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Minister laughs off Chinese naval build up in Pacific

By Charles Pitt

When asked on Wednesday morning by Matariki Radio broadcaster William Framhein, what he thought about the concern at the buildup of Chinese naval forces in the Pacific, Minister for Finance Hon Mark Brown, laughed.

Responding to Framhein's advice of a report in the NZ Herald of US concern at the buildup of a Chinese naval presence in the Pacific, Brown said he could not see the Chinese establishing a naval presence in the Cook Islands.

The Minister it seems, is not a serious student of History or he will understand why super powers regard it as important that their shipping have safe passage across oceans. Especially ships loaded with essential minerals and food necessary to sustain a huge population.

This is the very reason the British navy became so powerful. It had the British Empire to protect and Britain did so through gun boat diplomacy.

The fact the Chinese are eyeing up our large fishing and sea bed mineral resources has to be a concern for us in a few years time. Brown is also Minister for sea bed resources. The Chinese already have a large fishing fleet in the western Pacific and will also be eyeing up PNG and New Caledonia's vast mineral resources. Two Chinese naval vessels visited Tonga and the Solomons in 2010.

As the Cook Islands has no navy, it's unlikely the Chinese would stand by and allow any radical conservation groups to disrupt their sea bed mining operations. How will the Cook Islands handle an incident like this? The NZ Navy is not going to intervene if Chinese vessels are



Resources Minister Mark Brown - Laughter maybe our secret weapon

involved.

Penrhyn has a deep water port ideal for large ships.

Perhaps the Minister's laugh was a "nervous" laugh.

- see page 5 for story

KARERE KI TE ITI TANGATA KUKI AIRANI

Me kua tika i te Atua kua tika ia, me kare, kare ia

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

Kia Orana e te iti tangata Kuki Airani katoatoa. Mei te au tavini o te Atua i roto i te au akanoanga tuketuke, te Ui Ariki, Ui Mataiapo, Ui Rangataira e te Aronga Mana o to tatou nei basileia, n ate Atua e tautura mia ia kotou katoatoa. Kia Orana te aronga angaanga o te Kavamani, to te private e te vai atura. Kia Orana ta tatou anau mapu e te unga ma te potiki. Kia Orana katoa e to tatou iti tangata i nga pae enua ki vao mai ia Rarotonga, kia kotou i te pae enua Tokerau e pera ki te tua Tonga. Kia tae katoa te aroa kia ratou I vao mai i

te Kuki Airani, ki to tatou au kopu tangata e te au taeake i Niu Tireni e pera te enua Autereria e te vai atura.

Te kite nei tatou i teia nga ra te ngaue nei to te Kuki Airani, to Rarotonga tikai i te uipa mai no te akakoroanga akauruuru i te Tinomana ou, mono ia Ruta Tinomana (Mama Pea) tei takake atui teia nga marama i topa ake nei. Peenei te akarongorongo nei kotou i tetai au tuatua noku e no toku kopu te Ngati Isaia e patoi nei i teia angaanga. Tika rai te reira, kare te Ngati Isaia i mataora i te mea e te tapiri ia nei te manako akataka tau i te taoanga i te au tuatau e tu mai nei ki mua. Manamanata te Ngati Isaia no teia, no te mea ko te a taime teia o te Kopu o

Taromi I te mou anaga i te taoanga. Inara mei taku rai i karanga atu me kua tika i te Atua, kua tika ia, me kare, kare ia i tika ia.

Taitaia katoa au i teia tuatau no te mea te tavarivari ia nei te ingoa o to matou Leader a Wilkie Rasmussen e te aronga kare i kite i te tika anga e te oonu anga o te tuatua. Tika, tika tikai, e taeake piri mou teia noku i roto i te angaanga "politics" e te noo nei rai aia ki roto i te reira tuanga. Kare aia i tomo mai ana ki roto i te angaanga a Tinomana. Te akameitaki nei au iaia no tona tu karape i te kimi i te au ki rotopu i te au tangata ravarai i roto i teia keuanga. No reira kia manuia tatou katoatoa.



Government failures prompts Demos to rise from the ashes

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

For those with very good memories, they will remember when the Prime Minister Henry Puna announced proclamations of what his Government will do better than the previous Democratic Party Government(s). I clearly recall him pronouncing that Parliament will sit for 100 days in its first year in office. We, the people of this nation of course know that this did not happen. Parliament sittings came nowhere near the 100 days. That slackness of course continued into the second year and now the third year.

When I think of it, it is quite funny. We see a wide-eyed, ambitious and idealistic PM and his team declaring that we can do better than the previous lot. They did this without actually understanding the process of Government and the pressures of daily duties placed on Ministers and active MPs. They were also unappreciative of the difficulties in arranging and bringing MPs from the Outer Islands so that they would take part in the sittings. It boils down to them not knowing what they were facing but with their tails in the air after winning the elections, they surely felt themselves indestructible. How wrong they were?

The PM of course made those announcements in the wake of a defeated, demoralized and factionalized Democratic Party. People say that the Demo's lost the election rather than the

CIP win it because of the poor handling of the Toa Gate saga. It may have been so and there were certainly those that wrote the Demo's off for the next general elections. I am certain that these people will be proven wrong as the Demo is on the rise, like a sphinx protruding out of a barren desert symbolizing new life, recovery and progress.

The Democratic Party has now regrouped, re-armed (intellectually) and reorganized. It is now revitalized, reenergized and refocused. There is now a new energy and synergy never before seen in the party perhaps since the days of Papa Tom Davis. There is strong anticipation of victory and strong commonality in thinking and sentiments by Demo supporters. In other words they are all coming together sharing those common values of achieving the best for our people and our country.

Unfortunately, PM Henry and his team sound flat and deflated. Their song is without a doubt off key. The vibrancy and arrogance is no longer there. The precipitous claims of credit of what the CIP had done as Government was published and molded into a Ministerial Statement in Parliament. The constant derision of me as Leader of the Opposition and my team and the unwillingness to share and come together on vital issues such as political reform no longer sounds poignant. The shunning of the Opposition at the Pacific Forum held here last year hangs over

their heads as an act of disgrace and sour grapes.

Is it that the constant grinding away by the Opposition has worn PM Puna down or is it those irreversible dangerous and immoral antics and decisions have become too deep seated to undo? Is it that the constant complaint about incessant travel and now irrelevant travel and waste of taxpayer's money has stuck in the public's mind?

Tomorrow, the new Tinomana will be inaugurated despite an objection and of course the event will require the presence of "who's who" in the Cook Islands. I understand the PM and his team will turn out in full there. That will be consistent with the CIP as it is their trademark to be there and be "grand". Henry Puna likes grand events and this will be no occasion. I'm not sure if I can make it as I have to make court appearances tomorrow



but the Arorangi Demo's are demanding for me to be there. I will try and take my seat there perhaps later in the morning. Please note that Parliament may sit on the 2nd of December to get it out of the way before the festive season hits us.



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Will Chinese loan offer open the door for private sector led development?

By Charles Pitt

The Chinese government has offered Pacific nations who recognise the One China Policy, a concessional (soft) loan of US\$1 billion to support the construction of major projects Prime Minister Henry Puna announced yesterday following his recent trip to China. This follows a similar offer to Caribbean nations of a US\$3 billion soft loan for infrastructure and economic development.

The PM said China will also provide 2000 scholarships to the Pacific over four years, help build schools, support Pacific exports to China, and encourage Chinese tourists to visit the Region.

Government is yet to express a view about this loan offer and may be waiting for some reaction from other Pacific nations to provide a steer. It could be that our government is waiting for a reaction from Wellington and Canberra. This could be because of caution that the offer had been made by China to prompt some reaction from NZ and Australia especially in view of Australia trimming their aid funding back. Are the Chinese being completely open or is the offer masking an agenda we are unaware of?

The Chinese offer is extremely generous and probably offered under the usual "government to government" basis but it may, negotiations permitting, open the door at long last for direct or indirect participation by the private sector in infrastructure development. Especially as there is a hint that transactions may be done on a development bank to development bank basis. This country however, has no development bank, the Cook Islands Development Bank (CIDB) having been disbanded some years ago when the BCI was formed. At the time the CIDB had some \$3 million in bad loans. While the then PM Sir Geoffrey

Henry instructed the then Finance Secretary Kevin Carr to pursue the debts, there is no report as to how much of the outstanding funds were actually recovered.

The current Chinese offer certainly presents an opportunity for private sector led development as opposed to government led projects where government is constrained by financial benchmarks which limit funding levels and thereby, development progress.

While it has been the desire of Pacific Forum leaders to speed up private sector led economic development, our private sector has lacked access to adequate funding for major projects that will give our economy a significant boost. While our private sector is narrow and appears to lack capacity (expertise and resources) to undertake major projects, it does not mean our private sector cannot take up a management, planning, facilitating or partnership role.

The PM's recent announcement of a \$4 million grant by China is also welcomed but the amount is not sufficient to make any real improvement in our GDP. Although our population is less than 20,000, we should not give the Chinese the impression we are easily bought off or satisfied with "crumbs." Some years ago MFEM warned government of impending slippage in the momentum needed to stay ahead of rising operational costs. Expenditure would soon exceed revenues and new revenue streams needed to be found.

Very few details have been released about the US\$1 billion concessional loan, the criteria for lending, interest rates, transaction processes, applications and so on. We do not even know if the fund is "contestable."

The question in people's minds is; "the money is there, so what happens now?"

Is the ball now in our court or are we waiting for China to provide more details? We know the new Chinese Ambassador will be paying us a visit at the end of November. Is he bringing more details with him? Will he expect us to indicate what we intend to do?

Will our government be proactive and seek expressions of interest from the private sector?

What private sector projects are there which involve elements of infrastructure improvement or upgrade?

Government is upgrading infrastructure as it is seen as an incentive to attract more private sector led economic development. However, there appears to be little indication that any private sector led development will occur when the infrastructure upgrades are completed. This begs the question then as to how the loan funds will be re-paid.

Government will be aware that there is one comprehensive, major, private sector led tourism development project which involves upgrading of infrastructure throughout the Cook Islands as an integral part of the development. With the Chinese middle class at 100 million and growing, this project is aimed at attracting the five star Chinese tourist.

Factored into the cost of this comprehensive tourism development is the cost of upgrading all outer islands air strips, the transfer of excess electricity from solar power generators to the local community network, the transfer of fresh water from each hotel's desalination plant to the local community network and waste treatment plants for water and solids- independent of that used by the community.

Transport infrastructure will be greatly improved by establishing a new inter-island airline, freight shipping service and fast ferry service.

The comprehensive project also incorporates establishing fishing ventures with locals and boosting agriculture to support the hotels. Plans are for excess produce to be transferred to Rarotonga for hotels restaurants, sale to the public and possibly export. China requires their fishing companies to send 15 % of their catch back to help feed their people. China may support a similar concept in joint agricultural developments with locals as part of its commitment to support Pacific exports to China.

