

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

4 December 2013 \$2 (incl VAT)

www.facebook.com/RaroPubCrawl

THE BIGGEST & BEST PUBCRAWL ON RAROTONGA

REHAB

RARO PUB CRAWL

WED & SAT \$25. FRI \$30
CALL NOW on 29700
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

CIPS
IMAGE & COPY CENTRE

DIGITAL PHOTO PRINTS - STANDARD TO SUPER BIG
PRINTED ON PHOTO PAPER OR CANVAS

BETTER & BRIGHTER PRINTS

We also sell digital cameras, printers, mobiles, car audio and much much more....

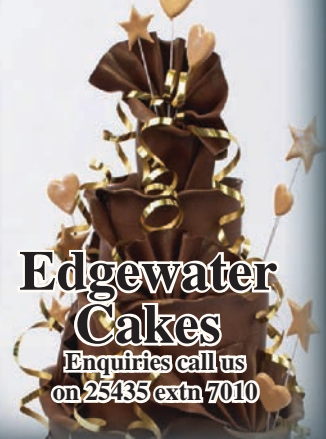
FUJIFILM OKI Canon

Located Opposite Cooks Corner
P: 26238 F: 21238 E: fuji@cookprint.com



Goldmine Model, Martin is wearing a pendant, bracelet and ring from Goldmine

Cakes for all occasions!



Edgewater Cakes
Enquiries call us on 25435 extn 7010

Sunset BarBQs at the Shipwreck Hut

Saturday Seafood menu with Jake Numanga on the Ukulele 6pm

Tuesday Sunset BBQ with Garth Young on Piano 6pm

Thursday Sunset Cocktails with Rudy Aquino 5.30pm-7.30pm

Reservations required **22 166**

Aroa Beachside Inn, Betela
Great Food, Great Entertainment

GOLDMINE

Cook Islands Top Jewellery & Gift Store

Always the best selection, best price & best service at Goldmine!

POWERBALL RESULTS

Drawn: 28/11/13 Draw num: 915

12 18 20 22 23 37 PB 5

TATTSLOTTO RESULTS

Drawn: 30/11/13 Draw num: 3377

24 27 30 37 43 45 SUPP: 21 22

OZLOTTO RESULTS

Drawn: 3/12/13 Draw num: 1033 Next draw:

2 19 20 21 23 33 40 18 44

\$4 MILLION ESTIMATED

\$50 MILLION

The
COMPUTER MAN
Sales Parts & Service

ASUS F501A (White)
Unbeatable Value \$1099

Intel Pentium Core 2 Duo B970
4GB DDR3 RAM
500GB Hard Drive
15.6" LED Widescreen
Wifi - Webcam - HDMI
Speakers - Microphone

Special Deals From The Computer Man
www.thecomputerman.co.ck - Ph: 24979

Heather to be appointed Deputy Prime Minister

By Charles Pitt

Upon his return from overseas, PM Puna is expected to formally announce Hon Teariki Heather as the new Deputy Prime Minister. Heather himself may have pre-empted the confirmation somewhat by moving to occupy Tom Marsters' (the previous DPM) seat in parliament. This prompted the Leader of the Opposition Wilkie Rasmussen to put the question as to an impending announcement.

For a PM struggling to maintain unity within the party, it is interpreted as a strategic move to close off any attempt by the Opposition to offer Heather a sweetener to change sides. Heather is reported as being quite vocal within Cabinet and the notion of MFEM taking the lead in Infrastructure projects is not a concept which sits easily with Heather who is well versed in project work.

The other hopeful, Brown lacks experience for such a senior position and is now struggling to show signs of credibility as a strong leader in the face of his own Ministry beginning to dictate terms to

him. The senior Cabinet member and obvious heir apparent, Hon Teina Bishop, is still under a Police investigation which shows no signs of concluding soon. Knowing Bishop, his reaction would be to say, "Watch this space."

It was also vital that the PM act before the result of the Murienua by election petition. If the Demos win Murienua, it will give them 11 seats with Norman George included. The CIP will have 13 seats. All it needs then is for one disgruntled CIP MP to walk to the Demo side on the promise of a top position and there will be a 12-12 stalemate, giving the QR no option but to call a general election.

The Demos will be gunning for an early election, possibly to stave off the introduction of the new VAT rate of 15% which due to commence in April next year. While consultations took place with some of the outer islands, the reality is the increase in VAT will cause greater hardship. (Personally this writer believes a better option would be to abolish income tax altogether, lower VAT to 10% to stimulate spending and raise the fees for foreign fishing



Teariki Heather

vessels from its current level of \$60,000 to \$500,000. Only 47 licenses are permitted and last year the landed value of tuna caught in our waters was over \$64 million. There is ample room to increase the license fee).

The CIP have a difficult and bumpy road to the next election.

Unless the Grey Power demands are placated, the CIP could find large family block votes swinging to the Demos. If the Demos gain power, it could be especially troubling for MFEM which may face a politically motivated clean out of those perceived as uncooperative.

Ports Authority investigating Wharf Cracks

In response to the recent article in the Cook Islands Herald and for the information of the general public; the Ports Authority confirms that:

- The Ports Authority, Beca International Consultants Ltd and McConnell Dowell Constructors Ltd have been monitoring the cracking since they started to appear many months ago and a mapping out survey of the cracks has been completed.

- Ports Project Manager to the Avatiu

Port Redevelopment Beca International Consultants Ltd have held internal reviews of the data with their senior structural engineers to get additional views on the causes, and the proposed crack sealing methodology including the checking of the test results to eliminate potential issues such as Akali Silica Reaction, for which the aggregate was tested at the commencement of the McConnell Dowell Constructors Ltd contract. This review has concluded that

the cracks are, as previously thought, secondary shrinkage cracks.

- All concrete shrinks both in initial drying and, more slowly, with what is known as secondary shrinkage, which may take several months. That is the process we are observing.

- Beca advised that there is no structural problem, either now or in the future. The cracking that is evident does not affect their function. The design approach adopted allowed that cracking may

occur and thus the main tie-back reinforcing size was increased by 3mm to provide a corrosion allowance. Notwithstanding this, it is prudent to seal the cracks. This work, which has been planned for some months, is about to commence.

Additionally; the Ports Authority is seeking an Independent Civil Engineer's opinion on the wharf cracks for additional assurance.

*Bim Tou
General Manager
Ports Authority*

Grey Power threats should be taken seriously by government

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

The Government of the Cook Islands needs to have lessons in how to respect the elderly people of our country. As a young person growing up in Tongareva and in Matavera, one of the basic rules in our household was respect for your elders. I am sure the Prime Minister Henry Puna and his colleagues in Cabinet and the Cook Islands Party were taught those very values. But that seems not to be the case over the last few months and most particularly when Grey Power marched down to Parliament to present their issues to the Government.

When the Prime Minister flew out of the country on Sunday, the most immediate thing that came to my mind was that he was deliberately dodging meeting with the Grey Power on Monday afternoon. The Grey Power leaders have been announcing over the past week that they will meet near Parliament grounds at 2 pm and march onto to the grounds at 2.30 pm to coincide with the lunch break of the Members of Parliament. They did so but to their disappointment, the PM was not there and of course the explanations by the Acting PM Mark Brown (Minister of Finance) were met with jeers and calls for the Minister to wipe their back taxes. The Minister appeared numb, disconcerted and yet stoic in his stance not to agree with the Grey Power mama's and papa's.

the fact that here were a group of people standing in the hot sun, wanting to be taken seriously in their cause and yet the Government did not even invite them to come inside the lunch room to discuss what they had in mind. Furthermore some of those people were people I personally know and respect and yet they had to resort to "protesting" to be heard. In fact that is the very thing they said repeatedly; "we have no choice but to do this". I noted that several of my fellow Democratic Party MP colleagues were close to tears as they listened to the determined voices of our elders.

I clearly heard Mama Ringi Pitt, a much loved matriarch of extended relatives call out a number of times for the Government to listen to their plights. Tamaiva Mataiapo a.k.a. Papa Teariki Simiona was also vocal and many others, some expatriates and some local Maori Cook Islanders. They came prepared with sun visors, broad brimmed hats, baseball caps and loose wear as if they were ready to rumble in case the Government gets nasty and have them arrested and carted away by police. Imagine George Pitt's mum being manhandled off the Parliamentary grounds; all hell will break loose, I tell you.


I of course took my opportunity to speak and address the 60 or so Grey Power members there. I told of them of the immovable position of the Democratic Party which had been broadcast on air, spoken on

television and written in the newspapers; that is, when we get into Government we will wipe away the back taxes and create exemptions to prevent pensioners paying tax. I heard several cheers when I said those words and I'm sure I also heard Grey Power members chanting, "Wilkie, Wilkie..." Please correct if I'm wrong because by then I was about to sit down and have lunch.

I'm not sure how the Government perceived it, but I thrust my hand into the air in jubilation because Grey Power had a board with a box at the right lower side that said "Vote". All the speakers threatened the Government with their




vote. I know it is coming to the Demo's because they told me so and I believe them, my elders.



SWITCH ON WITH
TE APONGA UIRA

IMAGINE ...

... After the cyclone there is no power



Did you notice the recent battery-operated radios
hurricane in the Philippines for news, and candles and
took out power in many areas torches for lighting in case
for a long time? there is a 'post cyclone'
Well, it could happen here too. period without power.
Therefore in your cyclone And include lots of dry food
preparations make sure you because frozen food won't last
include gas for cooking, when there is no electricity!

www.teaponga.com



www.cookislandschamber.org

Hon Mark Brown
Minister of Finance
Avarua, Rarotonga

by email to mbrown@financeminister.gov.ck

28 November 2013

Kia Orana Minister Brown

RE: Te Mato Vai Project

This is an open letter from the Cook Islands Chamber of Commerce regarding the Te Mato Vai project and the immediate concerns we have with respect to the planning, design and implementation of the project including the lack of consultation as to the needs of the business community. The following are questions that the Chamber Executive believes need to be responded to prior to further work being undertaken on this project.

The Chamber Executive representative, Bob Taylor, has expertise in this area and has supported the Chambers effort to understand the Te Mato Vai project and what might be considered best practice when developing a water project of this magnitude. The following background provides an understanding of what has occurred leading up to the list of questions.

1. A meeting with Mr Colin Gerrard, and Dr Deborah Lind from AECOM (Master Plan Contractor) occurred on Friday the 15 November. While the meeting was very practical and some knowledge was shared, there are still some serious issues that have remained unanswered in respect to this project.

2. The majority of the concerns (listed below) are lack of designs prior to the installation of the ring main. AECOM have stated that in the design they will try to use head pressure rather than a pump supply.

A. We understand the materials for the ring main have already left China and are bound for Rarotonga. If the design has not been done, how has the sizing of the pipes been calculated, and are they adequate for peak (rather than average) demand?

B. The City project has already been completed; will the water main installed be big enough?

C. If gravity pressure, rather than a pumped system, is being proposed, how will the likes of the bigger resorts and industry be affected?

