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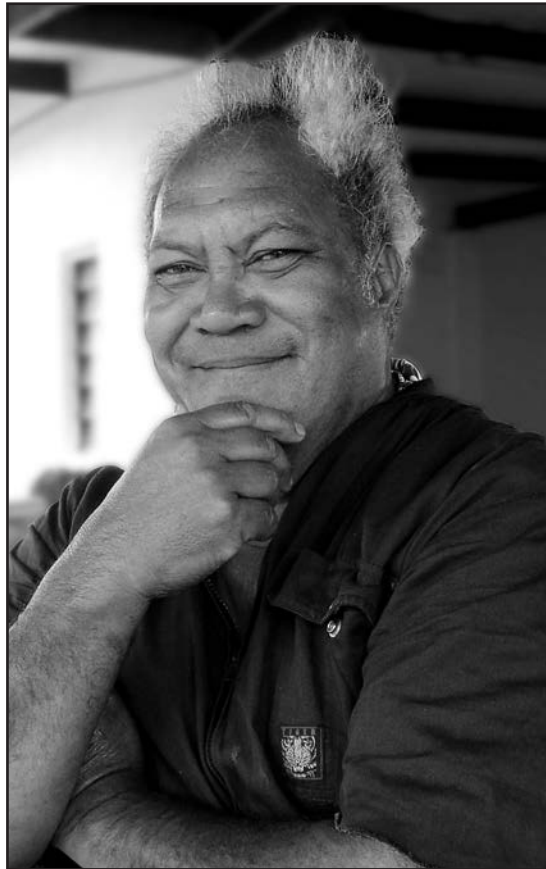


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Re-shuffle of Ministerial portfolios

By Charles Pitt

Last Thursday the Herald received an unconfirmed report that there had been a re-shuffle of portfolios. It is understood Health Minister Nandi Glassie has been allocated Internal Affairs (from Mark Brown) and Justice (from PM Puna). Agriculture Minister Kiriau Turepu has been allocated National Environment Service -NES (from PM Puna) and Business Trade Investment Board -BTIB (from Mark Brown). Minister Mark Brown adds Minerals and Natural Resources (previously with former DPM Tom Marsters) to his list of portfolios. The Prime Minister is yet to issue the formal letters as required under the Constitution. He is expected to do this upon his return from Japan next week.



Kiriau Turepu



Nandi Glassie

KARERE KI TE ITI TANGATA KUKI AIRANI

Koai ra teia e tutungi nei i te au are apii

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

Kia Orana e te iti tangata i te aroa maata o te Atua. E a'a roa teia tu, kare oki i roa ake nei kua tungia tetai ai ngutuare i Nikao e pera ki Arorangi. Te vai ara oki tetai au are kua ka no te mea e apinga tetai i tarevake inara ko tei tupu i te openga epetoma i topa ake nei, e mea matakua tiaki e te tumatetenga. E rua ia Are Apii tei ka i te a'i, koia oki ko Nukutere Apii Tua Rua e te Apii Tua Tai koia oki ko Avatea i Nikao.

Teia te uianga, ko ai teia e

rave nei i teia angaanga kino e te viivii? Me e tamariki na kotou, ka tano kia apii meitaki ia e kia oronga ia ki te rima o te ture kia kore e matau i te rave i teia tu angaanga. Kare au e ekoko nei e, e tangata me kore a tamariki tetai e rave nei i teia angaanga. Kua putuputu roa oki i te tupu a te au akairo tei kite ia mai, kua riro te reira ei akapapu e na te rima kanga teia i tupu ei.

Tumatetenga ra oki au no te mea kare ake rai teia tangata me kore ra tamariki i kitena ia ake me kore i opukina ia ake e te akava. E oti akera kua akakite mai

ratou kia tatou, e, te kimi pakari nei ratou ki roto i te au a'i ka i topa ake nei. Kua roa ake nei te tuatau e i to tatou no'o varenga anga te pakakina mai nei te aruru o te a'i ka'a. Te aka'aroa i te au tamariki, to ratou au puapui e te au taeake turuturu i teia au apii ei meitaki rai no ta taou anau. Akamaroiroi e kotou ma, pure kit e Atua kia tauturu mai.

E karere takake naku, tena te tuatua e ka mati te au metua "Grey Power" ki ko i te Opati o te Parai Minita e pera katoa ki ko i te Opati o te Pae Tero. Turu ia atu to tatou au taeake. Te akaaroa ia ratou. Te Atua te Aroa.



Government fails to stop arsonist striking again

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

Last weekend has been a tragic weekend for many people and especially for the pupils, teachers and support community of Avatea School and Nukutere College. While people were at church or relaxing with families, fires burnt down teaching and resources classrooms at both these schools. For Nukutere College this is the second time fire struck and destroyed classrooms. It is estimated that the fire damaged classrooms will cost more than a million dollars to rebuild.

In the recent past, there was a spate of fires to private property in Nikao and the Police after much pressure and a long delay announced that it has evidence of an arsonist at work. That statement by the Commissioner of Police was supported by the Chief Fire Officer Nga Jessie. They also assured the public of investigations being carried out and strategies to prevent this sort of thing from continuing was being devised. A lot of members of the public, at least I was, felt assured that they were doing their best to catch whoever this low-life is setting these fires and they were close.

On top of that the Prime Minister made a statement in Parliament and on television, newspapers and radio denouncing such atrocious acts and that the Government is on top of it. He talked about the Government working together with the relevant authorities and putting lots of resources into the investigations to catch this lunatic. By then, everybody was convinced that there was indeed an arsonist at large because the fires were impossible to regard as accidents. There were too many houses and indeed public buildings set on flames for that to be the case. So there was an

arsonists that has to be caught and stopped said the PM Henry Puna.

Guess what, two fires within a few hours apart and it just so happens they were school buildings. Could they be just natural fires or fires caused by electrical short-circuiting? Surely not, the two fires bear the handiwork of someone deliberately lighting the fires. I personally inspected the two buildings but what do I know, I'm just a concerned lay person. Common sense tells me that this is the work of an arsonist. I mean, on the last day of the holidays and at a point when most people are oblivious to the possibility of a fire. That's why it's hard to believe that this would happen again.

Minister Mark Brown was quick to fire off what the Government purports to do and will have the classrooms fully rebuilt and operational early next year. The Opposition spokesperson on education Mrs Tetangi Matapo urged the Government to get on with it and not give it just lip-service. I can't help but point the finger at the Government for being apathetic. It allowed the matter to sink away from the public eye and once it did, it did not do anything further about it. I hate to politicise these sorts of things but the PM carried the torch leading all of us to believe that enough was enough. That was the last time round. Now, surely he and his Government must be humiliated with being exposed for failure to do what it promised by yet another tragic spate of fires. Commiserations again from me as Leader of the Opposition and Democratic Party, my colleagues in our caucus, the Demo Executives and all Democratic Party supporters from each corner of our nation. Te Atua te Aroa.



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Team of experts here to review government performance



Peer Review Team left to right: Henry Ah Ching, Collin Tavi, Richard Hipa and Feleti Teo

By Charles Pitt

Over the next two weeks, a peer review team made up of representatives from other Forum Pacific Island nations, will undertake a review of how our government, development partners and other stakeholders plan, budget, deliver and monitor development programmes and services to the people of the Cook Islands. The aim is to improve development outcomes and accelerate progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The peer review team will also make recommendations.

The team met with the Minister of Finance Hon Mark Brown on Monday afternoon in the Cabinet Room where the media also had the opportunity to question the team members.

The team members are; Team Leader Mr Feleti Teo (Deputy Secretary General-Forum Secretariat), Richard Hipa (Niue), Collin Tavi (Vanuatu) and Henry Ah Ching (Samoa). Ms Solstice Middleby of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) arrives later on.

Also accompanying the team is a support team from the Forum led by Forum Regional Planning Advisor Charmina Saili and including Forum Communications Officer

Mereseini Tuivuniwai.

