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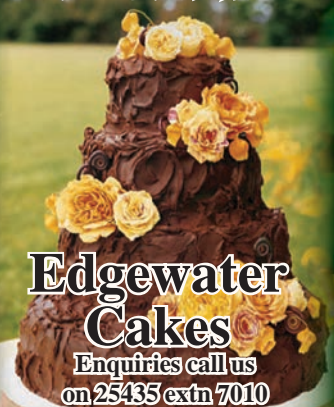
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Ultimate choice lies with the people

Cook Islands Party President Rau Nga says he respects and supports the decision by Kaota Tuariki to relinquish the Muri-enua seat he won and stand again in a fresh by-election.

"We support the decision because ultimately, the choice of representative is by the people of Muri-enua," Nga said.

"That is the ultimate choice and test, and we believe Kaota has made a noble decision."

The CIP President says the decision was about taking the arguments out of the court room

and putting it in the hands of the people. Settling matters in court in the hands of lawyers can be a bitter win-lose situation, and in this case, the greater interests of the people of Muri-enua may not have been served. Tuariki simply put those interests first, the President said.

"There is no doubt Kaota has the best intentions for all the people of Muri-enua and we support the approach of clearing the air for him to start afresh and run again in another by-election."

- CIP Media release



CIP President Rau Nga

Christmas Box back

By Norma Ngatamariki

Some people are most certainly getting into the festive spirit of giving this Christmas. The Christmas Box initiative is on yet again, with both participants and contributors fully intent on making a positive impact in the community.

The idea of Christmas box was originally initiated by Life Church, based in New Zealand. The concept of sincerely giving back to the community was then adopted by the Assembly of God Church (AOG) here in Rarotonga during the previous year, from which it has branched out into a successful movement. With the assistance of local businesses, ANZ, Bank of the Cook Islands and Westpac, the Christmas Box Cook Islands scheme is continuing to make a difference in the lives of families all over and has received positive feedback from the community.

"It's all about sharing the love to people in the community and making sure that no one goes without," says co-ordinator of Christmas Box, Vaiana George. Like all large-scale projects, there are certain responsibilities that come along with them. Receiving sponsorship from businesses, liaising with the Life Church, organizing packaging and the purchasing of goods are just some of the tasks included, but Vaiana has made all of it seem effortless. She has recently



returned from Auckland, as she wished to oversee the packaging of the container herself. "Being considerate and quality presentation are just some of the many factors that we try and incorporate when packing the Boxes," she states. The official packaging day for Rarotonga will take place on Saturday 14th.

Last year's experience with Christmas Box has taught them that there is always room for improvement, with the packaging of the Boxes here on the island being an example. "In this way, we can actually see what is packed inside each and every

Box." Another positive change that has come about is that Boxes will now be distributed to five of our sister islands, giving you a clear indication of how much popularity the Initiative has gained throughout the year. In order to make this possible, Christmas Box has partnered with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and will be allocate 50 boxes to the outer islands. Vaiana has also worked alongside the Westpac Christmas Tree Initiative, where each name will be a recipient of a Box. Other than the costs associated with shipping and freighting, the Initiative seems

to be running smoothly. There are 500 Christmas Boxes to be distributed in total and Vaiana hopes to see these Boxes go a long way, especially with the families that will receive them.

Vaiana would like to acknowledge the community for their involvement, the local businesses that have contributed or made donations and the members of the AOG Church for their assistance. If you would like to make a donation towards the Christmas Box initiative, there are donation boxes located in stores all over Rarotonga.

Back to the polls for Murienua

By Wilkie Rasmussen, Leader of the Opposition

It is indeed strange how the fortunes of those in precarious situations change so suddenly. One minute, one is sitting on top of the world and next thing; one is down in the dumps. That is essentially the case with my mate Kaota Tuariki, elected to represent Murienua in Parliament but never got to do so.