D. Have proper readings of water usage in commercial properties been done? It was noted in the meeting with AECOM that peak hour usage had not been addressed.

E. The following points need to be addressed:

i. Will the project deliver enough treated water to the bigger properties without using on site storage and pumping? In other words will the gravity supply and ring main be able to supply sufficient water without pressure drop to other surrounding properties.

ii. At present Rarotonga Water Works will not allow any property more than a 50mm water main connection. Will this be overturned? If not, there is no way a 50mm pipe will supply the bigger establishments.

iii. We understand that the new project will install water meters to every property at the boundary. Whose responsibility is it after the boundary? E.g. the Edgewater Resort & Spa has a 50mm main that runs from the boundary to the large underground water tanks. This 50mm main would be around 200-250 metres long. There is no way that this main would even be half big enough to feed the resort on gravity. Who pays for the new main?

iv. Again the Edgewater and Rarotongan hotels for example, have to use a pumping system, as their reticulation within the establishments could not deliver the litres required by gravity. Again who pays for this upgrade?

v. What is the cost of the water going to be per litre? What if after all the installations are done, the big establishments decide they don't want it? Some establishments have invested huge amounts of money treating their water. Does this become redundant?

3. The next issue to address is the ongoing cost once the project has been completed.

- a) Is a state owned enterprise to be engaged to run this project?
- b) Is it going to be underwritten by the Government?
- c) Will a competent chemist be employed to make sure the quality of water treatment conforms to international standards. And which standards?
- d) The Chamber has been advised that 'back flow prevention' is going to be included in the project. If that is the case (and this does need to happen), who is going to test and certify that these are in fact working at every connection on a 6 monthly basis?
- e) In the event of a virus break out due to the water quality, will the government be offering compensation?
- f) The Chamber understands that Chlorine may be used as sanitation to the water. Dosing pumps would need to be installed to add the chlorine. What happens in cases of failure of equipment, how will dosing take place?

4. Finally we believe that the standard of pipe specified was PN12. However we have heard that the pipe on its way is PN10. Can this be confirmed? Why was this standard changed and who gave the authorisation for this to happen?

Local business people, whose businesses rely on the availability of clean water, have spent vast sums over the last few decades installing water pumping, storage, and filtering systems. They have a very clear knowledge of what is required for their businesses, what the problems are, and what solutions are cost effective. The Chamber represents the majority of these businesses, who wish to be constructive, and to be able to pass on their accumulated knowledge, experience and meaningful input into the design phase. However, the clear consensus is that there has been insufficient planning and consultation prior to government making commitments to procurement and ringmain installation.

We believe that government, in discharging its obligation for fiscal responsibility, must not make any commitments to specific actions on the Te Mato Vai project until a fully costed, peer-reviewed design is available to all stakeholders, and that all subsequent submissions have been taken into account.

The Chamber thanks the Minister for his attention to these questions and we would be happy to receive the Te Mato Vai full design in due course. We believe that on reviewing the completed design we will have further questions.

However, until the final design is approved by all concerned parties, we believe that no procurement or implementation work whatsoever should be started on the project.

Yours sincerely
signed Steve Anderson, President

TELECOM'S Broadband Plans

keep getting BETTER!

**Now is the time to
check you're on
the right plan!**

Call 123 or Come in and see us



PLANS	PRICE	DATA	EXCESS
INTRO	\$25	1.25 GB ▲	5¢
STANDARD	\$49	3 GB ▲	4¢
VALUE	\$89	7 GB ▲	3¢
PLUS	\$139	12.5 GB ▲	2.5¢
SUPER	\$299	27 GB ▲	2¢
MEGA	\$699	65 GB ▲	1.5¢

SPEEDS INCREASED BY 50-100% ON MOST PLANS

INCREASED ▲
Prices Effective 1st Dec 2013

Our Frontpage model

Cook Islands to seek a ban on fishing in the eastern high seas pocket



Our frontpage model is 24 year old Martin Stetka from Czech Republic who is living here in Rarotonga, working at Pacific Computers as the IT Technician. Martin does Gracie Jiu-Jitsu at the Are Moe martial arts base in Arorangi and loves to spend time with family and enjoys the island lifestyle. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald

The Cook Islands is seeking a ruling from the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) meeting this week for a complete ban on longline fishing in its adjacent eastern high seas pocket.

The high seas pocket which sits between the EEZs of the Cook Islands, Kiribati and French Polynesia and has long been considered as a haven for illegal fishing practices.

In 2010 the Cook Islands sponsored a WCPFC ruling that led to the pocket becoming a special management area in order to control fishing and reign in illegal fishing practices.

However according to the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) since the measure was put in place the exact opposite has happened. The level of fishing effort and transshipments since 2010 has increased significantly.

The MMR has also detected poor compliance and reported infringements picked up by the Cook Islands patrol boat which regularly inspects vessels in the pocket.

This concern was raised at

the Forum Leaders meeting held in Rarotonga in September 2012 and to the FFA Fisheries Ministers meeting in Honiara in July 2014.

As a result, fisheries officials were directed by leaders and minister to seek a total closure of the high seas area.

The Cook Islands delegation is led by Secretary for Ministry of Marine Resources, Ben Ponia

“The bigger issue is that the distant water fleets have built up too much fishing capacity and what we are trying to achieve through this measure is a first step towards controlling overall fishing effort on the high seas”, says Ponia

According to Ponia, this agenda has been introduced to the plenary meeting and as expected this has received some outright opposition from the large fishing nations.

Currently there is standoff between Pacific island states and distant water fishing nations.

The Cook Islands will have to consider whether to take this issue to a vote during the Commission meeting, an unprecedented move in its ten year history, or adopt a watered down measure.

Letter to the Editor

Shame on you Mark Brown

Dear Editor,
I address these comments to Mark Brown through your paper.

Mark Brown, all we want to tell you is we're not going to pay the 2 years back tax. We only get \$1,400 a month. I'm sure you get 2 to 3 thousand a fortnight so shame on you trying to let us pay for all your travelling expenses.

If that's your grandparents, will you let them pay \$9,000 or single, \$4,000!

Shame on you!

Grey Power, one voice, one choice.



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.

Tuna Commission to adopt a Tropical Tuna Conservation and Management Measure



Cook Islands Rep Andrew Johns (right).

The Western Central Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) is seeking to adopt its most significant conservation and management measure for tropical tunas as a means to control purse seine fishing at its annual session currently being held in Cairns.

At stake is the future of the world's largest fishery which accounts for 2.6 3.2 million tonnes valued at \$8.8 billion dollars (US\$7.2 billion) in 2012. It provides 59% of global tuna supply

Purse seine fishing accounts for 1.8 million tonnes of catches and the target species, skipjack tuna, represent 49% of the value. The majority of catches are in the EEZs of the eight Pacific island states known by their treaty acronym PNA.

Although scientists believe the population of skipjack tuna are healthy they have warned that the amount of juvenile bigeye tuna caught as by-catch in the purse seine fishery is putting the bigeye tuna under threat.

The commission is proposing to limit the level of purse seine fishing and fishing at fish aggregate devices (FADs) where juvenile bigeye tuna are

caught.

The flagged fleets of US, Taiwan, Papua New Guinea and Korea account for the most of the fishing around FADs sets.

The WCPFC proposed to ban purse seine fishing around FADs for 5 months of the year. However scientists say that this is not enough to relieve pressure on the bigeye tuna and that additional months of FAD closure should be implemented.

Pacific Island states where purse seine fishing is reliant on FADs, such as Tuvalu and Tokelau, say that an additional FAD closure would incur a "disproportionate burden" on them as it would cause purse seiners to fish elsewhere. This would deprive governments of licensing revenues which are important source of funding for the health and education services of their people.

The PNA countries receive hundreds of millions of dollars a year directly from purse seine licensing revenues.

Under the WCPFC rules the members cannot pass measures that would cause disproportionate burden on the small Pacific Islands.

Therefore the 5 month FAD

ban has been supplemented with a proposal to reduce longline fishing of bigeye tuna on the high seas by up to 40% in order to make up for the shortfall in months of FADs sets.

However this proposal has also caused difficulty with the bigeye tuna longline industry whom feel penalised for having to reduce their catches to accommodate the by-catch caught by purse seiners.

The United States is particularly concerned as they have an important domestic bigeye tuna fishery which employs many Hawaiian's and its catches are sold on the local market.

Underlying the WCPFC tropical tuna measure is an allocation of "fishing rights" or quota amongst its members as a means to cap the level of purse seine fishing effort.

This allocation would be legally binding upon the member nations and catches exceeding the quota would be labelled as illegal fishing

The WCPFC proposes to limit the PNA catches to their 2010 levels of around 1.5 million tonnes or 45,000 days.

Many other non-PNA countries have not developed

their purse seine fishery and must "nominate" their proposed catch limits for purse seine fishing.

This would effectively reward PNA for its high levels of catch history and would leave non-PNA countries with a right to fish a much small portion of the skipjack tuna.

There are an estimated 6.5 million tonnes of skipjack tuna stocks in the Pacific waters.

So far the non-PNA countries have nominated less than 200 thousand tonnes as their catch limits.

The Cook Islands has submitted a catch limit of 30,000 tonnes of skipjack tuna or 1,250 days and the other significant non-PNA countries such as Tokelau and Australia have also proposing an equivalent amount of 30,000 tonnes as their limit.

Smaller fishing grounds such as Niue have proposed a limit of 1,000 tonnes and Fiji has proposed 300 fishing days.

This limits will come into effect when the tropical tuna measure is adopted which is expected to happen on the final day when the meeting concludes at the end of this week.

Will KEW share the booty with locals

Te Mato Vai Project Part 2

The Te Mato Vai project management team Kupa Engineering and Water Consult Ltd (KEW) led by Samoan Latu Kupa has the daunting task of not only completing the project on time but within the constraints of a budget that could overrun its \$60 million limit as well as delivering contracts and employment to Cook Islanders locally and from overseas. After years of continuous depopulation due to better employment opportunities in Australia and New Zealand the Cook Islands finally has a living project that could slow down the departures.

Local expertise and those who can be lured back plus the opportunities for semi skilled people will give the stagnating economy an injection. While this is what the CIP Government is hopping for they aren't vocalizing it, for they certainly need a major positive public relationship agenda to boost their spiraling popularity.

There is a lot hanging on this project and the Government desperately needs an economic boost that lifts the spending power of the public and increases the money in local circulation. The CIP government has a bad smell about it and needs the cards to fall in their favor to turn emotions into a feel good scenario. Right now there is nothing about the Te Mato Vai project that positively excites the public.

It's given to Kupa Engineering and Water Consult Ltd (KEW) to not only to physically manage the project but to sooth the rising negative tensions and emotions of a number of the stakeholder sectors. This importance of this secondary task is recognized by KEW that's why the Communications Advisor Jaewynn McKay is the second highest paid team member at over \$350,000 for the three years (McKay already has paid contracts as the communications officer for the Marine Park Project) after Latu Kupa who gets \$100,000 more, wife Temukisa will be paid over \$50,000 for the three years. Add accommodation, transport disbursements and a few overseas trips that's good money in anyone's book.

