

# COOK ISLANDS HERALD

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# Association members present gift



PM Henry Puna presented with a gift from ADFIP Chairwoman Ana Mandiola during the conference at the Edgewater Resort.

## KARERE KI TE ITI TANGATA KUKI AIRANI

# Manea tikai te au Nuku i te ra akamaaraanga i te tae anga mai te evangelia ki to tatou nei Basileia

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

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

Kua rave ia te angaanga akamaaraanga i te tae anga mai te evagelia ora ki o tatou nei i te Monite ki Matavera e kua tupu teia ma te mataora tikai. Manaea tikai te au nuuku e ta akatutuanga i te au tua

o roto i te bibilia te ka riro ei turama i to tatou oraanga tangata nei e pera ki to tatou oraanga vaerua.

Kua akaara au i teia angaanga e kua maara iaku te tuatau i manako ei te Kavamani Democratic Party kia akapiri mou ia te pirianga o te evangelia kit e reiora putuputuanga taku e tauturu arataki nei. Kua uriuri manako maua ko te arataki koia aki a Papa Wilkie Rasmussen, e kua ariki maua e ko tetai vaerua maata teia ta maua ka akatupu e ka opu i teia au ra ta tatou ka aere ki mua. Ko te tumu, tei roto katoa oki i teia vaerua te manako e, kia ririnui te iti Maori, tua o te vaine tini e pera tera te tane tini. Kia pera katoa ki ta tatou anau tamariki Maori, no te mea me akara au i teia tuatau, te maata nei te maroiroi o te Kavamani i te arumaki i te au

mea papaa. Me akapera tatou akapapu atu au e, a teia au tuitau ki mua ka uiui tatou, e aha ra tatou te iti Maori i paruparu ei i te akaaere ia tatou.

E metua au, mei te tai au tangata rai, e anau ta tatou. Ka inangaro tatou ia ratou kia tiratiratu e kia kite i to ratou tupuanga mai. I taku akaraanga ko tetai mea teia e ngere nei i roto i teia Kavamani, koia oki ko te akarongo mai i to tatou reo te iti tangata Maori. Maata ua nei te tuatau kit e au peu papa'a e pera te nmanako moni ma te kore e akamaara i te tika maata ioakena ia mai e te iti tangata Maori I te tuatau ikianga. No reira akamaroi tatou, mei tei akaaraiia i roto i te au nuku I t era taeanga evangelia, kia pera katoa te manea i ta tatou e kite atu nei ki mua. Na te Atua e tauturu mai.



# Government WATSAN project stumped by concerned citizens

*By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition*

An incredible thing happened last week. On Thursday morning, the Business, Trade and Investment Board put a stop to the WATSAN project with a view that the Government should consult more with the public about it. Indeed, concerned citizens like me, institutions such as the House of Ariki and several private individuals, companies wrote letters to the Board expressing serious concern. The Board took that into consideration and took a position that was against the wish of the Government to have the project underway. The Board and its Chairman George Pitt need to be congratulated for literally speaking on behalf of the public to the Government for want of consultation. I, for one expressed my concern about Mr. Pitt being appointed as BTIB chairman in view of his forthrightness.

This project is the upgrading of the roads and waterworks around and about the town area of Avarua. We have already seen some phases of the work carried out over the last year or so where we have been left with torn up and badly repaired roads that continues to create chaos, inconvenience and even danger for drivers and pedestrians alike. We have seen roads and trenches dug up, re-filled and then re-sealed in probably the most rudimentary repairs I have ever witnessed. Some roads turned out worse that what they were before they were interfered with.

I understand that this project is funded by NZ Aid with several millions of dollars. The former New Zealand High Commissioner to the Cook Islands, John Carter was to be seen personally supervising the work amidst allegations of incompetence of the Ministry of Infrastructure in the management and implementation of previous capital works. We saw in

the process the approach of Government to have the WATSAN and MATO VAI projects being managed by the Ministry of Finance because of the perceived conflicts of interest of the Minister of Infrastructure Teariki Heather. The Opposition has constantly alleged that he had had a long string of conflicts of interest when it comes to such works where his company T & NM Heather almost always gets the jobs instead of other sub-contractors winning tender. There were also allegations of the Ministry of Infrastructure splitting up contracts so they are below \$30,000 worth and that enables the Head of the Ministry to award contracts. It was strongly suspected that the Minister of the Ministry was influencing the HOM.

In that context the WATSAN project was given the go-ahead by the Government and indeed the donor country but no-one bothered to get proper permission from the gate-keepers of investments into the Cook Islands and that is the BTIB Board. Why? It puzzles me somewhat when we have created our own rules on such matters and yet we don't follow proper procedure, well not us, them the Government of Henry Puna and Mark Brown. Doesn't that sound familiar?

I have been told that there are already overseas consultants and companies lined up to carry out the job and yet many members of the public don't quite know the true picture. We heard hints from the Secretary of the Ministry of Infrastructure Mac Mokoroa of people having to cop up with the costs of their own connections from the main water pipe to their respective sections. These costs include newer materials to replace old rusty pipes and to cope with the stringer pressure of the water. There are other hidden costs that people don't quite understand.

A member of the public had come out in the media suggesting

for instance perhaps the most common sense idea of catching rainwater to fill the Government subsidized water tanks that are currently being installed mainly around Avarua and now all over Rarotonga. Businessman Temu Okotai is of course also reflecting on the lack of proper consultation by the Government and the projects about landowner's rights and interests. Instead the Government seems to assume that everyone will agree with its plans.

Sorry to say, that members of the public who were placed onto the BTIB Board, which was created so the people could have say, felt that consultation will be the way to move forward here. Good on you courageous people, don't just rubber stamp what the Government wants but instead do what is best for our people.



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# Fin Sec told to go back to Australia

By Charles Pitt

Some rather uncomplimentary comments were fired at Financial Secretary Richard Neves last Thursday when he fronted a meeting outside the MFEM office with a vocal group of Grey members who had marched on the office.

Neves kept his cool as some yelled, "Go back to Australia," and "This only started when you arrived!"

It was last Thursday morning just after 9.30am that some 60 members of the Grey Power movement marched on the Ministry of Finance (MFEM) office in central Avarua.

From 8.30am onwards members began assembling with their placards in the park opposite the Banana Court. By 9am, some 60 persons, Grey Members and younger supporters along with media had gathered.

Grey Power Vice President Denis Tunui briefed the members prior to the march. Before the march began, Finance Secretary Richard Neves was a surprise visitor, he arrived on foot, in a red pareu shirt and met with and spoke to members. This meeting was cordial and friendly with handshakes, hugs and kisses.

The march proper began with members holding placards and signs, crossing over the main road and marching slowly but steadily towards the MFEM building, chanting their slogan.

In the area outside the old Post Office, Bounty Bookshop and

MFEM office, members chanted their slogan "Grey Power, one voice, one choice" and listened to speeches. To his credit, Richard Neves fronted the gathering and spoke to members who then put questions to Neves. Prominent members Teariki Simiona and Tupe Short also put questions to Neves.

Tunui announced that members will not pay any back tax.

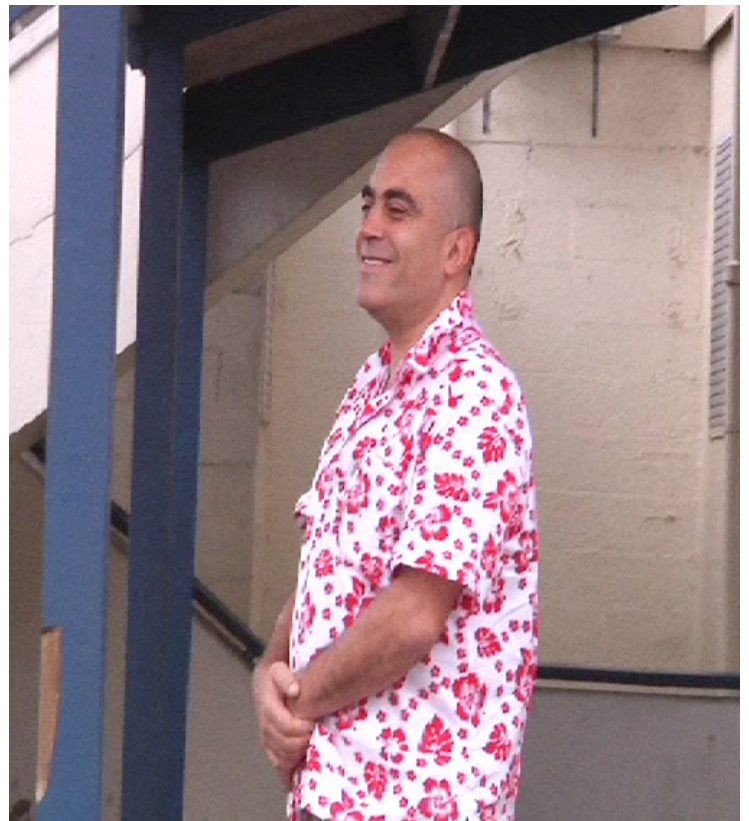
The crowd voiced their opinions loudly but their behavior was orderly and no Police were needed to maintain order.

Don Reid was particularly vocal concerning the matter of back tax which Neves said was not back tax but tax for the year the tax was being applied. One woman was heard to tell Neves to go back to Australia.

After about an hour, members returned to the park opposite the Banana Court for a final wind up.