This comprehensive project also has the potential to be a showcase for the latest Chinese technology.

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US panel: China Navy power growing in the Pacific

WASHINGTON (AP) — A congressional advisory panel sounded a warning Wednesday about China's military buildup, predicting Beijing could possess the largest fleet of modern submarine and combatant ships in the western Pacific by 2020.

The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission said China's military modernization is altering the balance of power in the Asia-Pacific region and challenging decades of U.S. pre-eminence.

The commission advises Congress on the national security implications of the relationship between the two world powers.

The groups' annual report also examined cyber intrusions from China, the trade and economic relationship with the U.S., and China's global ties.

The primary recommendation is that Congress fund shipbuilding and increase the Navy's operational presence region in support of the Defense Department's goal to base 60 percent of its warships in the Asia-Pacific region by 2020, compared with about 50 percent currently.

That's a priority of the Obama administration's diplomatic and military rebalance to Asia after

a decade of war in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The commission said it welcomes the policy, but added: "There is growing concern among U.S. allies and partners that the Department of Defense will be unable to follow through on its commitment to the rebalance due to declining defense budget and continuing security challenges elsewhere."

The panel also recommended that the U.S. improve air and maritime capabilities of allies in the region.

Last year, the Chinese Foreign Ministry accused the commission of "indulging in Cold War mentality." Beijing says it has no offensive intent, and says Washington of trying to contain it.

The U.S. far outstrips China in military spending, but in Asia faces a greater burden in fielding forces far from its own shores.

Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, voiced concern that at a time when the U.S. military faces budget cuts, China's military spending is increasing and its leaders want to increase combat readiness.

"Its current pace of military modernization shows that Beijing is developing the ability



to project power and influence further abroad," McKeon, R-Calif., told a committee hearing Wednesday.

Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., said that while the U.S. should monitor military developments in China, an adversarial relationship between the two powers is not inevitable.

"There is no reason that we should have China as an enemy," Smith said. "We should certainly look for ways to work together."

The report's assessment of China's naval capabilities draws on information from think tanks and U.S. naval intelligence. It said China is known to be building seven classes of vessels, including nuclear and diesel submarines, destroyers

and other warships. It expects the naval modernization to continue for the "foreseeable future."

China's is also advancing its capabilities in space, which is viewed as critical because of the use of communication satellites for intelligence and modern warfare.

For the first time, there are public indications China may be developing the ability to target satellites at the high altitude used by the U.S. global positioning system and many military and intelligence satellites, according to the report.

But China described a May suborbital rocket launch it conducted as part of a high-altitude scientific experiment.

\$5 CAPPED CALLING

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

UN Climate talks, important for the Cook Islands



Ana Tiraa, Diane McFadzien and Mii Matamaki

15 November 2013, UNFCCC, Warsaw Poland - A Vulnerability and Adaptation study in Penrhyn, Manihiki, Rakahanga and Atiu identified coastal erosion, salt water inundation, droughts and availability of water as some of the climate change impacts experienced by the communities. Here at the 19th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change, these very real experiences are propelling the Cook Islands delegation as they negotiate for assistance to adapt and mitigate climate change, including the issue of Loss and Damage.

"This is very important for us, from what we are hearing from our northern group islands is that they are already experiencing the impacts of climate change through coastal erosion resulting in land loss. In our northern atolls there are some areas that are less than 300 metres wide - ocean on one side, lagoon on

the other." said Ms. Ana Tiraa, the Director of the Cook Islands Climate Change Division.

"Losing a little bit of land has a big impact on low lying communities with limited land area. Loss of land is not easily replaced."

Loss and Damage refers to a range of damage and permanent loss associated with unavoidable climate change impacts that cannot be avoided through mitigation or adaptation.

These can include impacts from extreme weather events such as tropic cyclones or flooding events and; slow onset events such as sea level rise and ocean acidification.

"I was at a workshop on fisheries and climate change, and the delegates from Penrhyn Island shared that parts of the road between Omoka to the airport had been washed away due to extreme high tides," said Tiraa.

"If people ask why we are in Warsaw at this meeting -

then this is a perfect example of why. We are battling for a global agreement so that our people can continue living on their islands and to preserve a standard and quality of life that is rich, rewarding, and ultimately one that I hope will actively contribute to the global effort of combating climate change."

The Cook Islands delegation is led by Ms. Tiraa who is attending the Loss and Damage negotiation thread.

Other members from the Cook Island Government include Ms. Mii Matamaki who is covering National Communications - the extension of the Consultative Group of Experts Mandate, Ms.

Amelia Fukofuka and Ms. Lavinia Tama are covering climate finance.

Other self funded delegation members include Cook Islanders, Ms. Diane McFadzien and Mr. Ewan Cameron of SPREP who are providing support to the Pacific including the Cook Islands in the Loss and Damage negotiation thread, Cook Islander Ms. Nanette Woonton of SPREP who is providing media support to the Pacific and the Cook Islands.

Ms. Linda Siegele is a legal adviser providing support for the issue of Loss and Damage.

The UNFCCC COP 19 is hosted in Warsaw, Poland from 11 to 22 November.



Cook Islands Herald goes QR

The Cook Islands Herald now has a QR (Quick Response) code. Simply scan this code into your iPhone or Smartphone and it will automatically take you to the Herald Website in your phone's internet browser.

Government ministries must reflect the culture they serve

By Charles Pitt

When parliament resumes members are expected to consider the Traditional Knowledge Bill, which is to be presented by the Minister for Culture, Hon Teariki Heather.

The definition of "Traditional Knowledge" as set out in the draft Bill is comprehensive.

Without viewing the entire draft, the Herald cannot say what measures are being considered to sustain, nurture, develop and evolve the Traditional Knowledge.

For instance, regarding the language, this is a language shared in Polynesia by Cook Islanders, Tahitians, Hawaiians and the NZ Maori. Recently, the NZ Maori added some 300 new words to their Maori Dictionary to cater for new technology. As we all share basically the same language, does this mean our

Maori Language Commission should also adopt the same new words? What about the Tahitians and Hawaiians?

Another concern arises within government workplaces.

There is a marked trend towards employing ex-pats who do not speak the language let alone understand the customs and traditions in our society. How can they be expected to apply the law with cultural sensitivity?

In NZ some years ago, each government Ministry had set up within it, a Maori Perspective Team whose function was to ensure cultural sensitivities were addressed in policy development and subsequent operational procedures. Ministry staff received instruction and tutoring in Maori customs and attended workshops held on Maraes throughout NZ.

The question is, with the

growing number of ex-pats within government Ministries, how will government ensure aspects of the culture are preserved, mirrored and sustained in dealings with locals? Government Ministries are also a reflection of local culture. There are traditional protocols to be observed, and the importance of the language must not be overlooked. It must be remembered that there are no Maori words for certain equipment, technologies and processes. How these are explained to locals requires skill and tact but also sensitivity.

Many of the ex-pats employed are highly qualified, perhaps over qualified for such a small country. The matter of how well these ex-pats are qualified to interact with locals is an important issue.

It was certainly considered important enough in NZ.



The Cultural watchdog Minister of Culture Heather. Its his job to ensure ministeries reflect the culture.

The Ministry of Culture and the House of Ariki should ask government to clarify how the culture is to be mirrored and sustained within Ministries if Ministries are overloaded with ex-pats?

Wade acquitted-Police fail to prove case beyond reasonable doubt

By Charles Pitt

"I was here first!" Crown Lawyer Martha Henry told defense lawyer Norman George the Court was in darkness when she arrived at the appointed time.

What followed was the acquittal of William Wade on a charge of burglary brought by Police.

It brought to an end a case which began after a quantity of black pearls had been taken from the Nikao residence of the Prime Minister and his wife, in what Police allege was a burglary committed by Wade in June 2012. Police had alleged that Wade had entered to house by way removing three louver windows, leaving his finger prints on the glass.

The decision to acquit, was delivered in the High Court at

9.20am on Friday by Presiding Justice of the Peace, Chief JP John Kenning. Wade had elected for his defended case to be heard before three JPs. The other two were Georgina Williams and Mata Nooroa.

Crown Solicitors Martha Henry and Cheryl King had appeared for the Police and Norman George for Wade.

Kenning said the charge of burglary was laid under S263 of the Crimes Act 1969. The hearing he said, began on 29 October 2013 and continued on 1 November, 4 November and 8 November. The penalty if found guilty, was a term of imprisonment of up to 10 years.

He said ample evidence had been presented for the Court to consider. He said the Court had considered the elements required to prove a case beyond

reasonable doubt and made the following comments.

As to the identity of the pearls, he said there was confusion as to the rightful owner. Both Akaiti Puna and Peniata claimed they owned the pearls found at the defendant's residence.

As to entry by Wade, the Court was not satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that there had been entry and there was no conclusive evidence Wade had been inside the house.

Kenning said the Court did not deal with the matter of intent.

He said there was no proof beyond reasonable doubt, so the Court acquitted Wade.

On the matter of the Crown's application for permanent suppression of the details, Kenning said the evidence in question was not critical in determining the guilt or

otherwise of Wade. He said publication would bring further trauma on those involved. The Court ordered permanent suppression of the details as to why Wade was at the residence.

Following this Kenning said the Court would not be making any ruling on costs. George submitted that the Crown had put up a vigorous case and that due to the amount of effort he put in, the Crown should meet Wade's costs and that costs of \$2,500 was fair. Kenning said George should apply by way of a submission then queried an earlier comment by George that gave the impression George took this case on as a pro bono case. George responded saying as there had been a victory, he would not seek costs.

The Court then adjourned at 9.30am.

Manihiki Water Quality Monitoring Programme

Pearl farming on Manihiki atoll is set to benefit from the expertise of marine biologist Ms Tina Weir based at the Ministry of Marine Resource (MMR) research station in Tukao village.

One of Tina's responsibilities is producing a weekly report providing important information to farmers and fishers about the lagoon water quality. The objective of the report is to alert the farmers when conditions in the lagoon are becoming stressful to the black-lipped oyster, which produces the black pearl. During these periods the

farmers should be careful if seeding, harvesting or cleaning shells. It can also provide warnings to fishermen when there is excessive algal growth in the lagoon and a risk of toxic algae blooms.

The report has different information. The water is regularly tested for dissolved oxygen, temperature, PH and salinity using probes which profile these recordings down to 20 metre depth. On weeks when there are flights to Rarotonga additional samples of water are collected at 3 metres depth

(the depth where pearl oysters are hung) and immediately tested at the MMR laboratory in Rarotonga for bacteria, chlorophyll, suspended solids, dissolved oxygen, temperature, PH and salinity measurements.