After reading the launch of KEW's colorful media publication inserted in the local print media some aren't convinced the management team has the right mix to successfully navigate Te Mato Vai to completion.

Firstly the team lacks a negotiator that has influential connectivity with the expected high end resistant stakeholder sectors. The Te Mato Vai communications strategy identifies the possible road blocks and sets out a strategic benefits based action plan

to engage the identified stakeholders into a supportive mind set. Any thoughts the Ministry of Finance Richard Neves has of leading the public consultation forums needs to be doused because his abrasive talking down style of communication will only increase resistance.

Team Leader Latu Kupa is a Mechanical Engineer not a Civil Engineer as one would expect for TMV. This is understandable for Samoa where water pumps are a prominent feature of their articulation system. Qualified civil engineers on staff were responsible for the sort of work required for TMV.

Deputy Project Manager Daryl Rairi may have vast experience involving infrastructure projects as claimed by KEW publicity, but in what capacity? As a worker, a leader or the leader? Rairi has no tertiary engineering qualifications. Claims he has had harbor construction experience may be incorrect or at the best stretching reality.

Between the top two team members, neither has a Civil Engineering degree which one would expect as a fundamental qualification for the \$60 million TMV project. Local water scientist and practitioner Sam Napa has all the experience in the world but not an engineering degree of any sorts, surely with all his local knowledge and credibility something will be found for him to contribute.

Construction Advisor Albert Schmidt holds a Certificate of Civil Engineering. (Not a degree) Ben Parakoti the former long serving Director of Water for the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning, (till he fell out with the Minister Teariki Heather) holds a Certificate of Civil Engineering and with years of accumulated local knowledge and experience should been on the team instead of expat Schmidt.

Civil Engineer Ata Herman (A friend of Kupa since their days at Canterbury University and social rugby at the same time) former secretary of MOIP now the Member of Parliament for Ngatangia cannot be prevented from continuing to engage professionally therefore he too should have at the least an on call advisory position in the team.

Then what about the only New Zealand qualified and experienced drain layer on the island, Ricky Cowan (the former NZ Rugby League Kiwi) will there be work for him? Then there are qualified and experienced road sealing returnees whose skills are underutilized or not used at all. So much so for successive Government's call to overseas Cook Islanders to return home to invest their skills. Returnees have a



Ata Herman - The country's most experienced civil engineer ought to be an advisor for the TMV project

growing disappointment as they struggle for compatible employment. Offers of imparting their knowledge or skills for free are also being passively rejected.

The Business Trade Investment Board's approval of KEW's foreign enterprise registration includes the stipulation suitable Cook Islanders are employed before expatriate staff.

The value and benefits of engaging as many local professional and trades people is when all the expats leave after the project is commissioned there remains a living local knowledge base of what has been done and how the system can be maintained and serviced plus that understanding can be transferred to successors.

The reality is before the public consultancy forums are held there will be no shift in the goal posts that will be set in concrete before the first meeting; the public's opinions will count for nothing. KEW will be presenting a benefits marketing informative exercise that will be void of detail and features that are of real concerns to the public, simply because they don't know the details themselves. Any cosmetic consultancy attempts should be avoided by KEW for the sake of their own integrity and credibility.

The Master Plan is being redrafted with the expectation it will be ready sometime

continued on page 13

Have the MFEM whiz kid architects of Nenevanomics slipped up?

A closer examination of our new tax laws reflects the shallow thinking exercised in their brain storming formulation process. On reflection the public consultation meetings were no more than an exploratory journey to gage the public's pain threshold level. What has followed since has been a marketing exercise disguised as public consultation meetings. It is now obvious no matter what was challenged or proposed by individuals none of it would be considered or amended let alone incorporated into the tax reforms.

The whole exercise crafted by the Finance Secretary Richard (Neneva) Neves has been a subliminal engagement of the psychology of compliance. Fortunately there are local taro patch economists who are alert to the sleight of hand economic magic Neves conjurers up.

Driven by the anxiety of a Government on the brink of fiscal collapse, solvency urgently needs more money rather than embracing prudence by reducing an oversupply of tax funded workers. The simple suggested solution of spending five percent less was perceived by Cabinet as an abhorrent insult to their self importance. The tax reforms without qualifying justification are without question is a fund

raising exercise based upon the amount tolerated by the pain threshold of the taxpaying public.

Most Cook Islanders are generally disposed to the idea of serious tax reform and most people agree that taxation should move from things like income to a tax on consumption, which is exactly what our VAT is. The more you consume and the more you use the more value added tax you pay. It's embedded within products and services that are sold through tax registered businesses.

The reason for the VAT increase to 15% is so we can earn more money from tourist consumption. This assumption is flawed when it is offset by the increase of personal passenger allowance for incoming visitors, from \$250 to \$750.

In simple taro patch terms, this means that tourists visiting the Cook Islands will now be able to bring with them all their oysters, scallops, snapper, ham, bacon, eggs, wines, lamb, sausages, noodles and cheese crackers with dips and enjoy all of this without having to pay one red cent in VAT to the shrinking government coffers.

It's no great secret New Zealand visitors are thrifty travelers who often bring their food and drinks with them. The increase in the



Nervous Neves ponders a solution in the face of adversity personal passenger allowance amount of VAT that the increase to 15% is supposed to collect.

We all know how expensive it is to travel and who wouldn't try and save a few dollars here or there along the way? For a family of four, the savings could be huge. At \$750 per passenger that's \$3000 worth of food and beverage, enough to last a month. For the government that's \$333 in lost VAT.

Now scale that up to 50,000 tourists about half the total visitors we get in one year and I hope you're sitting down when you read this! This new wiz bang nenevanomic of an idea is going to lose over \$4 million in VAT revenue for the Cook Islands, about the

No prizes for guessing who else won't be paying either. All those frequent government funded travelers will be packing their suitcases in Auckland with extra duty free goodies paid for from their tax free per diems.

One ponders whether our whiz kids in MFEM have considered the extra tax free environment pollution in the refuse tip and septic tanks that will now have to be paid for by the poor underpaid locals.

Can you imagine it?
Kids!! Get me another roll of toilet paper from the suitcase!!

- George Pitt

From page 12 in the New Year yet KEW states the consultations will take place before January 2014. The stakeholders are multi layered and December is the busiest time for the vast majority of the people, so how practically realistic are KEW? The is a two week window in December but that is a speck of the time needed to consult and collate then consider public reaction.

Then what if there has to be alterations to the Master Plan that is still in the redrafting process. The Chamber of Commerce wants the TMV project launch deferred for six

months till every questionable detail is transparently available for public consumption and debate and possible amendment.

The Chinese start arriving in January 2014 and their contribution will be launched in conjunction with the presence of a high ranking representative from the Peoples Republic of China. It is understood that there will be nothing that will stop the Chinese starting in January. Regardless of at what stage the public consultation forums are at, even if none have been held the Chinese will start excavating the trenches to replace the existing pipes.

Minister of Finance Mark Brown is adamant the Chinese contractors China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCRCC) will start their component in January. Any delays will obviously become an embarrassment to the Government who has given CCRCC assurances there will be no delay.

Any perception the Government is rail roading the project to suit CCRCC will only create a greater resistant dissention with the public. The intent of Government is an indicator they are legally exempt from the Environment Impact

Assessment process.

Before the first trench is excavated, businesses need to be engaged in a consultative process to determine their compensation for the disruption to their businesses and financial losses due to the dust and inaccessibility of customers and clients while work is undertaken on the road in front of their outlets.

KEWS biggest hurdle will not be the physical work but the public relations exercise of pacifying the mounting dissatisfaction with an unpopular Government and their veil of secrecy that enshrines TMV. - George Pitt

The other side of the Cola-gate coin

By Charles Pitt

The debate of the issues surrounding the so called "Cola-gate" affair have been fairly one sided so far. So we should perhaps also look at the "other side of the coin" so to speak.

To date no-one has realized how similar the Grey Power issue is to "Cola-gate."

Cola-gate- reduced levy paid for about 20 years.

Grey Power- no tax paid on the NZ pension for about 17 years.

Cola-gate- MFEM denied some \$20 million perhaps.

Grey Power- MFEM denied several millions.

Cola-gate- split levy practice thought to be legal, not pursued by MFEM.

Grey Power- failure to pay tax was illegal but not pursued by MFEM.

Cola-gate- Public fairly unanimous, want MFEM to pursue money owed. MFEM not keen to pursue this.

Grey power- MFEM wants to pursue tax owed. Public not unanimous that MFEM pursue this.

Cola-gate- that part of the levy not paid to MFEM, re-invested in the company- new buildings, assistance to construction industry, company sponsorships of community events.

Grey Power- portion that would have gone to MFEM spent locally at local shops, markets, on relatives. \$5 million per year put into local community.

Did the community benefit?

While it could be argued on legal terms that both CITC and Grey Power should have paid what was due to MFEM, what is the purpose of paying taxes, levies and the fees to government?

It is so government can re-spread those funds into areas and activities that maintain social order, discipline, advancement and well-being. We pay for essential services such as Police, Hospital, Education for example.

These are purposes for the "public good."

We know how the old age pensioners spend their money but did the public benefit from CITC's actions?

Whatever amount CITC saved, it's highly unlikely any big amounts ever went directly into Mr Clarke's or the other director's pockets. He certainly does not display any sign of outrageous wealth, a lavish movie star-like, jet set life-style, a fleet of luxury cars, flash suits, bling and holidays on the Riviera. (Trevor Clarke, like the McKeggs before him, is down to earth, approachable and like another local).

We can clearly see where CITC's money went, evident by the new buildings housing the Supermarket, Building Centre, Liquor Store and the upgrade on the main store. While it may be odd that none of these buildings outwardly display any Polynesian characteristics, we can at least boast retail outlets as good as any in New Zealand. They also reflect the fact we consider ourselves a bit more than third world.

CITC has been one of the country's major employers especially of Cook Islanders, not Fijians or Filipinos. CITC provided much needed work to local building contractors at a time when government failed to stimulate the building industry and has sponsored many local events. In short, CITC has returned funds directly to the community.

CITC rescued Foodland and the Oasis when those businesses struck financial difficulties and thereby saved the jobs of many

Cook Islanders. Trevor Clarke stated at the time he wanted to save their jobs and took out big loans to do so.

It can be said without any doubt, that Trevor Clarke and CITC have invested heavily in the future of the Cook Islands and it is a level of investment that's "in your face" and which gives confidence to others who believe there is a bright future for this country.

What would the government have invested the \$20 million in? Probably more overseas trips and projects providing work for overseas consultants.

What did Grey Power members spend their money on? Local shops, the Punanga Nui market, their families, roadside stalls, the Church. Government went into raptures when China recently granted \$4 million. That's a pittance when you understand that each year Grey Power members pump \$5 million into the local community. That's why they have no savings. That's why they cannot pay over \$4,000 per person and over \$8,000 per couple in back taxes.