Observers will also be in attendance and they include Mr. Fan Zhang Economic & Commercial Counsellor (NZ Embassy of the People's Republic of China) and officials from Niue (Richard Hipa) and Republic of the Marshall Islands (Ms Kayo Kotton and Ms Dahlia Koneko).

The Cook Islands will be the 12th Forum nation to receive a peer review since reviews were agreed to by Pacific Leaders at a conference in Cairns, Australia in August 2009 which resulted in the Cairns Compact for strengthening development coordination.

At Cairns, the leaders acknowledged that the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) should establish and report annually to the Forum Leaders on a process of regular peer review of Forum Island Countries' (FICs') national development planning, budgeting, public financial and aid management systems and processors to:

- promote international best practice development effectiveness,
- improve effective budget allocation processes; and
- guide support from development partners.

The peer review process is also to guide improvements in development effectiveness,

inform discussions at the Pacific Islands Forum and Post Forum Dialogue.

Peer reviews are an opportunity for mutual learning between FICs, their peers in other FICs and development partners (traditional and emerging donors) and about how best to address development coordination challenges. The peer review process is intended to contribute to reinforcing country leadership over the establishment of national priorities, and enhance the capacity of countries to guide the use of development resources – both government and development partner funded resources.

The first review was conducted in Nauru in March 2010. The last and 13th review will be conducted in Samoa.

All reviews result in recommendations which the host government agrees to implement and follow up visits are also conducted.

The Cook Islands has had the distinction of being involved in the very first review in Nauru when Liz Koteka from the OPM took part. Dallas Young, then from Treasury in MFEM, was involved in the Republic of the Marshall Islands review in February 2012. At the final review to take place in Samoa,

Finance Secretary Richard Neves will take part.

The review team members spoke about their role and experiences and also answered a number of questions put by the media.

Terms of reference have been prepared for the review team and the Cook Islands government has particularly asked the review team to particularly focus on the public policy making system and in particular stakeholders information needs, evidence production and usefulness (content, from), analysis capability and use in decision making.

The team has a busy schedule over the next two weeks and will be meeting a variety of stakeholders in government agencies and civil society.

The team will meet with various focus groups representing sectors of society and interested parties including, Rarotonga's business community, outer islands agencies on Aitutaki and Mangaia, the media, food security, youth, women and elderly, employment, infrastructure, disaster risk reduction and gender.

On Friday 1 November there will be a de-brief for all stakeholders at the Red Cross HQ.

PM Henry Puna insults radio audience

Rather than come across as a benevolent and dignified leader, Prime Minister Henry Puna is putting his foot in his mouth in his abrasive efforts to convert the unconvinced his administration's new tax proposals are a financial bonanza for the struggling bread winners.

Credited with being the "x" factor in the 1999 general elections for the Cook Islands Party when they were expected to be tossed into the political wilderness after the horrific 1996 economic meltdown, Puna's nightly smooth talking propaganda over the Radio Cook Islands air waves convinced the outer island voters to return the CIP to the government front benches. Most political prophets where shocked, but few realized it was the CIP's pied piper and executive member Henry Puna who seduced the largely uninformed outer islanders with his masterly display of coaxing and verbal spin doctoring.

With his hypnotic smooth talking as he sat behind the radio microphone, Puna was able to paint mesmerizing mental pictures that gradually converted the doubters. One of his favorite ploys was to describe the attendances at the political rallies being held on Rarotonga, always exaggerating audience responses and inflating the figures for the CIP meetings and

deflating the Democratic Party ones.

Under the enormous pressure to lead a skeptical public who have developed a low tolerance to political incompetence's, Puna must at times feel like the Old Testament's Moses who had to lead a people who were gifted with a critical and complaining spirit.

The PM's Radio Cook Islands show about the taxation proposals with Minister of Finance Mark Brown on Friday 18 was a shocker! Gone is Puna's "x" factor style of smooth talking and coaxing persuasion. He now sounds frustrated and irritated that there are resisters to the new tax proposals and is now labeled with the "d" (for dumb) factor. Originally propositioned by government as just "proposals" after the publically driven consultations and subject to further public meetings before implementation, Puna appears irritable that a true democratic process is being followed.

This was evident when the Prime Minister said in Maori over the radio to a national audience, "Whoever is complaining about these tax adjustments is stupid (neneva)." Whatever context that was said in is inexcusable for a holder of the nation's highest office. To belittle individuals who disagree or are yet to be convinced, is a trait of a bully of the worst kind.

Rather than reacting to indifferent opinions, Puna would be wiser by allowing people cathartic opportunities like the talk back program. People with grievances are pacified when they sense they have been listened to and heard. Verbal bully boy tactics only serve to aggravate hostility and should be avoided by political leaders.

To disagree with the Prime Minister Puna or his administration is a fundamental democratic right of everyone. To call a person or persons stupid (neneva) because they do not blindly follow one's political agenda is unwise and indicative Puna has lost the plot of public diplomacy. In choosing to be his own man, Puna has unwisely failed to embrace the positive attributes of his mentor Sir Geoffrey Henry. Even under the most severe pressures and indifferent public opinion, Sir Geoffrey never exhibited or resorted to labeling his non politician critics with degrading language.

True leadership earns the right to be followed, it isn't automatic and Puna's failure to practice fiscal prudence in the administration of his high office and his jet setting has left him like a shepherd without a flock. Cook Islands people are no longer in bondage to the shackles of colonialism, they are educated free thinkers who



PM Henry Puna

have opinions and are unafraid to share them, a simple fact that politicians habitually overlook.

Puna's disrespectful and undignified public attack on those who question the validity of the new tax reforms has devalued the integrity of position of Prime Minister. This will only continue the erosion of trust the public has in those who hold political office by privilege of the people. It also taints the CIP brand that was once revered.

Several people recorded the PM's radio program and it may only be a matter of time before his words come back to haunt him by way of a television commercial produced by the opposition. - George Pitt

A large advertisement with a teal and green background featuring silhouettes of palm trees. The text is in large, white, outlined letters. It reads: "\$5 CAPPED CALLING" in the top line, and "UP TO AN HOUR FOR NATIONALY LANDLINE TO LANDLINE - ISLAND TO ISLAND" in the bottom line.

\$5 CAPPED CALLING

UP TO AN HOUR FOR NATIONALY
LANDLINE TO LANDLINE - ISLAND TO ISLAND

Our Frontpage model



Our frontpage girl for Herald issue 689 is Maya Carroll, a certified yoga instructor from Chicago, Illinois, USA who is now residing here in Rarotonga. Maya instructs yoga classes at the Better Health Building (2nd floor Raro Printing) in town. Her yoga schedule is as follows: Tues 6pm, Weds 4.30pm, Thurs 5.30pm, Fri 4.30pm. Go and check out her classes- your first week trial is FREE! Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald



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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.

News Briefs *By TeRiu Woonton*

Gospel Day

Rarotonga Gospel Day will be observed on Monday the 28th of October- with a public holiday. Matavera CICC is host to this year's gospel day with the nuku taking place at the Takitumu School grounds. Six Ekalesia ministries will be participating and theme for this year's event is Minor Prophets. The event is open invitation and the opening ceremony will take place at 8am.

Maths competition

The School Math's Competition will be held next week Wednesday the 30th of October. All schools and colleges in Rarotonga as well as schools from the outer islands; mainly the Southern Group islands will be participating. Students from Grade 6 through to form 4 will be answering 20 questions in 20 minutes. The math's competition will be held at the National Auditorium starting at 5pm.

First school to go solar

Papaaroa School will be soon be the first school on Rarotonga to be run by solar energy. To start the project, only half of the school will be run by solar energy and although it is only a fraction of the school, it will help immensely to cut costs spent on power. Vai Taikakara, Secretary for the school committee says they've discovered that they spend from \$8,000 to \$9,000 per annum on power alone. The school is looking at raising \$18,000 and while target amounts have been distributed amongst the Seventh Day Adventist Churches, the Papaaroa Home and School Committee will be holding a market day next Monday the 28th of October to help assist with the fundraising. The market day will be held on Monday the 28th of October at the Papaaroa School Grounds from 7am to 12pm.