The scientific information is also part of a larger project to build resilience of pearl farms against the extreme effects of climate change which can lead to a pearl disease such as in 2000 or depletion of oxygen in lagoon as occurred in 2011.

This report is translated into Maori and posted on to various

notice boards and by email in the two main villages.

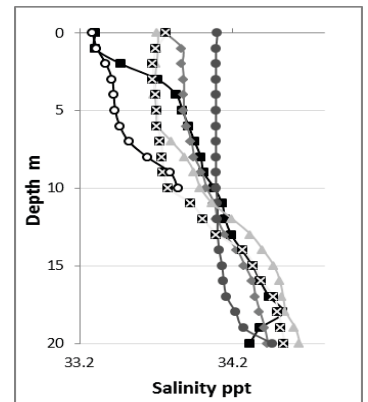
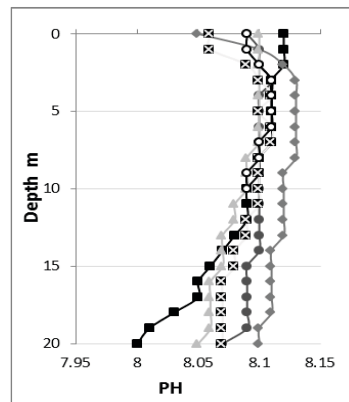
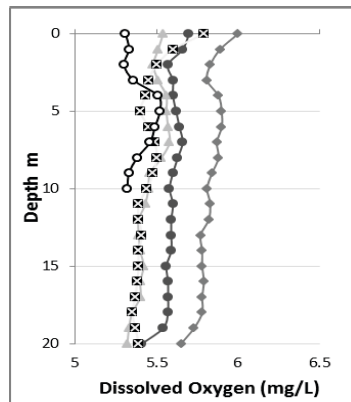
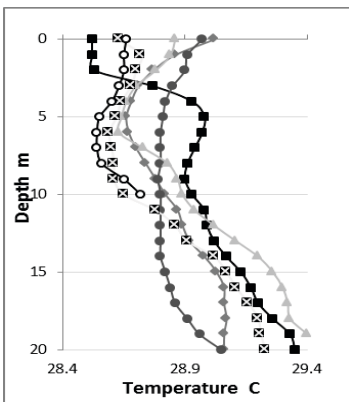
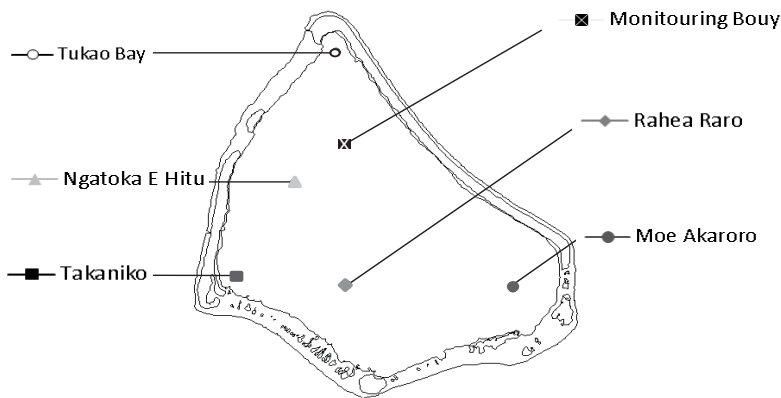
Many farmers have expressed their gratitude for having a greater awareness about understanding the changing lagoon conditions and environment of the atoll.

On her new role, Tina Weir states that "the Island of Manihiki is stunning and everyone has been so gracious and welcoming. I am grateful for this opportunity to enhance our understanding of the Manihiki lagoon and the best ways to utilize the numerous resources it provides."



Ministry of Marine Resources
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

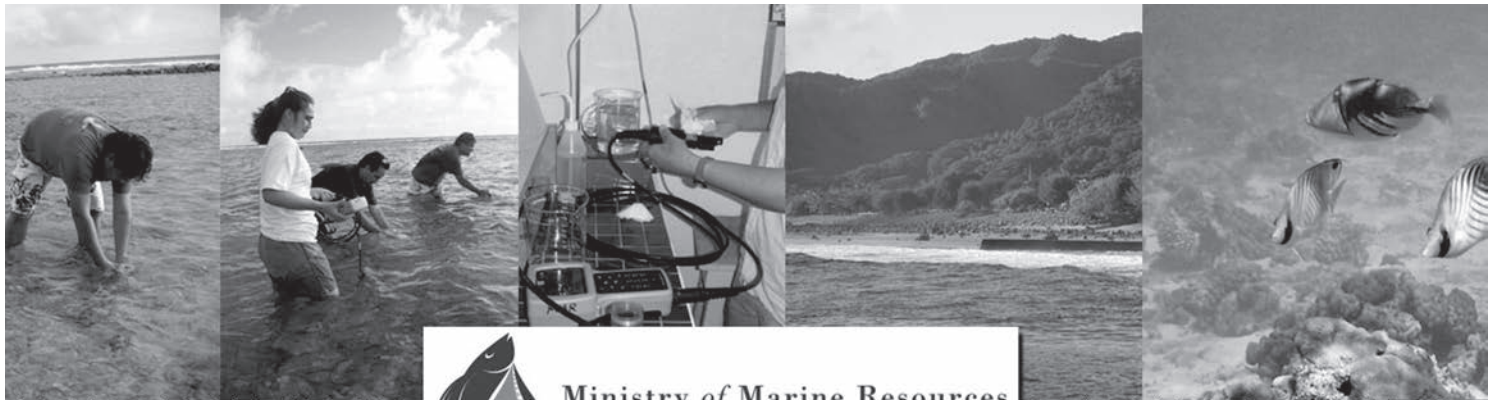
12-Nov-13 Depth Profile



Summary of Findings

Based on this week's data, the water quality in the lagoon appears very good. Temperature and salinity were good, but higher at the bottom than on the surface at all sites. This was caused by the heavy rainfall we experienced on 11-Nov-13 which reduced the temperature and salinity in the shallows. PH was normal and ranged from 8.0 – 8.1. Dissolved oxygen levels were excellent at all sites and similar from the surface down to 20 metres.

Meitaki te turanga o te vaito o to tatou tai roto i teia epetoma. Te maana e te anuanu o te tai, e pera katoa, te kavakava o te tai, meitaki te reira. Kua tupu teia no te pakari o to tatou ua i teia epetoma i topa mei te ra 11 ki te 13 o Noema. Kua topa i reira te vaito i roto i te au ngahi papaku i teia nga ra. Ko te vaitoanga o te mangaro o te tai, mei tei matauia rai (8.0 – 8.1). Te vaitoanga o te ā'o ora i roto i te tai meitaki te reira i te au ngahi tei vaitoia mei runga e tae uatu ki te vaito e 20 metera te moraro.



Ministry of Marine Resources
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS



Congratulations to Mrs Marianna Mataio

This month's woman of the month is Marianna Mataio, a woman who is very active in the community, especially within the church. She belongs to the Matavera CICC Vainetini Organization, being the deaconess and Sunday school teacher and principal of Matavera CICC. She is fully dedicated to her church work, and has spent many years over different CICC parishes. She has been involved with the Cook Islands Girls Brigade as Assistant Trainer and Officer and a member of the Cook Islands Girls Brigade National Executive Committee.

Marianna was also a strong member of the Atiu Girls Brigade, the first company formed by its founder, Papa Vainerere Tangatapoto. She was a representative for the Cook Islands Girls Brigade to the Asia Pacific Training Camp for Leaders in Auckland, New Zealand from January to April 1990 marking the occasion a major highlight during her association in the Cook Islands Girls Brigade.

We should also mention that she was a member of the Pacific Islands Presbyterian Church in Auckland, being a Sunday school teacher, a member of the Combined Youth for the Pacific Islands and a member of the Cook Islands Choir.

From 1983 to 1992, she was a committed member of the Nikao CICC as the Officer of the Nikao Girls Brigade, a Sunday school teacher and a constituent of the Christian Youth. As a woman of Sport, she would spend time playing netball and tennis in Atiu.

After coming to Rarotonga in the early 1980s, she played netball for Takuvaine Club where her mother, the late Matapakia O Tetupu Ariki Teamoke was a strong member of. Today Marianna is a very strong supporter towards her daughters paddling events.

As for her education, she completed Primary and Secondary in Atiu. From 1977 to 1983 she went to Atiu College and for her academic efforts she was awarded with 4 NZ School Certificate passes and 5 Cook Islands School certificate passes. From 1983 to 1985, she attended Tereora College where she gained her 6th form certificate.

In 1992 she went to the Manukau Polytechnic Institute and received a Computer Integrated Manufacturing Certificate and Autocad II Certificate. She has also accomplished a New Zealand Certificate in Engineering at the Auckland Institute of Technology. Marianna has received a Pacific Preschool Teachers Certificate while she was studying at USP in 2001 and managed to complete it with a USP Diploma for Early Childhood Education in 2010.

While she was an outstanding academic student in her school days, her children's achievement in their learning journey is something memorable she would like to share. Her daughter Debora is in year 11 at Tereora College and has topped all her subjects and was awarded the top year 11 student for 2013; making Marianna one very proud mother.

Although her life is filled



Mariana Mataio - Woman of the month for November

with church and community involvements, she has been studying part time towards a B.Ed, "I want to finish my Bachelor in Early Childhood Education just to let my children know that learning is part of life," she says. She is a woman who loves reading, teaching, gardening, sewing, walking, singing, cooking and meeting people. Marianna finds culture very important saying she loves to teach children our Cook

Islands culture by encouraging them to speak Maori as well as Cook Islands dancing and singing, especially during major events organized by the schools, such as parent's day. The Cook Islands Herald would like to congratulate Marianna Mataio for her achievements and being awarded with this month's Woman of the Month. Her awards evening will be held on Thursday the 21st of November at 6.30pm at Aquarius Hotel.

2013 Woman of the Month Sponsors:

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Wind power – pros and cons

There is no perfect energy source. Each one has its advantages and disadvantages.

But one power source that TAU is giving definite attention to is the wind.

With wind power we usually think of hi-tech poles with blades spinning atop as the wind blows. However, wind power has been around for thousands of years powering boats, grinding grain, and pumping water. And there

is currently a body of research here in the Cook Islands going back 40 years.

In 1988, the Denmark-based Riso National Laboratory conducted feasibility studies in Rarotonga and identified a potential wind site at a Kiiikii location in 1988. A close look is currently being taken at the potential for developing a project there utilising data from the Danish studies.

Our interest in wind power is attributable to wind's obvious advantages: it is clean energy, renewable, sustainable, and essentially free once the infrastructure is paid for. Today, two households on Rarotonga are drawing power from owning wind facilities



Wind turbines on hill

connected to the national grid under Te Aponga's net metering scheme.

