party declared its hand when it placed a notice in last week's Herald saying that it would not tax nor back tax the NZ Pension. How it will go about this is uncertain but will surely require a law change.

In its 2010 election manifesto, the Cook Islands Party (CIP) did not signal any major review or reform of the tax system. Some adjustments were signaled. Therefore the CIP has no mandate to introduce sweeping changes to the system. If the CIP campaigns in 2014 on the proposed reforms and returns to power, then it can clearly say it has the mandate for change.

Had the CIP conducted a proper Conference instead of the rather informal one it did conduct, these reforms could have been aired and either agreed to or disagreed to by conference. In any case, major reform has come without major scrutiny from the party's grassroots, the party faithful whose job it is to act as a "filter."

As regards taxing the NZ pension, the Cook Islands government knows to do so, is political suicide. So to divert

attention from itself, it seems happy to point the finger at the NZ Prime Minister and hide behind a supposed comment made by him that if the Cook Islands government did not tax the pension, the NZ government would. Why would the NZ Prime Minister, an intelligent person, make such a statement knowing that Cook Islands law already provides for the NZ pension to be taxed in the Cook Islands? Should the Cook Islands government change the law to exempt the NZ pension from taxation, that is not a matter which the NZ government can be seen to be interfering with. The NZ government is aware that the UN periodically scrutinizes self governing territories and that any interference in the internal affairs of another sovereign nation would attract the most undesirable reaction internationally.

NZ is lobbying hard for a seat on the UN Security Council. If Russian President Putin were to ask the NZ PM why 278 elderly, defenseless citizens in a small nation of 19,000 people were being frightened by NZ demands to impose taxes when it had no right to interfere in another nation's affairs, how would the NZ PM respond? If NZ is prepared to go to such extraordinary lengths, how does it deserve a seat on the Security Council?

Political suicide? In Cook Islands elections, people do not vote as "individuals." Whole families vote as a "bloc." Upset a respected elder in a family and a politician will suddenly find that the 25 votes in that family will shift to another party. In the outer islands MPs rely on large families for their vote. While Grey Power members numbers are small, the PM and other MPs have good reason to be concerned.



Our frontpage girl for Herald Issue 688 is Lucianne Vainerere, head-girl at Nukutere College. 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.

22 Countries to attend annual Ports conference

By Norma Ngatamariki/Ports Authority Media Release

Ports Authority General Manager, Bim Tou has announced that the 38th Pacific Maritime Transport Alliance (PMTA) Annual Conference will be held at the Edgewater Resort, from the 16th to the 18th of October.

Around 80-100 participants are expected to attend this Conference from 22 member countries, consisting of CEO's, Senior Executives and representatives from each of the Pacific Island Port Authorities and key strategic partners to the Maritime Industry. A number of associate members from various transport sectors in the Pacific, including Australia and New Zealand.

During the previous year, the Ports Authority in Tonga hosted the 37th Annual Conference of PMTA. The Ports Authority in the Solomon Islands will be hosting the Conference in 2014.

The purpose of the Conference is to promote regional cooperation, friendship and understanding between member ports and port users through mutual alliances and the exchange of knowledge, as well as dissemination of



Bim Tou

information useful to the port owners, operators and users of port services. It is also to promote measures that aim to increase efficiency and safety and also to facilitate harmonious development of ports in the Pacific Region. The theme for

this year's Conference is "Our Gateway to Pacific Prosperity".

Tou would like to acknowledge the number of overseas sponsors that has accepted the Ports Authority Cook Islands sponsorship request for financial assistance in the

covering the costs associated with the Conference, with PNG Ports Corporation as their Gold Sponsor. Industries such as Technology One, Fiji Ports, Landman & Mini Print, Alrite, Beca, Matson, Willis and the ANZ Bank based on Rarotonga.

Nita growers discuss pawpaw exports

The BTIB Business Development Manager Tangata Tou and Trade & Marketing Manager Tetuhi Kelly attended a meeting with the Chairman of the Rarotonga Nita Growers Association Rau Nga and also Tai Manuela CEO of the Minister of Agriculture Hon. Kiriau Turepu on Tuesday. The meeting was to provide clarity around the best model that is to be adopted in order to revive our export pawpaw industry. Subsequent meetings will follow suit in the next few days in order to formalize a good mandate and the direction as to what should be done to get this industry up and running again – *Charlie Rani*



BTIB members and Nita Growers Association Chairman Rau Nga

Problem kids no problem for Tupui

By Norma Ngatamariki

Being a pioneer of sorts, Former Minister for Education, Tupuiariki Henry has certainly made a positive impact on the Cook Islands which has truly influenced the modern society of today. He made his humble beginnings doing odd jobs here and there in New Zealand but in the end, none of them could overcome his passion for school teaching.

In 1954, he attended Teachers College in New Zealand, with a course which lasted one year. Tupui was placed in the "Section T" class, consisting of those under the age of fifty. His official teaching career took flight in 1955, where he was assigned a position as a relieving teacher at Ellerslie Primary School and Otahuhu College. "I was almost always given the 'problem class', " he laughs, "No one else was willing to teach these children because they were such a handful, but I did my best."

Tupui saw a door of opportunity when he spotted a vacancy at a particular school in Manly, New Zealand. He was informed that if he taught at a country-service school for a period of 3-5 years, he would see a considerable increase in his salary. "Of course I wasn't about to say no to that," he says. After a while, he applied for teaching position in Birkdale Intermediate and within a few years, he had been made the Deputy Principal of the school.

Tupui also had a job as a voluntary worker for the



Tupui Henry with class at Birkdale Intermediate in 1965

New Zealand Internal Affairs, where he was a member of the Protocol Committee. He was associated with welfare work concerning Cook Islanders living in New Zealand at the time. Not long after, he was called back to his homeland, Rarotonga, to be involved in the political campaign of his father.

With his father being Papa Albert Henry, the first Premier of the Cook Islands, Tupui was obliged to assist him with his campaign for the local elections. Henry took time off from his teaching career and part-time jobs in New Zealand to come to Rarotonga.

A change in the tides caused him to take a side trip to the outer islands, where he established youth and sports clubs, as well as a Women's Federation. His efforts resulted in the people of Mauke electing

him as a candidate for their island. Although Tupui was undoubtedly grateful for the offer, he graciously declined.

He returned to New Zealand with a fresh perspective on the education system of his country. Tupui was asked to write up a report on the levels of education in the Cook Islands, which he completed with ease. "A total of 18 pages," he says proudly. Although, he was quite disappointed with the content of the report. According to Tupui, the Cook Islands was not "up to the cut". There were insufficient teaching resources and, in the outer islands, schools only went up to Form 2. Parents had to send their children to Rarotonga to get a proper education. As the first Minister of Education, Tupui sought to change that.

In New Zealand, he noticed

that the curriculum of that time wasn't a "right fit" for some children. "The idea of arithmetic and spelling didn't appeal to them. So I tried a different method." He created a system called 'Centre of Interest', where students get to write about things which caught their interest on the way to school. "It could be on anything," Tupui says. It was brought to the attention of the Headmaster, who realized its effectiveness upon the students. His method was later scrutinized by a team of four school inspectors including the Chief Inspector who later told him his method was of interest and would be considered for adoption by other schools. Many years later, he often wonders what happened to the children he taught and what path they took in life.