Zumba raises over \$2,000

Proceeds raised from the Zumba session held by Frankie in aid of breast cancer awareness month; where over 100 women took part, was presented to the Cook Islands Breast Cancer Foundation on Wednesday the 23rd of October. The selling of the zumba tickets, donations and the selling of Pink Ribbon t-shirts saw a total amount of \$2095.20c raised. Funds were handed over to the Breast Cancer Foundation at the Tupapa Centre at 1pm.

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Nenevanomics - Neves' legacy of fiscal lunacy

Secretary of Finance Richard Neves' letter to the editor of the Cook Islands News on Monday 21 October is presumably his reply to businessman John Scott's letter to the same editor that was summed up alleging the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) was far removed from the coalface of reality.

Scott raised a number of questions that Neves failed to answer but replied with a crafted diversion that has done nothing but amplified the suspicion he is a lot further separated from the coalface than initially imagined. For public consumption Neves' delivered a diversionary lesson on his brand of economics that can now be confirmed as "Nenevanomics".

The more Neves attempts to defend his formula for the future prosperity of the Cook Islands the deeper and bigger hole he is digging for himself. According to Neves work related history published on the internet, he has never functioned at this level before and as the government official responsible for the evolution of the financial sovereignty of the Cook Islands he is clearly out of his depth and increasingly manifests the lack of experience demanded by a \$250,000 annual pay packet.

Neves' response of his neveva brand of economics was waffle that indicates he believes the proposed tax changes are the answer to the self induced economic crisis this government has created through its refusal to be prudent in a stagnating fiscal environment.

Neves' theoretical prescription offers no innovative solutions that will drive a development based economy. There is no "how to" advice or suggestions of how overseas earnings can be a reality, just a load of philosophical intellectual dribble. Neves says, "The world is a very different place to what it was when

(in 1969) man landed on the moon..." Think of the technology and will power that underscored that achievement, why can't that ethos be incorporated to scale in an economic road map of our own by the obesely paid economists of MFEM? Neves is so far away from the coalface he may as well be on the moon.

John Scott is a Cook Islander by commitment, for over the forty plus years he has invested himself in the Cook Islands Scott has proven himself to being more than a competent businessman with a list of outstanding accomplishments funded by his own resources. By contrast, Neves has been here a couple of years bringing no business experience to the nation's fiscal table. Do I need to justify who we should listen to concerning local economic realities? John Scott gets my tick; his track record speaks for itself.

Neves states he plans to introduce an administration system that monitors retailers who may see an opportunity to raise their margins over and above the VAT increase. He in a previous sentence said it cost a lot of money to administer price controls and that people charged what they wanted anyway. So how does he expect things will be any different? And who is going to be his economic police officer, another over paid expat de-sensitized to localism.

Neves' claims the lower income earner will be better off, that's true if he is, like he has compared us with other Pacific nations which was a ridiculous attempt to divert the predicted hardship issue. Try living on less than a take home pay of \$20,000 Mr. Neves which is the plight of the majority of the work force. You have absolutely no idea how difficult that is and only to be made worse with the greater burden the new VAT will impose on this sector of our society.

Like our politicians and other

high income earners, the changes will make little difference, the Cook Islands will become a nation of haves and have nots and a decisive upper and the lower class as a result of Nenevanomics.

Lacking or the ignoring of accounting expertise, the economist dominated MFEM are parading themselves as being elitist and above scrutiny knowing they are unlikely to be publically taken to task by private sector professionals in the monetary industry. - George Pitt



Letter to the Editor

Tax on NZ pension

Dear Editor,
Richard Neves is standing on shaky ground when he said in the CI News on Wednesday 4 October that, "It has always been an obligation for pensioners to report as income on their tax return."

I, together with 235 other NZ paid pensioners here in the Cook Islands have never signed any tax declaration form before. I have been collecting it for 10 years now, and Mrs Tu Taramai of Matavera, 15 years hassle-free!

You further added that in cases, tax collectors have gone back as far as 2011 to re-assess pensioners who have failed to report their NZ paid pensions as income! Sounds like a pack of starving dogs retracing their tracks, sniffing out buried bones! Why did you sleep walk for two years, then on awakening, blundered your way backwards and wacked us with a \$4,000 tax bill? What happens if 92 year old Aunty Amy from Turangi passes on, does her son John carry the can?

This assessment drive by the tax collectors of MFEM is a three pronged merciless attack by a Senior Tax Auditor, a taxation officer and a Tax Examiner from

the same office to scared and bewildered old mamas and papas.

This government department's inefficient, haphazard work ethics results in some pensioners receiving their third tax reminder envelopes while some received none at all since the system started in March this year.

The letter required the recipient to come up to their office above Bounty Bookshop in Avarua where they will be assisted to fill in their forms. Once that's done, then they can readily regularly send us more letters.

Editor, do these young active workers of the RMD expect us to effortlessly "come up?" What about our wheel chairs, crutches, tokotokos? The stairs leading up to this office is ancient, dark (even in day time) and dangerous to all users.

Why don't you relocate to Punanga Nui Market and rent a hut, then the mamas and papas can safely pop in and see you.

No thanks to this back to front, flip flop, neneva tax.

Denis Tunui
Vice President
Grey Power
Turangi

Fisheries partnership agreement proposed between EU and Cook Islands

2 1st October 2013
—The Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) is proposing a skipjack tuna fishing deal with the EU worth \$8.7 million dollars and to divert some of the revenues to combat illegal fishing and to subsidise fuel for the local fishermen.

The four year partnership will allow up to four purse seine fishing vessels to catch 7,000 metric tonnes of skipjack per year.

“The Cook Islands is fortunate to have a relatively abundant skipjack tuna fishery in our northern waters but we are not utilising this valuable resource” Says MMR Secretary, Ben Ponia.

“The EU proposal is within sustainable limits and will generate revenue for the country but we also hope to use some of monies to protect our fishery and provide some direct benefit to our local fishers as well”, he added.

The Pacific Ocean has the largest and most healthy stocks of skipjack tuna which live for 3.5 years and breed at 6 months age. Around 1.5 million tonnes is fished each year, mainly in western EEZs of nations who cooperate under a treaty known as the PNA (Parties to the Nauru Agreement). Licensing revenues are worth several hundred million dollars to the PNA countries.

According to the MMR there are 200,000 tonnes of skipjack in the northern Cook Islands and a sustainable quota of 30,000 tonnes.

The Ministry believes that



the fishery is underutilized. Currently it relies solely on the US purse seiners to catch skipjack tuna in its waters and to generate revenue for the country. From June 2012 to July 2013 the US only caught 3,800 tonnes leaving about 26,000 tonnes of “un-fished” quota, which is tonnage that could have been assigned to the EU.

About 10 tonnes of skipjack is fished by the local fishers.

The package paid by the EU comprises of \$6.1 million dollars access fees paid evenly by the EU and ship-owners and \$2.6 million dollars of policy support paid entirely by the EU. The access fees are paid according to the catch but the policy support is paid irrespective of whether the fleet actually fishes.

The MMR believes that the financial terms which have been negotiated are “highly favourable” to the Cook Islands compared to

other EU agreements or fees paid by other nations. The EU agreement will charge vessels \$7,400 per day of fishing. This compares to \$4,500/day paid by the US vessels in 2012 or to the \$6,800/day dollar benchmark established by the PNA vessel day scheme.

In addition the policy support is up to 100% of the access package, which is uncommon.

Ponia acknowledges that there are responsibilities that come with developing the skipjack fishery “We will have to face up to these responsibilities if we want to retain our right to fish skipjack tuna commercially, now and for the future”.