What would government have spent this money on? Probably on themselves.

Commission of Inquiry

Any Commission of Inquiry into the so called "Cola-gate" affair may turn out to be a gross waste of tax payer's money in that it would only produce two possible outcomes and neither outcome represents a cost/benefit to society.

Firstly that government was correct in allowing the levy on packaging to be split thus exonerating those government employees involved or secondly that government was incorrect to allow the levy to be split making the government employees involved guilty of misinterpreting the legal requirements.

If government was incorrect to allow the levy to be split, what is the remedy? Government cannot now take legal action against itself. It's too late for that.

Government will have spent hundreds of thousands of tax payer dollars just to end up telling itself that all those years ago, it got it right or it got it wrong.

Even if other companies were entitled to be advised by government that it was OK to split the levy, can you imagine this government now granting them a refund? Hardly.

Letter to the Editor

Help us Teariki

Dear Editor,

The following message is directed to Hon Teariki Heather Minister for MOIP, Culture, Police.

I heard from parliament that you are sitting on the ex-Deputy Prime Minister's chair, does that mean you are the new Deputy Prime Minister?

If you are, could you help us in any way about us having to pay 2 years back tax. Mark Brown said it's the law, that's why we have to. To us, there's no law about that, they made the law so if you can help us, the old mamas and papas, we will be very, very happy.

Think about your old people Teariki, we can't afford the \$9,000 for a couple and \$4,000 for a single person. When our pension comes, we spend it and it's only \$1,400 a month. Not like what you people are getting. Is the government broke and letting us pay for all of your spending. Shame on your government to do that to us.

If you can help us, God bless you and hope you will be the next Prime Minister.

Grey Power, one voice, one choice.

New Look – Go Green Go Local Taxis



New look GREEN taxis and members of the taxi association.

Its official, the new Go Green Go Local Taxis have rolled out onto the roads of Rarotonga! During the launch of the new fare structure earlier this year Cook Islands Tourism hinted that more improvements were on the way for the Taxi Association. The newly panel beaten and painted vehicles are a representation of the unity within the taxi association and a demonstration of the industry moving forward

through agreed service standards, standardised rates and branding.

“Although some of the vehicles have been in use for several months we wanted to wait until all vehicles were completed before we started marketing activities” says Metua Vaiimene, Director Destination Development at Cook Islands Tourism. Now Rarotonga has a new fleet of taxis to service both locals and visitors to our shores. There

is a wide range of vehicles to choose from including 2 door cars to mini vans, and larger vans to carry that extra luggage.

The next step is to complete Business Training Modules which are being offered to all members of the Association by the Business Trade and Investment Board (BTIB). Tangata Tou who is the Business Development Manager at BTIB has also been working with the association on improving business practices and is now

pleased to offer the courses which will help not only the individual operator but also the performance of the industry as a whole.

Taxi Association President Ivor Nicholas reminds all locals and visitors that “for your next night out, trip to town or airport transfer make sure you contact a GO LOCAL green taxi, or find the taxi ranks we’re outside the Ministry of Justice in Avarua, or at the Airport for all international flights”

Cook Islands Tourism helps to bring Netballers to Paradise

Hot on the heels of the Singapore Test Series, Netball in Paradise 2013 starts next week and runs from Monday 2nd of December through to Friday 6th of December. Cook Islands Tourism is proud to be supporting Netball Cook Islands in this annual event, where the country will welcome the 34 teams from around the region to play in this year’s competition. More than 550 netball enthusiasts from around New Zealand, Australia and Fiji are expected to attend this year’s event.

“With this event only in its second year and attracting the number of participants it has

to date, we believe that this event will continue to grow in a similar way to that of Vaka Eiva, but possibly in a shorter time frame. We see major benefits not only for the sports code but for the industry and economy as a whole from the economic activity generated by this event” says Cook Islands Tourism’s Destination Development Director, Metua Vaiimene.

Netball in Paradise this year will be played over a week an extension from last year’s 3 day tournament. All participants will however enjoy one day off with which to experience and explore the best

of what the Cook Islands has to offer in entertainment, dining, shopping and activities. Eight lucky players will be selected by Netball Cook Islands to experience the island of Aitutaki and its majestic lagoon on an Aitutaki Day Tour and Lagoon Cruise with Air Rarotonga.

Halatoa Fua, CEO for Cook Islands Tourism adds “Through the event development funding of Destination Development Netball Cook Islands has received support for Netball in Paradise to secure the services of Harriet Millard from Planet Netball in the United Kingdom. Planet Netball is an online central news resource

for the sport of Netball globally, and they are being used to boost the profile of Netball in Paradise event in the Northern Hemisphere. We look forward to receiving participants from these countries, especially in the UK, in the coming years”.

“Cook Islands Tourism is committed to partnering with Netball Cook Islands to widen the reach and interest of the Netball in Paradise event in our key source markets for visitors, and we look forward to a continued partnership with Netball Cook Islands in the coming years” said Destination Development Coordinator Noeline Mateariki.

Blue light youth graduation

Photos by Nio Oti



Grey Power march on Parliament

Photos by Norma Ngatamariki



Fine still outstanding

In March this year former optometrist Andrea Buckingham who now resides and practices in the Cook Islands, was found guilty of professional misconduct by the Health Practitioners Conduct Committee (PCC) appointed by the Board.

HPCA Act, these costs became a debt due to the Board and it is the Board's responsibility to seek reimbursement from Mrs Buckingham.

To date the Board has been unsuccessful in obtaining any repayment from Mrs Buckingham. However, the Board is still actively pursuing collection of the debt.

The actual costs related to this case were approximately \$68,000+GST.-Article, page 6, NZ Optics Magazine, December 2013.

The Tribunal ordered that Mrs Buckingham be censured, and established an order of costs; \$17,500 in respect of the costs and disbursements of the PCC and \$9,800 in respect of the costs and disbursements of the Tribunal, a total of \$27,300. Under Section 105(a) of the

Vanilla Market Report - 2013 Update

Production, Stock and Consumption 2012/13

After recent speculation regarding the current state of Vanilla production, we can confirm that there may be a risk of vanilla shortages worldwide which could last up to two years. In line with sustained consumption of around 2300 tonnes per year, Madagascar is not optimistic for the 2013 harvest which is only estimated at 1200 MT; along with vanilla produced from other sources a total of only 1550 MT is available for 2014.

No need to panic just yet though as we are assured that there are still major stocks worldwide, but a raise in cost is expected!

Quality

Inevitably the increase in price can be accompanied by the fall in quality. Some producers still continue to use poor packing systems and activity, but our suppliers still use planters who are still keen to respect and preserve the traditional preparation methods, therefore making sure our customers receive a quality product.

Prices

Recent information sources in Madagascar have informed us that the prices of green vanilla will double when the new harvest begins. Because of this it is very likely the same will apply for the price of prepared vanilla which will be on the market between January and March 2014.-Vanilla Mart 25 July 2013

ADVERTISE WITH THE

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

New Hope Church

Parekura Conference Centre

Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you

Sunday at 10.30am

The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

Phone 24979 Email: sales@thecomputerman.co.ck

Best Windows 8 Apps

Bing Translator

It's in Microsoft's best interests to get some good quality Windows 8 apps into the Store, and the free Bing Translator tool certainly fits that description.

As well as typing out your queries you can take a webcam shot of signs and documents for instant translations. 40 different languages are supported, including Spanish, French, German and... Klingon. The app also has an offline mode, enabling you to download language packs so you can get quick translations without an internet connection.

Comics

The Comixology mobile apps are joined by this impressive Windows 8 version called Comics, which syncs all of your digital comics to the Start screen, as well as enabling you to browse for and purchase new ones with a few mouse clicks or finger taps.

The useful guided view option, which automatically navigates from pane to pane rather than showing the whole page, is carried over from the mobile apps, making it much easier to work your way through the pages.

AutoDesk SketchBook Express

Get creative with this stripped-down free version of the full AutoDesk SketchBook, SketchBook Express. There are plenty of brushes and effects to play around with, and this being Windows 8 you can easily operate the app with a touchscreen as well as a keyboard and mouse.

The tutorial will get you up and running with the app's interface within a minute, and then it's down to your drawing and painting abilities. Make use of the symmetry effects and you can create some impressive abstract designs.

COMPUTER MAN Sales Parts & Service

We Are Your Laptop Specialists

Pentium
DC 997

4GB
RAM

500GB
HDD

14"
LED
Touch



\$1159

DVD-RW - Win8 - Wifi - Bluetooth - Webcam - USB3 - light weight 2.1kg
FREE CARRY BAG + WIRELESS MOUSE

Main Road, Avarua



All prices are inclusive of V.A.T. Price valid 01/10/2013 - 30/11/2013 E.O.E.

Not on our Specials email List? Email us at sales@thecomputerman.co.ck

Or Log-in @ www.thecomputerman.co.ck

Travel experts visit dream destination

By Norma Ngatamariki

The Tourism Corporation will be hosting the 4th Kia Orana Cook Islands Forum (KOCI), an annual showcase event which is aimed to strengthen and further develop relationships between Cook Islands suppliers and international wholesalers and also providing an opportunity for wholesalers to create dialogue within the private sector of the tourism industry.

Those invited to attend the Forum will most certainly be experiencing the Cook Islands first-hand, with excursions and day tours scheduled for Aitutaki, Atiu and Mangaia in the hopes that, when they return to their own respective countries, they will be able to sell the Cook Islands more effectively. The feedback obtained from the Forum will act as a structural guideline for the Corporation to follow, which is one of the many outcomes that the Forum aims to achieve. Panel discussions will also be held to determine the necessary improvements, if any, to certain areas.

Nick Costantini, General Manager of the Southern Europe branch, says that there



Nick Costantini, Tourism Corp CEO Halatoa Fua and Karla Eggelton

is potential for the Cook Islands to raise their profile as a 'dream destination'. Although there is competition to consider from neighbouring South Pacific islands such as Tahiti and Fiji, and access can be difficult, in terms of long distance travel and the costs associated with it, these are factors that can be overcome. According to

Costantini, there approximately 150,000 travellers in Southern Europe alone. That itself has created a target market that the Cook Islands should be considering to approach. "When wholesalers visit, they inspect the local accommodation facilities and meet with the owners, providing the perfect opportunity for interaction to take place," he says.

The main target is honeymooners or those seeking a romantic getaway, as the Cook Islands are promoted as a "secluded, exciting and authentic country".

The Forum began on Tuesday, where wholesalers/buyers meet with suppliers and Wednesday and Thursday being Business to Business days, where the tours begin.



Blue Light Youth Programme graduates.

First art exhibition for new Arts Academy/Gallery

By Norma Ngatamariki

An historic event will take place at 5pm Wednesday afternoon on the back road in Atupa next to the Whale Centre, when the very first exhibition of art works takes place on the site of a proposed new Arts Academy/Gallery. Local artists and arts enthusiasts are encouraged to be a part of this moment.