Continued page 24



Business Trade Investment Board

Cook Islands

Local Business profile of the Month

Business Name: Fit Club Cook Islands T/A Tumuora CrossFit

Director(s) Name(s): Olivia Heather & Geoffrey Halston

Contact Details: Mobile: 55945 / 55944

Facebook page: Fit Club Cook Islands

The owners of FCCI are Geoffrey Halston and Olivia Heather. FCCI provides a gym experience (CrossFit) that has revolutionized fitness and training over the last 20 years. The core focus, programming and administration is very different to the conventional gym as the focus of FCCI is on personal training in a group session. They strive to make every workout different from the last, through providing intensity and fun, with everyone training together. FCC officially opened for business on 22nd July 2013 and is located in Arorangi, next door to PTS plumbing. The target market is aimed at everybody and anybody.



Mitiaro – Outer Island Visit

26 – 30 August 2013

During the month of August, the Business Trade & Investment Board (BTIB) staff members, Tangata Tou and Sarah Samuel travelled to Mitiaro for the purpose of conducting training workshops, private homestead visits, meetings with key stakeholders and follow-up progress on the Outer Islands Development Grant Fund (OIDGF). They discussed with the Island Council the status of the OIDGF and the possible extension of the Agricultural Development Fund (ADF) and the Sustainable Export Fund (SEF) to the outer islands. The Council was interested to explore where BTIB could assist in promoting and generating inter-island trade between Mitiaro (supplier) and Rarotonga (market). Recommendations as a result of the visit are for Trade & Marketing and Business Development division to work collaboratively to assist the Island Administration with business planning, budgeting (including government and household/small business), and job-sizing/banding. Furthermore assistance to identify a market for limes (tiporo), dried banana's (piere), coconuts, fresh water eels (itiki) and handicrafts. It is also recommended that BTIB assist sourcing labelling and packaging for these local products.



Go Local Update

To build on the success of the 'Go Local' campaign, BTIB is at the forefront of moves aimed at stimulating and promoting local Cook Island enterprises, their products, produce and crafts. During the month of September BTIB made a number of visits to local shops around Rarotonga and discussed new promotional and merchandising materials aimed at helping locals display and promote their association with 'Go Local'.



WORLD FOOD DAY 18th October 2013

Healthy people depend on Healthy Food systems

By Brian Tairea – World Food Day Committee

The theme this year is: Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition.

The Ministry of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), is to commemorate the annual World Food Day on the 18th of October 2013 instead of the original date of the 16th of October. The theme for this year is “Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition”. Traditional, Conventional, Organic Farming Systems are making changes due to many reasons, including climate change, health nutritional issues and its effects, such as Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) etc. Agriculture has planted various Food Crops and Vegetables to be displayed on this Special Day. The Ministry of Agriculture invites everyone to visit the Punanga Nui Market for this special day.



Oriental Fruit Fly Update - ZERO CATCHES FOR THE PAST 2 MONTHS



September update for Rarotonga: We have zero catches again during Trap checking in the last week of September and in October 2nd. So in total we have been experiencing **zero catches** for the past 2 months. This positive result is most welcomed by all. The Ministry is very thankful with all the hard work of field staff under the leadership of Dr Maja for their dedication and commitments in monitoring all the Fruit Fly traps. We will continue monitoring and trap checking / ripe fruit checking for infestations in the next and upcoming fruiting season.

September update for Aitutaki: Last week's checking revealed 16 Oriental Fruit Files on 27th Sept., compared to 11 caught during the previous week (i.e. 3rd week in September). Experienced field staff from Rarotonga will join the Aitutaki team next week to help strengthen & provide support under the leadership of Fred Charlie. We will keep the momentum going for the next three months.

Brown's tax proposal comments challenged

Did Minister of Finance, a University of the South Pacific MBA graduate, Mark Brown really say a tin of corned beef will only cost another 2.5% in reference to spinning the new VAT proposal as good news? If true, then the expressed concerns of some of the other sixty USP MBA graduates have a point that the Minister's comment is making their MBA look rather plastic.

Comments like those reportedly made by Brown are political gaffes that the opposition Democratic Party spin doctors will grasp with both hands and feet and use as cannon fodder to bombard the increasingly fragile looking CIP government.

The simplistic maths of Brown's corned beef comments are an insult to the growing base of tertiary educated Cook Islanders who have, thanks to the USP grown out of the gullible syndrome that may have kept previous generations spell bound by the persuasive rhetoric of the political masters.

What brings Brown's level of fiscal comprehension in question is his failure to include what is called the multiplier effect where all the two and a half percentages attached to each click from the ship to the shop shelf. What about the wharfage fees, the Customs duties and levies and the container delivery charges? This increases the fixed cost of the tin of corned beef before the retailer adds an increased profit margin to avoid a lower return before he adds the new VAT increase of 2.5%. Let's not forget the business owner has to factor in their increased VAT cost for their electricity, telephone and petrol for their delivery vehicles, office stationary and so it carries on.

Now that's one grocery item and you're unlikely to just buy one a week, add to that your usual list of household consumables, then consider your fixed telephone, electricity, vehicle running and other costs, if you are earning anything less than \$30,000 go and look at yourself in the mirror and ask yourself the serious question, "Am I better off?" If you think you are then you deserve the new tax proposals.

Yes Mr. Neves, your new tax proposals deliver more money into our left hand but after you grab it back from our right hand with interest we are in debit. Better off by \$40 a fortnight but worse off by \$70 a fortnight means a loss of \$30 a fortnight. Thanks for nothing Mr. Brown. It is conclusive anyone on an income less than \$30,000 and that's the vast majority of Cook Islanders, will be worse off.

If you aren't convinced after six months,



Minister Brown has a lot to think about. ask any Northern group resident if they are any better off. Their plight will be horrendous adding to the list of why they should pack their bags and migrate. The Treasury can then squeeze one more tax out of them, the overpriced departure tax of \$100.

Do your research Neves and without making unsubstantiated claims these comments are misinforming, inaccurate and politically driven, factually demonstrate how the masses will be fiscally better off. You can start with the tin of corned beef.

Neves newly announced tax proposals are illusionary and a futile effort like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. It is highly flawed with hidden agendas that will result, if pursued, in the sinking of the Cook Islands Party government. John Scott's media exposé of one component of the proposal is evident it is a juvenile offering to the fiscal woes of a prudent rejecting Puna led administration.

Neves' claim the government will be out of pocket to the tune of \$200,000 is nonsensical and indirectly misleading, it's a sleight of hand comment, his job is to boost Treasury's coffers not give away what doesn't exist in them. As a business model you have to invest money or spend money to make money and this is Neves' intention.

But what the left hand is giving out, the right hand will grab back with sizeable interest. Directed by Cabinet to go and find the money, Neves offers no innovative or creative model to increase revenues by

economic development, rather he takes the easy path and plunders a shrinking tax base with greater burdens. Where are any proposals that will generate new money into the economy relieving the burden on the existing contributors?