It was noticeable that this second demonstration was larger than the first held in Turangi outside the home of Grey Power's Vice President Denis Tunui.

**Note:** The Thursday morning plan to assemble at Te Atukura Park before marching on the Prime Minister's office has been cancelled due one of the members passing away. It is not known if members will actually march on the PM's office as the PM is understood to have a full schedule on Friday and on Sunday afternoon he departs for



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# Our Frontpage model Coastal fisheries and purse seine fisheries consultations conducted on Atiu



*Our frontpage girl this week is 18 year old Maheata Caffery. Maheata and her partner Oliver Peyroux are the sole owners of the new store 'Mt. Zion' situated right next to the Lotto. The store is named after their 1 and a half year old son Zion and they sell clothing of the brand Cotton On, Jay Jays and Factorie. Check out our website [www.ciherald.co.ck](http://www.ciherald.co.ck) and facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ciherald](http://www.facebook.com/ciherald)*

**F**riday 25th October, 2013 – The Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) have met with the public on Atiu to develop its coastal fisheries policy and to explain its proposal to develop purse seining fishing for skipjack tuna.

The public meeting held at the Atiu CIIC hall was well attended with over 60 persons attending the half-day session.

Previously the MMR has visited Pukapuka, Manihiki, Rakahanga, Penrhyn, Aitutaki and Mangaia to gather feedback from the local communities to devise a coastal fisheries policy.

The policy will identify the special requirements of the coastal fisheries and a roadmap for funding the development of the sector.

MMR staffs present included the Secretary, Mr Ben Ponia, director Mr Koroa Raumea, senior fisheries officer Mr Sonny Tatuava and Atiu's fisheries officer Ms Tomiti Matangaro.

The main concern expressed by the fishers was the high cost of fuel for fishing which prevented them from going out fishing regularly. The MMR highlighted this issue as being one of the major concerns also heard during previous consultations across the Cook Islands.

In addition the fishers requested assistance in the form of training and access to fishing equipment.

A session on purse seining was led by Ponia to explain the proposal by the Ministry to develop the Cook Islands large and underutilised skipjack fishery.

Ponia emphasised that the Cook Islands has a large skipjack resource comparable to the PNA countries where most of the fishing takes place and whom directly benefit from several hundred million dollars of fishing revenue per year. The issue of concern he highlighted was the need to carefully manage the by-catch of juvenile big eye tuna which accounts for 2% of the total catch.

The proposed sustainable quota of 30,000 tonnes could generate revenue of up to \$9 million dollars per year. The Ministry would like to use some of this revenue to develop local fisheries and assist the fishers to subsidise the cost of fuel as well.

The presentation was closely followed by the audience, many of whom were unaware of what purse seining involved and how the fishery was being managed and monitored. The audience appeared surprised to learn that purse seining wasn't as destructive and indiscriminate a form of fishing as had been "told by NGOs".

The sentiments of the meeting were echoed by the Atiu's Member of Parliament Honourable Norman George who announced that now that he had a better understanding of the purse seine fishery that he was willing to support the Ministry's intentions.

However he added this was conditional on the guarantee by MMR that some of the revenues from purse seining will flow back into the Aitu fishing community as well.



## Cook Islands Herald goes QR

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# You're invited

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Our tourism showcase to the world Working together with our trade partners as a key to tourism success

This is an open invitation to all government departments, organisations, business owners and the community to participate in this 1 day event.

## FORUM DAY

TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER, HIGHLAND PARADISE

<u>0830</u>	<b>Opening Ceremony and Prayer</b>		<b>North America</b>
			Led by: Laura Matar
<u>0855</u>	<b>Keynote Speaker</b>	<u>1215</u>	<b>Lunch</b>
	<b>Andrew Burnes</b>	<u>1315</u>	<b>Panel Discussion</b>
	CEO AOT Group Limited		<b>United Kingdom, Scandinavia &amp; UAE</b>
<u>0940</u>	<b>Morning Tea</b>		Led by: Ian Griffiths
<u>1000</u>	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	<u>1350</u>	<b>Panel Discussion</b>
	<b>New Zealand</b>		<b>Northern Europe</b>
	Led by: Graeme West		Led by: Lars Schubert
<u>1045</u>	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	<u>1440</u>	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>
	<b>Southern Europe</b>	<u>1500</u>	<b>Panel Discussion</b>
	Led by: Nick Costantini		<b>Australia</b>
<u>1130</u>	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	<u>1545</u>	Led by: Kerry Cook
			<b>Closing Prayer</b>

**\*Registration Fee of \$65 pp is applicable**

**Registrations close 4 pm 22 November | Payment received by 12 pm 29 November**

**Inclusions are: • Forum Attendance • Morning Tea, Lunch and Afternoon Tea**

**Register at [www.cookislands.travel/koci-2013](http://www.cookislands.travel/koci-2013) or contact Lydia Nga  
Lydia.Nga@cookislands.gov.ck , phone +682 29435**

# Association members to view agricultural initiatives



By Maria Tanner

Each year ADFIP, Association of Development Finance Institutes in the Pacific, meets in one of the member countries to facilitate the objectives of the Association, including contributing to development finance initiatives in Pacific Island Countries by enhancing the capacity of our members through:

- advocating development finance issues and their benefits,
- training and capacity development,
- building and coordinating relationships with other

providers of similar services and donor agencies, and, providing other advisory services that members need.

- There are 24 Delegates proper and 3 special and 3 Product/Service attendees - from Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, Niue, Tahiti, FSM, Palau, Kiribati, Guam and one special guest from the Philippines. Organizations' include the development finance institutes, housing authorities, European Investment Bank, Investment and Technology companies, and Asia Association of Development Finance Institutes. The 3 attendees are traveling from Australia and India.

Meetings are being held at the Edgewater Conference room, with Friday being site visit day. The Friday site visits are being organized around themes. The morning theme is Growing the Agriculture Sector – Responding to Challenges. The Titikaveka Growers Association and Cook Islands Aquaponics are the two organizations that the participants will visit & dialogue with. The afternoon theme is Achieving a Sustainable Tourism Industry and sessions will be held with WATSAN & Muri Community to be wrapped up with Captain Tamas Lagoon Tour whilst a talk by Dr Rongo is undertaken, and includes site of the Coral Gardens.



# Education Pathways and Partnerships the future for the Cook Islands

## 1. 4th Executive Meeting of the USP Council 01-04th Oct.

At the beginning of the month the Minister Teina Bishop attended the 4th Executive Meeting of the USP Council held at the University in Suva Fiji. The Cook Islands in November 2012, was elected to the Executive Committee for a period of three years. The Council exercises all powers conferred on the University by the Charter, subject to the powers, duties and functions conferred upon it by the Statutes. It has general control over the conduct of the affairs of the University and executes a high level governance role which deals with strategic as well as serious issues concerning the University for Feedback to Council as appropriate. Other council members include Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

In addition to the Executive Council meeting the Minister had the opportunity to meet with the Vice Chancellor of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra, to discuss agenda items of relevance to both Cook Islands students at the different USP campuses and the Cook Islands Centre. The Minister while in Suva took time out to meet with all Cook Islands students to hear any concerns of feedback on the University.

## 2. 2013 Cook Islands USP Campus Graduation - 10th October

Minister Bishop's role as Acting Pro Chancellor at the recent 2013 Cook Islands USP Campus Graduation saw him welcome and thank the students and officials at the event. Held every two years with 70 Graduates awarded Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates, the event celebrated the achievements of the Cook Islands students and the University of the South Pacific as a tertiary education provider.

Minister Bishop in recent correspondence to the Vice Chancellor of USP stated "Your presence Vice Chancellor and that of the Pro-Chancellor at this

event reinforced to our education community the importance and relevance of our Cook Islands campus and continued tertiary education"

Minister Bishop worked with The Vice Chancellor Professor Rajesh Chandra

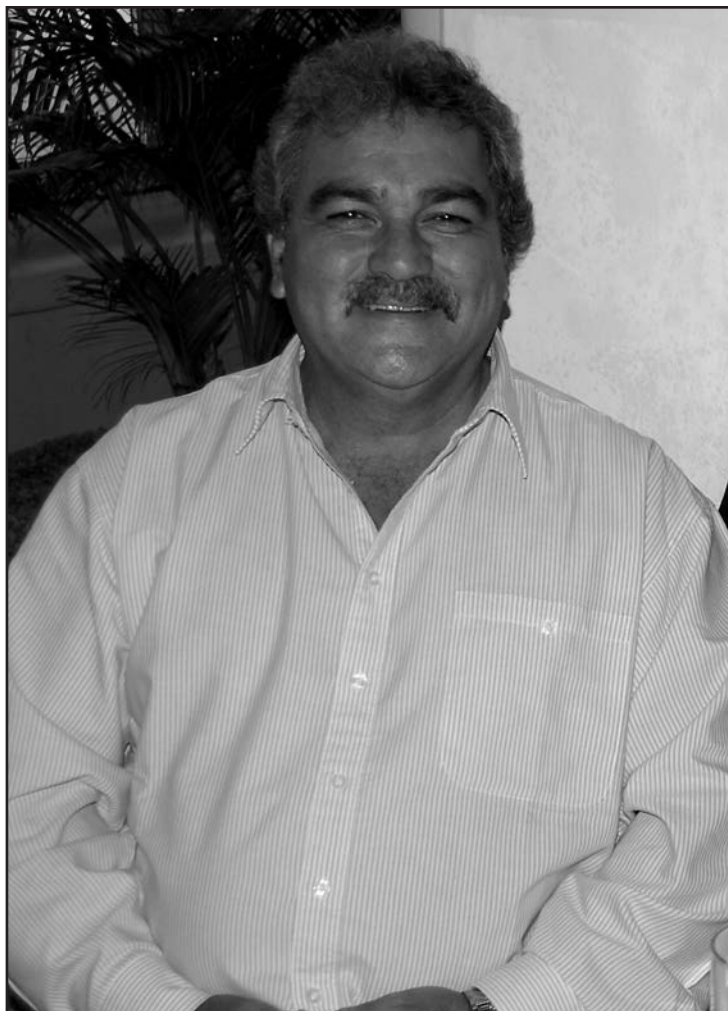
Campus, Director Roderick Dixon and the Ministries of both Education and Foreign Affairs to ensure the event was a success.