Clearly, this former Democratic Party stalwart who turned his back on his party and ran for the rival Cook Islands Party in the recently held by-election there, must be wondering what on earth had happened. He claims in the media to have made an unhindered decision; one that he says would be in the best interest of the community. That is, it is in the best interest of the community for the electoral petition not to proceed. That perplexes me but this capricious behaviour of my mate points me and most likely other people to conclude that a sudden realisation had dawned on Mr Tuariki. Well, we all know what it is; it was clear that he was going to lose the battle; court is therefore not a viable for him.

Mr Tuariki stood for the Democratic Party some years ago and very nearly beat the incumbent Member of Parliament of that constituency, none other than Tom Marsters, now the Queen's Representative. From then on Mr Tuariki was touted as the next Demo MP for the electorate but he was lured across, I understand by the very man he nearly ousted. Indeed, on election night Mr Tuariki won the contest against James Beer of the Democratic Party by a modest margin,

albeit reduced in the context of total CIP support in that area. But his election was unclean and tainted by bribery and corruption. That's probably the worst indictment for any winning MP, to be accused of dirty play. A petition was then lodged by James Beer and on the weight of the submissions by the Demo lawyer and the number of affidavits filed on behalf of the petitioners, I was of the view that the case was a foregone conclusion. No judge was ever going to agree with the Respondents and hence the humiliating concession.

This situation reminded of another CIP who won an election and on the day he was to be sworn in at Parliament, the House was dissolved. So he lost his seat but he is now an MP. There was however no foul play in the situation. In this current one Mr Tuariki, was alleged to have committed breaches against the Electoral Act and never got to see the inside of Parliament as an MP.

Well, here we are, all back to square one. In the very near future we will hear and read about two prospectives vying to have the honour of representing Murienua. Both candidates may likely rerun again and face each other or there may be some new players. Soon we will hear again what they will do for the people and the country and if is James and Kaota, both will be much the wiser after both had missed on two occasions respectively, previously. But have they, well, we wait and see what will unfold.

The Democratic Party had hoped that once Mr Tuariki was found guilty of the charges laid against him, James Beer will be substituted as the new MP for Murienua. Some people have

argued personally to me that, that cannot be done because the margin was too large. A lawyer colleague replied on that to me the other day that, that margin was corrupted. He does have a point, perhaps that is why Tuariki resigned from the seat, to avoid or reduce any possibility of him being substituted by James Beer. In a sense the Demo candidate is the most unlucky person here. He stuck his neck out to petition the seat, won but also lost. My sympathies are with him and that of the Demo Party. Imagine if that had happened, Demo's 10 (possibly 11) and CIP 14 (possibly 13). In the big picture, the Demo has clawed its way back to being very competitive with the CIP. From a thumping in 2010 to



a respectable number in the Opposition now. What more can a Leader ask for? I am indeed very happy with the Demo march forward and upward.



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Resignation a disgraceful admission of petition allegations



Patrick Arioka

Murienua's by-election winner Kaota Tuariki, the Cook Islands Party candidate's resignation last week manifests the CIPs extreme and desperate efforts to hold onto the seat. Tuariki's media spin on his resignation is without honor and is as sloppy and amateurish as his campaign teams Election Day antics. In the build up to the election Tuariki avoided media publicity as it were his enemy, gone is the reticence, now he's embracing it like a long lost friend to deliver the CIP brand of justified rationale.

Continuing a campaign practice that had been repeated many times over, this time the brazen CIP flaunted their arrogance by holding their free breakfast on Election Day at a main road property highly visible to motor traffic. After the results were posted, in the campaign manager Patrick Arioka's celebratory speech, he boastfully gave the most self incriminating interview on Cook Islands Television. Whatever was won on the playing field was been disgracefully lost in the court room of decency before a disbelieving TV audience.

The big difference this time around was the CIP had confronted a never say die candidate in the Democratic Party's James Beer. Even when the DP general secretary Eddie Drollet verbally conceded

defeat in a gathering after the poll count Beer refused to lie down and surrender, the tenacious Beer driven petition may now reap beneficial results for the DP.

Last week when Beer was offered a compromise by the CIP that most petitioners would have gratefully accepted he stood his ground and insisted his petition be heard.

Tuariki's illogical response was, *"Obviously Mr. Beer did not want to face the voters and another defeat..."* what the public and the Judge of the High Court will never know is what is the compelling evidence that Beer compiled against Tuariki prompting him to resign.