Some big questions are staring this government in the face, the inconsistencies point to a rather amateurish attempt to balance the budget by increasing taxation when the government should be leading by example and curbing its insatiable appetite for spending. Past CIP leaders were no different tipping the country into insolvency.

With doing business in the Cook Islands becoming harder and more costly by the week, Neves can hardly expect anything but a hostile reaction from businesses except from the pro government supporters who have undeserved and disproportional influence in the Chamber of Commerce.

Among the obese pay packets in MFEM, who are if any are the accountants? Littered with economists the Ministry has become dysfunctional and unbalanced, this is reflected in the product and service delivery festered upon an unconvinced and increasingly distrusting public.

The sad fact is Mark Brown is buying into a product that will be the ice berg that sinks their political ship. Brown is compelled to endorse and dependently dance to Neves' tune on the tax proposals because he lacks successful business experience to be self determining.

With 40 percent (about 1800) of the Cook Islands workforce paid by a shrinking taxpaying public both the Prime Minister Henry Puna and Mark Brown know as they have been advised, this is not financially sustainable. Rather than bite the bullet and be guided by Neves' recommendation to balance the budget by adopting prudent measures and reduce the work force and unnecessary expenditure, Puna chose to, like the Egyptian Pharaoh of the Old Testament, to increase the burden upon the struggling workers. Hardly a recipe for victory in the next general elections.

Don't expect members of the public to buy any raffles that are sold to raise the funds to clear the \$80,000 CIP debt and to boost the Party's general election war chest. The CIP will have to turn to the highly over paid expats to sponsor their next campaign; they certainly aren't known to buy raffle tickets.

George Pitt

Neves defiant on Grey Power pension back taxing

In a sporting context the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management Secretary Richard Neves has his Minister Mark Brown and his tag teamster and corner man the Prime Minister Henry Puna on the ropes and they may not even know it. In political terms this has made them all unwelcomed targets. Neves is becoming the infesting irritation of an undealt with little prick under a finger nail for members and supporters of the Cook Islands Party and the other two, a larger target for the invigorated and synergistically enthused Grey Power pensioners.

This melting pot of political engagement will not produce a single winner among them but will be likened to winning the lottery without having bought a ticket for the alternate Democratic Party government. Without making a contribution the outcome points to a political victory by knock out reminiscent to a WWF brawl where all the combatants including the referee are sprawled out on their backs in the ring.

While the wider public perception is superficially focused on the political power play with the official over the heated New Zealand pension back taxing there are underlying additional tensions and issues being played out that is a dish of gourmet food for table talk and entertainment of a fetish kind for the political savvy audience.

When the issue of back taxing the local residents receiving the highly prized New Zealand pension was in its infancy PM Puna and Mark Brown publically stated and clarified and rightfully so that they had no intention of interfering with the tax review process and possible outcomes



What must Brown be thinking? - Richard, you are giving me a headache.

and called upon the pensioners who later banded themselves into the Grey Power to collectively make a submission for consideration.

In a meeting with Grey Power representatives Brown stated his personal concerns and views as the Minister of Finance and as the Minister of Internal Affairs plus clarified the legal bound working relationship between the Minister and the Ministry. Unfortunately neither the pensioners or the CIP members and the majority of the public see it that way.

Tag team Puna and Brown's correct observance of the terms of engagement and good governance are being propagated as an exhibition of weak and indecisive leadership, backed up by the dithering over who will be DPM. The public's

perception is their reality, a fact unattended to by the CIP spin doctors who like their leaders considered the Grey Power as entertainment fodder and not a political threat due to their small size.

Puna's mind must have been elsewhere in the Sunday school classes and the influential Church environment he was raised in, for the Bible is clear that a few, even one individual can achieve a lot and the repeated Biblical message oppressive political powers crumble under the efforts of the least and the humbled' size doesn't matter.

The Democratic Party's highly paid spin doctor Eddie Drollet failed miserably to capitalize on the opportunity to seize the moment and score some political points for his employers most likely because of his close

relationship with Neves whose private secretary is Drollet's wife. Drollet is noticeably absent when his financial skills are needed to scrutinize financial documents to provide his leader with challenging pointers.

There is now an expectation Puna or Brown should instruct Neves to pull his head in and cease the political stupidity of hounding the pensioners. Questions are now being asked of our political leaders as to who is running the country? A perception Neves is out of control and untouchable is gathering strength by a public being fed mixed messages. There is a growing perception non Cook Islander expats are running the country and the politicians are being rendered powerless.

While Puna and Brown now
Continued next page

see the political wisdom of abandoning Treasury's efforts to collect the back tax they cannot enforce their will upon Neves unconditionally. Despite making their will known to Neves he remains uncompromised. Neves isn't bound by political currents, he's doing his job within the framework and security of the MEFEM Act. Right now by legislation he is above board and untouchable and despite the pressures from Party hardliners and their colleagues, Puna and Brown are intelligent enough to know Neves now has the upper hand.

This is payback time for Neves, during the Budget allocation discussions Puna humiliated him over Neves initiative to reduce the CIP government's spending by five percent. Neves took the embarrassing berating on the chin but unlike a Kiwi expat who will crawl into his hole in submission he's a Middle Eastern blooded Australian who are a different lot.

Neves was put in his place and blatantly told to find the money and that's exactly what he's doing. Government fees of every kind have been increased, import levies on selected imports increased, back tax collecting being vigorously pursued on past defaulters and now new tax proposals that are stacked in favor of Treasury.

Neves is here to do a job according to the book, this is his stepping stone to a more prestigious position elsewhere and he'll tolerate and won't be diverted by the knocks and the knockers. Kiwis call it arrogance but Aussies are winners because it's part of their DNA. Neves has a progressively growing CV that is glowing and impressive, it is his step up ticket to the next job and he isn't going to allow political interference to jeopardize his future. Accompanying Brown to many prestigious international meetings has provided Neves with networking opportunities. His dealings with high level Chinese Officials in negotiations on behalf of the Cook Islands government are a CV scoop. Neves' directional future hinges on him having a proven politically

neutral record.

There must be times where Neves has to pinch himself to see if it's all real. He's landed the perfect job to open the doors of future opportunity and he's been paid handsomely. Neves has insight into his future prospects that's so crystallized he's immunized himself to external media and political distractions.

Puna and Brown won't be able to beat Neves into submission, they'll have to find a legal mandate to shift Neves process or create new legislation to change the tax direction of Treasury. Right now the Tax head has the discretionary power to waiver individual taxes and not the Minister, a matter that's irritating CIP officials.

Neves' standoff integrity preservation serves to distort the short falls of the Puna

The DP must be standing on the sidelines wondering and gloating how lucky they are.

government who haven't convinced the voting public they are governing in the wider interest of the public. The CIP government's failure to bank political credits to compensate for unexpected political fallouts demonstrates how ill advised they have been.

While Neves is becoming the focus of CIP members concerns that their waning public support is his fault their finger pointing is water off a duck's back. At a public display of the banners the Grey Power are going to use in their protest march to Parliament one said "Neves go back to Australia."