## 3. CITM 2013 24th - 27th October.

This year marks the 15th session of the China Travel Mart held in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China. The China National Tourism Administration, Civil Aviation administration of China and the Yunnan Provincial People's Government invited several South Pacific countries including Tonga, Papua New Guinea, the Pacific Asia Travel Association, the South Pacific Tourism Organization, to attend the Travel Mart offering to cover travel and accommodation to the event. Minister Bishop attended the event with Tourism's Destination Development Manager Metua Vaiimene who said "With the recent developments Tourism has made in China establishing our new representative, Danielle Xiao in Beijing, our presence at the Travel Mart enhances and strengthens Tourism relations. This is the largest travel event in Asia now so we have the opportunity to talk to other Asian countries about future tourism opportunities"

The event has more than 200 exhibitors from over 100 countries and regions and 1100 buyers.

Further to attending CITM 2013 an SPTO delegation, led by the Cook Islands Minister (who led the 2012 negotiations) travelled to Fujian Province to facilitate the final stages of the on sale of the South Pacific's Expo booths in China to the Phoenix Investment Group. This delegation will also discuss possible future cooperation including the use of the rebuilt Pacific Expo booths as a platform to assist the PICs in promoting tourism and cultural activities in



Teina Bishop

China.

## 4. 37th General Conference of UNESCO, Paris 05 - 12 November

The Minister for Education will be attending the 37th General Conference of UNESCO in his role as the Chair of the National Commission and will make the first ever national address by the Cook Islands in this forum. The UNESCO General Conference is held every two years with the theme of this conference being "Mobilizing for and contributing to the post 2015 agenda through education, the sciences, culture and communication and information"

Minister Bishop outlined that being able to address the Leaders Forum at the conference places the Cook Islands squarely on the international table for discussion with his address charting the challenges and opportunities that the Cook Islands and our Pacific neighbors have now and

in to the future.

Outlining the educational developments in Gender responsiveness, online and digital growth, training programmes for those at risk and the strengthening of healthy, safe and prosperous communities as core themes to his address, Minister Bishop will also reinforce Cook Islands Government commitment to the vision of UNESCO and the objectives of its medium term strategy and post 2015 agenda.

Attending with the Minister will be Ms Gail Townsend, Executive Director of the Ministry of Education and Education Commissioner of the Cook Islands National Commission for UNESCO and Daniel Fisher as the Cook Islands Youth Representative at the 8th UNESCO General Conference Youth Forum. UNESCO is providing the travel component to enable the Cook Islands to attend.

# Conference of Pacific Women



By Tait Brimacombe

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

The 12th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women, convened by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), was held in Rarotonga last week, running from the 20th – 24th October. Nearly 200 government officials, development agencies and civil society representatives attended the conference, the theme of which was “celebrating our progress, shaping our world”. In line with this theme, the focus of this year’s event was the positioning of gender equality in the post-2015 development agenda. The conference agenda centred on a review of national and regional implementations of gender equality commitments, including the Revised Pacific Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (Women, Peace and Security).

The Conference was opened on the evening of the 20th October, followed by a dinner at Edgewater Resort. Opening remarks made by the Hon. Mark Brown acknowledged the need for political support at the highest level in order to achieve the desired gender equality outcomes, and overcome

some of the challenges that many Pacific countries face. In addition to this political will, it was noted that greater support was needed from development partners throughout the region, as well as the generation of regular and accurate statistics by which to measure country progress. In addition to opening remarks from the host government, the conference opening featured a keynote address from Pacific feminist Imrana Jalal, who recognised an increase in emerging issues such as labour migration, bringing with it both challenges and opportunities, particularly for women. She called for a need to address both “institutional” and “operational gender” to ensure an increase in the number of women within national and regional institutions, as well as the incorporation of gender into policies and programs.

The first full day’s conference agenda saw a presentation by the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) of the 2013 MDGs Tracking Report, which contained a specific focus on gender equality. This presentation made particular mention of the lack of women’s representation in Pacific parliaments, with numbers among the lowest in the world. This was then followed by a presentation of the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration, agreed to in Rarotonga in 2012, which identified five key areas for improvement: gender-responsive government programs, women in decision-making, women’s economic empowerment, elimination of violence against women, and increased access to quality health and education services. These presentations were both followed by calls for governments, and development partners to coordinate and harmonise their responses to these areas.

The remaining agenda items discussed included mechanisms to promote the advancement of women, women’s legal and human rights, the elimination of violence against women, women’s access to education and health services, and economic empowerment of women. Each of these items was introduced by a regional overview of the key gains and challenges, followed by a panel discussion celebrating some of the progress made by countries in the

mentioned areas, as well as identifying various challenges faced for other countries to consider and learn from when implementing their own responses.

Conference participants heard from the Government of the Cook Islands, presenting on the work of the Gender Profile Cook Islands 2012 and the use of gender statistics to identify significant gaps in data collection as well as monitor progress. Participants also heard from Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) on the value of government alliances with civil society, despite frequent challenges in maintaining these relationships. The Conference heard from a number of Government Delegations on the successes and challenges faced in implementing legislation including Samoa’s Constitutional Amendment Act 2013 to set a mandate for women’s seats in parliament, Vanuatu’s Family Protection Act 2009 and the challenges faced in implementation, and Tonga’s Family Protection Bill and its historic passage through parliament.

When it came to discussing violence against women, the conference heard shocking statistics on the rates of sexual and gender based violence throughout the region. It was acknowledged that the elimination of such violence needs to be included in national development strategies, alongside clear budget allocations for implementation. Furthermore, there is a need for comprehensive legislation on all forms of violence against women and girls, as well as increased support and legal assistance for survivors to access justice. Many panel presentations focussed on the need to target men and boys to eliminate violence through the promotion of male advocates.

Presentations around women’s access to education services highlighted the significant progress made throughout the region. However, it was also acknowledged that a number of challenges remain for gender parity in education including teenage pregnancy, early and forced marriage, insecure toilet facilities, travel risks, harassment, and financial costs. It was noted that these issues are further enhanced for women living with disabilities, who have even less access to education and training.

Following from the discussion on education services, an overview presentation by Dr. Wame Baravilala from the UN Population Fund highlighted the key regional issues for women’s health. This included women’s sexual and reproductive health, with low contraceptive use and high need for family planning; HIV and Sexual Transmitted Infections (STIs), with a lack of power resulting in many women being unable to negotiate safe sex; and Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs), which are responsible for eight out of every 10 deaths in the region. It is noted that women’s access to health services is constrained by concerns over drug availability, lack of female medical practitioners, transportation costs, and geographical isolation. Furthermore, the presentation acknowledged the worsened health outcomes and vulnerability experienced by women living with disabilities, as well as the heavy demand placed on the health care system as a result of violence against women.

Conference participants also called for the removal of barriers to women’s employment, the promotion of equal employment opportunities, improved facilities for market vendors, and targeted support for women entrepreneurs. Discussions on women’s economic empowerment echoed previous demands for greater sex-disaggregation of data to ensure progress is measured through consistent reporting frameworks.

The conference concluded with a discussion of the emerging issues throughout the region, as well as key upcoming processes with which to link the message of gender equality, something of particular relevance in light of the shaping post-2015 development agenda. This included a presentation from Dame Carol Kidu who highlighted the need to use bold language to ensure an integration of the current platforms, and introduction of sexual and reproductive health rights into a future development agenda. The conference closed with participants calling for increased action from governments, and development partners to ensure the messages and recommendations of the conference are felt by women at a grassroots level, and don’t just remain on-paper commitments.

# Conference of Pacific Women



Deputy Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) presenting the 2013 MDGs Tracking Report



Young women from the Pacific Young Women's Leadership Alliance proud to be given an opportunity to have their voices heard at the conference.



Stalls selling local clothing and crafts set up outside the conference venue.



Panel presenters Yoshiko from the Marshall Islands, and Veena from FemLINK Pacific, Fiji waiting to speak as part of their panel discussion.



Conference participants listening intently to a presentation.



Dame Carol Kidu presenting a paper during as part of a panel discussion on the post-2015 development agenda.

## Letter to the Editor

# Growing the economy

Dear Editor.  
Mr. Neves provides us with much to discuss in his latest letter. He is certainly correct about one thing, which I wish to underscore: improved quality of living—and likely repopulation, too—can only come through a growing Cook Islands economy.