In the same media release Arioka claimed *"there was no merit in those allegations."* Both men appear destined to become the local version of Dumb and Dumber. How can anyone take their political ambitions seriously? If there was no merit, why did Tuariki resign to avoid the petition being heard?

Beer has a constitutional right to justice, he and his team ran a clean campaign and the voter's integrity is being abused by the grubby tactics of the destined to be one term CIP. For once, just once, wining at all costs might be overcome by integrity and honesty. This shameless act of the CIP may become the catalyst for a review of the Electoral Act with explicit descriptions of offences



Kaota Tuariki

being introduced through an amendment.

What is obvious to the discerning public is Tuariki didn't want to face the Judge. Had Tuariki been found to have breached the Electoral Act 2004, section 92, he would then be facing a criminal conviction and up to five years imprisonment. It is understood Tuariki took his cue to resign from the Prime Minister Henry Puna.

Another by-election loss by the CIP would have put Puna's hold of the CIP leadership on slippery ground. After winning the 2010 General elections the CIP had majority of eight, it now has a shaky one of three, hardly an endorsement of the frequent flyer Puna or his CIP government. Losing the Murienua seal would reduce the government's majority to a vulnerable two.

Tuariki's ill advised resignation sets a precedent for any future election winning candidate who is under petitioned threat. There is nothing legally clever about the CIPs back door exit; it exploits a deficiency in the Electoral Act that should be rectified before the next General Elections. This incident only serves to amplify the indecency and political immorality that has permeated the CIP, sadly with the endorsement from the leader.

The CIP's shameless self preservation cat and mouse

treatment of the electoral process is going to needlessly cost the tax payer another \$30,000, money that could be better used for more urgent projects. Some of the outer islands are being confronted with serious water shortages. Their cries for help to Rarotonga for water tanks have the echoing words of no money. What about the lack of medical supplies in the Northern Group? \$30,000 could charter a plane from Samoa and filled with medicines and health supplies then dispatched for delivery.

Even the dumbest brain could suggest a better way to spend \$30,000 than a forced by-election. These are tough testing times for the commercial sector and when struggling businesses and their owners see the prudent disregard the CIP government has, blood begins to boil. The next General elections can't come fast enough is becoming the people's mantra.

Its little wonder many long time CIP members and supporters are walking away from the party and the sad aspect for the faithful remnant is none of this is attracting new replacements. Who is going to buy the raffle tickets.

Someone with the authority to do so should just announce James Beer the elected MP for Murienua and save the Country the \$30,000, end of story.

- George Pitt

Legislative changes to improve disclosure in the financial services industry

The Cook Islands Parliament recently passed a number of bills related to the financial services industry which will assist companies in the industry to meet the requirements of the United States of America Foreign Account Tax Compliance and the OECD Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes.

Provision of Customer Information Bill

The Provision of Customer Information Act 2013 removes legislative barriers which currently prevent Banks and Trust Companies operating in the Cook Islands from providing to the tax authorities of other countries information relating to their citizens. The legislation will only apply in respect of those countries prescribed by legislation. It is the Government's intention immediately to identify the United States of America and Australia as countries to which this legislation applies and so enable disclosure by banks and trust companies to the Inland Revenue Service (IRS) in the United States and the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) in Australia.

Changes to Accommodate the OECD Global Forum

In the Global Forum's Phase 1 Peer Review of the Cook Islands offshore financial environment some deficiencies were identified around the ability to

identify customers, particularly in relation to beneficiaries of International Trusts, accounts to be kept and the retention of various entity records. Amendments to the following legislation will improve the ability to identify beneficiaries of trusts and foundations and ensure the retention of various entity records and accounts.

- Financial Transactions Reporting Amendment Act 2013;
- Foundations Amendment Act 2013;
- International Companies Amendment Act 2013;
- International Partnership Amendment Act 2013;
- International Trusts Amendment Act 2013; and
- Limited Liability Companies Amendment Act 2013.