Puna and Brown may not get the sympathetic reception they expect from Crown Law in their attempt to conjure up a way around Neves back tax stance, for Crown Law's highly paid legal wiz Kim Saunders and the defiant Neves have similar mindsets.

Recently the Government proudly announced an \$8 million surplus and congratulated themselves on a job well done. If our fiscal position is so good why change a winning formula?

Why the need to rearrange the tax deck chairs with a new glossy restructure tax proposal?

When Puna and Brown in an act of political preservation under pressure, buckle to the Grey Power's demand for no back taxing the Grey Power will claim vilification and a Davidian victory over the cruel Goliathan CIP Government.

The DP must be standing on the sidelines wondering and gloating how lucky they are, before them the CIP are being bombarded with self inflicted distractions fueled by their own arrogance and over confidence. With close to a hundred if not more of higher educated locals graduating from the USP, Cook Islanders today are not as politically gullible as their predecessors. Their gripe is despite their sacrificial efforts of

is adding to doubts and this project will be a major stuff up far greater than the multimillion dollar Sheraton project.

If the final drawings and plans are yet to be agreed to or confirmed how was anyone able to say with certainty what the total project will cost? What if there are over runs, where will the extra funding come from? What if there is a cyclone during the project construction? How or who is responsible for any damage costs? None of these questions are of concern to Neves who most likely will not be retained after his contract expires in July 2014.

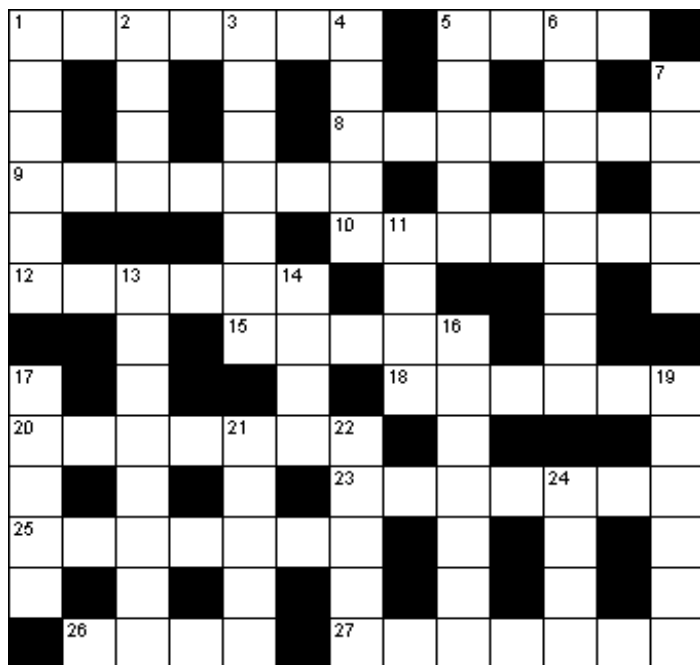
With an estimated \$60 million being spent, of that amount very little will find its way into local fiscal circulation. Overseas contractors and consultant companies will gobble up most of it. How is the loan to be serviced? Have access agreements with landowners been negotiated? Will water be metered and charged for? If so, what will it cost? What is the consequence if the People's Republic of China loan is defaulted? What are the conditions for the PRC to convert their loan to a grant if we default?

The Chinese are hardly going to convert this loan into a grant, examples of Chinese loans being defaulted in Africa are evidence of this. If the Cook Islands government defaults on any loans you can almost guarantee that some "debt for resource" negotiations will take place. In Africa where some nations have many billions of dollars worth of minerals and oil, this debt for resources swap happens regularly.

These questions and many more if unanswered, will provoke a resistance to the government that will result in irreparable political damage. Or will the CIP politicians flippantly follow the echo the words of the former chairman of the Ports Authority CIP royalty Mike Henry who said "We'll sort that out when the time comes." He was making reference to the question of how will the loan repayments of \$US95,000 per month be met starting from 2017?

- George Pitt

CROSSWORD



Across

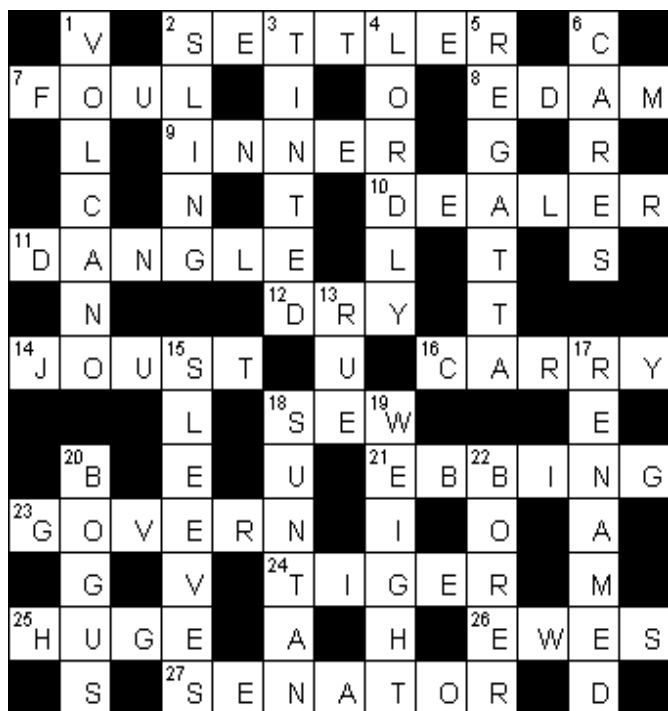
1. Islands in W Atlantic Ocean (7)
5. Spouse (4)
8. Flapjack (7)
9. Christen (7)
10. Remainder (7)
12. Man (6)
15. Coarse (5)
18. Unit of time (6)
20. Car shelters (7)
23. Very small fish (7)
25. Incident (7)
26. Steering wheel (4)
27. Morning (7)

2. Musical instrument

- (4)
3. Sailor (7)
4. The highest degree (5)
5. Floating bombs (5)
6. Back and forth (2,3,3)
7. Insurgent (5)
11. Ova (4)
13. Free of evil spirits (8)
14. Cloak (4)
16. Chief (4,3)
17. Leers (5)
19. Mock (6)
21. Dimness (5)
22. Paces (5)
24. Son of Jacob and Leah (4)

Down

1. Bug that infests beds (6)



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Best ever Android Apps

GateGuru

GateGuru (for Android) is an app to pack. It helps you navigate airport terminals, anticipate wait times, find the freshest airport food, and travel with greater confidence. It also has airport maps and checkpoint wait times. And GateGuru integrates with Tripit and Kayak for flight details, as well as Foursquare, Twitter, and Facebook for sharing.

Google Goggles

Similar in some ways to the Layar app, Google Goggles is an augmented reality experience that layers additional information from the digital world onto the physical world. Use the phone's camera to take a snapshot of anything from a painting in a museum to a placard that's written in a language you don't understand, and Google Goggles will give you more clues to help you figure out what's in front of you, or why it's important.

iOnRoad Augmented Driving

This driving app uses your smartphone's camera and GPS sensors to warn you of upcoming collisions. It's innovative and actually works, but not foolproof. You still have to keep your eye on the road.