“Issues such as controlling by-catch of juvenile big eye tuna and ensuring robust monitoring systems are in place will be critical and are common challenges that all states who wish to have a stake in the region’s fishery must sign up to”, he says.

MMR’s revenue is paid to the treasury to support government’s regular budgets for education, health, etc. It is the largest source of untaxed revenue and provides more revenue than the combined dividend of all state owned enterprises.

MMR is proposing to utilise part of the EU funding for a new office facility with a modern surveillance centre to combat illegal fishing and coordinate sub-regional fishery patrols. The Ministry also plans to use some of the revenue to place tracking devices on small fishing craft for sea safety purposes and to track fuel usage to fund a subsidy scheme for local fishers.

“In some respects what we hope to do is convert our untapped fishery resource into revenue that we can use to protect our oceans and assist our local fishery as well” says Ponia.

— MMR Media release

Master carver hosts NZ school kids



By Charles Pitt

Nine young students from Onehunga School in Taumaranui in New Zealand are visiting Rarotonga with their school principal Mrs Peggy Carmichael. Carmichael said it took over a year of planning and fundraising for the trip. The kids are here to learn about Cook Islands culture and the art of wood carving and also our p'eu Maori. Carmichael said it was great to be learning from Master Carver Mike Tavioni, "How great is that?" she said. Tavioni said he was happy to teach the kids and he had not asked for any payment in return. Instead he suggested the school consider contributing some materials towards the building of his art gallery across the road from his workshop in Atupa. Tavioni said he regularly tutors kids from local and overseas schools during the year.



School Principal Mrs Peggy Carmichael



Letter to the Editor

Pitt wrong on how VAT works

Dear Editor
Mr Pitt's most recent opinion pieces in your paper continue to be a distorted view of reality. They are so far off the mark that one can only wonder as to how he arrives at the scenarios he does. In the fanciful three pages that made the Herald last week Mr Pitt managed (badly) to weave quite a bit of factually incorrect information which requires correction into his concoction. Just for the record Editor, could you just let Mr Pitt know that I am not from the Middle East, I was born in Australia, my parents emigrated from Madeira, a Portuguese Island in the Atlantic Ocean.

In his article "Brown's tax proposal comments challenged" Mr Pitt has

seriously (and I think knowingly) misrepresented the way the VAT works in the Cook Islands overplaying the impact and the manner by which the increase from 12.5 per cent to 15 per cent will impact prices and the community to create a bit of hysteria, something Mr Pitt loves to do.

Unlike a 'turnover tax' the VAT does not add up as it passes along the supply chain, or the multiplier effect as Mr Pitt describes it. I am sure all the USP MBA graduates would be able to explain that to him. In the Cook Islands only the final consumer pays the full cost of the VAT.

The reason the final consumer pays the full VAT is because the registered company that sells the product to the consumer will pay VAT

on their expenses and have these refunded as a tax credit on the VAT they have received on their sales. For a company, changes in the VAT don't change their cost structures as they can pass on the full VAT on to their sales and then claim back all the VAT they pay on their expenses. But as the proprietor of businesses I think Mr Pitt would know that.

The majority of Cook Islanders will be better off under the proposed tax changes because the income tax cut which is to be delivered will be larger than the VAT they pay on their current basket of items.

Mr Pitt then states that the Departure Tax is \$100, the current rate of the Departure tax for adults departing the Cook Islands is \$65 and is now incorporated within the ticket price. It is indexed by

2 per cent every year, it will increase by \$1.30 on 1 July 2014 to \$66.30, if no change is made to the current policy then the departure tax will reach \$100.49 in 2035.

The basic underlying principle of the proposed tax changes is to shift the burden of taxation away from those that can least afford it. The proposal will provide lower salary earners with more money without impacting on employers, it will provides the vulnerable and the elderly with more money, to offset the cost of these two proposals government will recover it from a small rise in the VAT which is not only paid by Cook Islanders but those who visit our shores. Mr Pitt hasn't acknowledged any of that, just continued negativity and ill formed speculation.

*Regards
Richard Neves*

Reply to Neves' Letter

Dear Editor,
Richard Neves' blanket statement of rebuttal is typical of a highly paid public official caught with his pants down. Rather than address the big picture of my opinion piece he has deliberately drawn diversionary attention onto very minor comments. How he can say I have a distorted view of reality while Neves himself is so far removed from it is laughable to say the least.

I made no reference to Neves being born in the Middle East; I did state "he's a Middle Eastern blooded Australian," in other words an Australian who has Middle Eastern blood, but thanks for the genealogy lesson.

Regarding the Airport departure tax, another very minor point he devotes ten times more words than I did, still another diversion from the plot of my opinion.

If this government unwisely pursues the VAT increase, time will confirm Neves is wrong on the

multiplying effect. He is speaking out of a distorted cognitive of economic theory where as I have first hand coalface experience as the former owner of a retail business.

Neves wrongly, deliberately or otherwise, claims I didn't acknowledge people will have more money, I did so, but added after the new tax hike they would be out of pocket more than before the change. More will be grabbed back than received. Like the Aussie pokies there is only one winner and it's not the punter.

To accuse me of hysteria, continued negativity and ill formed speculation because I'm not gullible or fooled by his playschool fiscal magic, is indicative Neves perceives his activities are above public scrutiny. Suck up all you like to your political masters Mr. Neves but the people deserve a lot better from someone who is being paid \$250,000 plus perks a year.

George Pitt

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Te Mato Vai, te akamata nei, karere kite katoatoa

Kote kamupani nana e akaaere i tetai tuanga maata rava atu ka rave te Kavamani Kuki Airani ki runga ite enua nei, kua iki ia e kote au parani note akatupu ite au angaanga note Mato Vai kua akamata i teiane.

Kote akaaere koia kote kamupani - Engineering and Water Consult Limited, KEW –e kamupani Nu Tirenī – Samoa teia e, e opati to teia kamupani i Nu Tirenī rai e Samoa katoa.

Kote tuanga maata ate KEW koia e parani ete akatu-anga mekore patu-anga ite au ngai mamaata meite mataara, te ana, ete vai atu'ra e pera te akaaere i teia au tuanga. E kite marama katoa to teia kamupani no tetai atu au tuanga meite paranianga ete akaaere ite au angaanga mamaata note tuanga ote vai ete repo, te au mea akaoro, te uira, te paruruanga ete au angaanga i runga ite enua. .

Kua rave mai ana te KEW i tetai au angaanga i Samoa, Pa Enua Solomonā, ki Papua New Guinea, Viti, Tonga, Vanuatu, te Kuki Airani nei e Kiribati.

Te Mato Vai – e akameitaki atu anga ete akaou ite tuanga ote vai i Rarotonga nei- e tuanga taokotai teia i rotopu ite Kuki Airani, Tinito e NuTirenī.

I teia marama i topa kua taina te Komitiona Ngateitei o Nu Tirenī ko Joanna Kempkers, te Tekeretere ote Pae ote Moni ko Richard Neves ete Tekeretere ote Pae Angaanga ote Enua ko Mac Mokoroa ite orongaanga mai ate Kavamani Nu Tirenī i tetai \$3.8 mirioni ei tauturu ite parani maata note tuanga ote vai, te

akaaereanga ete au angaanga note teateamamaoanga. Kua rave te Kavamani Kuki Airani i tetai kimikimianga kite au enua i vao mai e kua iki ite AECOM e nana e akaoti ite parani maata, e nate KEW e akaaere ite angaanga meite akamataanga kite openga

Kote kamupani note au akatu-anga no Tinito mai, note rave i tetai maataanga ote angaanga, kare e kote katoaanga, ka tae mai kite Kuki Airani nei i roto ia Tianuare a teia mataiti ki mua e ka akamata rai ite angaanga i te reira tuatau tikai.