Government's announcement in 2011 of new energy targets, including the generation of 100% of electricity from renewable energy sources by 2020, has boosted interest in wind power. And wind resource assessments over the past few years have demonstrated that Rarotonga has an exploitable wind regime with average speeds at typical generator hub heights of 40 – 50 meters approximately 7 m/s.

The main disadvantage of wind power, however, continues to be intermittency - the wind is subject to wild

fluctuations in intensity and duration. It is impossible to predict more than 36 hours

ahead and can be hard to dispatch wind power to where you want to send it. This cannot make for a reliable and dispatchable energy source— a utility would need stored energy to even out the fluctuations in power generated directly from wind. The main way of doing this is through banks of storage batteries or in the case of several days without any wind a backup generator would become a necessity. These are both costly options.

When considering wind power for Rarotonga, the disadvantages that arise

together with intermittency include land, capital costs and perhaps the environment.

As everyone knows, land on Rarotonga is held or claimed under customary tenure and can be hard to access. So it's likely that any wind projects will be inland and possibly on ranges where no human settlement exists. Such development could have consequences for the environment through land excavation. The blades of the wind turbines can run at high speeds and may incidentally kill birds or flying foxes that get caught in their path.

Finally, building a wind power plant will require high upfront capital costs, depending on the location.



Ministry of Health raises funds for schools

Last Friday the Ministry of Health Activity Team (Hospital/Tupapa) presented Nukutere College and Avatea School with the money raised from the MOH gold coin fundraiser.

\$312.50 was presented to each school, a total of \$625.00.

Nukutere College and Avatea School would like to thank the Secretary of Health and all the MOH Staff

for the great effort and the kind donations towards the cause.

On behalf of the Secretary – Liz, Karen the lady behind the curtain, the MOH Activity Team, myself the chairman of the MOH Activity Team, we would again like to say thank you to all staff for your great effort in the fundraiser. “Too good rai kotou”

Thank you also to;

1. Tupapa Centre for the venue on the 8th (Fusion 300 workout) and 18th November (Hupa fitness).

2. The Culture centre and the hostels for coping with the loud music but for a worthy cause.

3. People from the community who joined in the workout and donated kindly.

Thanks to the collection team:

- Hospital: Rite, Haumata, Maru
- Admin: Marama
- Pharmacy: Biribo
- Dental; Tuaine
- Public Health Nurses/Insp: Charlie S, Mama
- H promo/Outpatient: Howie

Na te atua e tauturu mai ia kotou katoatoa. (God bless you all) HOWARD TANGIMETUA



BTIB Go Local Vaka Eiva Trade Days

WHEN: THU 28TH & FRI 29TH NOVEMBER 2013
WHERE: MAIRE NUI PARK DRIVE, Opposite Banana Court
 The Business Trade Investment Board in conjunction with Vaka Eiva will organize the Cook Islands Trade Day event over two days from 28th to 29th November 2013, marking the 10th year anniversary of the Vaka Eiva international paddling event. This annual event will be organized at its usual venue; the Maire Nui Park opposite the Clubana Café with a theme focused on 'Go Local – Buy Local – Support Local' in staunch support of Cook Islands businesses and their products/services.

This event is driven with the intentions to create opportunities for trade within the Cook Islands and to promote and encourage potential exports to international markets by showcasing Cook Islands made, owned and produced products. This event will create trading opportunities for vendors, economic spin-offs through sales and income generation, creating opportunities for potential business-to-client or business-to-business contacts and potential inter-island trading with Pa Enea vendors. Air Rarotonga has sponsored FOC freight for Mauke and Mitiaro Islands to assist with their participation at the trade days.

This year's Cook Islands Trade Day's will highlight Cook Islands made, Cook Islands produced and Cook Islands owned products which is directly linked to the theme; Cook Islands 'Go Local' promoting a concept for visitors and local residents to purchase Cook Islands traditional authentic products or locally produced products from Cook Islands local businesses.

Capitalizing on the annual Vaka Eiva event, the Business Trade Investment Board have coincided trade events to benefit the local business community

particularly arts/crafts and food vendors.

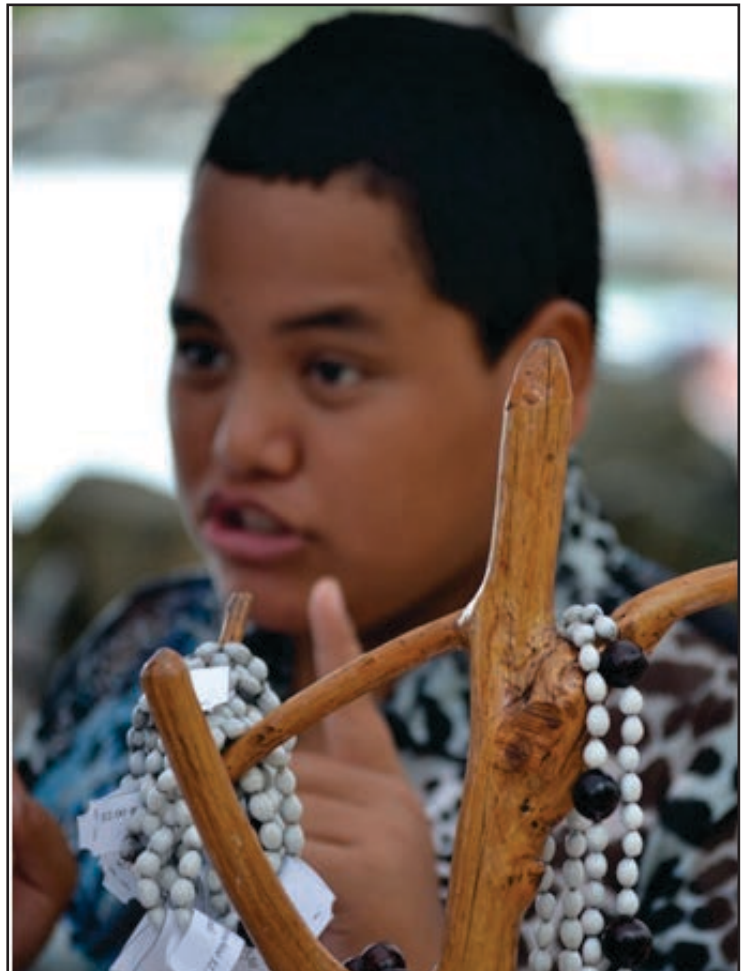
Trade Day will provide an opportunity for visitors and tourists alike to discover authentic foods and products of the Cook Islands. Most importantly this will be an opportunity for exhibitors to showcase their products and discuss ongoing business with potential buyers.

Business Trade investment Board aims to facilitate, support and encourage trade between the outer islands and Rarotonga and we hope that this trade event is another avenue towards that goal. We hope that our local people will benefit from this initiative and that this will lead to economic spin offs for the outer islands and the national economy.

We encourage all the outer islands to bring with them products for the Cook Islands trade day. The BTIB has identified suitable products to be exhibited from the two groups listed below. We ask that all outer islands participants notify this office of products that they will bring so that we can keep an audit of all products that will be exhibited.

We need to ensure that products are of sufficient quantity and are of a high quality. In addition we invite exhibitors to suggest other products which could be suitable for promotion. We stress that outer islands participants bring as much as they can to sell as we will be providing extensive promotion of this event.

BTIB has allocated 30 stalls of which 17 are for arts, crafts and apparel and 13 food and beverage vendors. Due to high demand for vendor space, BTIB expects that all 30 stalls will be taken. Based on last year's trade day, the arts/crafts and apparel vendors generated higher profits. BTIB expects the trade days to be a successful event celebrating Go Local – Buy Local – Support Local supporting Rarotonga and Pa Enea business communities.



Vaka eira 2013 Trade Days

Thur 28th & Fri 29th November
10am - Opposite Banana Court



◆ Arts & Crafts ◆ Apparel
◆ Entertainment ◆ Food

GO LOCAL!

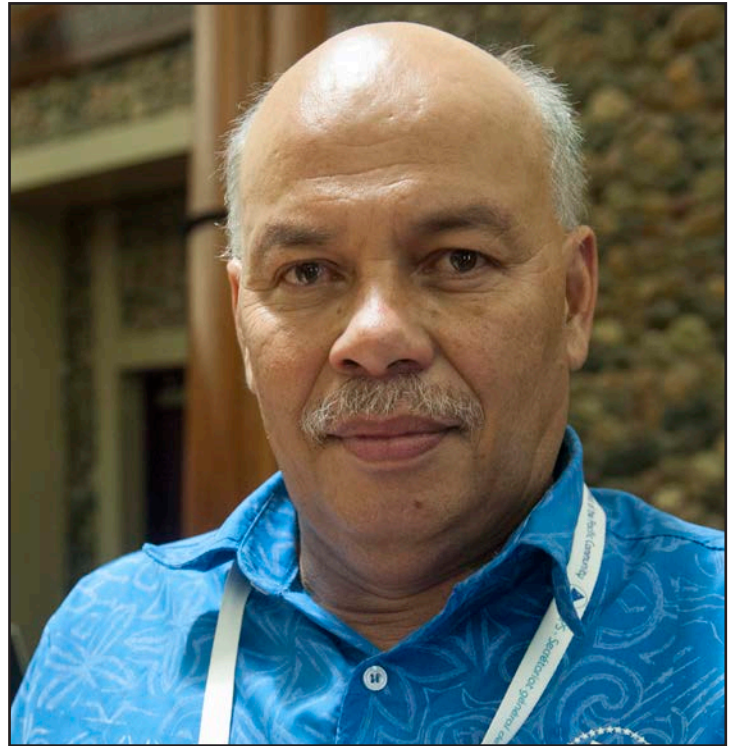
BUY LOCAL!

SUPPORT LOCAL!



Business Trade Investment Board
Cook Islands

New era for Secretariat of the Pacific Community



Dr Colin Tukuitonga new Director General for SPC

Ministers and delegates attending the 8th Conference of the Pacific Community at Vale ni Bose in Suva, Fiji, have confirmed a new Director-General to lead the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

Dr Colin Tukuitongahas been appointed as the new Director-General and will take up the post at SPC's Noumea, New Caledonia headquarters on 23 January, 2013.

Dr Tukuitonga, from Niue, is presently serving in SPC's executive team as the Director of the Public Health Division. He has served with the organisation since December 2012.

The outgoing Director-General, Dr Jimmie Rodgers, from Solomon Islands was highly commended for his extraordinary eight-year term. Dr Rodgers received a Letter of Commendation from the Prime Minister of Fiji, Commodore Josaia V. Bainimarama. The letter was presented by Fiji's Minister for Agriculture, IniaSeruiratu.

He also received a Letter of

Commendation from the 68th Secretary of State of the United States, Mr John F. Kerry. The letter was presented by the United States Ambassador to Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu, Frankie A. Reed.