Well-renowned local artist, Mike Tavioni, has taken the initiative to start up an Arts Academy/Gallery where early school leavers may obtain basic life skills, which will assist them in attaining a job or to better develop their knowledge for self-employment. Self-reliance, practicality and independence are major components to the courses involved which include learning about all forms of art such as wood carving, shell carving, and bone carving as well as screen printing, hand painting and painting using airbrush techniques. The Arts Academy/Gallery will also provide basic welding and mechanical skills, in the hope that this will attract students with a strong desire to learn labour-intensive courses. Another interesting aspect of the course is that it involves lessons on the traditional calendar and Cook Islands history, such as navigation, using natural elements to determine the course of direction for a sailing vaka, canoe building, where

students can add their individual flair to their own personalized canoes and heritage, in which students may learn things from a cultural perspective.

The courses are available for students, both local and from overseas, who are willing to make something out of their lives. The course accepts only ten students at a time, as there is frequent rotation of people. Tavioni has had no official financial assistance, but is slowly making progress with the help of others. Presently, he is extending his facility with the aid of qualified carpenters and engineers. This will also double as an art exhibition site, where a collection of works from Whakairo Diploma Graduates from New Zealand will be showcased.

What with the upcoming art exhibition, Toi Whatu Manawa, the need to complete the facility within a short time frame has arisen, but Tavioni is not worried in the slightest. The exhibition will take place on Wednesday the 4th and Thursday the 5th of December at the site of the new Arts Academy/Gallery on the back road, Atupa (next to the Cook Islands Whale and Wildlife Centre). This will be in support of Mike Tavioni and Io Marama Are Vananga.

New Zealand based local artist and tattooist, Stormy Kara, who has just recently received her diploma, says her involvement



Course Tutor, Mitchell and Stormy Kara

with the exhibition reflects what she has learnt about Cook Islands heritage. "My work was different in comparison to other New Zealand art students because it had Cook Islands flair incorporated with it". Kara will have five pieces being showcased at the exhibition and acknowledges the efforts of her family, friends, Tom Bishop, Craig Kavana and Mike Tavioni himself.

Mitchell (more commonly known as Midi), yet another talented artist from Aotearoa, says the experience in Rarotonga has been a real eye-opener for

him. The exhibition will provide an opportunity to display his work, which are inspired by his New Zealand Maori heritage. "With so much of our culture being lost, what with colonization and all, I've reclaimed a part of my culture through my work," he says.

Mike Tavioni says he wishes to thank those companies which kindly supplied the roofing iron (Rylocks), Arama Building Supplies and Timberland.

The exhibition will be on for two days, Wednesday and Thursday 4-5 December starting at 5pm.

Toi Whatu Manawa

"An Artists Potential"

A collection of works from our Whakairo Diploma Graduates.

In support of Mike Tavioni and Io Marama Are Vananga

VENUE: Back road Atupa Next to the Whale Centre

DATE: From Wednesday 04 to the 05th December

TIME: 5pm

All donations and proceeds in aid of Io Marama Are Vananga and the Cook Islands



Letter to the Editor

Conflict of interest

Dear Editor
This is an open letter to Honorable Minister Brown – I would very much appreciate your thoughts on the following:

In November, 2013, Mr Terry Rangi, CEO, BTIB registered 'Ngapuhi Filmworks Ltd' with the Ministry of Justice, here in Rarotonga. Mr Rangi holds a 70% interest and his non-Cook Island 'co-Director' (who has no Cook Island blood and is not a permanent resident) holds a 30% interest (as attached).

Mr Rangi will be aware of the purpose of the Development Investment (Investment Code) Order 2003 (see P4 of attached Investment Code);

"2. Its purpose is to inform potential investors as well as the Development Investment Board and others responsible for planning, promoting, or encouraging investment in the Cook Islands, of the following:

(a) The investments and activities which merit encouragement;

(b) The priorities attached to particular investments and activities;

(c) The kinds of activities reserved for Cook Islands enterprises;

(d) The criteria by which foreign enterprises may be evaluated for approval to carry on a business in the Cook Islands."

Mr Rangi's company, as the name suggests, specialises in 'filmmaking' – the following link cites Mr Rangi's co-Director, as saying "filmmaking is my passion". While Mr Rangi's co-Director purports to have a background in the film industry, Mr Rangi is not mentioned at all and does not appear to have a 'filmmaking' background -

<https://plus.google.com/117189605313151077060/about>

It should be noted that 'audio or video production' is a 'Reserved Investment Area' under Part D of the Development Investment Code. This means that 'filmmaking' is an area reserved for Cook Islanders (see P6&7 of attached Investment Code.)

"PART D. RESERVED

INVESTMENT AREAS

Paragraph 3 (a) of Part C refers to the following reserved investment areas:

☐ Audio or video production, hire, or sale"

Mr Rangi's company is not registered as a foreign enterprise. This means Mr Rangi is not subject to BTIB approval and does not fall under the same criteria as a 'foreign enterprise'. He escapes the scrutiny of the BTI Board.

Mr Rangi's co-Director seems to have been involved, and is involved, in several film productions, in the Cook Islands. Yes, we do have our very own filmmakers living both here and overseas, so, it is a mystery as to how a non-Cook Islander has managed to gain employment here. Has Mr Rangi or any other government employee ever attempted to engage Cook Islanders or advertise for the services that Mr Rangi's co-Director seems to be fulfilling? Would Mr Rangi or his co-Director care to advise the nature of the work and the entities who have engaged Mr Rangi's now co-Director, since he first arrived here in the Cook Islands?

Perhaps there is a specialist skill set that is not readily available on the island – if that is the case, could Mr Rangi advise how that criteria was/is determined? Does Mr Rangi's co-Director have, or ever had a work permit/residency status? If he does, how long has the work permit/residency status been valid?

Is this a mechanism allowing non-Cook Islanders to engage 'foreign' partners/employees without having to meet the criteria in an area reserved for Cook Islanders?

You have to hand it to Mr Rangi, if this is an attempt to highlight –

a) A method that allows 'foreigners' to remain here while operating in an area that is reserved for Cook Islanders;

b) The seeming ease with which one can gain (or attempt to gain) a work permit, in an

area that is reserved for Cook Islanders;

c) That being CEO of the body that is supposed to 'police' (c) The kinds of activities reserved for Cook Islands enterprises, means that you can -

- i) engage foreigners,
- ii) escape adherence to

legislation

iii) clip the ticket at the same time;

then Mr Rangi has succeeded admirably. It also allows Mr Rangi's company to bid on government funded film projects, ahead of 'foreigners'

Continued bottom page 18



WANTED: A UNIQUE COOK ISLANDS NAME FOR OUR MARINE PARK

The Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, Hon. Henry Puna MP has launched the search for a uniquely Cook Islands name with which to brand the Cook Islands Marine Park. Earlier this year a logo competition produced this incredibly unique logo designed by June Hosking and now we need an equally unique name to complement this logo.

At this stage, the Marine Park will encompass approximately 1.1 million square kilometres of the southern Cook Islands' Exclusive Economic Zone. The design of the marine park is still in progress and it is hoped that it will be fully legally designated and zoned by the end of 2015.

"With the full support of my government, traditional leaders and local communities, as well as the past contributions by the present Opposition, the Marine Park will provide the necessary framework to promote sustainable development by balancing economic growth interests such as tourism, fishing and deep-sea mining, with conserving core biodiversity and natural assets, in the ocean, reefs and islands", he said at the time.

With these words in mind, the challenge now is to come up with a uniquely Cook Islands NAME for our marine park – one of the largest in the world!

The competition is open to everyone resident in the Cook Islands and to all Cook Islanders living elsewhere.

The competition will close at 5pm Friday 17th January 2014 and by the end of the following week, the Prime Minister will have chosen the winning name – in consultation with his Cabinet colleagues and the President of the House of Ariki. The designer of the winning name will receive NZ\$250.

The winning name, together with the logo, will be used extensively on products, printed material, clothing, media releases, websites, pretty much everything associated with the Marine Park.

A name to go with the logo! How hard can that be? Pretty hard is our answer! There is no limit to the number of entries so get those creative brain cells ticking over and start entering!

Please send your suggestions to: Communications Coordinator, CI Marine Park, PO Box 649, Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands; TIS Office (half way between Tamarind House and the Fishing Club); email Jaewynn@wovenpacific.com; any queries to Jaewynn McKay on phone 21 144; cell 55 486; or to the above email address.

Security of water supply

By Charles Pitt

It is interesting how it appears the discussions regarding the \$60 million - \$72 million Te Mato Vai project are proceeding as if security of water supply is already guaranteed.

Since the public has not been informed as to how government plans to perform such a minor miracle, proceeding on the basis of assumptions is a bit dodgy.

Question 1: Where does the water come from?

Answer: The sky, when it rains.

Question 2: Where is the water collected?

Answer: In the hills in water intakes.

Question 3: Why does the supply of water run out?

Answer: Because the intakes run out.

Question 4: Why do the intakes run out of water?

Answer: Because when the rains don't come, the intakes are not large enough to guarantee security of supply until it rains again.

Question 5: On whose lands are the intakes?

Answer: The landowners, not government.

Question 6: What plans exist to create large reservoirs (storage lakes) in the hills?

Answer: The public is not aware of any.

Question 7: How will government ensure security of water supply if the rains don't come?

Answer: Government has not informed the public of any specific details.

Next question: Go back to question 1.

Surely someone in government realizes that before you spend a lot of money supplying water

tanks, you should first guarantee security of water supply in the event the rains do not come. With climate change affecting weather patterns, we may experience lengthy droughts.

In any case, if Government was all that serious about harvesting rain water, it would set the example by collecting rain water off the large roof areas of all existing public buildings including schools, storing this water in large concrete tanks and feeding the water (when required) into the main system.

What is also needed is for the true extent, volume and flow patterns of the underground water system to be researched and determined as a hedge against future significant droughts. Partial research has already been carried out but the work needs to be completed.

New laws are required to govern the underground system which should not be exploited unless it becomes a matter of survival.

We need to make best use of what we can get above ground first.

he will be able to receive those applications before they are determined by the BTI Board and maybe offer his own 'local' company as an alternate? That will keep all those pesky foreigners out of the picture(s) - ensuring that a 'local' company is given first 'dibs' - even if the actual 'filmmaker' in said company is not a local. Perhaps this is what the BTI Board mean by the 'Go Local' campaign?

Comments please.
Teremoana

From page 17 and possibly, other local filmmakers even though he, himself is not a 'filmmaker'. Sounds a bit like 'insider trading' doesn't it?

Presumably, the BTI Board is aware of Mr Rangi's conflict of interest. Mr Rangi is in a position which gives him access to commercially sensitive information. Foreign film crews routinely travel to the Cook Islands and need BTIB approval to operate here. But now that we have Mr Rangi's Filmmaking Company,



KA INANGARO MAATA IA: TETAU INGOA KUKI AIRANI TUKE UAKE RAI NO TE MARINE PARK

Kua rau-maire ia ete Parai Minita ote Kuki Airani ko Henry Puna tetai kimikimianga ingoa tuke uake rai ei akairo note Marine Park ote Kuki Airani. I teia mua-mataiti kua rauka mai tetai tutu-akairo note Marine Park i anga ia e June Hosking e i teiane ka anoano ia tetai ingoa tuke uake rai ei tapiri atu kite pae ite tutu-akairo.