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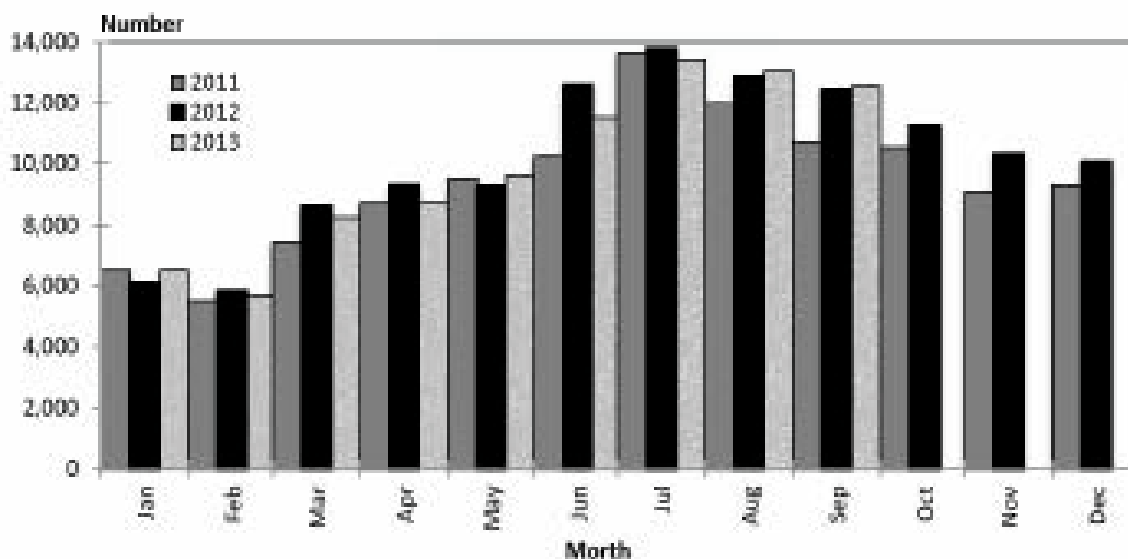
Tourism statistics September 2013

Key facts

In September 2013 compared with September 2012:

- Total arrivals (13,279) were up 74 (0.7 per cent).
- Visitor arrivals (12,530) were up 92 (0.7 per cent).
- The biggest changes were in arrivals from: USA (up 74), Other countries (up 56 - primarily from Pacific Island countries), Australia (down 39) and Europe (down 47.0 per cent).
- Departures by Cook Island residents (749) were down 2.3 per cent.

Figure 1: Visitor Arrivals 2011-2013



Poetry

by Ikram Elabssi

Ikram is a student at Nukutere College.

Dear Old Friend

Every time I see you
I can't help but stare
Always thinking to myself
That life just isn't fair.
I get that we are friends no more
You've made that very clear.
But I'm still here pretending
That I don't really care
Just wishing this was a game,
A game of truth or dare.
Seeing you replace me-was a deepest
Fear.
Guessing it don't matter no more
You've already changed your gear.

P.S. I guess this is goodbye
I'll miss you I will.
I no longer want to be-
So up in your grill.
So don't worry "B"
All is good
I know the drill.



Breast Cancer Awareness week

Photos by Norma Ngatamariki



Staff of Foodland with their wonderfully pink 'Fresh Produce' display as a back drop.



Staff of CITC Avarua proudly showing off their support for Breast Cancer Awareness Week.



Souvenirs' Manager Heidi-Rose Henry standing next to CITC Avarua's beautiful display.



The staff at CITC Main Administration Office are your very own 'Breast Friends', as they shower the place in pink.



The latest edition to CITV, Dean Tangata, is hard at work, puzzling over a Word Find which consisted of Breast Cancer terms.

News Briefs *By TeRiu Woonton*

School holiday soccer

Last week the Cook Islands Football Association held a fun soccer activities and games day for students aged between 5 and 13 years on their 2 week school holiday break. Last week they saw a number of 160 children turn up to join in on the fun. After a successful turnout, CIFA will be doing it again this Thursday the 17th of October. Like last week, there will be free bus pick up and drop off transportation, and the event will start at 10am and finish at 12pm. Look out for flyers on the pick up and drop off locations and the event is free to attend.

Housie fundraiser for Manea Games

The Mauke Manea Games organising committee will be holding a Super Housie Fundraiser at the Tupapa Centre, on Monday the 28th of October from 1pm. All proceeds will go towards hosting the next Manea Games, to be held on the island of Mauke next year. Already the committee has raised \$80 thousand dollars from Mauke Day, by sale of raffle tickets, radiothon & sale of food. The Committee has a target of \$300 000 to raise by October next year. More fundraising events are planned leading up to the games.

Leadership training for young women

Yesterday was the start of a three day gender based training for the Pacific Young Women's Leadership Alliance led by Punanga Tauturu Incorporation- Cook Islands Women Counseling centre. The Pacific Young Women's Leadership Alliance is a group of organizations working together towards a common goal of developing young women's leadership in the Pacific region. This includes sharing information, good practice and resources on effective ways of developing young women's leadership and advocating for the rights of young pacific women and working with governments, donors and regional policy makers to ensure that the issues facing young women remain on regional and national policy agendas. The Alliance also provides a platform for young women to influence policy and programs through decision making at all levels and believes in increasing the level of regional and in-country dialogue and actions that promotes young women's leadership. The 3 day training is in hope of spreading awareness of issues relating to gender equality to the participants as a lead up to next week regional meeting of the Pacific Women's 12th Triennial Conference, held from the 21st to the 25th of October. The Conference will see over 300 women from around the Pacific attend, including the Pacific Young Women's Leadership Alliance. The training is held at the USP Centre and involves participants from the Pa Enea as well as Rarotonga.

Awareness programme on Gout

This week the Ministry of Health will be promoting an awareness campaign on the disease Gout. Gout is a type of arthritis caused by elevated levels of uric acid in the blood. The uric acid crystallizes and deposits needle like crystals in the joints, tendons and surrounding tissues which cause red, hot and painful, tender swelling. It can occur in the fingers, knees or elbows but is commonly found amongst Pacific Islanders in the big toe. Rangi Aitu, men's health co-coordinator for community health services says that with a high number of cases of gout in men and women, an awareness programme will run throughout this week. The main issue that Aitu wants to share and help try prevent is the misuse of medical treatment for gout. Pharmacist Shannon Saunders from CITC Pharmacy says lots of people; majority of them men go in to seek

Voltaren that contains the ingredient Diclosenac which is only a reliever for the pain. Shannon says it's fine to use Voltaren, but if you are experiencing more than 2 gout attacks a year then it is strongly advised to use Allopurinol and although it may take a while to kick in unlike Voltaren, this medication will actually avert gout by preventing the uric acid from crystallizing. Excessive use of Voltaren can damage your internal organs such as the kidneys, heart and stomach lining. Rangi Aitu recommends those who are misusing Voltaren as a means of preventing gout pains, to stop and see a doctor who can prescribe the right medication.