The Chairperson of the 8th Conference of the Pacific Community, Fiji's Foreign Minister, RatuInokeKubuabola, presented a gift and commendation to Dr Rodgers on behalf of the Pacific Community. The organisation has 26 members including 22 Pacific Island countries and territories and Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States of America.

SPC is an international development organisation that assists nationally led efforts in the Pacific Islands region to advance sustainable social development, including improving peoples' ability to lead long and healthy lives, access education, and enjoy sustainable livelihoods. SPC provides critical support to its Pacific Island members to address climate, disaster and human security risks.

Letter to the Editor

Puaikura Soccer Supreme

Dear Editor,
At the beginning of the Soccer season you published a letter criticizing the election of Junior Areai as the President of the Puaikura Football Club. Presumably it was written by a member of the breakaway group who failed to convince our club to boycott CIFA and join them. Our President has let his actions do the talking on the field. Last week our Premier men's side defeated Takuvaine and ended the season as the champions for the first time since the completion started in 1992. We also won two other divisions, the men's under 17 and men's under 14, that's half of the competition. PFC has struggled for many years but this has been our best year as a club thanks to the great enthusiasm and energy our President has shown as he has lead by example from the front. Have our critics achieved anything this year except complain and criticize? Areai made a mistake some nine years ago and was severely punished for it; to keep raising it to embarrass him only provided the club the motivation to win the championship.

We are the champions!

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Best Windows 8 Apps

Royal Revolt!

One of the very best Windows 8 games available at the moment, Royal Revolt! is a free tower defence title with some beautifully rendered 3D graphics, cartoon-ish sounds and a simple backstory.

The learning curve is just right, so you can pick up the game's various features as you progress through increasingly difficult levels in an attempt to regain your kingdom. You can marshal your troops and plan your attacks using a mouse and keyboard or on a touchscreen.

Google Search

Not only does the Windows 8 Google Search app enable you to type (or speak) your queries, it includes a rudimentary web browser to enable you to see the results within the app, as well as access other Google tools such as Gmail and Maps.

Like many Start screen apps, it suffers from too much blank space, but it's an intuitive tool that will be of particular interest if you're heavily invested in the Google ecosystem (you can easily call up your Google search history, for example).

Spider Solitaire HD

Windows 8 no longer includes the old favourite Solitaire as a desktop app, so you'll need to find a Start screen app to fill the void. Spider Solitaire HD is the best option we came across, enabling you to choose from several different card and table designs and providing full support for touchscreen users.

The app comes with an advertising banner at the top, but if you like the game you can upgrade to have this removed.

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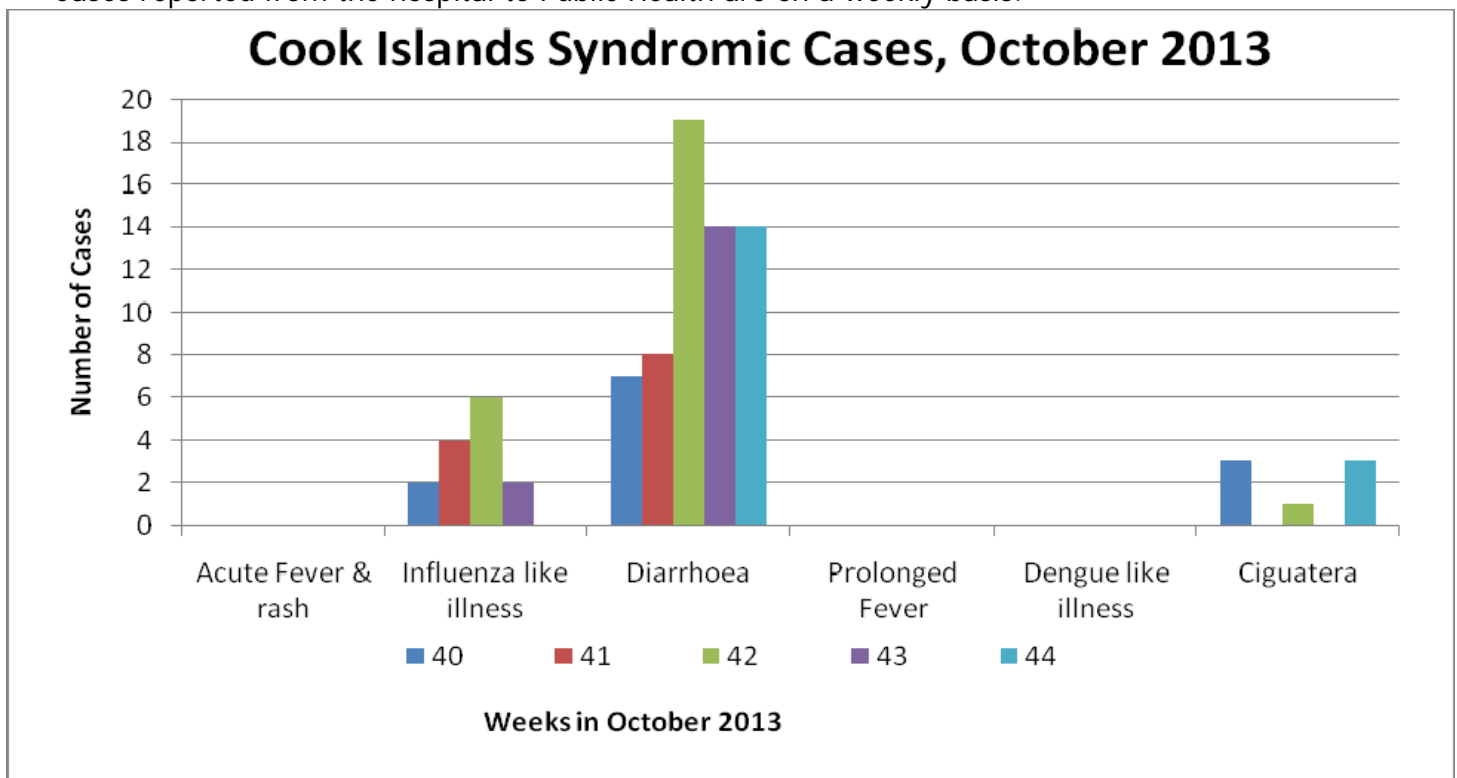
Community Health Services- Public Health Department
PO Box 109 Tel: 682 29 110
Rarotonga Fax: 682 29 100
Cook Islands Website: www.health.gov.ck

12.11.2013

ESR Stakeholders Report – October 2013

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

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



Remarks: High incidences of diarrhoeal cases this month of October. NB: cases were scattered, which includes Outer Islands but majority of cases reported were from Rarotonga.

Table1: Cumulative number of cases reported for the month of **October 2013** Weeks 40-44 (October 6 – November 3 2013)

Syndromes	Cases	Advice
Acute Fever & Rash (AFR)	0	<p><i>Diarrhoea:</i> Hand hygiene and good sanitation in the home is vital to prevent the spread of germs. Boil drinking water or buy/collect from safe, treated water stations.</p> <p>- See doctor if not feeling well</p> <p><i>ILI:</i> Practice good hand and respiratory hygiene (proper cough/sneeze etiquette)</p> <p>- Stay away from people who are obviously sick.</p> <p><i>Ciguatera Fish Poisoning (CFP):</i> Avoid eating reef fish from areas known to be associated with CFP.</p> <p><i>DLI:</i> We have no DLI cases reported but due to the dengue outbreak in French Polynesia, Public Health is monitoring all incoming flights from Tahiti.</p>
Influenza-like illness (ILI)	14	
Diarrhoea	62	
Prolonged Fever	0	
Dengue-like illness (DLI)	0	
Ciguatera	3	

Manihiki clean up the world day data

The Island of Manihiki held its Clean Up the World last Thursday after having to postpone it multiple times due to other community commitments.

The annual cleanup campaign was coordinated by the National Environment Service and focused its efforts on collecting rubbish from around the coastal areas and is this year's theme, Love Your Coast.

Manihiki's National Environment Service Officer, Nimeti Nimeti says, the arrival of Suwarrow's, Park Rangers on Manihiki, Harry Papai and Ngatupuna Pori meant that the clean up was held on both Tauhunu and Tukao.

Nimeti says, during the clean up, volunteers were astonished to see the amount of rubbish collected from both Tukao and Tauhunu coastlines with a combined weight collected reaching 733.5kg of rubbish mainly consisting of plastic bottles with the most amount of rubbish being collected from

around the Tukao coast, which may be the result of discarded waste from fishing vessels.

The Prime Minister Henry Puna was in Manihiki to witness the event and said, "We as people need to change our way of thinking. Learning to take care of our environment is of the utmost importance for a cleaner and healthier future."

Supplies needed such as gloves, sacks and rubbish bags were sent to the island 2-weeks before the September 13 event which were kindly donated to NES by CITC, who was a supporting partner of the Clean Up the World campaign.

During the September cleanup campaign, over 2500kg of waste was collected from coastlines around Rarotonga alone.

The National Environment Service, and Clean Up coordinator, Senior Education Officer Matthew Rima, thanks all those who volunteered their time to help keep Manihiki's coastlines litter free.

Breakdown of the rubbish collected in Manihiki on the 14th November 2013.

	Tukao	Tauhunu
Plastic Bottles	(1776) 106kg	(1079) 44kg
Aluminium Cans	(273) 6kg	(839) 16.5kg
Glass Bottles	(33) 15kg	(70) 38kg
Tins	(197) 15kg	(180) 14kg
Plastics	111.5kg	96kg
General Waste	106kg	16kg
Shoes/Jandals	(77) 12kg	
Fridge doors	(2) 7.5kg	
Fridge	(2) 46kg	
Gas cylinder	(2) 10.5kg	
Ropes	(2) 30kg	
Empty 200ltr drum	(1) 19kg	
Timber	(1) 5kg	
Washing Machine tub	(1) 5kg	
Polystyrene products	14.5kg	
Total weight	509kg	224.5kg

Combined total weight for Manihiki Clean Up 733.5kg

Poetry

by Ikram Elabssi

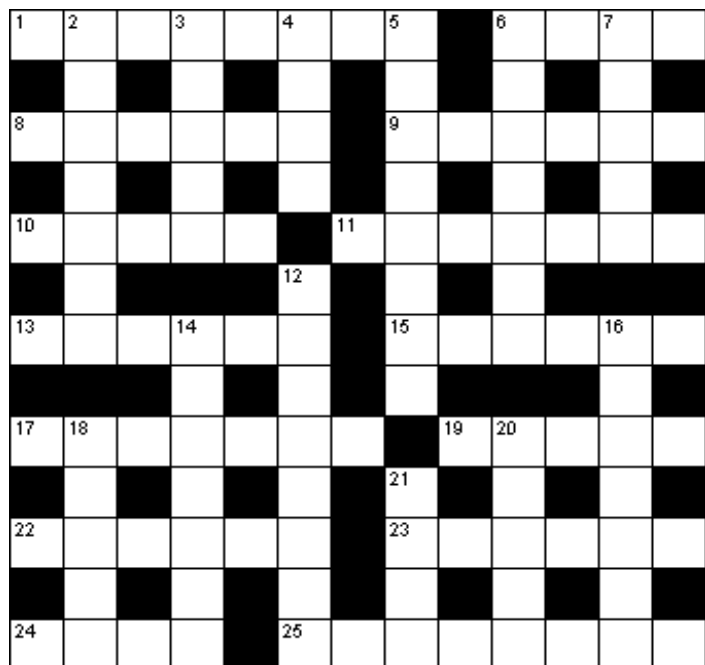
Ikram is a student at Nukutere College.