Ka rauka i reira ite au tuanga o konei ka inangaro ite piri atu ki roto ite raveanga i teia angaanga maata ite tuku atu i ta ratou au tamanakoanga meite akaouanga ite au vaarua vairanga-vai, te patuanga ete akaouanga ite au tangika vai, te au ngai tamaanga ite vai, e penei, pera katoa te patu-anga ite au paipa mamaata no uta mai ite vaarua vairanga-vai.

Kote akapapaanga note au inivetianga ka akapapu ia mai me oti te Parani Maata ka rave te AECOM. Ko teia Parani Maata kua irinaki ia e ka oti mai ite pae openga o Tianuare 2014.

Me oti ana Te Mato Vai i roto ite toru mataiti, ka rauka i reira te vai ma ete meitaki note iti tangata e noo ana e pera te au turoto i Rarotonga nei, e ka riro katoa ei akamaroiroi ite akapuapinga atu ite enua.

Ka akameitaki ia atu te au vaarua vairanga-vai, ka maata atu te vai i roto ite vairanga, ka akatu ia tetai au ngai tama ite vai, ka mono ia te au paipa

vai no uta mai ite au vaarua vairanga-vai e pera te au paipa vai mamaata i runga ite au mataara ete au paipa kite au au ngutuare e taangaanga ia nei, ka akameitaki ia atu. Kote tuanga openga i reira kote akatupuanga ite taangaangaanga ete akonokonoanga ote tuanga ou ote vai.

Kia rauka papu te vai ma ete meitaki, e kia mama ua note katoatoa, kote akakoroanga maata ia i roto i teia taokotaianga angaanga note vai.

E kia tau rai, i mua ake ka rave ia ei tetai uatu o teia au tuanga ka akakitekite ua iatu rai kite iti tangata o Rarotonga nei, note mea ko ratou katoatoa te au ona o

teia tuanga, te au angaanga e tupu nei na roto ite au Akamaramarama anga ete au uipaanga nate iti tangata.

Me ka anoano ia ka rauka ite Kavamani Kuki Airani ite akapapu kia rave ia teia au tuanga mate kore e akapouanga moni maata atu e kia kore e tupu te manamanata. Ei akaraanga kote akanoonooanga ite akaouanga ite au tuanga i raro ite enua ete au angaanga i runga ite au mataara.

Na tetai kamupani i Rarotonga ne koia te Communications Company - Woven Pacific e kote akaaere kote tamaine Kuki Airani ko Jaewynn McKay nana te tuanga akakitekite note turuturu ite Te Mato Vai.



\$1 million to re-build burnt classrooms

By Charles Pitt

It will cost about \$1 million to re-build classrooms destroyed in fires at two schools last weekend, but resumption of classes is a priority government has announced.

Speaking to the media in the Cabinet room on Monday afternoon, Finance Minister Mark Brown said that in relation to the two fires which destroyed classrooms at Nukutere College and Avatea School last weekend, government's priority is that there should be no disruption to classes.

The Nukutere College fire occurred about 1am Sunday morning and the Avatea School fire about 4pm Sunday afternoon.

The Nukutere fire is especially devastating to those parents and supporters who dug deep to raise funds to rebuild the same block of five classrooms destroyed in an earlier blaze.

Brown said he had spoken to the Head Master at Nukutere and also the Secretary for Education and classes will be re-arranged to accommodate all children. Classes at Nukutere resumed on Tuesday while Avatea students will resume on Wednesday.

With the NZ NCEA starting soon, the least disruption as possible is a priority.

The Minister said he encouraged all children to attend school and be proud and for the parents to give their support. He said government is now looking at re-construction so that the schools will be back to normal for next year. He said government will work closely with all parties.

He said he spoke with Minister for Police Teariki Heather and the Assistant Police Commissioner earlier regarding determining the cause of the fires. While arson is suspected, both Police and the Fire Service have contacted their counterparts in NZ to send specialists to determine the cause of the fires. If the fires were deliberately lit, government will need to consider what action



Avatea School Fire

to take. Both buildings were insured but he said no expense will be spared.

The Minister said there will be a need for the schools to be vigilant and ensure regular security especially during air line flights.

He was pleased to see the level

of support being given to the schools to ensure no repeats.

The Minister said it had been estimated the cost of rebuilding will be about \$1 million. He said an insurance assessor would be arriving from NZ on Monday night.

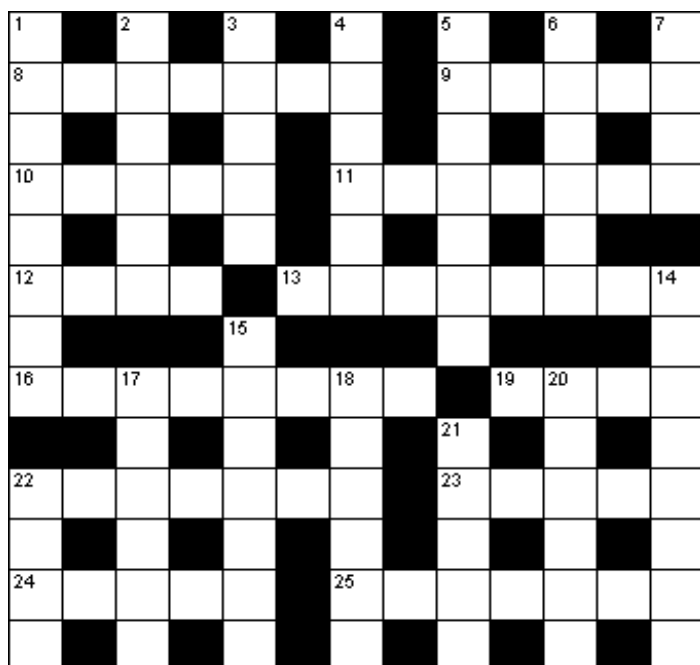
Nukutere College lost a science

lab and Avatea lost their library. Many families were affected and angry.

He said he was grateful to the Puaikura Volunteer Fire Brigade for ensuring the fire at Avatea School did not spread to neighbouring Nikao Maori School.



CROSSWORD



Across

8. Drape (7)
9. Pack leader (5)
10. Down-filled quilt (5)
11. Illness (7)
12. Silent (4)
13. Newsman (8)
16. Imagine (8)
19. Stick used by a magician (4)
22. Small fish (7)
23. Evergreen tree (5)
24. Burn brightly (5)
25. Lunatic (7)

3. Components (5)

4. Breathe in (6)
5. Letterbox (7)
6. Respectable (6)
7. Skin growth (4)
14. Saviour (8)
15. Dwells (7)
17. Kingdom in N Europe (6)
18. Capital of Austria (6)
20. Beast (6)
21. One-twelfth of a year (5)
22. Weeps (4)

Down

1. Pertaining to a school (8)
2. Evergreen shrub (6)



The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

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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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Ecosystem Management Representation

In his capacity as the Oceania and South East Asian representative, TIS member Kelvin Passfield recently travelled to Nairobi, Kenya and attended the steering committee meeting of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management.

Kelvin is the liaison on the steering committee for four thematic groups: Island Ecosystems, Ecosystems and Invasive Species, Deep Sea Ecosystems and Mining, and Coastal Ecosystems. He took part in discussions regarding these groups' progress within the Commission.

The meeting was followed by a great field trip to look at how community stakeholders manage their resources, such as water and grazing lands, in a dry-land ecosystem.



Kelvin in Kenya with field trip drivers Anthony (left) and Peter (right)

Marine Park Consultations going well in Pa Enea



Consultations to seek the views of the public on the Marine Park began in July 2011 in Rarotonga and later in December 2012 in Mauke, with the assistance of Conservation International. The Living Oceans Foundation allowed the consultation team to travel to Palmerston aboard their research vessel, the Golden Shadow where an island-wide meeting was held.

Additional support from Oceans 5, a project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, has helped the consultation team travel to Mitiaro, Atiu, Aitutaki and in early October, Mangaia.

Feedback so far indicates that Pa Enea communities value being informed on what a Marine Park is and how it could affect them, and having the opportunity to voice their choice for how the Marine Park will be structured.