But let's be clear about growth. Government projects driven by borrowed money may feel like growth and productivity while the borrowed money emerges as public sector pay cheques ... but it's not! Far from it, in fact. It is merely deferred debt. If we borrow \$60,000,000 to pay for a project, that loan must be paid back by our citizens and businesses through increased tariffs or taxes. The loan is a gamble. It hopes the spending will help us bring money in from outside the country to pay off the debt. Remember, too, that the entire amount of the loan does not land in our wallets: most of it will go offshore to pay for materials, equipment, expertise and probably even labour from other countries. If we estimate that the Cooks contain about 6,000 wage earners, then we are saying that, as a group, we are willing to find about \$10,000 each to pay back that loan. More, if the interest rate is high or the loan payback period is long.

The only way to improve

the economy of the Cook Islands is for us to pursue true growth. True growth is not internal circulation and re-circulation of the same pennies. We can only give each other massages and sell each other coconuts for so long! True growth in a small, closed economy only happens by creation of new wealth: products and services people from outside the country—including tourists—may want to buy. For our economy to be truly healthy, we must balance the budget, including amortization of all loans. In simple terms, the amount of money we earn from outside the country must be greater than what we spend on imports.

Every "scientist" in the Cook Islands would be able to see clear as day that we do not at this stage do that.

Ask yourself these questions.

How much paw paw have we exported?

How many pearls have we exported?

How much fish have we exported, not as licensed catch but as product?

We can make artful changes to the tax system all day long. We can eagerly await the benefits that may come our way as a result of tariff changes, and we can argue about local production versus remote production but, as we do so, let's also face this reality: we operate a deficit economy, in much



the same way as we operate a deficit population. That must change if we are to survive.

If a government borrows more than it takes in, that is a mild form of incompetence, but making adjustments in taxes to compensate is common. We have managed to make that work for years with the help of charity from other governments in the form of aid programs. It should be embarrassing, but we live with it. But to spend many years of annual deficits in one giant building spree is another order of malfeasance entirely.

If, in a single stroke of the pen, a government commits us to tens of millions of dollars in debt with no evident plan to repay it, should we not be more alarmed than pleased? What good will a year or two of jobs do us if we have no means to deal with the crushing load of the loan? What compromises will we be forced to make with our precious natural resources to meet the demands of our creditor?

And, frankly, in the face of this debt, the current discussions on tax reform are ... somehow less urgent.

*James Beer.*

## Letter to the Editor

**K**ia koe e te Etita: Irotoiteletaa Neves tei tata openga mai, e maata te au manako e tau kia uriuri ia. Okotai manako kua tano tana akakiteanga – e te anoano nei au i te taiku – koia oki kia meitaki te turanga o te oraanga – penei ka ō mai te akakoki anga mai o to tatou iti tangata tei tere atu ki vao i te patireia. Kare atu e ravenga e tupu ei teia, mari ua kia matutu te tupuanga o te pae kimi puapinga.

E mea tau kia marama tatou e te akapeea nei teia au akaneke anga. Penei ka irinaki tatou e te neke nei te au angaanga a te Kavamani ki mua tei tutaki ia na roto i te moni rōunu. Ko te tutu o teia moni rounu mei te tu rai o te tutakianga i te tangata angaanga a te Kavamani...e tutu tarevake ra teia. Ko te tika anga, e suko kaiou teia tei tuku ia atu a tetai tuatau ke e tutaki ia ei. Me kaiou mai koe e \$60,000,000 ei tutaki i toou akakoroanga, ka riro na te iti tangata e te au pitinini o teia basileia e tutaki i teia kaiou na roto i te au tero te ka aka-kake ia mai. Ko te rounu moni, kare ona turanga papu tikai. No te mea, ko te irinaki anga me akapou maata koe ka riro te reira i te kika mai i tetai moni ou ki roto i te basileia ei tutaki i teia kaiou. Kia akamaara tatou e ko teia tino moni taau i rounu mai, kare te reira e aere katoatoa mai ki roto i toou pute. Ka aere te maata anga ki te au basileia i vao mai ia tatou no te oko matini, te au apinga angaanga, te tutaki i te au tangata kite pakari i te reira tu angaanga, e penei, ka aere ei tutaki i te au tangata angaanga no vao mai ia tatou. Karanga tatou e, e 6,000 tangata angaanga moni o roto i te Kuki Airani nei. Te ra te aiteanga, e

peke ei teia 60 mirioni tara, kia ariki tatou katoatoa e ka tutaki te au tangata ta-taki tai e \$10,000 no te tutaki i teia rounu. Me teitei te initereti o te rounu, tei runga atu ta tatou tutakianga. Me roa te tuatau tei koreromotu ia no te tutaki i te rounu, maata atu taau ka tutaki.

Ko te ravenga ua no te akamatutu i te pae kimi puapinga, kia aruaru tatou i te akatupu i te au angaanga tau tikai. Ko te akatupuanga i te pae kimi puapinga tiamā, kare e rauka me ka akataka ua koe i taua nga mea pene-kapa rai. Ka roi, ka i'u tatou me irinaki ua ki runga i te oko akari! Ei akameitaki atu i te tupuanga o te pae kimi puapinga i roto i te au patireia rikiriki mei ia tatou, kia tauru akaou ia mai tetai au ravenga kimi puapinga ou: mei te au ngai maani apinga, me kore te au ngai akara matatio i te au mea ka inangaro te au patireia i vao mai i te oko. Ka ō mai te Pae Turoto. E rangarangatu ei te pae kimi puapinga, kia tiamata tatou Akapapaanga Moni. Ko te au rounu katoatoa kia pakari tatou i te tutaki anga. Koia oki, kia maata atu te turanga o te moni no vao i te patireia ka rauka mai me akaaite ia atu ki te au akapou anga moni no te oko taonga mai mei vao i te patireia, Kare rava au e ekoko ana e ko te au taunga kite pakari o roto i te Kuki Airani, te kite mai nei ratou e kare e ko te au peu teia ta tatou e titau nei kia tupu!

E ui koe kia koe uaorai:

1. Eaa te maata i te nita ta tatou i makete ki vao mai i te patireia?
2. Eaa te maata i te poe parau ta tatou i makete?
3. Eaa te maata i te ika ta tatou i makete? Auraka e tauru mai i te ika tei na roto

mai i te au Raitini Pai.

E tika, ka rauka ia tatou i te akanekeke i te turanga o te tero. Ka tiaki katoa tatou i te meitaki mei roto i te tauiaanga tero. Ka tauetono katoa tatou i te tukeke o te tero no runga i te au apinga ta tatou ka makete me akaaite ia atu ki te au apinga oko o vao mai. Ia tatou e tauakitai nei, kia maara rai ia tatou e, tei roto to tatou pae kimi puapinga i te kaiou. Kua kaiou takere oki tatou na roto i te turanga o te iti tangata e neke nei ki vao mai i te patireia. Kare atu e ravenga e meitaki mai ei tatou, kia taui rava ia teia au turanga nei.

Me kaiou mai te Kavamani e, tere atu i te moni tana ka rauka mai, kua kamakura i reira te Kavamani i roto i tana akatereanga – ko teia oki taua peu taukore nei i roto i te Kuki Airani. E tika, kua rave e kua angaanga ana teia tu i roto i tetai roa anga tuatau. Kua tupu ra na roto i te tauturu a te au Kavamani porena. Mei te au porokaramu moni

tauturu. E peu akamā teia inara kua mātau tatou i teia peu irinaki ua atu ki tetai.

Mei te mea e kare e parani pakari a te Kavamani no te tutakianga i roto i tana kaiou mai anga i tetai ua atu ngauru e ngauru anga mirioni tārā, kare ainei tatou e manamanata? Me ka mataora tatou? Eaa te puapinga o tetai o-nga mataiti angaanga mei te mea e, te tarī ia nei to tatou kakī e te rounu? Ka ui tatou, eaa ra te arapaki anga ka tupu mai ki te au puapinga natura a te iti tangata i roto i teia tu akatereanga kaiou me mānono ia mai e te au pangika me kore e te au patireia porena kia tuataki tatou i ta ratou moni?

I roto i te mata o te turanga kaiou, kare au e ekoko i te akakite e ko te au rapuanga no te uriuri anga manako o te au akatuke anga ki te tero, e mea iti rava te reira manamanata me akaaite ia atu ki te turanga o te kaiou ta te Kavamani e taki nei ia tatou.

James Beer.