Nukutere College

Leavings not easy, I have to admit.
I wish I had made the most of it.
The laughter, the drama, the 'cool kids', the 'clowns'
The things I achieved and the friends that I found.
The family I made, the ones I can't let go.
The ones that know me inside, outside, head to toe.
The friends I made that didn't cost a dime,
Then the fake mates who only just a waste of time.
Our awesome teachers gave their everything just for us,
I guess we craved a different kinda buzz.
Those threatened by my future,
My secrets they'd broadcast.
They're wondering still today why I've left them in my past?
Nukutere's one journey I'd never forget.
Even if I tried my mind would never let !



CROSSWORD

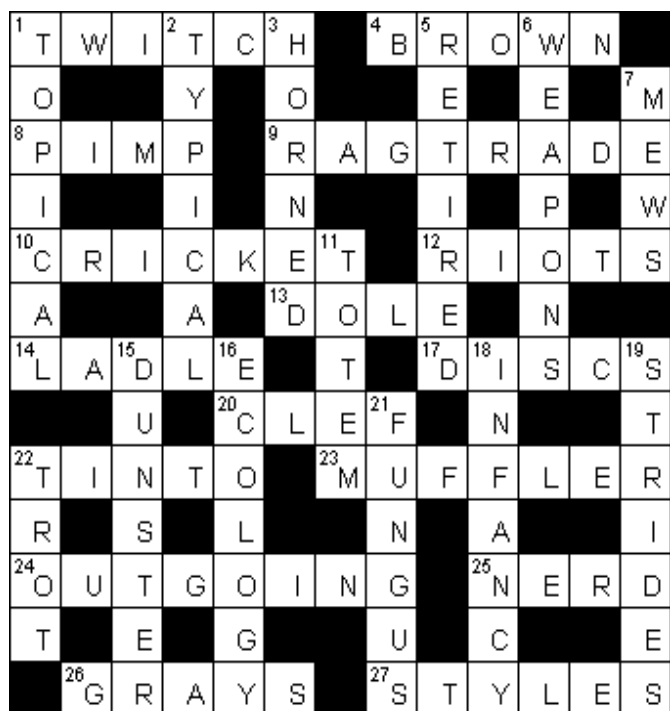


Across

- 1. People from Italy
- 6. Filth
- 8. Immature insects
- 9. Hired killer
- 10. Shadow
- 11. Person of great influence
- 13. Area with coin-operated games
- 15. Pay beforehand
- 17. Soft and moist
- 19. Stigma
- 22. Inhabitant of Ionia
- 23. Wood
- 24. Numerous
- 25. Pet birds

Down

- 2. Instructor
- 3. Enraged
- 4. Impressed
- 5. Intoxicating liquor
- 6. Afternoon performance
- 7. Skill
- 12. Person who repairs machinery
- 14. Competence
- 16. City in central Texas
- 18. Allotted quantity
- 20. Device to assess time taken
- 21. English public school



News Briefs *By TeRiu Woonton*

New lecture hall to open, ordination to take place

Very important occasions to the Takamoa Theological College and the CICC parishes will take place at the end of this month. After months of renovation, the Takamoa Theological Lecture Hall will be reopened on Saturday the 30th of November. Along with the opening ceremony, 13 theological students will graduate and both ceremonies will be hosted by the students themselves. The ordination of the students as Orometua into the Avarua CICC will take place the following day.

Students to hold concert

During the year the Sunday school students of Avarua CICC have been kept busy learning memory versus, singing and reading scriptures of the bible. A concert will be held this Friday the 22nd of November, which will depict all topics and everything the 120 Avarua CICC Sunday school students have learnt throughout the year. Aunty Rouru Motu, Avarua CICC Sunday school teacher and secretary to the Avarua CICC Sunday school says the objective of the concert is to show parents the talent of their children put together through drama, singing and the reading of bible verses. The concert will be held at the Sinai Hall this Friday the 22nd of November at 6.30pm. Tickets are selling at \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. All proceeds will go towards purchasing resources for the New Years Sunday school lessons.

Ministry promotes healthy lifestyles

The Ministry of Health team hold activities every Friday to promote healthy and active lifestyles. The first and second Fridays of this month, the Ministry of Health held a Hupa class coordinated by Phebes and a Zumba class coordinated by the Ministry of Health staff themselves, to raise funds for Avatea Primary school and Nukutere College. The gold coin donation at the door from both classes saw an amount of \$625 being raised and after halving the amount, each school was presented with \$312.50c. The team at Ministry of Health would like to thank the Tupapa Centre for the use of the venue, the culture centre and hostels for coping with the loud music but for a worthy cause and the people from the community who joined in the workout. The donations were presented to the schools last Wednesday the 13th of November.

Art contest winners announced

Yesterday at 10.30am, the overall winner of the Directory Cover Art Competition 2014 was announced and presented with \$700 cash, a mobile phone, sim card and top up credit. The overall winner went to Rebecca Teina Kirahi, the outer island section winner went to Potini Regina Potini and the schools section winner went to Taylor Heather of Nukutere College. Both Potini and Taylor received a \$400 Telecom Voucher. There were over 30 applicants who took part in the Competition which ran from the 11th of September to the 11th of October

Education is the future but they are the children

By *Mata Rakanui*

This week I will focus on education and its prevalence in Korean society, its effect on Korean standing in the world, and its consequences.

In South Korea the concept of education is taken to a new level. I remember as a kid going to school and then spending the rest of my time playing sport, hanging out with friends and other leisure activities. In Korea this is almost unheard of as a typical day for a Korean child might go something like the following. Attend school from 8am to 3pm. This is usually followed by a class of instruction involving a musical instrument, language learning or even Tae Kwon Do. This could easily be followed by further classes involving additional maths, English or science instruction among other topics. This can continue all the way until 9 or 10pm 6 days a week even for young children aged 7-8. This kind of existence continues right up until the children take their entrance exams for university. Their whole education and background is based on successfully completing the entrance exams and securing a place in one of the top Universities. The results of this placing will determine not only their University but also their perspective role, network and ability to succeed in life. Essentially the parents' main role in the child's formative years is to ensure the children are prepared and successfully able to pass the University entrance exams.

I cannot imagine this kind of existence happening back home as they are sacrificing what it means to be a child. I remember being told to study hard but nothing like what I have seen here. However, this

kind of system is becoming the envy of other nations as it has provided the backbone for the rapid development of South Korean society economically from a nation of extreme poverty after the Korean war of 1950-1953 to one of the economic powerhouses in the world.

Although inspirational there is also an element of sadness as I have taught children who know of no other existence other than to study, study, and study. They marvel when I recollect stories of my childhood as it seems totally foreign to their world and existence. Is it right to sacrifice everything for the future or should we let children just be children sometimes? This is a rather poignant question.

There are some benefits to this system as can be seen in International rankings where South Korea ranks second in reading for 15 year olds and fourth in maths. However, there is also a very dark side which can be a consequence of this hard drive for educational success. South Korea ranks as number one in regards to the suicide rate in the OECD. In South Korea, the rate of suicide is nearly three times the OECD average and has remained number one in the OECD for eight consecutive years. The rate averages out to about 42 people a day. That is absolutely mind blowing! In South Korea, the statistics for children are appalling. The leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds is not accidents, drowning, or in some parts of the world murder, the leading cause is suicide! Predominantly this is blamed on the intense pressure the children face in order to study and successfully pass the university exams. Without this success the future is too bleak



to consider. In combination with this is the recent increase in deaths related to classroom bullying which has become a hot topic.

Some of the children look at studying 12-14 hour days for ten to fifteen years just to succeed. Is it all worth it? Is this the essence of childhood?

A study from 2010 discovered that after school study alone costs a student on average \$2,600 a year. This is only after school education not their primary day school fees and costs. Recently there has been a movement against this after school learning as the gap is widening between the haves and have not's regarding learning and succeeding in the University entrance exam. However, people are people and if there is a chance to

succeed in life it will be taken.

Some of the positives of the Korean education system have been noted by observers including President Obama but the effect on childhood development and those who don't make it can be devastating. A number of key points like dedication to study and leading the world in certain rankings are positives but losing the essence of childhood and pinning your whole life's hopes on a series of exams can have devastating consequences.

Hopefully we can take the good points of this system and help cultivate the education of children, to help the children develop for the future but not let them lose their innocence or essence of being.

Kia Manuia

Annyong e Kaseyo

How to enjoy the people in your life

part 2

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

The main scripture reading of this article is Philippians 1v.3-11. In Part 1, I made mention of two important points in order for us to Enjoy The People In Our Lives.

1 BE GRATEFUL FOR THE GOOD IN PEOPLE. v.3 reads "I thank my God every time I remember you." Although Paul had some bad experiences in life, he never allows these to cloud his positive mentality towards people. He focused on the good in people and not the bad or negative things.

Lesson 1 "Remember the Best and forget the Rest."

2 PRACTICE POSITIVE PRAYING v.4 reads "In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy."

Lesson 2 "The quickest way to change a relationship from bad to good is to start thanking God in prayer for people."

3. Be patient with PEOPLE'S progress. Paul looked at people's future and not just at their past. v.6: reads "Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Paul says what God started in your life at salvation He will bring it eventually, to completion.

We are great starters but bad finishers. We leave unfinished work, unfinished buildings, and unfinished projects. We don't always finish what we started but God always finishes what He started. He puts the finishing touches on everything He does and then He says, "It is good."

The Bible says when Jesus Christ starts working in your life He will complete what He started. In spite of my faults, my bad decisions, my sins, in spite of all the circumstances that I face in life, God is going to finish what He started in my life. And in your life too!

The Bible says that one day when you get to Heaven you're going to become just like Jesus,

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

because you will see Him as He is. And that's the goal. God starts what He finishes.

Lesson #3: God is not finished with people.

We need to be patient with people. Paul said, "I'm not the man I used to be, but thank God, I'm growing and changing."