Fisher our rep at youth conference

Daniel Fisher has been selected to represent the Cook Islands at the 8th UNESCO Youth Forum in Paris at the end of this month. Daniel will be fully funded by UNESCO to participate at this conference. The Youth Forum is a lead up to UNESCO's formal conference which is a week later of the Youth forum and will be held from the 5th to the 20th of November. 190 UNESCO countries will participate in the youth forum and with the Cook Islands nominating only 1 representative to the event, 2 delegates from the Youth Forum will go on to address the intervention and youth strategies at the major UNESCO General Conference. There were a number of applicants bought before Ministry of Education but with NCEA exams taking place around the same time as the forum and with Daniel studying in New Zealand, he was lucky enough to be nominated. Daniel says he feels there is going to be a lot of work to be done, but despite that, he is very excited to be going. Daniel is in his last year studying at AUT, towards a bachelor of Business, majoring in management and human resources.

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Little Poly puts Cook Islands on the map

By Norma Ngatamariki

Sam Napa, General Manager of the Little Polynesian Resort and Spa, has recently returned from half way across the globe with an internationally-recognized World Travel Award in tow, making him a very proud man. The World Travel Awards is a well renowned event, held annually to showcase some of the world's most luxurious hotels and resorts. Napa, accompanied by Jean Baptiste Ioaba (owner of the Little Polynesian), made their way to Dubai as one of the nominees for the Cook Islands Leading Boutique Hotel. Etu Moana, Manuia Beach Boutique Hotel, Moana Sands Beachfront Hotel and The Muri Beach Club Hotel were also in the running for this prestigious award but alas, only one would prevail. The "Little Poly", as it's more commonly known, has upheld the title for more than six years. This goes to show that with the right dedication and commitment, things are achievable and obstacles can be overcome. For both Napa and Ioaba, the possibilities were endless.

With the efforts of the late Te Tika Mataiapo Dorice Reid and her sister Jeannine Peyroux, the Little Polynesian was established and turned into the lavish boutique hotel that it is today. Not forgetting to acknowledge the hard work of the General Manager himself, Napa is proud to say that the hotel has currently earned a four and a half star ranking. "We are actually competing in the world arena with the bigger hotels," he states, referring to the tourism industry in the Cook Islands. This offers a means of positive exposure for the country, showing the rest of the world that even a resort as small as Little Poly contains loads of 'local potential'. This, in turn, will benefit the local economy and will see an improvement in employment levels within the tourism sector.

The Little Polynesian Resort and Spa is also a main sponsor for the upcoming Hula Mania Dance Competition. "We're



Sam Napa (second from left) and Jean Baptiste Ioaba (third from left) proudly representing the Cook Islands at the World Travel Awards in Dubai.

backing this event one hundred businesses to support Hula for the economy but it also percent," says Napa. He would Mania, as it not only generates promotes Cook Islands culture at also like to encourage local a substantial amount of income its finest.



Miha and Rima Mitchell with Sam Napa, General Manager of the Little Polynesian Resort & Spa. A partnership has been formed with regards to the upcoming Hula Mania event.

How to build friendship *part 1*

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

For this article of Encouragement I want to talk about How To Build Friendship. Choosing your friends is very important because they will have some influence on your life. Whether the influence is positive (good) or negative (bad). In Genesis 2v.18 it reads "It is not good for man to be alone." Loneliness is not part of God's plan for us. God made us for relationships. We were meant to have friends. There are basically two different kinds of friends. There are Casual friends and there are Close friends. Casual friends is the result of circumstances. You happen to be in the same circumstance together. For example in your work place you interact with different people. Maybe living next door to somebody, or meeting someone in the 'Market place (Punanga Nui)', and so on. But Close friends is the result of choice. You can't be close friends with everybody so you have to be selective. The closer you are to a person the greater their influence will be on your life, they can influence you in a "bad" way or "good" way. Therefore, choose your close friends carefully.

The Bible has a lot to say about the kinds of friends we are to choose. Proverbs 27v.19 (GN) "A mirror reflects a man's face but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses." In other words, the kind of friends we choose shows what kind of person we really are.

Proverbs 12v.26 reads "A righteous man is cautious in friendship." The Bible talks about some people we need to avoid as our closest friends. The Bible says Lazy people should not be your closest friends. Even a Bad Tempered or Angry person - don't befriend a bad tempered person - you may learn his or her habits. Immoral (wicked, corrupt, dishonest) people.

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

Greedy people – the Books of Ecclesiastes and Proverbs in the Old Testament talks about these kind of people. Avoid as your closest friends people who have chosen not to believe in God. The question is "What do you do with these people?" The Bible says we're to love everybody, but don't have these people as your closest friends because it will influence you.

According to the Bible there are 3 types of friends we ought to select as Close friends:

i) Choose as your Close friends those who Stimulate (inspire; motivate; encourage) you mentally. The Bible says, "He who walks with the wise will grow wise" and "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Friends are part of your education. Do your friends make you think? Or do they put you to sleep? The Bible says choose friends that stimulate you, motivate you, who bring out the best in your life.

ii) Choose as your Close friends those who Support you emotionally. A friend is somebody who walks with you when everybody else walks away. A friend is somebody who is there with you even when the going gets tough. Galatians 6v.2 says "Bear one another's burdens." A friend can be counted on in a crisis.

iii) Choose as your Close friends those who Strengthen you spiritually. I Thessalonians 5v.11 "Encourage one another and build each other up." Hebrews 10v.24 "encourage one another toward love and good works."

We all have a deep need for fellowship. There's a difference between fellowship and friendship. Friendship is based on our mind and our emotions.



Fellowship is a function of our spiritual life. The question is spirit. We can be friends with "How do we attract these kind of friends?" an unbeliever but we can only fellowship with other Christians.

The Bible says everybody needs a spiritual encourager, somebody we can share our struggles with, somebody who can pray with us, somebody who really lifts us up and is an encouragement to our week, te Atua te aroa.

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The Power of Gossip

By Norma Ngatamariki

Every time I hear that something...interesting went down over the weekend, it never fails to amaze me. Gossip that usually goes through the rumour mill are things like: So-and-so got with this really 'out of it' dude, or this random chick was snapped drinking with this older, uglier guy. Sometimes, I wonder if half the stuff I'm told is actually true. Our very own "Coconut Wireless" is a very powerful thing these days, especially with the younger generation. Some will say that gossiping is a phase that everybody goes through and will eventually grow tired of, but I have to disagree. With an island as small as Rarotonga, rumours can spread like a bush fire and not every secret is kept a secret for long.

So why do we do it? Why do we deliberately say hurtful things to about people? Well, here's a couple of reasons: It makes you feel superior. For

some reason, spreading gossip about other people makes you feel good about yourself. That there's actually someone out there who is worse off than you, which automatically gives you the right to mock them. In all honesty, that is the logic of a narrow-minded person. If you really want feel good about yourself, then actually DO something to be proud of. Get out there and donate blood to save someone's life, or complete the Cross Island Walk, just so that you can have satisfaction of saying "Yeah, that's right. I did it". If you spend all your energy doing stuff like that, then you won't have time to spread rumours. Easy as that.