*Mount View*  
*Lodges* O'oa

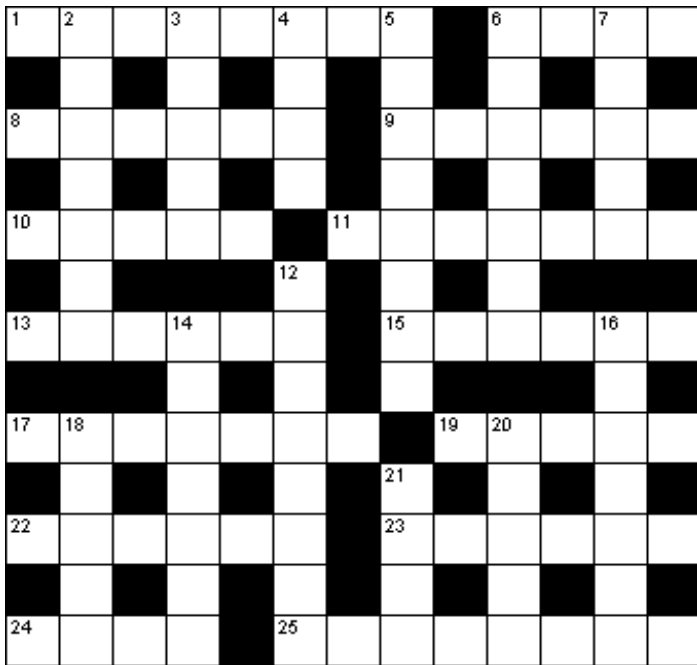
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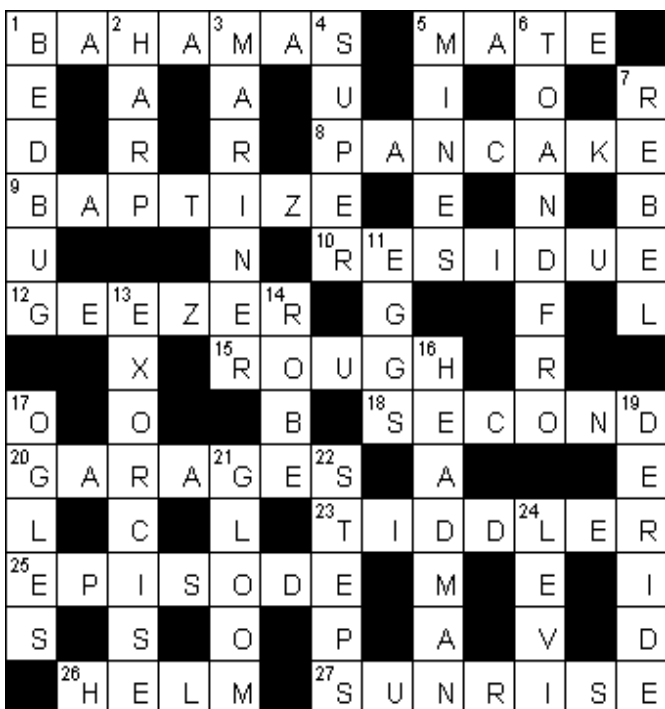


**Across**

- 1. Performs surgery (8)
- 6. Wise (4)
- 8. Shrink back (6)
- 9. Short cannon (6)
- 10. Republic in N Africa (5)
- 11. Belly (7)
- 13. Flood (6)
- 15. Plan (6)
- 17. Care (7)
- 19. Frosting (5)
- 22. Accommodate (6)
- 23. Sloping letter (6)
- 24. Two together (4)
- 25. Defogger (8)

**Down**

- 2. Exact (7)
- 3. Spacious (5)
- 4. Slant (4)
- 5. Some person (8)
- 6. Religious discourses (7)
- 7. Tomb (5)
- 12. Made known (8)
- 14. Lie (7)
- 16. The firing of guns (7)
- 18. Pertaining to sound reproduction (5)
- 20. Talons (5)
- 21. Thin layer (4)



## The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

Phone 24979 Email: [sales@thecomputerman.co.ck](mailto:sales@thecomputerman.co.ck)

### Best ever Android Apps

**Pixlr-o-matic**

iPhone-wielding Instagram users think we're "polluting" their photo streams? Screw them. Android has Pixlr-o-matic, a far superior photo editing app with hundreds of effects and a much smoother social sharing experience. The randomizer, which chooses a random effect for you, provides hours of fun.

**Yelp**

As the most comprehensive review app, Yelp is an invaluable tool for finding businesses nearby, especially when you're in a town you don't know well. The quality of the reviews can be touch and go, but for finding businesses and services, and vetting out ones that are very poorly received, Yelp's the app you need.

**Flickr**

Though it languished for years, Flickr is back with a slick new app and a terabyte of free storage space for your photos—well and beyond what anyone else is offering. Throw in a bunch of Instagram-like filters and on-the-go editing and you've got a powerful mobile photo app.

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# We don't know what we don't know

Thursday 31 October 2013, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Suva, Fiji

In his opening address at the Pacific Damage and Loss (PDaLo) Workshop, Timothy Wilcox, Sub-Regional Coordinator (Pacific) of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction began with the quote, 'We don't know what we don't know. This means that unless you actually try to find out things, you don't know what's out there. For example, if a river is prone to floods but you don't know where the flooding happens then how do you know it floods? Good information management enables responders and planners to identify where to invest and where to focus emergency services'.

With the theme of strengthening the understanding of PDaLo information management in the region, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC's) Disaster Reduction Programme facilitated the workshop on 28 and 29 October 2013.

Regional participants agreed that government services were information-based so if information was constantly requested then it was quite reasonable to expect that there should be adequate resources and capacities made available to facilitate information management. The lack of data and available data that is not used effectively leads to inaccurate estimates and incomplete disaster risk planning, hampering timely disaster responses and diminishing damage and loss recovery and future investment.

SPC's Manager Natural



Resources Governance, Paula Holland explained that, 'Damage refers to something that has been physically broken like a collapsed bridge but the associated loss would be the loss of business caused by the broken bridge like not being able to get tourists to resorts or agricultural produce to markets. When damage and loss assessments are done, loss usually far exceeds damage costs'.

During his welcome remarks, Mosese Sikivou, the head of SPC's Disaster Reduction Programme stressed the importance of accessibility to accurate information during disasters and emergency situations, as well as the need for skilled capacity to manage and maintain data and information systems. Having skilled information professionals is cost-efficient as they contribute to informed decision-making and continuous learning by discovering history and using statistics with analysis of raw data, patterns and

trends. Participants felt that capacity building on national level should always be part of the terms of reference of any consultancy to ensure sustainability.

The PDaLo database can support decision-making by progressing from intuition and experience to evidence-based informed decisions. The impact of not having an information manager within agencies, especially when compared to time spent on searching for relevant information without the presence of dedicated staff can be significant and costly.

Michael Foon, the Policy Officer for Kiribati's Disaster Risk Management Office affirmed, 'PDaLo is a priority and Kiribati is finalising their national plan with a strategy to develop a database to be used by the National Statistics Office so PDaLo will be incorporated into that'.

Participants of the PDaLo workshop explored data and information sharing opportunities to optimise

disaster risk management planning. This included systematic collection, quality, consistency, information flows before, during and after disasters, as well as links between databases and projects. Outcomes can strengthen the evidence base and improve the ability of key agencies to manage information underpinning disaster risk management in the region.

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# Tihei – Natural T- Rap Artist

By Charles Pitt

New Zealand rap artist, Tihei Harawira is back in Rarotonga to promote his new album and perform some gigs-at the Rugby Sevens Tournament.

The Herald spoke with him on Tuesday morning.

Tihei was last here two years ago and since then he has been attending Music School in Auckland-the Music Audio Institute of NZ - to enhance his already impressive original skill base.

This year he graduated with merit. He returns to the School for another year then hopes to study for a Diploma.

There are six items on his new CD called 'Natural T- Misunderstood' produced by Shi/Odee1/DJ Venom-Far Norf's Finest. Tihei said there is no swearing or violence on the CD and it sells for \$10. He has brought along 69 copies to sell. He said those interested may purchase copies from him at the Sevens Tournament or if they see him in the street.

In Auckland Tihei does gigs at weddings, sports events and other functions. One highlight was meeting up with Africa Kam Baataa, the Godfather of

Hip Hop, from New York, at the Studio Club in K Road, Auckland where Africa was performing. Tihei had the honor of opening for him.

Tihei said kids today are lost, because they are attracted by the US lifestyle.

He offered this positive advice; "Stay positive, stay original, be true to yourself and never forget who you are."

To the Cook Islands team competing at the World Cup in the UK, he said, "Do good." He said don't underestimate islanders because while they are short, they can do some damage.

Tihei said his heart goes out to the two schools damaged by the recent fires. He also learnt of Prime Minister Puna's health issues and wished him well and a speedy recovery.

He wished all the teams the best for the Sevens tournament and said it was good to catch up with the boys from the World Cup Touch Rugby team. The next World Cup Touch Rugby tournament will be held in April 2015 and he hoped the Cook Islands would enter a team.

Tihei is the son of NZ Maori politician Hone Harawira.

He returns to NZ on Sunday.



Tihei Harawira with his new cd Natural T.

## Poetry

By Tiarn Brown

Tiarn Brown is a student at Nukutere College.

### Life Goes On

Life is precious, you only get one shot  
 Make no mistake, it's the only one you've got  
 A journey. A quest. A challenge. A dare.  
 Life isn't easy, don't expect it to be fair.  
 Life is a gift, it's no game  
 Whether you live it for money or for fame  
 You live for the fullest before it's too late  
 Your destiny lies ahead, it seals your fate  
 Treasure what you have, don't wait till it goes  
 It's delicate and symbolic like the petals of a rose  
 The choices you make revolve around you  
 Try not to regret the things that you do  
 Whether it be regret or mistakes, it's worth it in the end  
 You can't go back and try to mend  
 Lessons are learnt, prices are paid  
 Focus on all the memories made  
 Your mistakes and regrets have come and gone  
 But like the saying goes, "Life Goes On."





# Media workshop on climate change

## Statement by Mr Amena Yauvoli, permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation

**N**i Sa Bula Vinaka!

### INTRODUCTION

1. It is indeed a great pleasure to welcome you all to Fiji and to be with you this morning to deliver a few words in this very important multimedia workshop on climate change in the Pacific Region.