In our marriages, if we want to enjoy our marriages, we've got to learn to enjoy our husband or our wife, while allowing for growth and development. If we're going to learn to enjoy our children we've got to learn to enjoy them in the process, while they're growing. Because there is no such thing as a perfect child. And there's no such thing as a perfect adult. If you demand perfection of the people in your life in order to enjoy them, you're going to be miserable for the rest of your life. Nobody's perfect.

Paul says that he enjoyed the Philippians because he chose to ignore the bad things that happened and concentrated on the good. He was grateful for the good that happened and he practiced positive praying, he prayed with joy and for specific things in their life. If you want something to change your attitude, start praying for that person who irritates you at work, that person in your home, child or mate, and see what happens to your attitude. Then be patient with their progress because life is a matter of growth.

v.6 "Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Paul believed in God's power to change the human personality. Paul believed that no person was



hopeless. He never gave up on people. This is a great promise of God. Claim it for your children, for your workmate, for yourself.

4. Love people from the heart. If people are not on your heart, they're on your nerves. If you don't have your kids in your heart, they get on your nerves. If you don't have your husband in your heart, he gets on your nerves.

v 8 "God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus."

Paul is saying, "I've got a gut feeling of love for you." It's not a natural kind of love. It's the affection of Christ Jesus in him. Human love wears out and dries up and dies. This happens to everybody. And Paul is saying that the only kind of love that lasts in spite of heartaches and difficulties in tough times is God's love -- the affection of Jesus Christ.

That's the only kind of love that lasts.

Romans 5v.5 "God has poured out his love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to us." God's love is something that is poured into us by the Holy Spirit as we allow Him to live in us day by day. God's love is something He does in us and through us.

Life is too short to not enjoy the people in our lives. If we don't learn to enjoy the people that God has placed around us in our lives we will be miserable. People will rob us of our joy unless we learn how to respond to them the way Jesus did.

It is my prayer that you will find this article of encouragement helpful as you interact with people around you and in your life.

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

Tereora College Senior Prize Giving

By *Norma Ngatamariki*

Holler! What's up, peepz? Your all-time favourite columnist has returned after a frantic week of preparing for the NCEA exams, sewing hundreds of eis' for the Senior Prize giving (which is what I'm going to cover in this article) and finishing off some last minute internals. Yes, no doubt it has been a very stressful time for all senior students taking NCEA, so I sincerely hope that all of you have STUDIED and are being resourceful during your study leave. Trust me, if you haven't even ATTEMPTED to study, you'll regret it. Big time.

Anyway, back to more pleasing matters. On Thursday 7th of November, the Tereora College Senior Prize giving was held at the Princess Anne Hall (the very same

Hall where we are taking our exams. How ironic). We had a lengthy rehearsal the day before because our Anau teachers wanted everything to be perfect. Talk about pressure much. This year was a bit different, as we were allocated into our Anau groups instead of Year levels. Te Kou, Ikurangi, Te Manga and Maungaroa. It was a bit confusing and I kept on making a fool of myself because I had no idea where I was sitting, but I endured it.

And finally, the day of reckoning came. I had spent all night sewing, what seemed to be, a ton of eis for the Prize giving. If I didn't love my friends as much as I do, then I probably wouldn't have gone through all that effort. My mum and I made twelve in total (Sheesh! I admire my own strength) and I wrote up

a list of people to akaei (since we weren't allowed to akaei our own friends. Some were rebels and did it anyway). The only regret that I have was not making any lolly eis this year. Waah!

The Acting Prime Minister, Teina Bishop, the Queen's Representative, Tom Marsters and the New Zealand High Commissioner, Joanna Kempkers were all present at the Prize giving. That was a first. Our School Principal, Mr. Bali Haque, must have gone all out on the invites. After a few speeches, Te Kou was the first up for the awards. I gave a big round of applause to all my friends in Te Kou, and there were quite a few of them.

My Anau, Ikurangi, was called upon next. Oh, it's too soon, I thought to myself. All of a sudden, my row was up next

and I could feel the butterflies. I was the very last person in Ikurangi to be called out, and it was kind of shaming because I had to stand up all by myself. I got first placing in Accounting and Economics, second placing in Media Studies (which I gracefully lost to my friend/rival, Nadia George) and third placing in English. All in all, it was a great year's effort and I can't complain. I also got third overall for Year 12 and the School Committee Award for Overall Excellence in Academics, Sports and Culture (which REALLY took me by surprise). Well done to Tauwi Tiere for taking out the Tereora College Dux of 2013. You deserve it, girl. I want to congratulate all of the prize winners this year. To those who didn't get any, keep in mind that there's always next year.

A heads up on safety

By *Hareta Tiraa Passfield*

To most people on Rarotonga, especially teenagers, wearing a helmet is embarrassing, but since when was caring for your safety embarrassing? In most developed countries such as New Zealand wearing a helmet is compulsory. This law has saved hundreds of lives. It's time for the Cook Islands to take a stand for our future generations.

From 2000 to 2011 there were 47 road deaths on Rarotonga. Of these, 82% occurred on motorcycles and 87% of these were the result of head injuries. None of the victims were wearing helmets. The information supports my conviction that it should be compulsory for all motorcycle riders and passengers to wear helmets. There are a number of implications of these road deaths and they are discussed

below.

Over the years the health care system has spent thousands of dollars treating head injuries caused by motorcycle accidents. If it were compulsory for all motorcycle riders and passengers to wear helmets then we would be saving thousands of dollars each year.

Another big issue are the disabilities caused by motorbike accidents. Anyone who has looked after a severely disabled person would understand the amount of time, effort, money and heartache that goes into the task. A disability caused by something that could have been prevented by something as small as a motorcycle helmet only makes the situation more tragic.

A third issue is grief. While grief is associated with all

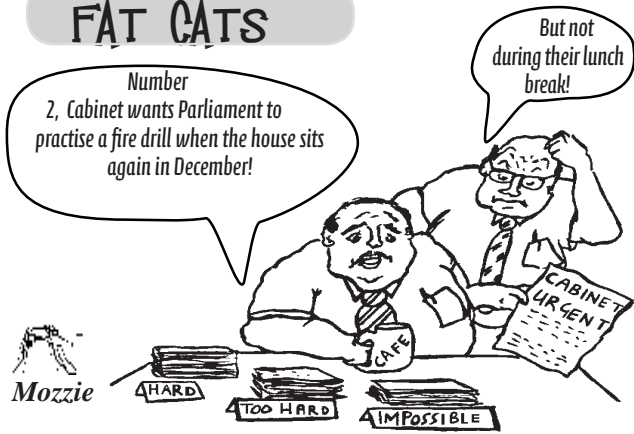
death, the grief associated with death that could have been easily prevented is one of the most difficult to deal with. Tragically most of the deaths on Rarotonga have been of young people still in their teenage years. The loss of these young lives is such a waste of potential. A visit to the grave of these young people is accompanied by an overwhelming feeling of loss. Not only does it effect friends and family but also many of the youth in the Cook Islands.

If only people were not so worried about appearances and looking "cool", and wore a helmet, then so many of these situations discussed above would have been avoided. I myself can really relate to this because my dad always tries to make me wear a helmet and I always say no

because I'm scared of what everyone else will think, I know how people will think "She looks stupid." Nowadays you don't define who you are. Everyone's opinions are what define you. You make one mistake and everyone will remember it and you will be known for the rest of your life as "The girl who made THAT mistake." I'm not saying wearing a helmet is a mistake. I'm saying that we as a society should change. We should stop judging people. Last I checked worrying about your safety isn't lame. And if it was compulsory, lives would be saved.

Even as I write this I realize that telling my dad that wearing a helmet is lame and embarrassing was wrong. My life is more important than everyone else's opinions. Today I've made that choice.

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Here's a query chooks! Will the breakaway round ball faction seek affiliation with FIFA? Can a country have two separate leagues but both affiliated to FIFA? Here's a thought. Why not have one separate league for the top club teams only. Like in NZ. This top league could seek sponsors and the players be semi-professionals and be paid.



Two tourists stroll casually in to Telecom HQ on Tuesday morning looking to buy a sim card, but! The cupboard is bare! Oh dear! No sim cards! How can this be chooks? Were they all sold out during the rugby sevens? Telecom knows Vaka Eiva is coming up with some 600 coming from overseas. Some of these people may want a sim card? Fly them in Telecom! Pronto! There's dosh to be made!



Chook reports a group of restless ex-pat restaurant owners some of whom run two or more eateries, and employ foreigners, are challenging the operation of the hugely popular Muri night market because it's affecting their businesses. They are even citing public health concerns. Why can't tourists go out one night a week and mix it with locals? Try some different food at a reasonable cost? These ex-pats should know you cannot stop a Cook Islander from doing what they want in their own country. In South Africa, they once had a name for this.



Talking about health concerns with

CHOOKS CORNER
WITH BIG RED



food, Public Health wallahs report that in October, reported diarrhea cases soared to 62. No detail though as to how and where these cases were contracted. It would be good to know.



With the purpose of Dee-wah-lee being to celebrate the triumph of light over darkness, perhaps there should also be a public holiday for the bloke who invented the battery powered torch! We could all use another day off work!



Tourists off the cruise boat must have wondered if the plague had hit the island as no-one was out and about in this small place where tourism accounts for about two thirds of all commercial activity. Shops were all shut and a slight drizzle put a damper on the day. It was Sunday after all!



It will be wooden spear day out at the upcoming big investiture out west, whisper is the pig will be closely guarded by some 40 highly trained Warriors to ensure no-one rushes forward and bites the ear of the pig!

Some protest is expected by others who will be carrying wooden spears. But they will be outnumbered by others also carrying wooden spears.



Oh dear chooks! The big water project which was costed by the ADB in 2008 at \$43.7 million for a no frills, fix the leaks version, leapfrogged to \$60 million in 2013 with the Chin-wall, Kiwi, local yokel replace all pipes version and last week, came whispers that costs had space shuttled to \$72 million! Word is the Kiwi lot want more cream on their pavlova but the Heatherman has said "No way, Ho-say!"



PM certainly can't sit still! Has this man got ants in his pants or what? Just back from China, barely off the plane, he's back on a smaller plane and off to Manihiki! Could be afflicted with PMS-Permanent Mobility Syndrome!



Action Minister, Heatherman of MOIP, wants his HOMs to start producing policies! Quite right! A Minister is supposed to be focusing on policy, big picture stuff, but Ministries lack capacity and staff with the grunt to

produce policies! No wonder Ministers have resorted to poking their noses into the everyday operational stuff! But where are the policies? A place to start would be the 2010 CIP Election Manifesto! But hang on! There are no copies left!



Word is a 7pm Cabinet pow wow has approved in principle a new, computerized, emergency alert system. The challenge now is to find the dosh needed to imple... MFEM and for tenders to go out locally and overseas for expressions of interest!