Sometimes, we spread rumours to be part of the group. If everybody else is doing it, you feel as if you are obliged to do it as well. This is where peer pressure kicks in, hard. This is how an average teen would probably see it: You wanna fit into the group, so if spreading

a little "white lie" helps, then by all means, do it. Nah-uh! Do you know the saying "Out of the frying pan, into the fire"? If you spread rumours, then that's exactly what you'd be doing. I've seen what happens firsthand when a person passes along a little "chitchat". Fighting is the result of the "He-Said-She-Said" game and it's not pretty. So unless you want to end up in crutches with a black eye, I suggest that you quit the "Rumour Newsfeed".

This may not be surprising, but the main reason why anyone who spreads gossip is because... they are bored. Many of us are guilty of this (me included). It has been statistically proven that when we have absolutely nothing else to do with our lives, we turn to the latest "dish-up". It makes life that much more exciting. Celebrity gossip and tabloids is proof that rumours are a popular form of entertainment. People probably think that the truth



is too boring, so others will try and spice it up. A little gossip would be harmless, as long as it doesn't reach the ears of your aunty over in New Zealand (it truly is amazing how fast news travels). Please back up your story with actual facts before you tell somebody else.

Stakeholders in Cook Islands discuss roadmap for disaster and climate resilient development

Tuesday 15 October 2013, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Rarotonga, Cook Islands

The Office of the Prime Minister in Cook Islands called a special meeting of the National Platform for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management on Friday 4 October, 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to facilitate stakeholder input in Cook Islands for the proposed new regional strategy for disaster and climate resilient development in the Pacific (SRDP).

The development of the SRDP, referred to as 'the roadmap process', is led by Pacific Island countries and territories. Stakeholder engagement is being sought throughout the Pacific region in a variety of forums. During the Cook Islands meeting participants had the opportunity to learn about the roadmap process and provide

their suggestions concerning its development.

Teina Mackenzie is an Executive Board Member for the Te Ipukarea Society, an environmental NGO in Cook Islands. She says, 'The most encouraging aspect of the recent meeting is that it seeks true engagement of stakeholders and the community at the outset of the proposed strategy.'

The meeting took place at the New Hope Church in Rarotonga and was attended by representatives from government, NGOs and the private sector. It was chaired by William Mocevakaca Tuivaga from Climate Change Cook Islands in the Office of the Prime and facilitated by Cristina Casella, Disaster Risk Management and Climate

Change Policy Adviser with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and Professor John E. Hay, a consultant advising the development of the SRDP.

'The meeting increased awareness about the development of the SRDP' says Ana Tiraa, the Director of Climate Change Cook Islands in the Office of the Prime Minister. She says that continued dialogue on the SRDP will be encouraged in Cook Islands and will enable further contribution to the development of the strategy.

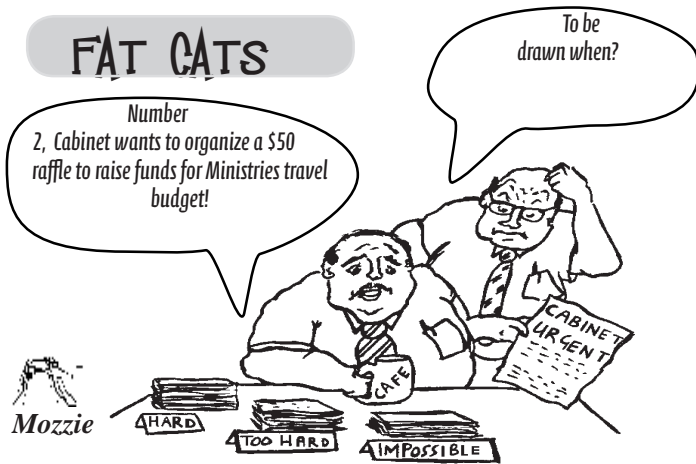
The Cook Islands has taken steps to incorporate climate change and disaster risk management in key planning and policy documents including the Joint National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation 2011-

2015, and the Climate & Disaster Compatible Development Policy 2013-2016.

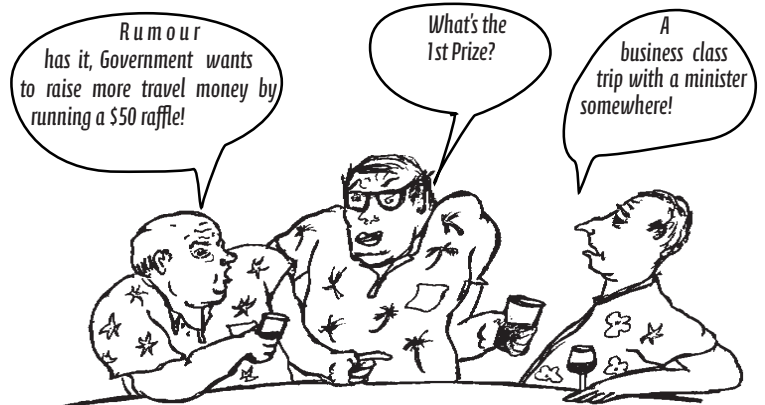
The SRDP is next step in addressing climate change and disaster risk management in the Pacific from 2016 onward. It will supersede the two current frameworks, the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005-2015 and the Pacific Islands Framework on Climate Change 2006-2015, after they expire in 2015.


Further consultative meetings in other countries will be held in the coming months. These will include representatives from non-governmental and faith-based organisations, the private sector and development partners.


FAT CATS





COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Word is the Chinese want the Cooks to have a booth set up when the PM and his tere party travel to China in November. Great opportunity to promote travel to the Cooks but deep down, it's really the culture the Chinese want to see. The Chinese don't want to see flashy pics of white sandy beaches and blue sea-it's the swinging hips, drum beats, singing and TAV shirts they want! Whisper is, while the travel numbers have been cut back, will the PM take a top dance team with him? 

Which HOM is the PSC about to weed out? That's the question! Seems the PSC had a little chin wag with Crown Law first! The PSC is in the process of assessing all HOM's performance and some have escaped the net! 


Bright idea that was to put all government offices onto the one server for email. Last Friday the server went down for five hours and did not resume until 3pm-home time for most government workers! 


Best thing the Brown chappie can do is put the whole tax reform proposal on ice! Let it go to the election as an election issue. If the CIP are voted back in then the Minister can say he has the mandate for reform! 


Chooks says forget the globetrotting

CHOOKS CORNER


WITH BIG RED 


Ministers! What about the jet setting HOMs? Environment HOM just back from Samoa is now jetting off to Japan. Seven days after he jets back home, he will be jetting out again! 

A local chook laments, no legal rules in place? No worries! Make it up as you go along chook says! Seems that's what successive administrations have done regarding the position of Clerk of the House. Chook says while the Constitution recognizes the Office of the Clerk, it does not stipulate that the Clerk has to be appointed by the QR or anyone else! So how did this hole in the law arise chooks? 