2. I am persuaded to challenge you by first asking how best multimedia can be used to communicate issues of climate change to the people we want to reach in our countries and in our communities.

### HISTORY

3. Since ancestors used symbols and drawings carved in walls of caves and following traditional communication mediums like the conch shells to signal looming tribal wars, or drums of the islands and the calls of the herald – communication has evolved.

4. Perhaps the most significant revelation of this change was the earthrise as seen from the moon – where earth appeared a cloudy blue agate marble – illuminating the fragility of the world we live.

5. Astronauts on the Apollo II mission that captured the earth used the concept of a picture speaks a thousand words – and brought a stunning image which coincided with worldwide concern about ecology, increasing burden of rising populations, poverty, depleting of natural resources, and the impending impacts of climate change on our lives, our livelihoods and our survival.

6. If one picture could depict all these concerns some thirty years ago – imagine what you can do – with more than images today.

### MULTI MEDIA, COMMUNICATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

7. The media is increasingly critical to development – and communication for development purposes in the Pacific.

8. While the regions have yet to embrace new forms of mediums, new media is making inroads in areas where



CITV News Reporter Maria Tanner (front fourth from right)

information sharing were once not possible.

9. The emergence of new media or social media like facebook, twitter, blogs, and many platforms has changed the way in which information is produced, distributed and consumed.

10. Multimedia fits into this communication evolution quite well – where the worldwide web allows the integration of all forms of media whether it is radio broadcasts as podcasts, motion pictures, film and video that are streamed on the internet and viewed every time we visit youtube or vimeo and live streaming.

11. There is also print forms and graphic designs made easy - with smart tools and all mediums for communicating issues at our fingertips.

12. Information sharing, exchange of ideas, building networks and communication are now possible and moreso with the use of multimedia.

13. But how much of that information can be consumed. How much can be absorbed and can influence behavior and decisions. What are the boundaries in the use of multimedia for climate change?

14. What can we disseminate? Who exactly are we targeting and do they understand the information we convey to them through the multimedia tools used. What works and what doesn't? These are the questions I am confident that you will tease out and find responses throughout the course of your two weeks training.

### COMMUNICATING CLIMATE CHANGE

15. Participants, there is no doubt climate change is a complex issue and the complexity particularly of the sciences can make it difficult to understand.

16. It is difficult to create a meaningful link between the wider climate change issues and local or individual action. This does not mean that the specific action is wasted; however, it means that initiatives that people regard as relevant can then be linked to the wider climate change agenda and to raising climate change awareness.

17. It can also be difficult to discern changes over short time-periods (five years) as normal variability masks the climate change trends.

18. Climate change by itself is too wide and too remote a

subject for our people without a link to immediate issues and to immediate needs.

19. The challenge is to articulate the issues of climate change without confusing our people and I hope you will take this into consideration in your training.

### CONCLUSION

20. Before I conclude, I wish to leave the best for last and acknowledge the immense support of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which funded this workshop.

21. I also wish to thank the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GIZ and importantly DW.

22. Thank you for this timely initiative.

23. To our participants, I hope that in your training you will recognize how to develop climate change messages that adapt to our realities.

24. Importantly, I urge you to meet people on their own terms especially as and when they try to comprehend your messages. If you can, translate your messages and information.

25. With those few words, I now open the Multimedia Workshop on climate change in the Pacific Region.

# Hula Mania Duo Dance Competition

By Miha Mitchell

The Hula Mania Duo Dance Competition is to be held over two nights, Friday 20 December and Saturday 21 December 2013.

The event is to crown the greatest duo hula dancers to hold the next title of King and Queen of Hula.

The dance style of the competition is unique to that of Cook Islands culture. This competition also invites non-indigenous Cook Islanders to compete, an opportunity to be culturally diverse.

The event attracts three types of age groups:

Juniors 6-12 years

Intermediates 13-17 years

Seniors 18-30 years.

The competition is a sequence of three dance routines in one. Slow beat, action song of two and a half minutes and finish off with a fast beat. Time frame of about four and half minutes. This routine is called three in one.

We still have a few positions to fill and "Nesian Mania" would like to offer an opportunity to any local dance groups or individuals within Rarotonga and a special invite to the outer islands to participate.

This event also requires a registration fee.

Bearing in mind we are aware of the cultural pride that lies within the culture groups here in the Cook Islands, which brings the need to challenge the best or the bravest of your dancers to represent your group and even to challenge for a new title of becoming King and Queen of "Hula Mana."

We are aware that our contestants coming from Australia and New Zealand have high expectations and look forward to the challenge.

On offer for King and Queen of Senior category is \$5,000, Intermediates \$4,000 and Juniors \$3,000. Not bad for four and a half minutes. Consolation prizes for all contestants.

"Hula Mania" was first founded in Cairns, far north Queensland in 1998. Over the years it expanded throughout Australia and New Zealand, attracting contestants from all walks of life and thousands as audiences.

It is a privilege and a pleasure to bring the next "Hula Mana" to the origin of culture, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

Our humble request is that we are not here to intimidate but as part of a big community of Cook Islanders living overseas with a desire to come home and share our international experience and expertise and in some way help cultural developments through performing arts.

We are currently under negotiations for the venue on where "Hula Mania" will be held.

"Nesian Mana" would like to acknowledge Rohan Ellis from the Crown Beach resort in Arorangi for his support and offer to have "Hual Mania" held there. Due to other considerations we are in negotiations with "Te Aroa Nui" in Arorangi.

May I however apologise for the cancellation of the National Auditorium due to circumstances.

However, I would like to acknowledge and personally thank Sonny Williams and Robert loaba for their support of us.

"Nesian Mana" would like to thank the people of the Cook Islands for the opportunity to showcase "Hula Mania" and invite your support by attending the event.

Tickets will be on sale from the 5th of November 2013. Please book now and reserve your seats. We only have limited tickets to sell. We will advise where to purchase your tickets at a later date.

Last of all a special thank you and mention of some of the wonderful people and their businesses for their support and sponsorship towards "Hula Mania."

Sam Napa-"Little Polynesian."  
Rohan Ellis-"Crown Beach Resort."

Louis Enoka and Mina Henderson-"Island Living."

Atua Atuatika-"Turoa Bakery."  
Maxine Kokaua-"Cook Islands Printing Services Ltd."

Kristina Tatam-"Island Car & Bike Hire."

For more information on the competition or to reserve your booking, please call Miha or Rima Mitchell on Mob 75 750 or email nesianmana@hotmail.com



Rima and Miha Mitchell

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**FRI 20<sup>th</sup> & SAT 21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER**  
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# The cause of many of our problems

*By Senior Pastor John Tangi*

Many of the problems that we encounter in life as individuals, even in the family regarding parents and children relationship or even the relationship between husbands and wives, even between friends, including the situation in the workplaces, and so on, was as a result of the words that comes out of our mouth. Our spoken words can either help to encourage and comfort others or create an atmosphere of hatred and anger or bitterness in the lives of others. This small organ on our body called the "tongue" or "mouth" can do a lot of damage to our lives and the lives of others if not controlled properly. If the "tongue" or the "mouth" is properly used and controlled it will bring blessings and positive things to our lives and the lives of others.

Let us look at what the Bible has to say about this small organ in our body. James 3v.8-9 (Good News Bible) reads "But no one has ever been able to tame the tongue. It is evil and uncontrollable, full of deadly poison. We use it to give thanks to our Lord and Father and also to curse other people, who are created in the likeness of God. Words of thanksgiving and cursing pour out from the same mouth. My friends, this should not happen!"

Who knows perhaps some of the relationships among friends of recent times may have been caused by what was spoken. May be some of the broken marriages or broken homes was initially caused by what was spoken negatively by others. James is saying in the above reading

## Encouragement Column

*With Senior Pastor John Tangi*

that we use our tongue to speak positive things about God and also others, but out of the same mouth we say negative things to run people down or do damage to others. James is saying we should not be doing this.

Gossiping and creating rumors about negative issues has been a main cause of the problems amongst many people. James is saying stop doing this. We should not be doing this at all because of the implications and consequences this will bring to many people. This is one of the main challenges to everyone which is the manner we use our tongue or mouth. In fact the choice is ours. In Matthew 7v.12 (NIV) Jesus said "...do to others what you would have them do to you..." this means that God is the giver of good things for us. If this is the case then why are some people saying bad things about others to hurt them. That is why James is encouraging all of us to stop doing that. We must use our mouth or our tongue to encourage others and build up those who are down in life. To comfort those who are hurting!

In Galatians 6v.9-10 the Apostle Paul said "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."

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



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# Teenage maturity

By Norma Ngatamariki

When you see the word "mature", what is the first thing that comes to mind? Do you instantly relate it to an adult? Most teenagers would. We think that just because we're young, we are free to do whatever we please without considering the consequences of our actions. That is the complete opposite of maturity. My personal opinion is that the majority of teens these days follow the saying 'Make the most of it while you're young'. I agree with it and I'm pretty sure you would too. But we can still make the most out of life and still be mature at the same time. We just have to rise up to the challenge.

I saw a kid in form class the other day (I'm not naming anybody) giving his teacher smack. He was full on talking back to the teacher, none of them backing down. Sadly, this is a regular occurrence

in most secondary schools these days. The reason that they were bickering was because the boy didn't want to get a late pass, even though he had missed ten minutes of form time. While some might admire the kid's pluck, I personally wanted to say to the boy "You're a fool".