I teiane, kote maata ote Marine Park mei tetai 1.1 mirioni kua kiromita ote Tuanga Moana ote Pae Apa-tonga ote Kuki Airani nei. Te rave ia mai nei rai te akanoonoo anga papu ote marine park ete akakena anga, e kua irinaki ia e ka oti mai i nga tuatau openga ote mataiti 2015.

"Kapiti mai te turu pakari a toku kavamani, te aronga mana ete katoatoaanga ote iti-tangata, e pera te turu ate Tua-Akatanotano, ka riro te Marine Park ei akamaroiro kia rauka ua rai te akatupu puapinga mei to roto ite tuanga ote pae ote turoto, te tautai e tote takere-moana mate kore e tamanamanata ite au meitaki natura, i roto ite moana, te au akau e to runga ite au enua", i akakite ei te Parai Minita.

Kia vai ua rai tana i tuatua, kote akakoroanga maata i teiane koia, kia rauka mai tetai INGOA no to tatou marine park - ko tetai mea maatamaata rava atu i roto i teiane ao!

Ko teia tarere, nate katoato e noo ana kite Kuki Airani nei e pera te iti-tangata Kuki Airani e noo ana ki tetai atu au enua ke mai i vao ake.

Ka topiri te tarere ite ora 5 Varaire ra 17 Tianuare 2014 e i mua ake ite openga ote epetoma a muri ake, kua rauka ite Parai Minita ite iki mai ite ingoa i iki ia - mate uriuri kapiti atu kite Ruru Minita ete Peretitani ote Are Ariki. Kote tangata nana te ingoa i re mai, ka oronga ia atu ki iaia e \$250 moni Nu Tireni.

Kote ingoa i iki ia kapiti atu kite tutu-akairo ka taangaanga putuputu ia ki runga ite au apinga, te au mea nenei ia, te kakau, te au akakitekiteanga tuatua, te au akakitekiteanga i runga ite roro uira, e vaiata rai e ki runga pouroa ite au mea ka piri atu kite Marine Park.

Ina! Tetai ingoa kia kapiti atu kite tutu-akairo! Pea atu ei? Ka manga pakari rai, ko ta matou ia! Kare e akakotinga ia te maata ote au ingoa taau ka inangaro ite tuku mai no reira kimikimi pakari e kia o atu koe ki roto ite tareanga!

Te pati ia atu nei kia tuku mai i ta kotou au tamanakoanga kite: Communications Coordinator, Cook Islands Marine Park, PO Box 649, Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands; TIS Office (i rotopu i te Tamarind House e te Fishing Club); email Jaewynn@wovenpacific.com; me e au uianga taau kia ringi atu ia - Jaewynn McKay numero 21 144; cell 55 486; mekore te email i runga nei.

Trusting God

part 2

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

Last week I was speaking on how the environment we live in affects our lives socially; culturally; economically, and so on. These situations can affect our focus in life.

In the Bible, James 1v.2-3 reads "My brethren count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience." Proverbs 3v.5-6 reads "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." I encourage you to continue 'trusting God'. Too often when people face difficult situation they give up 'trusting God'. David said in Psalm 23v.4 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."

This is good, but "How do you Trust God?" In the Bible in Hebrews 11v.8-12 there are 4 tests or trials that Abraham went through in building himself up in "TRUSTING GOD."

(1) MAJOR CHANGE IN LIFE In v.8 we see that by faith Abraham got up and he "went out not knowing where he was going to." Abraham obeyed God and he got up and went. When you're faced with a Major Change in your life I encourage you to Trust God.

(2) In v.9-10 we see the second point A DELAYED PROMISE Often because of our human nature we are anxious to know when the Promise of God will come to pass. David the shepherd boy was promised to be the King of Israel when he was still a young boy. He didn't sit on the throne until many years later. David has to wait for God's timing for the promise to come to pass. During the waiting period God was preparing David in the wilderness. Moses has to wait 40 years before God's promise to deliver the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt came to pass. And during the 40 years waiting period, God was preparing Moses in the wilderness.

Wait (patiently) on God

without knowing WHEN His Promise for you, for your family, for your loved ones, will come to pass!

(3) In v.11 we see the third point THE IMPOSSIBLE PROBLEM Abraham was Promised an heir or a son. When he was 100 years of age, and his wife Sarah 90 years, Isaac their son was born. 25 years later God's Promise to them came to pass. This is Impossible. Mark 10v.27 says "With men it is impossible, but not with God, for with God all things are possible." Trust God and expect a miracle without knowing HOW it is going to happened. We must be committed to God, and totally trusting in Him, even when we do not know How God will do things. Our part is to Trust God! That's what you call "Faith!" "Real Faith!" How God do things, that's His business! Just say to yourself, "Lord, I don't know how You will do it, but I Trust in You!"

(4) In v.17-19 we see point four A SENSELESS TRAGEDY In these verses Abraham was to sacrifice Isaac his only son, yet Abraham Trusted God. Even in unusual situation God test how strong our faith is. Trust God in His purposes not knowing WHY He has called you to do certain things. In the story of Job in the Book of Job, Job was full of sores, (2v.7) he was sick to the point of death, (2v.12-13) yet Job said these words in Job 13v.15 "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." Know this, you as a child of God, God does not allow things to happen to you, unless He allows them. Often many Christians when they encounter senseless situations they give up "Trusting God."

I encourage you to maintain your faith and Trust in God regardless of the challenges you face in life. Remember "tough times don't last but tough people do" Be encouraged and may God bless you.

Te Atua te aroa.



Cook Islands POST

CHRISTMAS POSTAGE SPECIAL

Our Christmas Special is on NOW and right up to the end of December!

Pay postage for 9 Christmas Cards and send the 10th Card Absolutely FREE!

To ensure on-time delivery don't delay

POST NOW!

(Special conditions apply, enquire at any Telecom Outlet)

The Team at Postal wishes Everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

What went down in 2013!

By Norma Ngatamariki

Hey, people! Can you believe that it's December already? The end of 2013 is near! A lot of drama went down, tragedies occurred and memories were made during that time. For me, it means finishing up "old stuff" from this year and looking forward to a fresh start in 2014. The countdown for Christmas is close, so I hope you've gotten an early start with planning your shopping. Oh, and prepare yourself (both mentally and physically) for the upcoming parties, because people are getting into the festive season. It's scary how fast time has flown, so be determined to make the most of it while it's still 2013!

So what's the happening? There might be an upcoming Christmas party for your business (the CITC Food Group had theirs last Saturday and I'm pretty sure the airport staff is holding theirs sometime this week). That's right people, it's that time of the year. Or maybe you're doing some spring/winter cleaning for the family coming from overseas. This can be a pain in the butt (Believe me, I would know) but in the end, it's worth it. You clean your house until it's spotless and in return, you get Burger King, clothes, electronics etc. Not a bad bargain, actually.

Okay, let's talk about the memorable things of 2013. It's been a roller-coaster year for all of us. I'll start with the most recent events first (Because my memory can only stretch that far back). Everybody remembers the fires that destroyed the Nukutere College and Avatea School facilities followed by Turoa Bakery which devastated the community. That one was a real shocker, but the community was quick to



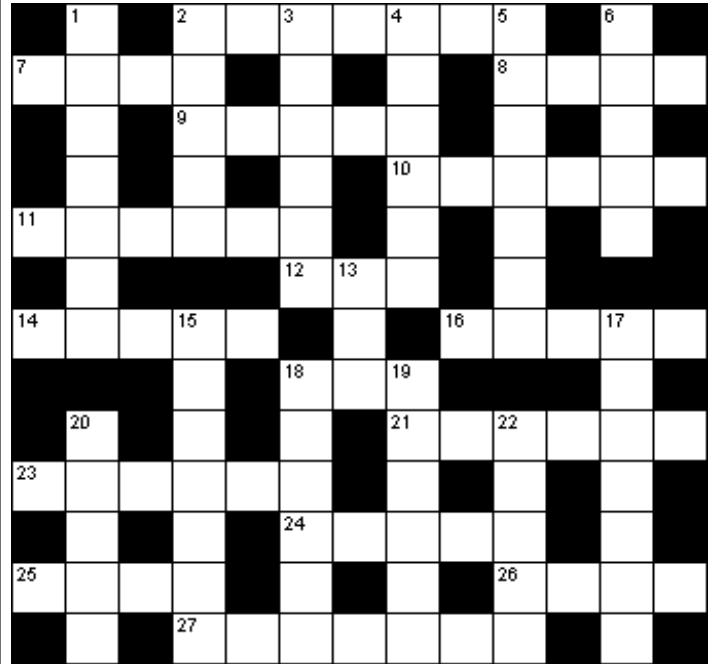
respond, holding a gala day in order to raise funds.

Film Raro, which happened all the way back in May, was a pretty big thing too. The Film Raro event brought movie producers from all over the globe, even Hollywood. I remember the premiere night, when the National Auditorium was packed to the max. The staff were turning people away at the door, so it gives you a fair idea of how full it was, so two screenings were to be held. Six short films were shown that night: Mou Piri, Islands, Dog Save the Queen, Little Girl's War Cry and Offshore Pirates and The Seed.

Of course, other annual events such as Te Maeva Nui and Vaka Eiva are always stunningly amazing, with each year bringing something different to the table.

These things may not be on top of your 'Important' list. Maybe you have your own accomplishments to be proud of. Teau Mckenzie, a Cookie sportswoman, won gold at this year's South Pacific Games. Tauwi Tiera was selected as Dux for Tereora College. Achieving your own personal goals counts as an important event. Maybe you lost a tonne of weight (lucky you) or pulled through with your school work. Whatever the case, I'm sure that we've made our mark on 2013. 2014, come at me!