The political whisper is that the PM's hold on Manihiki is becoming very loose now that the great Apii Piho has announced he intends to contest that seat for the Demos! The former MP has hit the lead over another former MP to represent the Demos. 

Auckland's top schoolboy rugby team,

MAGS first XV, comes to town and the coaches offer to conduct some training sessions with our young fellows. A local chook claims this was apparently declined by the local CEO of the oblong ball. As it is our fellows were eclipsed by 63 points to zip. Locals are grumbling about the passover of the chance of some training for our starved of class action teams. Our only bright consolation is the MAGS offer to tour again and to make this a regular event. Lets hope the local oblong ball powers take up whatever offers of training are made! Lets help our boys develop and not deny them the chance to. 

Oh dear chooks! Don't kiddies love to fiddle with buttons and switches! Trouble is, when they do, there can be dire results like one kiddie aboard a yacht at sea who sent out an emergency signal, picked up by the local maritime eyes and ears who summoned up an Orion from Kiwiland! Red faced yachtie is left holding a bill! 

How often are the rubbish bins at

Wigmore's falls emptied? Not very often it seems as a group of German tourists have discovered! What a welcome to the falls, rubbish bins crammed so full, smelly trash has fallen out and been torn to shreds by chickens, rats, cats and dogs! Wake up somebody! Do your job properly or some ex-pat will step in and do it for you! Just like they are doing at MFEM! At popular tourist attractions you cannot empty bins once a week! Sure the bins are there for the rubbish now someone has to empty them and regularly! 

Three more academies at our top High School? That brings the number to six. Why not simply turn the whole school into an academy? Our future PM won't be a Lawyer or a Doctor or an Economist, our future PM will be a ballet dancing planter who likes to fix lawn mowers on the side. Here's an after -thought, set up a few special classes for the disadvantaged students who for some silly reason want to learn a science, do maths or learn a language!

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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NIUE COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS

The Niue High Commissioner to New Zealand and her party of 14 adults (mainly women) will be arriving on Sunday afternoon 20th October together with the New Zealand Governor General. Also present on Rarotonga on this date is the Niue Minister for Women Affairs with her delegation of 4 women to attend the Regional Conference on Women Affairs. I humbly request for the Niue Community and friends that we will be hosting our Niue visitors as follows. All the “kaikai” will be held at the Rakahanga Hostel (where some of them will be staying) at 6 p.m. each evening. Sunday 20th October will be by Teautonga; Monday 21st October by Takitumu and Puaikura; Tuesday 22nd October by everyone. Te Atua te aroa, fakaue lahi.

John Tangi
Chairman

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Former National Bank of New Zealand staff to hold reunion

By Norma Ngatamariki

A second reunion will be held from the 28th to the 30th of October in honour of the former staff from the Rarotonga branch of the National Bank of New Zealand (NBNZ). Bim Tou, one of the organizers for the event, is expecting a great turn out with the 20 local participants in addition to the multitude of ex-patriots from overseas. They will be arriving to our shores from the 25th to the 27th, anticipating a weekend filled with entertainment and fun.

Tou, alongside John Kenning and Marjorie Toru, have organized the event locally with their acquaintances in New Zealand, Brian Voice and Brent Glasson.

The NBNZ has a little bit of history to it, according to Tou. The Rarotongan branch was opened on the 10th of November 1969, with Graham Adams being the manager at the time who was also a original staff member of the main branch in New Zealand. The NBNZ then sold its banking license in Rarotonga to European Pacific Banking Co. in the year 1986.

The program consists of a 'Meet & Greet' on a Sunday afternoon at the Whatever Bar, followed by a formal welcoming dinner on Monday at Club Bana, finishing off with a golf tournament /wrap-up function at the Rarotongan Golf Club grounds.



Bim Tou - Former member of the National Bank of NZ

Problem kids no problem for Tupui

From page 8

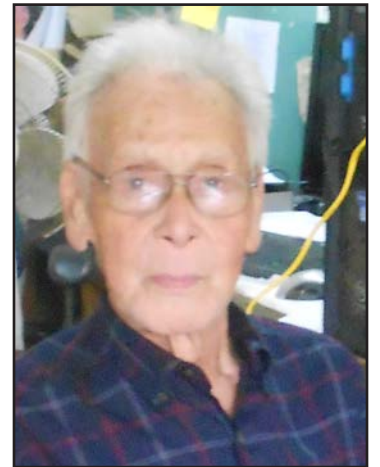
His memories of the time have come alive again thanks to an inquiry from the daughter of one of his former students at Birkdale School. The daughter heard how Tupui helped her mother and now wants to dedicate her research into educational factors contributing to academic success for Pasifika males. She wrote; "In 1965 my mother was taught by a gentleman called Mr Henry at Birkdale Intermediate on Auckland's North Shore. All her life she had been told she was stupid and would never amount to anything. Mr Henry believed otherwise. He told her that he believed in her and had high expectations of her. He taught her in ways that made learning easy and enjoyable. From her accounts it sounds like he was a very skilled and effective teacher.

She tells me that he left the school part way through the year in 1965 and moved to the Cook Islands where he became involved in politics. For someone who only taught my mother for six months, Mr Henry made an incredible impact on her. My mother was restricted educationally by her parent's expectations but she instilled in her children that we had the potential to achieve whatever we set our minds to. I must have heard about Mr Henry hundreds of times as I was growing up but had no idea of the significance until very recently. I became a teacher knowing the impact I could have on the children I taught and believing that I could make a difference. I have since completed a Masters in Education and I am just finishing my Masters in Educational Psychology.

It is serendipitous but rather

fitting that almost 50 years later the daughter of girl Mr Henry took under his wing is undertaking educational research with Pasifika males so that we can improve their educational outcomes. Without him being aware of it, Mr Henry's influence on my family has been far reaching and I would love to be able to dedicate my research to him in gratitude."

On Rarotonga, he continued to make improvements to the education levels of various areas. Tupui had wanted to unify the settlements with a pre-school, primary school and high school in every village. Titikaveka was the first village to see this, where the schools were under one Parent Teacher Association (PTA). All of that changed when the Democratic Party came into power. He also wanted to alter the Nikao



Tupui Henry

Side School, where only children of European descent were permitted to attend, as to promote equality.

In addition to being a politician and school teacher, Tupui was also a theatre manager at Kings Theatre and clerk for AW Brians. When asked which career he enjoyed the most, he did not hesitate to say, "Why, school teaching, of course."

Progress at the PUNANGA NUI MARKET - Agriculture section



Two Shelters Completed



The second Shelter now in use by vendors



From the Manager's Desk

Building of the shelters, in support of the Vendors for Agricultural products and food, continues this month. Two long shelters were completed in September and Vendors are now selling their produce under cover away from the rain and hot sun. The third shelter is planned to start in early October stretching towards the eastern side of the market. Funds for this project came from the Market rental fees paid by the vendors. (A good example of improving the market and re-investing to benefit the Vendors and the general public.) The next planned project, to improve the Punanga Nui Market, is the Solar Lighting, a co-share project to be funded by ADB and the Punanga Nui Market.