The Cook Islands is scheduled to have its Global Forum Phase 2 Peer Review in the first part of 2014 where these amendments will demonstrate that the Cook Islands will demonstrate forward movement by the country in the area of transparency and exchange of information. In drafting the suite of legislation the Government consulted with both the Bankers Association and the Trust Companies Association. The Bill will come into force on the day on which it is assented to by the Queen's Representative.

Changes to the Income Tax Act in Relation to Wound Up Companies

Upcoming changes in the Income Tax Act will also see the

removal of Section 17.2.b which allows the records of a company which has been wound up and dissolved to be destroyed before the general five year retention period required by the Income Tax Act.

TIEA with the United States

Historically the Cook Islands Government has sought to enter into a Tax Information Exchange Agreement with the United States of America. The Cook Islands has now entered into negotiations with the US on a TIEA. - MFEM Release

News Briefs

Audit report reveals off-site location of key documents

The Herald has previously raised the need for Audit reports, which are available to the public, not to make public matters where security may be an issue. In a previous report Audit had made public the location of MFEM safes, the names of the persons having the entry codes and the amounts kept in the safes. This issue was later raised in parliament.

In the Audit report for the fourth quarter, 1 April 2013 to 30 June 2013, tabled in parliament last week, the report for the Financial Services Development Authority, makes public where spare copies of the agency's key documents and files are stored. The report then goes on to mention that a more secure location is being explored.

It is most unsatisfactory for any information that places important records and also staff at risk, be made public. - Charles Pitt

Concerted effort to bring Crown accounts up to date

The Audit Office received additional funding from the Cook Islands Technical Assistance Fund to enable it to recruit two extra staff as part of a catch up project to bring the Crown's accounts up to date.

The Audit Office report for the fourth quarter, 1 April 2013 to 30 June 2013, tabled in parliament last week, reports that the Crown's accounts for year ended 2010 were completed on 25 June 2013 and presented to Finance Minister Mark Brown on the same day.

The accounts covered 17 Ministries, 10 Island Administrations, 4 Offices of parliament, 15 Public Authorities and companies and 13 other entities.

During this latest quarter, the Audit Office managed to complete audits of 29 entities for the 30 June 2011 year and 29 entities for the 2012 year. - Charles Pitt

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Our Frontpage model

Cook Islands bid to close the high seas pocket to fishing resisted by distant water fishing nations



Our frontpage model this week is 25 year old Tanya Tiare, a Cook Islander living in Australia. Tanya has spent 2 and a half years travelling but always comes back to Raro for a break. She is back in Raro for her family reunion and xmas break and will be here for a month. She is also the Tuavera triplets older sister. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald

The Cook Islands delegation has withdrawn a watered down response to its proposal at the annual meeting of the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) to ban longline fishing in the eastern high seas pocket.

where we have not".

The eastern high seas pocket is surrounded by the Cook Islands, Kiribati and French Polynesia. It lies in the middle of an important albacore fishing ground. Because the pocket is outside of national jurisdiction all members of the WCPFC are entitled to fish in these waters.

The proposal is significant because it would create the first area to be closed to longlining on the high seas.

Distant water fishing nations worry that this would impinge on their rights to fish in these waters.

Adoption of the WCPFC rules requires consensus amongst its members or a vote with a three quarters majority in the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) chamber and the non-FFA chamber.

Many of the powerful fishing nations whom comprise the non-FFA members resisted the Cook Islands proposal and recommended other alternatives.

According to the Secretary for the Ministry of Marine Resources, Ben Ponia the sum result of the response to their proposal was only a small improvement on the existing measure which the Cook Islands sponsored in 2010 to designate the pocket as a special management area.

Addressing the plenary Ponia said that adopting the modified proposal would "send the wrong message that we have made progress

The eastern pocket has long been considered a haven for illegal fishing practices.

Since the pocket was declared a special management area in 2010 there has been an increase in fishing effort and poor compliance with the measure such as providing a live satellite feed of vessel movements and reporting of tuna catches.

The Cook Islands bears a disproportionate cost to conduct sea patrols in the zone and albacore tuna fished in the pocket deprives them of catches and economic benefits.