With more Pa Enea islands speaking out against the Purse Seine fishing licences, it is clear there is also concern that other countries are taking our resources because they have not sustainably managed their own. So it seems this consultation process is also stimulating ownership – a great initial outcome.

Jenesys 2.0 Group 5 - Mie



The Jenesys 2.0 Project began on the 26th Sep – 5th of Oct 2013. 23 students from a variety of US campuses in the Pacific attended along with our supervisor Iferemi from Fiji, our co-ordinator Mahsan & translator Mulani, both from Japan.

The aim of the Project is to revitalize the Japanese Economy through introduction of Japan's attractions to foreign tourists & consumers. By promoting international understanding of the Nations potential strength, allure & values, including the Cool Japan Concept.

The Cool Japan concept refers to various Japanese cultures including FASHION, ANIME, GAMES, and FOOD which are being accepted as COOL & TRENDY by foreigners.

RESPECT is the main idea in the COOL JAPAN concept. If there is no respect between culture tradition, technology & innovation, then the synergy of people with the four factors mentioned will be a disaster.

Japan continues to perform an admirable balancing act between nature, culture and advancement. The dedication and innovative nature of the Japanese people continues to impress and surprise, highlighting the core pillars which exist at the heart of the Cool Japan concept.

The four ambassadors from the Cook Islands were Marjorie Boaza, Maxine Niubono, Matangar Taiao and Agnes Estal. We would like to extend our appreciation to the USP campus here in the Cook Islands, our co-ordinator, translator, supervisor, Joca President, Sera and to everyone that have made this trip an educational and a memorable one.



Here are some of the highlights that we had during our Jenesys 2.0 Project
These are the pictures of us standing in front of the globe at the Miraikan National Museum



Us trying out Ninja uniform, equipment & fighting stance.



Having a taste of Japanese food. Photo with 1 of the married couples at the Shrine



Inside Edo-Tokyo Museum

Agriculture Programmes on Import Substitution - The Strategy is based on two focussed areas (see below)



The picture on your left is Farmer Junior Koteka's Broccoli Plot at Arorangi. Other Growers e.g., Farmer Tua Manea of Nikao, Farmer Sepa Tangimetua of Ngatangia, also grow high valued crops in support of increased local production and reduce imports. The Agriculture Departments on Atiu and Mauke were supplied with Broccoli seeds by the Agriculture Department to grow Broccoli in their respective Islands. This programme was to increase the production of high valued vegetables like: Broccoli, Snow Peas, Coloured Capsicums, Zucchini's, Tropical Cauliflower, Oyster Mushrooms and herbs to feed our tourists (field visit - update).



Continuing with Import Substitution Programme

The strategy is based on two focus areas:

(A) Medium and Annual Target Crops. *(These are short-term annual crops – Vegetables and seasonal fruits, Watermelons, Tomato and seasonal long-term fruits)*

The Key Programme themes are aligned to the NSDP priority areas as follows:

- **Increase Crops / Livestock Production (Addressing Import substitution)**
- Food and Nutrition Security
- Organic Production
- High value Crop Development

These are short-term Key programme themes currently implemented in partnership with selected farmers e.g. organic production involving Vei or Utu organic programme, and secondly, **the growing of high value vegetable crops, (Broccoli, coloured Capsicums, Snow Peas), etc. Some of these vegetables were forwarded to the Outer Islands especially, to Mauke, Atiu and Aitutaki for them to grow and export back to Rarotonga.**



The second focussed area: - five years Plan, and beyond.

Purpose – to grow the economy and at the same time reduce imports of certain produce or products from abroad.

(B) Long-term Main Crops.

The Key Programme themes are as follows: - for five economical main crops and one Livestock namely:

- **Maire** – for Maire Lei (i.e. to be grown under cover or in hedge-row cropping systems, - growing efficiency is paramount and for easy management of pest and diseases). Currently Maire is harvested from the wild where pest and diseases control is complicated. The money earned from selling of the Maire Lei is converted into food to sustain household food security in the Outer Islands.
- **Nono** – for Noni Juice – for economic reasons it is best to grow this crop in Rarotonga (too expensive to ship the unprocessed juice from the outer islands). There are plans to look into drying Noni, and then turn into powder and process into Capsules – i.e. lighter product for export.
- **Coconut** – for Virgin Oil – Body Shop products including high value soap, body cream, high value cooking oil, etc. – Pending on available funds, the programme is linked to the Coconut Re-planting scheme planned for the Northern Group Islands. The department assumes that this programme will be supported under the Chinese Grant Assistance to Agriculture i.e. if this project proposal is approved. The Chinese Grant is worth NZ\$1.5 Million.
- **Pawpaw** – for fresh fruit and puree – Organizing to / manage 12- 14 thousand Pawpaw trees (at various stages or ages of bearing trees to achieve local demands and export targeting 500 cartons per week.
- **Vanilla** – for organic vanilla beans, for perfume / flavorings, etc. The cured product is high valued, stores very well, (i.e. if cured well), light weight, economical to transport by air from the Outer Islands, and we need to Grow under Shade Cloth – for efficiency and long term management, pest control and long term investment.
- **Goats** – for fresh meat for local demands (Import substitution) – Mainly for 3 selected Outer Islands Goat production / Improve genetic characters using long term breeding program for quality meat.

These are not yet implemented fully due to lack of resources (anticipating for the Chinese project assistance) but we are in the process of identifying partners / private sector or Development Partners for Technical Assistance.

How to build friendship *part 2*

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

In Part 1 of this Theme I noted that choosing your friends is very important because they will have some influence on your life. There are basically two different kinds of friends. There are Casual friends and Close friends. Casual friends is the result of circumstances. But Close friends is the result of choice. The closer you are to a person the greater their influence will be on you. Therefore, choose your close friends carefully.

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. Immoral (wicked, corrupt, dishonest) people. Greedy people. Avoid those 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 those who Stimulate (inspire; motivate; encourage) you mentally. The Bible says, "He who walks with the wise will grow wise".

ii) Choose those who Supports 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."

iii) Choose those who Strengthens you spiritually. I Thessalonians 5v.11 "Encourage one another and build each other up."

Part 2 of this article will focus on how to build friendships according to the word of God.

1. GET INTERESTED IN OTHER PEOPLE Proverbs 18v.24 "He who wants to have friends must show himself friendly." The starting point is to get interested in other people. In the Good News version it says, "People who don't get along with others are interested

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

only in themselves." If you just look at yourself and concerned with your needs, pains, desires, goals, you're not going to have many friends. Philippians 2v.4 says "Each of you should look not only after his own interest but also the interest of others." That's the starting point. Get interested in others.

2. SMILE Proverbs 15v.13 "A happy heart makes the face cheerful!" There is tremendous power in a smile. It is the universal language. It is understood in every culture. You smile at somebody and they'll smile back at you. It's automatic. It costs nothing but it gives tremendous benefits. It breaks the ice when you smile at people. II Corinthians 3v.18 (NLT) reads "And all of us have had that veil removed so that we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like Him and reflect His glory even more." Our faces should reflect the glory of the Lord.

3. DON'T BE A REGULAR COMPLAINER

Somebody who's always complaining, has something negative to say about everything. They're not going to have very many friends because nobody likes to be around them. Philippians 2v.14-15 "Do all things without complaining and arguing (without murmuring and disputing) that you may be harmless and blameless, the sons of God without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world." This means that the person who is not a complainer is unique and different than everybody else and that they stand out like a star at night. If you want to have friends, smile, get interested in other people and stop being a complainer.

4. BE A GOOD LISTENER James 1v.19 "Be quick to listen and slow to speak." Proverbs 20v.4 "Counsel is in the heart of a man like a deep well but a man of understanding will draw it out." We can learn



from anyone if we know the right questions to ask. Like water out of a well, we can learn from anyone if we know how to draw it out. Learn to ask questions. Be a good listener.