Being mature means that you own up to your mistakes, whether you want to or not. Even though this kid wasn't exactly a great example, he eventually went to get a late pass (I heard that he wasn't given the option of getting a late pass or being sent to the Head of Anau. An easy choice for some) He didn't do it of his own free will. The teacher had to FORCE him to do it. That is being immature. I expect that kind of behaviour to happen in primary school, but not in the national college of the country.

A lot of us teenagers have got some catching up to do in

the 'Maturity' department. There's this saying on Facebook (You know, the funny ones' with the photos' and captions) "Boys be 21, looking like 18, acting like 14" and "Girls be 14, looking like 18, acting like 21". My advice to these kind of people: ACT YOUR AGE. You have your whole life ahead of you for that kind of thing. If you are thirteen years of age, then do things that most thirteen-year-olds normally do (that DOES NOT include going to afters at night, sneaking into nightclubs. You'd be amazed at how young these kids start. If I catch any 13-year-old going out, I'll laugh at them and shout "Tamariki Tutae!") BE MATURE. Being mature doesn't mean that you're always uptight and never having fun. Nah-uh. It just means that you are still having fun, just in a more sensible way.

I'm not being sexist, but



immaturity mainly comes from the boys (It has been statistically proven!) I see this kind of thing happening all the time. In the classroom, on the rugby field, everywhere. You better grow up soon, boys! The girls don't like immature "men" lolz.

## News Briefs *By TeRiu Woonton*

### Christmas in the park

Rotaract Rarotonga has announced Xmas in the Park to take place on Wednesday the 18th of December at the Punanga Nui Market. Entry fee for children under 4 years is free, children aged from 6 to 12 years is \$2.50c and 13 years and over are \$5 ea. Theme for this year is 'fairy tales'.

### Nearly \$5,000 raised on market day

Papaaroa School managed to raise \$4,800 at their market day on Monday in aid of their project for a fraction of Papaaroa College to be run by solar energy. Vai Taikakara, secretary for the school committee says they had a large amount of people turn up- and food all sold out by the end of the day. They had fresh produce for sale, food stalls of umu and BBQ food, drinks, deserts and a garage sale of clothes, baby gear and bits and pieces. Their next major fundraiser is yet to be confirmed.

### Fundraiser for schools

The Cook Islands Canoe Association, Vaka Eiva and Motone Productions will be donating all proceeds from the Vaka Eiva Closing Party to Nukutere College & Avatea Primary School. CICA President Fletcher Melvin says "If we can raise money through our event to assist in getting our kids and teachers back to school then we will do it". World class international

music acts, Che Fu & Kora is set to rock the stage at the closing on Avarua Harbour. The committee have now set a minimum entry fee of \$5.00, however those who like to give more may do so. "This will definitely be an event that will create a fantastic party atmosphere to close the 10 year celebrations but even more importantly we know that the money raised will go straight to the schools so give generously." Says Glenda Tuaine of Motone Productions. Vaka Eiva will be celebrating 10 years, approximately 1500 paddlers will compete in this event. Vaka Eiva will be held from the 22nd to 29th November 2013.

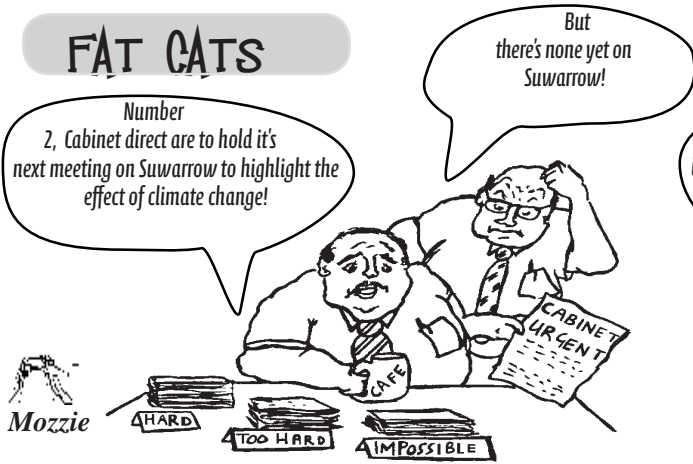
### \$7,000 for school rebuild

The Avarua Catholic youth raised \$7,000 from last Saturdays round the island runathon fundraiser. All proceeds will be going towards the rebuilding of Nukutere College after 6 classrooms were burnt to the ground.

### Fundraiser for youth

The Cook Islands Youth Ambassadors will be holding its final movie fundraiser tomorrow Thursday the 31st of October. The movie fundraiser will be screening Thor- the Dark World with 2 sessions, 6.30pm and 8.30pm. Tickets are selling at \$10. All proceeds will go towards the Cook Islands Youth Ambassadors trip to the 2nd Pacific Youth and Sports Conference held in Noumea from the 2nd to the 7th of December.

**FAT CATS**



**COCONUT ROUNDTABLE**



A lot of banging noises are coming from the sheds in Tupapa housing the two choo choo trains! Does this mean they will be firing up again? To run around the Sheraton site? What about down the centre of mainstreet? That would be a new tourist attraction!



Word out west is that a star is in the ascendency and that wise men in the east are preparing to follow the star which is expected to position itself over the person prophesied to be the new King. Will the star settle above Akaoa?



The outcome of the Murienua petition will be crunch time for government. If Beer takes the seat, the Demos will hold 10 seats. With one seat held by Norman, that's government 13, opposition 11. If one disgruntled CIP MP resigns and forces a by-election which the Demos win, then it will be 12 seats all. The QR will then have no option but to call an early general election. If two CIP MPs walk on the promise of important positions, the CIP are history. What counter-offers can the CIP put on the table to keep hold of the Treasury benches?



Oh dear chooks! Reports over the wireless waves beaming out of Aussie that Cookie Traditional Leaders are starting to flex their muscles, demanding more consultation on current affairs! The Ancient ones are not happy being left out

**CHOOKS CORNER**  
WITH BIG RED



of discussions until projects are already approved! Do the Lord High Mandarins think the House of the Tapa Cloaked ones have a giant rubber stamp?



Noisy demonstration outside MFEM last Thursday morning by the grey hairs from Grey Power. The local and overseas media were there in force to record events. While local Police were not present to maintain law and order, did anyone notice the young cop by the old Post Office entrance, taking photos using a camera with telephoto lens? Why would Police be photographing demonstrators? (But was he local Police?). To ID them later? Knock on their doors in the middle of the night and drag them off to the barracks for questioning?



The keepers of the Treasury boxes are keen to hook the grey hairs into the tax paying team because the longer the non-payers hang on, the worse it will get! You see there are 270 odd grey hairs dodging the tax bullets at the moment but next year, more will come on stream

and the year after that, even more. Soon government will be facing 600 angry grey hairs with real voting power via their extended families!



Local chook says it's all very well knocking the grey hairs of Grey Power on the issue of paying tax on their NZ pension, what about taxing those local companies investing their profits overseas and also, those foreign workers residing and working extra hours here under the radar and sending money overseas to family?



Those on a NZ pension may not have worked and paid taxes locally but they are home now and pumping up to \$5 million per year into the local economy. That is more than the country earns from exporting paw paw. Taxing them will only bring in about \$500,000 a year to government. Is it better to let government have that to pay for their excessive perks and overseas travel or let the pensioners pump it into the local economy-the

small shops, the market, local trades services, donations, local fundraising, the churches? You be the judge as to what you think is best. But, if you think the government should get this money, you could be an idiot.



Foreign tuna boats only pay us a measly \$60,000 per year (\$45,000 if they claim the rebate) but there are no quotas limiting how much tuna they can catch! Foreign companies claim our fees are the highest. Boo hoo! So what? That is for the privilege of fishing in our waters where we have set no limits. It means foreign vessels can catch millions of dollars worth of fish! And they do. The landed value for albacore alone last year-\$33.5 million! Add on the landed value for other types of tuna from our waters, the figure is even higher - \$64.9 million! Add on how much the tuna is retailed for overseas and the figures go through the roof. We could and should raise our fee for foreign boats even higher. And get this, they will still pay to come here.

Cook Islands  
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Te Riu Woonton

# ADB report pulls no punches

*The following is an extract from the Asia Development Bank Cook Islands Macroeconomic Assessment completed in June 2013 and posted on the MFEM website. It is reproduced here due to the current interest in economic development and taxation.*

**S**UMMARY OF FINDINGS  
3. The Cook Islands economy can be characterised as small, open, narrowly based but relatively affluent. The Cook Islands is a self-governing country in free association with New Zealand. Its nationals are New Zealand citizens and as such, have open access to work and residency in New Zealand (and under various reciprocal entry agreements—to Australia). This provides Cook Islanders with a far greater degree of economic security than that enjoyed by most other Pacific Islanders. It has, however, had a pervasive influence on the structure of the Cook Islands economy. Depopulation is a particular issue, while the opportunity to live and work overseas means that the reservation price of labour and the nation's international terms of trade are high relative to the resources available to the economy. One obvious outcome of this is the increasing use of

foreign workers, including other Pacific Islanders in the tourism sector.