CROSSWORD

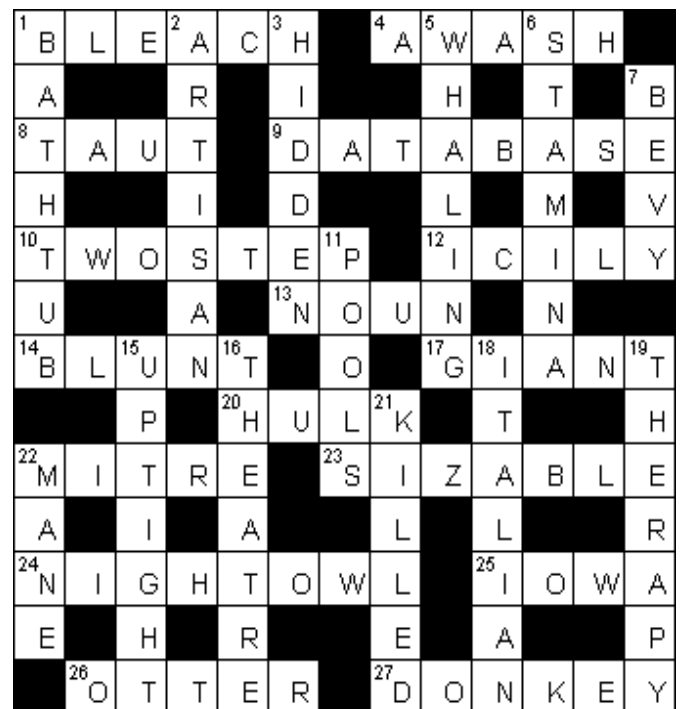


Across

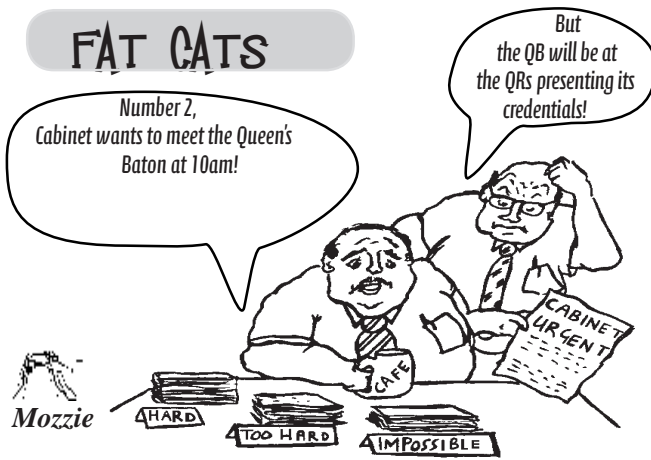
- 2. Frenzied (7)
- 7. City in W Nevada (4)
- 8. State of USA (4)
- 9. Strictness (5)
- 10. Companionless (6)
- 11. Withdraw (6)
- 12. Wily (3)
- 14. Snip (5)
- 16. Elected (5)
- 18. Plant (3)
- 21. Reunite (6)
- 23. Aromatic ointment (6)
- 24. Squeeze (5)
- 25. Prefix for small (4)
- 26. Inspires dread (4)
- 27. Arid (7)

Down

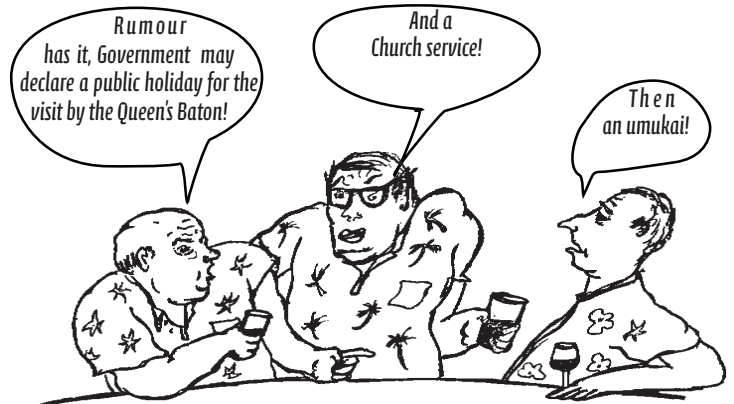
- 1. Situated in the west (7)
- 2. Beat into shape (5)
- 3. Fishes (6)
- 4. Village near Tewkesbury (6)
- 5. Pertaining to Cornwall (7)
- 6. Young female horse (5)
- 13. The Lion (3)
- 15. Marsh marigold (7)
- 17. Having skill (7)
- 18. Self-conscious smile (6)
- 19. Twist suddenly (6)
- 20. Violently intense (5)
- 22. Holy war (5)



FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Well, finally, evidence of leadership shown by the Leader! Whisper is the Leader has told his fellow Lord High Mandarins that he alone will decide how the \$4 million grant from our Eastern brothers, is to be spent!



Odd how things can go full circle to bite you in the bum! Government's election promise to provide water tanks for all islands, which was changed after the election to mean just Raro, has come back to bite government on the bum. Three outer islands have run out of water and are to now be supplied with water tanks. Reports from Mangaia, Atiu and Mauke are they have all run out of water. Atiu is particularly bad according to tourist hotels there. And the costly upgraded ring main in Avarua town? It's clapped out. Very low pressure sees multi-floor buildings with no water and repairs being done with rubber bicycle tyres! What's going on?



CIP take note, when the great Sir Geoffrey Henry KBE was Minister of Finance he declared he would never employ a Finance Secretary who knew more than he did.



Chooks the Traditional Knowledge Bill is before parliament and it also protects people engaged in traditional activities. As it does not extend to the traditional activities of MPs, there will be a separate Bill, "The protection of the traditional heritage of MPs Bill." This new Bill will preserve the

CHOOKS CORNER
WITH BIG RED



traditional rights, customs, traditions and culture of Cook Islands MPs. The right to excessive, overseas travel by Business class will be protected as will the unfettered rights to gourmet meals in 5 star restaurants overseas, not to mention the protection of the two working day week although this could be reviewed as two days is considered excessive. The right to guillotine parliament after one hour will also be protected.



Oh dear chooks! More cock ups on the Constitutional protocol front! Seems someone overlooked to invite the House of Ariki to the two day retreat last week for Minister's and HOMs. What's also hit a sensitive part of the anatomy is that government is now regarding the lofty chieftains as similar to Civil Society NGOs! No way Ho-say! Under the Constitution, the lofty ones have a status which puts them above NGOs.



Spotted at the graduation parade for junior Marine Corps hopefuls, a young news hound doing so much hounding the coppers had to restrain her from invading the parade ground space! And speaking of these

aspiring Marine Corp buddies, three weeks is not long enough, after all, what about firearms training and training in the deadly arts of unarmed combat? One thing though chooks, all should have had a haircut-a Marine Corps number one! All off!



Is there any reason chooks why the Cooks cannot have a deep sea navy? Who will be on call to protect our valuable deep sea resource? Since those likely to be mining that resource are most likely to come from China, Korea, USA, EU, India and France, perhaps a multi-national naval force could be formed. But hold on chooks! Who is this multi-national force to protect us from? The well organized multi-national naval forces under the command of Greenpeace!



Word is Finance's Tricky Dickie has his bags all packed for a 3 week pilgrimage to the homeland, that place where Port came from! Now here's a question or two chooks. Will he still have a job when he comes back? When he gets there will he have enough to shout the lads at the local fishing club? Or will he run out after the

first round? Whisper is he has also taken the keys to the money box with him.



In town this week are some 70 travel agents from overseas. Not unusual as they come and go all the time. But what is unusual this time is that 10 of them are from China! Now what would the Chinese be sizing up? Doing a recon for the invasion?



Aren't the Koreans jolly decent fellows and generous to boot chooks! They've offered the Leader a spanking brand new car and word is it's already at the wharf! Only problem is, who is going to foot the bill to get it off the wharf? OPM of MFAI?



Seen those ads that advertise jobs in paradise? 8am to 4pm working days, then hit the beach! Yeah right! It's more like stress-ville and sweaty work, work, work! It's the locals who are scampering off to the beach at 3pm and the ex-pats burning the midnight oil! Welcome to paradise you all!

Cook Islands
HERALD
PMG
PITT MEDIA GROUP

CITV Building
Moss Road
Parekura, Rarotonga
PO Box 126 Rarotonga
Tel: (682) 29 460
Fax: (682) 21 907
E mail: bestread@ciherald.co.ck
www.ciherald.co.ck

Editor: Charles L. Pitt
Columnist:
Norma Ngatamariki
Graphic Artist: Nga Glassie
Accounts/Deliveries:
Te Riu Woonton

At last! it's all over

Sally Hosking gives an account of her final year at AUT

Since the start of the year, I faced each day wondering when I would say those words. Now that I am home for good, the only thing making me believe it is the fact that I won't be stepping on a plane again! Third year has undoubtedly been the most difficult year of tertiary study – which isn't surprising considering that it's our performance at third year that determines whether we qualify for the Master's programme, should we decide to go further. Despite the hardship, however, third year has been the most rewarding. Here's a few highlights:

DESIGN 301 – A 90M TOWER:

Of the four papers that we do each semester, DESIGN is the one everyone dreads. It's worth 100%, and takes up the majority of a person's time. It's the one paper that lets students design a domestic or commercial building that conforms to a list of requirements outlined by the client. Since first year I thought I would never get the chance to design a crazy building – until I got put into a group headed by one of New Zealand's most distinguished architects, Michael O'Sullivan.

It was the hardest I had ever worked. O'Sullivan made us design a 90metre tower for the site at 25-27 Sandringham Road, Kingsland, Auckland – which is the train station that services Eden Park. The area is heavily industrialized, with some parts still rich in history. It lacks natural features, making the area seem gloomy and unwelcoming. Our task

was to create a skyscraper with 30 floors that functioned as a single unit to

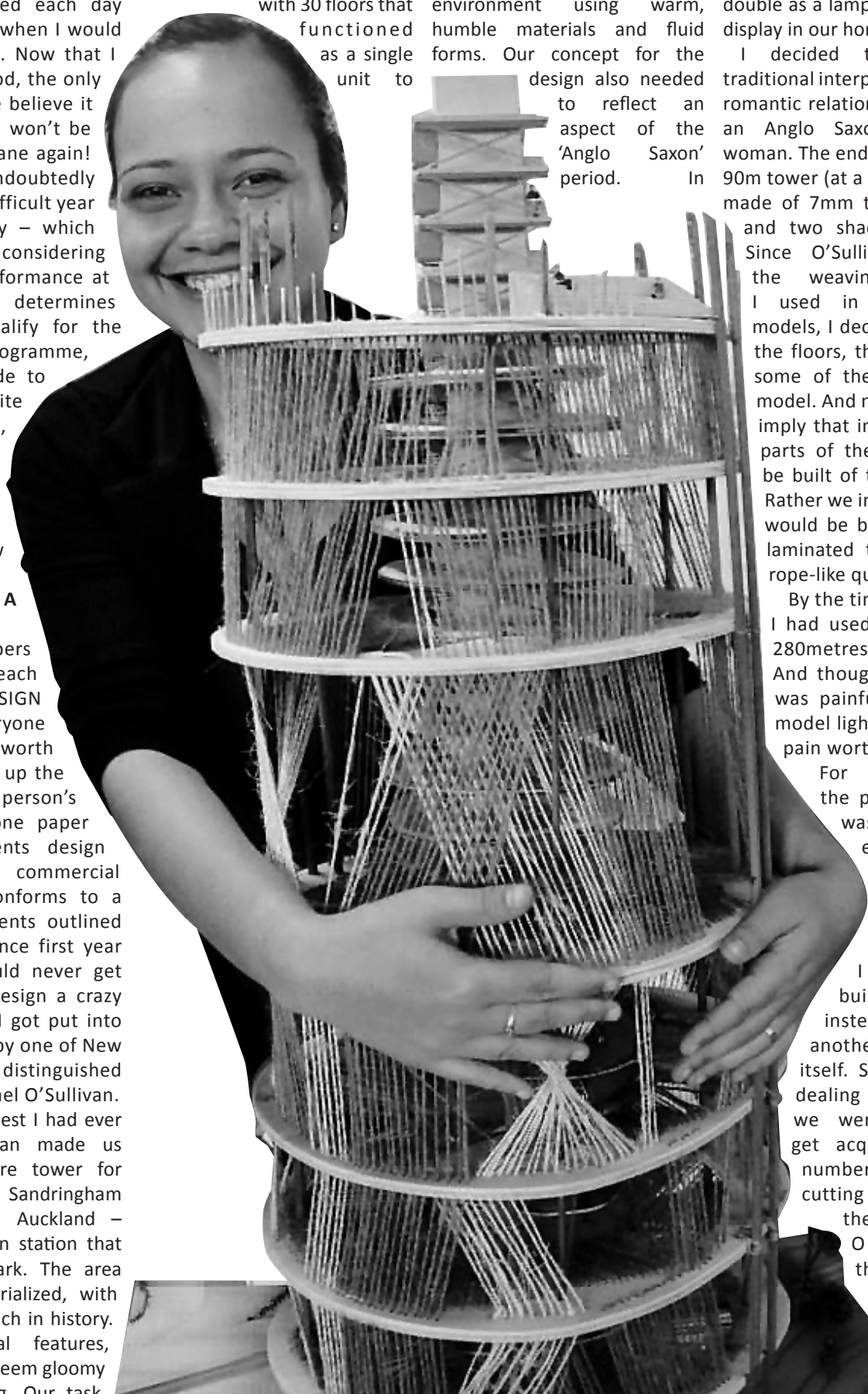
provide an enjoyable, open environment using warm, humble materials and fluid forms. Our concept for the design also needed to reflect an aspect of the 'Anglo Saxon' period. In