5. ACCEPT PEOPLE UNCONDITIONALLY

Romans 15v.7 "Accept each other, just as Christ accepted you." We cannot build true friendship until we first give up the impression in

our mind of what that person ought to be. Biblical friendship is always unconditional. "A true friend is someone who knows all about you, yet loves you just the same! Jesus loves us unconditionally!"

May you find this article of Encouragement useful in building your friendship with others. May you have a God blessed week.

Te Atua te aroa.

New Hope Church

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Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you

Sunday at 10.30am

It's back to reality, guys!

By Norma Ngatamariki

Hey everyone! It's your all-time favourite columnist here! How was your school holiday?

Fantastically awesome or downright boring? Whatever the case, the holidays are over, peeps, so you better get used to it (boo hoo). Yes, we are back in those classrooms working our tails off for those extra marks. Or maybe you're attempting to sweet talk your teacher into giving you that Excellence grade, so you don't have to work as hard as the rest of us. The teachers at Tereora aren't total pushovers, so the students there are going to have a hard time. I am speaking directly to the senior students doing their NCEA. Better get a move on with your school work because the academic year is nearly coming to an end.

Yup, that's right. We have exactly ten lessons to go

(according to my English teacher) and when you think about it, that is not a lot of time. So, if you have a ton of assessments to get through, I suggest that you try really hard to complete them right now. You don't want to end the academic year with only ten NCEA credits to your name. Your teachers might have given up on you, but you should always make the effort and prove them wrong (it's a great feeling when that happens).

For the tamariki in Year 9 and 10 (Sorry, but until you reach Year 11, you are considered to be a tamariki), you guys are the lucky ones. I remember when I was in Year 9. Carefree, not worrying about the next assessment deadline or whether or not I was going to repeat a level. Gosh, those were the days. I had the same thing going in Year 10. My friends and I made the most of it because

the year after, we would be seniors. From there on, we would focus on our studies and get through secondary school (Pfft, yeah right).

So far, my week has been pretty uneventful. I have teachers chasing me for assessments, but apart from that, things have been a bit slow. The majority of seniors should've completed most of their internals by now. Anyway, drastic change of topic. Did anybody manage to sneak off to New Zealand to watch the Queen Bey? I know a couple of lucky people who made the trip to watch the magnificent Beyonce Knowles shake her booty up on stage at Vector Arena. Some of them actually got to TOUCH her. OMG!

Yeah, I wish I was one of those people. Oh well, there's always next time (if there is a next time). Hang in there, guys! There are only three weeks left of school



(technically, two and a half weeks for us seniors), so stay strong! The real holiday will be starting soon. Christmas and New Year's, come at me! I've already got my shopping list ready (question is, whether or not I'll have the money for it lolz).

True Friendship

By Hareta Tiraa Passfield

Wow, holidays are almost over. How sad is that? Do you know what that means? It means that seniors only have 3 more weeks of school left then it's exams! How terrifying is that? Only 3 weeks left of school then the most important exams of the school year will be upon us. I haven't even started to study. I should but I have no motivation what so ever. All I want to do is hang out with friends, sleep, watch TV and last but not least eat. I am so scared, I don't want to sit my exams.

As usual I was stuck on what to write about, so I went through all the things that really matter to me, first was food but I don't

think I could only write 500 words on food. Then next on the list was school but how boring is that? So I decided on one of the most important things in my life, this "thing" has changed my life. It's changed yours and every single person in this planet. That thing is friendship.

Without friends I would not be the person I am today. When I say friends I don't mean that girl/guy you meant once at some event. When I say friendship, I mean the type of friendship that pooh and piglet have (ha, lame I know). I mean the type of friendship that people will spend their whole lives searching for. I mean the type of friendship that's worth fighting for.

My best friend as some of you know is Natalia. It seems weird but I know for a fact that she will always be there for me. We've been through so much stuff. I know that I can count on her for anything. I'm not saying we have the best friendship in the world. I'm just using us as an example.

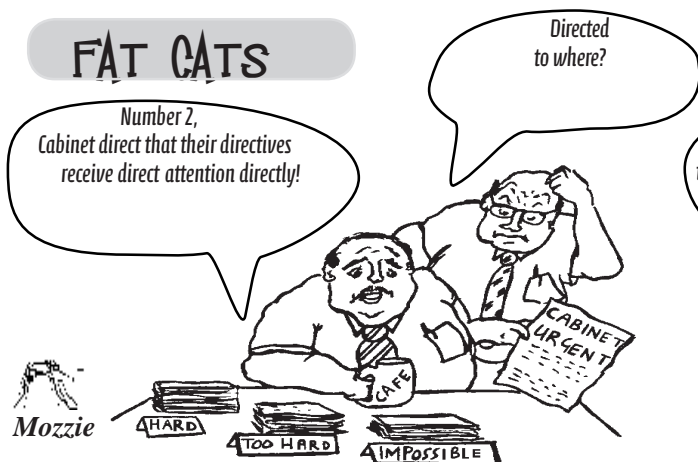
Having true friends in your life is the second most important thing after family. Friends are just like family, just not blood relations. Though here in Rarotonga, half your friends are your cousins. Having a friend to count on is the best feeling in the world. You can tell them everything and they won't judge. If you need advice they will be there for you. If you just need a hug

they will be there for you. A true friend is someone who you can trust with your deepest, darkest secrets and you know that they will keep them safe inside their heart. A true friend is someone who you trust with your life.

If it wasn't for my best friend I would be completely lost in the world. She may have brought out the wild side in me but she also made me who I am today and I wouldn't exchange that for all the money in the world. If it wasn't for her I would have been single for my whole teenage life, if it wasn't for her I would not be sitting here writing this article.

"Best friends are hard to find, because the very best is already mine"

FAT CATS



Te Aponga has a 2kW "net metering" ad in the Daily. Local chook rang TAU to find out more as the advert says call and talk to the renewable energy officers for more info! But! Over the phone the officer has no idea about the advert and asked the caller to read the advert to him! Whoaaa chooks! The right hand does not know what the left hand is doing!



Whatever the Puakura Soccer President is gassing up or giving his players to drink at half time is working, in the weekend their senior team thrashed Titikaveka 10-2. Criticized for being too slushy when elected to the Presidency, the score board is vindicating the little pineapple.



The Daily reports the overseas led firm has begun working on the water project! How can this be chooks when no permits have been issued? Not only that, but public consultations have yet to take place! Not just public consultations but also consultations with the Chiefly lot! Once again we see the Mandarins placing the cart before the horse!



Report is in of lack of discipline on the field chooks. MOIP Inspector PP has been shown the yellow card and has gone into the sin bin but with all his gear! Onto the paddock comes temp Tupa but with borrowed gear from team TAU.



Oh dear chooks! GG gallops in but the

COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



CHOOKS CORNER

WITH BIG RED



cupboard is bare! No gold bars left in the bag! House of Chiefs had to dig deep into their own money belts and the Ministerial Mandarin as well! How can things come to this chooks? The Lord High Mandarins knew months in advance the GG was approaching but made no arrangements about Grits!



For once a local has reversed the employment of ex-pats trend and has landed a fat contract! The high flying Cookie with an overseas background in the communications business stands to rope in over 100 G's to handle communications for the Water Project! But how much will go into the pockets of the local media? Over 100 G's? Not likely! Another local was also offered the same jobbie but for less than 50 G's. What's going on?



Stall holder loses over \$1,000 when some low life robbed her cash box at the Muri night market recently. Appalling! What does this tell you chooks about security arrangements? Don't stall holders look

out for each other? Who organises these night markets and what assurances are given to Police about personal safety and also security? Where the public gather for any reason, Police have a duty in regard to safety, security and law and order. Do any Police patrols call at night markets to check on security arrangements?