4. While the medium term outlook for the Cook Islands is positive, the economy is vulnerable to external shocks. There has been considerable volatility in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth since 2007. This volatility is almost entirely due to external factors that are outside the control of the Cook Island's Government. During the period immediately preceding the onset of the global economic crisis in September 2008, the Cook Islands economy was seriously affected by the rapidly rising cost of imports—particularly petroleum prices. The sharp fall in commodity prices that followed the onset of the global crisis mitigated some of these pressures on the economy. However the number of tourist arrivals also dropped sharply, causing the economy to contract. By the end of 2009, tourism arrivals were back on trend

and by 2011 the economy had returned to positive real growth. Real GDP increased by 5.3% in FY2012 and is projected to fall to 4.1% in FY2013 with the completion of construction activity—for example, the Avatui Port Development.

5. The main risks to sustained growth are a slowdown in the New Zealand and Australian economies affecting tourism in the Cook Islands. There are signs that the Australian economy is slowing, with the flow-on effects of the slow-down in the Chinese economy. The New Zealand economy is currently emerging from its slowest recovery from a downturn in 80 years, and is expected to grow by 2.1% in 2013 and only slightly better at 2.6% in the following year. The biggest risk to the outlook is a slowing Australian economy, hurting New Zealand exports. Exports to Australia—which account for about a fifth of New Zealand's exports—were down 4.5% in the past year. Many of New Zealand's

exports go to “non-mining” Australian states, so the slowdown in exports is less about the knock-on impact of the Chinese demand for minerals, and more about a slower domestic economy in Australia. A slowdown in New Zealand and Australia, both source markets for the tourism sector in the Cook Islands could affect growth prospects in the near-term.

6. The leading economic sector of the Cook Islands is tourism supporting at least 60% of economic activity in the country. Tourist arrivals have increased at a rate of over 4% per annum since

2000. Arrivals from New Zealand have grown by almost 11% per annum, some additional growth has come from Australia, while the North America and Europe markets have contracted by almost 8% per annum. In 2012, tourists are estimated to have spent in excess of NZ\$200m in the Cook Islands; this is well over double the nominal amount spent in 2000. Part of the growth from New Zealand and Australia has been in the shoulder and off-seasons, however there are growing concerns that the Cook Islands tourism infrastructure is approaching capacity. Rarotonga reached capacity during the peak seasons of 2011 and 2012. If the capacity constraints are not addressed, the tourism industry may not be able to sustain the continued growth of the economy.

7. Since the collapse of the pearl industry in 2000/2001, real exports have contributed little to the overall economy. The prospects for further development of non-tourist based industries are limited. Agricultural land is in short supply, access to land for agricultural purposes is constrained by land legislation and customary usage, markets are remote, phyto-sanitary regulations in importing countries are strict and the cost of labour is high. This combination of constraints is a serious impediment to growth of this sector. The main non-tourism income is licence fees from foreign fishing fleets, but this income is subject to extreme volatility as fleets relocate in pursuit of pelagic fish stocks. The development of the domestic



COOK ISLANDS INVESTMENT CORPORATION  
Government of the Cook Islands

## TENDER FOR NEW RAROTONGA HOSPITAL PHARMACY WAREHOUSE – C35/13

The Cook Islands Investment Corporation invites tenders to design and build a New Rarotonga Hospital Pharmacy Warehouse, using structural insulated panels.

Tenders are for the supply of all professional services, materials, labour, machinery, and equipment.

Tender Documents are available for collection from the Cook Islands Investment Corporation, MFEM Building, Avarua, or [www.procurement.gov.ck](http://www.procurement.gov.ck)

For enquiries contact:

Shona Tekorona

Property Officer

Phone (682) 29391

Email [shona.tekorona@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:shona.tekorona@cookislands.gov.ck)

Tenders close 3pm Tuesday 5 November 2013.

fishing industry faces a similar mix of constraints to those facing agriculture. Efforts are being made to revive the pearl industry and, provided the world-wide production of pearls is moderated, prices may eventually return to financially viable levels thereby allowing the Cook Islands industry to recover.

8. Despite fiscal discipline over operating expenditures and

revenues, the operating budget is projected to slip into deficit. The FY2013 fiscal outcome is expected to be a deficit of \$2.6m, with the budget projected to remain in deficit until FY2014—when a small surplus is forecast. A principal cause of the deficit is the high and increasing cost of under-writing the long haul access routes from Sydney and Los Angeles operated by Air New Zealand. Other proposed expenditures including the proposed increase in aged pension payments, possible Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) to public sector wages, and the commitment to a revenue neutral tax reform, could exacerbate the current tight fiscal situation should they go ahead. Thus the Government's target of returning the budget to surplus in FY2015 could be hard to achieve.

9. Government debt levels are currently well within sustainable limits. Net debt levels are estimated to be 22.3% of GDP, well below the 40% of GDP that the IMF considers as a sustainable level of foreign debt for small developing countries. Issues that require to be monitored are the potential impact of sustained fiscal deficits, the exchange rate risk on external debt, and the importance of maintaining borrowing space to improve the country's resilience to natural disasters. It is noted that throughout the 1990s and into the early years of the current millennium the Cook Islands economy struggled to service very high debt levels. The

current trends in expenditure and borrowing run the risk of returning the economy to a heavily indebted state.

10. In the absence of audited accounts it is difficult to predict the outcome of current and future budgets. The most recent audited accounts are for FY2008. Finalised but unaudited accounts are available for FY2009 and FY2010. The absence of recent audited accounts undermines the credibility of the budget.

11. The Cook Islands economy is increasingly reliant on foreign workers. Cook Islanders have unrestricted access to New Zealand and Australia. Consequently the reservation price of labour in the Cook Islands is largely determined by the labour markets in New Zealand and Australia. This translates into a substantial outmigration of working age Cook Islanders. Resident labour force participation rates are well above historical averages due to an influx of foreign workers rather than an increase in the number of Cook Islanders in local employment.

12. Limits on the availability and quality of economic data seriously constrain the development of timely and proactive economic and financial policies. There is inadequate data available to monitor the balance of payments. In particular, data on current transfers and private sector investment are either incomplete or non-existent. In addition, labour force data are either not collected or, when collected are not compiled. The GDP estimates appear to be compiled on an ad hoc basis from VAT returns. Coverage is incomplete and methods used inconsistent between estimates. Reconciling the various current estimates against past reports is difficult and time consuming. Improving the coordination of data collection, economic analysis and forecasting should be prioritised by Government

## New Hope Church donates to schools affected by recent fires



On Wednesday afternoon, Senior Pastor John Tangi of the New Hope Church in Parekura, presented Avatea School and Nukutere College with cheques for \$1,000 each to assist with fundraising to repair the damage caused by the recent fires which destroyed classrooms.

## These chooks almost got away

Whisper is a member of the Forum peer review team has found the going rather stressful! He's landed up in hospital. Could be the consultation process in the Cooks is not a piece of cake after all!



The Kiwiland GG, a right regimental sort, is about to give someone a gee-up! Seems the GG's right hand man was off loaded from the silver bird before it took off to the outer isles last week! When the GG turned around, his right hand man was not there to salute him! Whisper is, when the GG got back to HQ, he fired off a volley to the Kiwiland Affairs de Foreign! Will Murray get the big stick out? Who will be first to bend over?



The new Crusher at Aitutaki airport is quite temperamental! Only a certain size kiri kiri will suffice! Hence when bags of the wrong size kiri kiri were sent over from the Rock at some expense to the tax payer, the Crusher would not accept them! Looks like orders of the day went astray!



What wasn't planned under the water tank scheme, was how much dosh TAU was going to make every time someone with a water tank turned the tap on! You see, when the tap is turned on, the electric powered pump is also activated! No wonder the TAU CEO is smiling. Power savings? Phooey!



Chooks, you can fool some of the people some of the time but not all of the people all of the time! The whisper was when Grey Power big wig Denis contacted the PM's Office to enquire about the PM chin wagging with the grey hairs after they march on the OPM, the other Pitt, Pittman, told them to hold their march next Monday. However, Denis was awake to the fact the PM would be off to China on Sunday afternoon. The Pittman said no bother, march anyway! Where upon, Denis remained firm the march would take place on Friday and if the PM, said by Pittman to be too busy to chin wag, refused to pow wow, then the grey hairs would front the media-radio, TV, newspapers and claim cruel treatment! Then, it so happened, the PM's busy schedule suddenly found time to fit in the grey hairs!

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## News Brief By TeRiu Woonton

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### Ex pupils to fundraise

On Friday the 8th of November the ex Nukutere College Pupils Committee will be holding a gala day at the Nukutere College grounds, in aid of the rebuilding of Nukutere College. Chairperson of the ex pupils committee and one of the founding members of Nukutere College, Emma Williams, says the gala will not only go towards Nukutere College but it will also help assist with Avatea Primary School. The gala day will include umu and BBQ food to last all day and spin the wheel. Over a period of time, the ex pupils will also be doing a collection, where each ex student will donate \$100 towards Nukutere College.

## VACANCIES



### CROWN LAW – COOK ISLANDS Junior Lawyer

The Crown Law Office, Rarotonga is seeking to employ a Junior Crown Counsel. The position will suit a graduate or lawyer with up to 18 months PQE and excellent research and drafting skills. The work is varied and across a broad range of legal issues involving the Crown. This is an opportunity to provide legal support to Government that is challenging and with plenty of potential to develop. Expressions of interest together with a full CV are to be provided by 8 November 2013 to Dorothy Ivaiti, Crown Law Office in an envelope marked "Junior Lawyer vacancy", PO Box 494, Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands or by email to Dorothy. ivaiti@cookislands.gov.ck



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