With the interest in alternative educational strategies to give the useless types some meaningful direction in life, how about an Academy for the Useless. Here persons could be given professional tuition in how to "loll about." That is to give the appearance of being gainfully employed when actually not interested in getting a job at all! They could be given tuition in how to stride backwards and forwards as though waiting for a business appointment!

Cook Islands
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MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS



**COOK ISLANDS
STATISTICAL BULLETIN**

MIGRATION STATISTICS
October 2013

Total arrivals for the month of October 2013 was 12,659 of which 11,443 were visitors and 1,216 returning Cook Island residents. There were 13,133 departures with 1,470 being Cook Island residents who either left on vacation, for business reasons, or permanently.

The month of October 2013 saw a 2.0 per cent increase in visitor arrivals when compared to October 2012. New Zealand dominated the visitor numbers with 68.7 per cent, followed by Australia with 15.1 per cent and Europe with 7.4 per cent.

Visitors arriving for vacation purposes made up 76.9 per cent (8,803) of the total visitor arrivals. 12.2 per cent (1,391) chose the Cook Islands for weddings and honeymoons, while 5.3 per cent (603) came to visit friends and relatives. The majority of visitors stayed in hotels 46.8 per cent, 25.1 per cent stayed in Motels, 17.2 per cent stayed in other accommodations while 10.9 per cent stayed in Private accommodations.

Total resident departures for October 2013 increased by 64.1 per cent when compared to September 2013, with net outward migration of -254. Of those departing residents, 45.3 per cent went to visit their friends or relatives, 51.2 per cent left the country for other reasons and 3.5 per cent left the country permanently.

Telecom out of sim cards

By Te Riu Woonton

Possible mobile phone users will be out of action as Sim Card availability is on high demand due to Telecom Cook Islands low stock count, since last week. Lahaina Kiely Manager for Retail Sales and Customer Support says a batch of sim cards were ordered last month but due to a change of a profile of the actual sim card, there has been a delay in orders.

Unusually high purchases of sim cards over the past months has meant that Telecom Cook Islands has worked its way through its 20k sim card quota, usually sufficient as a two year supply for the Cook Islands. "We usually only go through 5,000-7,000 a year; the last couple of months we have had unusually high purchases of the sim cards!"

The high amount of visitors to Rarotonga is believed to be the cause behind Telecoms sim card shortage and customers, mainly teenagers purchasing multiple numbers in order to maximize the 450 free txt a month offered to prepaid accounts. Although sim cards won't be able to be purchased for the next few weeks, Telecom does have a backup plan. "We are asking those who have unused old sim cards lying around at home to bring them in to Telecom and you will get a \$10 top up for each sim you bring in!"

At this stage, Lahaina could not confirm whether the price of the recycled sim cards will be reduced when being purchased. Telecom Cook Islands won't be expecting the next batch of sim cards until the next 4 weeks.

PUBLIC NOTICE



**RESORT MANAGER
COOK ISLANDS LEADING RESORT**

We are currently seeking a highly experienced individual or couple with international 5 star boutique resort experience to join our award winning resort in Aitutaki.

The Resort Manager oversees all aspects of the hotel operations including: rooms division, food & beverage, minor operating departments, team building and staff development. Strong communication skills, both verbal and written, and outstanding leadership is paramount.

This position must be able to delegate responsibilities, organise complex projects, and establish priorities consistent with hotel objectives. The Resort Manager works closely with the CEO/Group General Manager implementing Pacific Resort Hotel Group (PRHG) standards.

To apply email: work@pacificresort.com

www.pacificresort.com

Table 1 Total Arrivals and Departures

Period	Total			Visitors			Cook Islands Residents		
	Arrivals	Departures	Excess ⁽¹⁾	Arrivals	Departures	Excess ⁽¹⁾	Arrivals	Departures	Excess ⁽¹⁾
YEAR									
2008	106,521	107,281	-760	94,776	94,356	420	11,745	12,925	-1,180
2009	112,078	111,415	663	101,229	99,132	2,097	10,849	12,283	-1,434
2010	115,090	113,260	1,830	104,265	101,085	3,180	10,825	12,175	-1,350
2011	124,963	125,063	-100	113,114	112,312	802	11,849	12,751	-902
2012	133,807	133,190	617	122,384	121,208	1,176	11,423	11,982	-559
QUARTER									
2011									
Mar	22,886	25,266	-2,380	19,460	22,098	-2,638	3,426	3,168	258
Jun	31,097	30,198	899	28,470	27,477	993	2,627	2,721	-94
Sep	38,976	38,536	440	36,296	35,792	504	2,680	2,744	-64
Dec	32,004	31,063	941	28,888	26,945	1,943	3,116	4,118	-1,002
2012									
Mar	23,805	25,427	-1,622	20,567	22,537	-1,970	3,238	2,890	348
Jun	33,900	32,298	1,602	31,133	29,421	1,712	2,767	2,877	-110
Sep	41,441	42,303	-862	39,113	39,658	-545	2,328	2,645	-317
Dec	34,661	33,162	1,499	31,571	29,592	1,979	3,090	3,570	-480
2013									
Mar	23,524	26,408	-2,884	20,493	23,661	-3,168	3,031	2,747	284
Jun ^(p)	32,259	30,859	1,400	29,811	28,304	1,507	2,448	2,555	-107
Sep ^(p)	41,341	41,257	84	39,031	38,704	327	2,310	2,553	-243
MONTH									
2012									
Jan	7,585	9,720	-2135	6,111	8,820	-2709	1,474	900	574
Feb	6,672	6,816	-144	5,844	5,789	55	828	1,027	-199
Mar	9,548	8,891	657	8,612	7,928	684	936	963	-27
Apr	10,383	10,779	-396	9,294	9,634	-340	1,089	1,145	-56
May	10,149	9,635	514	9,253	8,706	547	896	929	-33
Jun	13,368	11,884	1484	12,586	11,081	1505	782	803	-21
Jul	14,588	15,002	-414	13,807	14,092	-285	781	910	-129
Aug	13,648	13,721	-73	12,868	12,862	6	780	859	-79
Sep	13,205	13,580	-375	12,438	12,704	-266	767	876	-109
Oct	12,188	12,697	-509	11,218	11,740	-522	970	957	13
Nov	11,188	11,189	-1	10,302	10,261	41	886	928	-42
Dec	11,285	9,276	2009	10,051	7,591	2460	1,234	1,685	-451
2013									
Jan	7,952	10,970	-3018	6,532	10,055	-3523	1,420	915	505
Feb	6,439	6,833	-394	5,702	5,922	-220	737	911	-174
Mar	9,133	8,605	528	8,259	7,684	575	874	921	-47
Apr ^(p)	9,504	9,656	-152	8,709	8,715	-6	795	941	-146
May ^(p)	10,439	9,882	557	9,604	9,020	584	835	862	-27
Jun ^(p)	12,316	11,321	995	11,498	10,569	929	818	752	66
Jul ^(p)	14,164	13,913	251	13,420	13,036	384	744	877	-133
Aug ^(p)	13,898	14,118	-220	13,081	13,338	-257	817	780	37
Sep ^(p)	13,279	13,226	53	12,530	12,330	200	749	896	-147
Oct ^(p)	12,659	13,133	-474	11,443	11,663	-220	1,216	1,470	-254

NOTE: ⁽¹⁾ Excess = Arrivals less Departures

MFEM to consult Northern Group of the Pa Enea on the Tax Review

The availability on a charter flight has enabled MFEM to send a team to consult the Northern Group of the Pa Enea on the Tax Review. The group will consist of Minister of Finance Mark Brown, Minister for Tourism Teina Bishop, and MFEM economic advisor James Webb. The team will be in the Northern Group from Monday of next week.

“The consultation in the Southern Group was exceptionally valuable, not just from a Tax Review perspective, but also from a fiscal and economic policy point of view,” Webb said. “The availability of a charter for next week has made it much easier for us to get to the Northern Group. Even before seeing the value of doing the consultation in the Southern Group, it was always our hope that we could do the same consultation across the whole country. This is an important change for the Cook Islands, and it is important that the whole country have their say and understand the benefit to the community.”

“The general feedback from the consultations so far has been in support for the proposals and it is anticipated that the Northern Group consultations will reveal a similar sentiment amongst the people. With cost of living being a major concern in the Northern Group (and indeed, all the Cook Islands), being able to boost to household incomes (particularly for Cook Islands pensioners) will contribute to bringing

the relative cost of living down.”

The consultation team will be in Penrhyn/Tongareva on Monday, Manihiki and Rakahanga on Tuesday and Wednesday, and Pukapuka and Nassau on Thursday and Friday.

“As with the Southern Group, we are aiming to meet with the Island Councils and Island Government representatives on each island, as well as meeting with the general public. At the various discussions, we will be covering the Tax Review, the Outer Island Funding Model, and general economic issues.”

5 November 2013, “Economic Advisor consults Southern Group on Budget and Tax issues”

Over the next week, MFEM Economic Advisor James Webb will be completing consultations with the Southern Group on the proposed changes in the Tax Review. James has already visited Aitutaki, Mangaia and Atiu, and will be in Mauke and Mitiaro this coming week. Public meetings have been held in Mangaia and Atiu, and a consultation with business owners in Aitutaki (a public meeting was held in Aitutaki earlier in the consultation process).

While on each island, James has also been consulting stakeholders in local governments about Budget and economic development issues.

“Each of our islands is unique and faces unique challenges. There are, however, many common issues in the Pa Enea that affect all islands. Cost of living, transport links, completion of capital projects, labour shortages and depopulation – these are all present in Rarotonga but can be exaggerated in smaller communities,” Webb said. “Many of these issues are complex and have no easy fix, but there are policy changes we can make at the country level to try and address them across all islands. The Outer Island Funding Formula (first implemented in the 2013-14 Budget) gives Island Governments more control over their operational finances, and the Tax Review aims to boost local incomes. The more responsive Island Governments can be to their local needs, and the more we can boost local incomes, the better off all of our islands will be. There is always more we can do – particularly on infrastructure, transport and planning. Ultimately it is about improving the quality of life and providing viable

economic opportunities for each island and the country as a whole.”

“Regarding the Tax Review: There are specific issues that some individuals have (often outside of the scope of the Tax Review), and it’s important that they be heard and considered. Overall though, once the community understand the full changes, they are broadly supportive (especially for the increases to local pensions and personal income tax cuts). In the long run, increasing incomes by more than the price rises is the only way we can effectively combat cost of living for our communities.”

“It would have been good if we could have gone to the Northern Group at the same time, but we are budget constrained and it was too expensive to charter our own flight with existing funding. The aim is to have these same discussions in the Northern Group when the next opportunity arises to join someone else’s mission.”

“On a more personal note, I would like to thank the islands that have received me so far. I have a much stronger appreciation of life on your islands and have been humbled by the kindness and generosity of the people who live there.”

New Hope Church

Parekura Conference Centre

Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you

Sunday at 10.30am