There now appears to be a cunning, carefully orchestrated plan afoot to discredit the Grey Power lot. A cabal of mystery writers sending in derogatory letters about Grey Power members being greedy. Who prompted these? A bunch of ex-pats no doubt who sadly, are now finding it difficult to make a bean because the economy is shrinking and affecting their high flying flatulent lifestyle. Politicians though beware. A golden rule of politics says you upset pensioners at your peril. The reason the Demos did not enforce the law requiring pensioners to pay tax on their NZ pensions was so they could pump most of it into the economy for the benefit of the little people who run neighbourhood shops and small businesses. Now a near broke government

wants to grab some of that money to pay for its excessive spending. What is the better option? You decide.



Government may be countering Grey Power's "Don't be cruel" TV ad with one of its own! But will it be backed by an Elvis song? What about crooner Sinatra's, "I did it my way?"



Tried to get a new pair of prescription glasses from the eye clinic? You'd be lucky. You see the eye clinic is based at the Hospital up the hill but hello, the glasses are kept in a room at the Tupapa Public Health Admin office. To get a replacement, you first have to go to the hospital to see the eye Doctor, Dr Faireka. But hello, he's not there. He's down at the Tupapa Community Clinic! Contact Tupapa Clinic-but hello, Dr Faireka is away on leave! Does he have an assistant, a fellow Doctor or a nurse looking after the eye clinic and glasses? You have to go to the Hospital up the hill to find out but hello, that Doctor is at the Tupapa Clinic! Ring Tupapa Clinic but hello, the relieving eye Doctor has gone home!

Jenesys 2.0 group 5 - Mie



TENDER



Te Aponga Uira

FOR SALE BY TENDER AT TE APONGA UIRA MAIN OFFICE AT TUTAKIMOA

- Yamaha Farm Bike AG100 – Year 2010
- New Truck Tyres

All interested parties should forward a tender document in by close off of 3.30pm Tuesday 22nd October 2013. The highest or any other tender prices is not necessarily accepted. For further information or an inspection appointment contact Marlene Cuthers on 20054, between 8.30am and 3.30pm Monday 14th to Tuesday 22nd October 2013.

VACANCIES



Te Aponga Uira

VACANCY - CASHIER

The successful applicant will be required to efficiently fulfill all responsibilities of the Cashier role.

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

Applications close 3:00 p.m., Monday 4th November 2013



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High Valued Colored Capsicums, grown locally by selected keen Growers in support of the program on Import Substitution



Field visits to Tupapa and Nikao revealed Vegetable Growers like Maru Nganu and Tua Manea growing high valued Colored Capsicums to supply our local market. Big Man Teono of Titikaveka grows the Red variety and sells his crops at the Punanga Nui Market on Saturdays.

There are 3 main colors of Capsicums grown locally. These are Red, Orange and Yellow as shown in the picture on the left. Local Hotels and Super Market Stores import these colored Capsicums from New Zealand and the current price sold in the Super Market Stores varies between NZ\$18.00 to NZ\$36.00 per kilogram.

The Ministry's messages to our keen local growers are, to increase quality production and up-lift the standard equivalent to those imported from abroad. The picture on the left displays the quality of Colored Capsicum grown at Tupapa and Nikao

2

Snow Peas - Another high valued vegetable, grown locally to support our local Food supplies and also our Tourist Industry. (Import Substitution)



Snow Pea crop (*Pisum sativum*) var *P. sativum saccharatum* is a legume but more known to our growers as Pea, or Snow Pea, eaten with its pod while still young, sweet and snappy. Very popular in the Restaurants and Hotels but these are mainly imported from abroad and yet we can grow them here in Rarotonga and some of the Outer Islands like Mauke, Mangaia, Aitutaki and Atiu. The picture on the left shows local Snow Peas grown by local growers in Matavera and Nikao. Few of these Snow Peas have been sold at the Punanga Nui Market in the past months on Saturdays and were bought very quickly by those early risers to the Saturday Market. In order to reduce dependency on Imported produce like Snow Peas; we should grow our own. We need to help program our growers to consistently sow new seedlings every 5 to 6 weeks cycle, starting in mid March to October. There are 4 or 5 growers on Rarotonga and Mauke trialing the growing of Snow Peas for income generating programme and also for their livelihood. In the next cooler season i.e. March to October 2014, it is planned that the Ministry will encourage more local growers to take-part in the Snow Pea local production programme to reduce dependency on imports.

Biosecurity Meeting with Agricultural Importers on the New Revised "Biosecurity Import Specifications" in collaboration with the New Customs Coding Systems (Pre-clearance of cargoes arriving from overseas)



A meeting was held for importers at the **Ministry of Agriculture Conference Room on Wednesday 18 September 2013 10.00 in the morning**. The main agenda was on the new revised 'Biosecurity Import Specifications' for the importation of agricultural products in collaboration with the new Customs Coding System (Preclearance of cargoes arriving from overseas).

One of the main purposes of this meeting was to update our private sectors and business customers on the changes in our biosecurity preclearance requirements. It is important that commercial businesses are made aware of the changes and also to bring awareness on some minor problems during the transitional period of such procedural requirement on the Biosecurity Import Specifications.

Te Mato Vai project gets underway

The company that will manage the biggest infrastructure project ever undertaken by the Cook Islands government has been chosen and planning to get the Te Mato Vai project up and running has begun.

The project manager – Kupa Engineering and Water Consult Limited, KEW – is a New Zealand-Samoan company with offices in both countries.

KEW specializes in engineering and project management with expertise across a wide range of disciplines ranging from design and supervision of major water supply and sanitation projects to transport, energy, defence and civil infrastructure work.

KEW has carried out work in Samoa, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, Cook Islands and Kiribati.

Te Mato Vai – the upgrade and improvement of the water supply system to Rarotonga –

is a joint venture between the Cook Islands, China and New Zealand.

Last month New Zealand High Commissioner Joanna Kempkers, Secretary of Finance Richard Neeves and Secretary of Infrastructure Mac Mokoroa signed the arrangement for a \$3.8 million grant for the New Zealand Government to help pay for the master plan for the water supply system, project management and preparatory work. The Cook Islands Government ran international tenders and selected AECOM to complete the master plan, and KEW to manage the project from start to finish.

The Chinese construction company that will carry out much, but not all of the work will arrive in the Cook Islands in January next year and will start work immediately.

Local contractors will be able to bid on project components such as water intake

storage tanks construction and rehabilitations, water treatment plants, and also possibly the construction of trunk main pipelines.

The list of investments will be confirmed after the completion of the Project Master Plan conducted by AECOM. This Master Plan should be completed by the end of January 2014.

When Te Mato Vai is completed in three years' time it will provide healthier treated water to the people of Rarotonga locals and visitors alike, and will be an encouragement to development on the island too.

Water intakes will be refurbished, there will be an increase in water storage capacity, water treatment facilities will be constructed, all trunk and ring mains will be replaced and all piping to the boundaries of properties served by the current network will be upgraded. The final stage will be the

establishing the operation and maintenance of the new water supply.

Supplying safe, reliable and affordable water for all is the overarching goal of the water partnership.

Naturally before any of the physical work takes place the people of Rarotonga, all of whom are stakeholders, will be kept informed through a series of Awareness and Stakeholder communications activities including public meetings.

Wherever practical the Cook Islands Government will ensure works are carried out in the most cost effective and least disruptive manner. For example, co-ordinating the renewal of underground services and roadworks.

A Rarotonga based Communications Company – Woven Pacific headed by Cook Islander Jaewynn McKay – has been contracted to provide communications support to the Te Mato Vai project.

Trash Art Sculpture contest at the National Museum



On 2nd October the Pacific Islands Conservation Initiative (PICI) hosted the Trash Art Sculpture Contest at the National Museum. TIS entered the above piece – it was a prize winner! The net came off a FAD found on

the beach in front of the Fishing Club on Clean Up the World Day and the fish, well they were “left over” from Lagoon Day! Well done to Mere and Kym (a friend of Jaewynn’s, visiting from Brisbane!)