addition, the model needed to double as a lamp that we could display in our homes!

I decided to create a traditional interpretation of the romantic relationship between an Anglo Saxon man and woman. The end product was a 90m tower (at a scale of 1:100) made of 7mm thick plywood, and two shades of twine. Since O'Sullivan favoured the weaving technique I used in experimental models, I decided to weave the floors, the façade, and some of the walls of my model. And no, this doesn't imply that in reality, these parts of the building will be built of twine or rope. Rather we imagined that it would be built of treated laminated timber with a rope-like quality.

By the time I was done, I had used up just over 280metres of twine. And though the process was painful, seeing the model light up made the pain worth enduring!

For me, building the physical model was the most exciting part of the course. I love model making! At times I wished I had taken a building course instead – but that's another story in itself. Since we were dealing with timber, we were forced to get acquainted with a number of wood-cutting machines in the workshop. O'Sullivan thought the best way to learn was to make us build a



dining table for a client out of Italian Mahogany – which are very heavy, and expensive pieces of timber! Though we needed a lot of guidance, we managed to get it done and delivered on time.

There were nine students in our group, and everyone built amazing models! It took us a little over six weeks to build them, and about a week to put the plans, sections, elevations, and construction details to paper. Sadly, O’Sullivan despises digital presentations – so every drawing had to be drawn, and watercoloured by hand. It was a strenuous and expensive process. So much so that I lost count of how many times I needed to go to Bunnings Warehouse to buy more material!

Fortunately, I had an extracurricular activity to help keep me sane – dancing with the Cook Island group.

TAOKOTAINGA HAMILTON:

The highlight of my year was having the opportunity to partake in Taokotainga – a biannual Cook Islands student conference that aims to uphold our Cook Islands culture within Universities throughout New Zealand. Such is done through dance performances, debates, and sports activities. This year’s gathering was hosted by the Cook Island community at Waikato University, and attended by our group - Auckland Universities Cook Islands Student Association (AUCISA) – and our family from Victoria University.

Making the event extra special was a visit by the Prime Minister, Henry Puna, and New Zealand MP, Alfred Ngaro. Both made room in their busy schedules to acknowledge and encourage us – making us even more determined to give our studies everything that we had. Their visit also gave students of other ethnicities a more positive outlook of the people, culture, and affairs of our country – which was uplifting!

Our trip to Hamilton wouldn’t have been possible

without the hard work put in by the members of the association, and the ongoing support of our families and friends. At the start of last year, the executive committee set a list of goals – one of those was to raise \$10,000 to take a team of 50 to Hamilton. This would cover expenses such as registration fees, transport costs, formal uniforms, costumes, and so forth. Funds were raised by applying for grants from the University, holding food sales, selling quick raffles, performing at events, and hosting socials. We were very fortunate to have Aunty Kura Taruia and her A-Team on board to lift the burden of choreography and costume making. And with all her knowledge of bargained products for costumes, we were able to survive Taokotainga with just over \$7000.

It was like miniature version of Te Maire Maeva Nui - it was an awesome experience! Taokotainga not only brought us closer together as a team, but it also enabled us to embrace our culture with our brothers and sisters from Hamilton and Wellington.

In all the years that Taokotainga has been held, this year’s was the most successful. In fact, it was so successful that the Presidents of each association present, decided that the event will now be held on an annual basis. Next year’s Taokotainga will be hosted by Victoria University in Wellington.

So yes! Many will have lots to say about their University experience. For me, it was the most challenging to date. Yet I don’t regret a thing! I have met a lot of amazing people, been to a few places that I probably wouldn’t be able to visit again, and done things that I probably won’t repeat. All in all, it was a life changing experience, and I only hope that those who are yet to complete their studies, or are considering tertiary education, will find time to enjoy it just as much, if not more!



HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER

As one of the global leaders in banking and financial services, ANZ recognizes that our greatest asset is our people.

That is why we are creating a unique climate of inspiration, leadership, values and opportunities.

By delivering continuous challenges, recognition, and personal and professional growth opportunities, it’s all part of commitment to helping our people be where they want to be.

ANZ Cook Island is inviting highly motivated, qualified and interested applicants to join its Team as the “Human Resources Officer”

Reporting to the Head of Human Resources – Samoa and Cook Islands, you will have a wide range of responsibilities encompassing the management of the Human Resources function to optimize services to ANZ staff at all levels in the Cook Islands.

The responsibilities of this position include the implementation of the Human Resources agenda covering Recruitment and Selection, Remuneration, Succession Planning, Training, Performance Management and HR Policies and administration activities.

We are looking for highly motivated and enthusiastic self starters who have the following experiences and qualities:

- Related Tertiary qualification would be desired but not essential
- A working knowledge of a broad range of HR principles
- Demonstrated strong stakeholder management skills, building relationships and networks
- Analytical, influencing and problem solving skills and the flexibility to work in an environment of change
- Demonstrated high level of interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate effectively with all levels of staff
- Good planning and time management skills
- Working knowledge of bank procedures, policies and services would be advantageous
- A motivated self starter who demonstrates initiative and has a strong desire to improve processes
- The ability to drive change diplomatically

If you have what it takes to deliver outstanding performance as the Human Resources Officer, Please submit your written applications including a detailed resume by the 6th December to:

“Vacancy – Human Resources Officer”

Human Resources Department

ANZ Cook Islands

Avarua

Rarotonga

Or for further information please contact Julia Kapi on 21750 extension 239 or email Julia.Kapi@anz.com



Two Cook Islanders receive international recognition for their service to the environment

This week 2 Cook Islands eco-warriors received international recognition for their dedication and tireless efforts to conserve our natural resources.

Ian Karika has been awarded the inaugural Pacific Islands Environmental Leadership Award for excellence in national leadership in environmental sustainability and conservation.

Ian is president of Te Ipukarea Society and the Cook Islands Voyaging Society, and has been a key figure for the Takitumu Conservation Area since it was established. The award was presented on Monday night at the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas being held in Fiji. As Ian was unable to attend the conference, the award was received on his behalf by the two Cook Islands youth delegates attending the conference, Tehere Koteka and Myria Rongo. They were supported by the entire Cook Islands delegation!

In supporting Ian's nomination Prime Minister Henry Puna wrote "Over the many years that I have known Ian, he has always given his time and energy selflessly to environmental conservation and to the revival and promotion of traditional voyaging and navigation – a passion deeply-rooted in the preservation of our marine ecosystem and values as Polynesians."

The Prime Minister went on to say that Ian is renowned in the Cook Islands for his leadership and management of the Takitumu Conservation Area (TCA). "Under Ian's stewardship of the TCA, he helped spearhead the key initiative to recover the population of a rare native bird – the Kakerori (Rarotonga Flycatcher). Ian was also part of an important programme to re-establish the Rimatara Lorikeet on the Island of Atiu by transferring birds from French Polynesia. This work necessitated increased efforts in the eradication of rats, as well as waste clean-up projects, to assist bird population recovery and lift the profile of TCA internationally.

On Tuesday evening Dr. Takiora Ingram was one of eight



women of and from Oceania to be honoured at the third "Stars of Oceania" recognition dinner held in Hawai'i.

The "Stars of Oceania" was inaugurated in 2006 with the intent to continue every three to four years. Rather than being an award or reward ceremony, the "Stars of Oceania" event recognises and acknowledges outstanding women for doing the right thing and honours their sense of humanity.

Dr. Ingram was recognized for her Regional Leadership. A regional environmental leader; coordinator of the Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership; promoting health and stewardship of the Pacific Ocean's resources; and former executive director of the All Islands Coral Reef Committee Secretariat based in Honolulu. It was noted that Takiora provides effective leadership and coordination of the US Pacific Islands and the Federal government to sustainably manage ocean resources and promote stewardship of the Pacific Ocean.

The executive and staff of Te Ipukarea Society wish to congratulate both Ian and Takiora on the recognitions they have received this week at the same time we thank them for the significant contribution they have both made to our oceans, our environment and conservation in general, meitaki ma'ata.

Mr. Ian Karika, Cook Islands was Awarded for Excellence in National Leadership in Environmental Sustainability and Conservation. His award was accepted by Ms. Te Here Koteka and Ms. Miria Ronga.

VACANCY



POSITIONS VACANT

- Cook Islands** 1) Teller
2) Customer Service Representative

To be the best you need to mix with the right company!
At Westpac, we pride ourselves on;

- Providing exceptional customer service,
- Providing products and services,

to help our customers achieve their financial aspirations.

As a Teller or Customer Service Representative, you would play a key customer facing role in our branch network.

The goals of a Teller or Customer Service Representative is to;

- Provide a great experience for our customers,
- Contribute to our overall mission in becoming the number one service organization,
- Ensure customers' immediate service needs are met.

As part of our team, you'll be sharing our commitment to being one of the Pacific's most responsible companies - responsible to our customers, to the communities in which we operate and to our environment.

If this sounds like the opportunity you have been looking for, submit your application along with your CV to:

John P Wilson
Branch Manager
PO Box 42, RAROTONGA
Or email: westpaccookislands@westpac.com.au
Applications will close on 20 December 2013.