"We are also becoming concerned about the increasing level of lots of encroachment by albacore fishing boats in the high seas surrounding our zone" says Ponia.

In 2012 the Pacific Islands Forum leaders called for the pocket to be closed to fishing.

Ponia said that the Cook Islands will continue to advocate for a closure and will return to the WCPFC to seek hard limits on fishing.

- Media Release



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Teachers receive awards for efforts

By Norma Ngatamariki

A presentation was held at the Ministry Of Education on Monday 9th, to honour the teachers who received awards for their effort throughout the year. Secretary of Education, Sharyn Paio and Minister of Education, Hon. Teina Bishop were present along with other prestigious guests. For the many recipients, it was a day of celebration and relief.

Human Resources Manager, Terry Utunga, had the privilege of presenting the first lot of awards to teachers who undertook courses in the Fast Track Teaching program. Utunga emphasized the importance of the course as it is not only beneficial for the recipients themselves, but serves as a stepping stone for the school students of the Cook Islands. The training was consolidated with fellow schools, principals and mentors in order to provide the best learning opportunities. Utunga also acknowledged the financial funding provided by NZAid and how it enabled them to make improvements to the program.

Teachers were also nominated in recognition for their effort and contribution towards their respective areas, which was described as a "simultaneously innovative process", as the decisions were not easy. Recipient of the Excellence & Most Outstanding Teacher Award went to Uriao George for producing high quality work and sound results. Gaylyn Lockington received the Leadership Award for her "high-maintenance"



attitude and leadership skills. School was the recipient of the resilient with regards to the recent fire incident.

Nga Charlie, Principal of Avatea

Principal's Award for remaining

Future leaders attend workshop

By Norma Ngatamariki

On Tuesday 8th, a Leaders Training Workshop took place at Tereora College with the purpose of challenging and exchanging ideas on leadership, what it entails and the qualities that are usually seen in a leader. Thomas Wynne, alongside Nga Teinangaro, co-ordinated the workshop, on the lookout for potential Tereora College Anau Leaders: Te

Kou, Ikurangi, Te Manga and Maungaroa. The selection of leaders will be assessed on how well they contribute to the discussions and participation of activities. "Being a leader requires a lot of dedication on your part," says Dean Tangata, one of the leader nominees for Ikurangi.

The workshop consisted of two practical activities, both of which involved interaction with peers and teamwork being the central idea. An

"electric fence" was used as a prop and participants were forced to think outside the box and invent new ways to overcome the obstacle at hand. "Hopefully, this will make them realise the importance of teamwork and, without a support group, it will be a difficult journey ahead," says Teinangaro. The activities were followed by an intense discussion on the participant's personal views of leadership and how they

can incorporate that into the future leadership system. "Adaptability to change is one quality that is expected in a leader, amongst others," states Wynne. "A leader searches for an opportunity to serve and not to be served."

The expected outcome of this workshop is that the participants of the workshop will see this as a learning curve and it will become useful to them in later years.



On Monday 9th of December, both Nukutere College and Avatea School received a kind donation of \$1618.00 in aid of the recent fires which devastated both learning facilities. This was the courtesy of Kikau Hut Restaurant owners, Cathy Pearman and Kevin Simkin. The couple held a function, which included a three-course meal and spot prizes, in a bid to raise the funds. Cathy and Kevin would like to acknowledge CITC Liquor, CTIC Building Centre and CITC Supermarket, The Bond and Marlin Queen for donating the spot prizes. - Norma Ngatamariki



Letter to the Editor

Teremoana responds to Terry Rangi

Dear Editor
Mr Rangi – I read with some amusement your response to my letter to the editor which appeared in the CInews, Saturday, Dec 07.

I too am a Cook Islander – NO – I am not the pen name for 'Paolo' as you have stated in your letter. You have also stated that "The suggestion made by your letter writer that I have a conflict of interest is silly". Let's seek to define the term -

Conflict of Interest

A term used to describe the situation in which a public official who, contrary to the obligation and absolute duty to act for the benefit of the public, exploits the relationship for personal benefit, typically pecuniary.

We are all aware that if Mr Hill presented himself as a foreign enterprise, in an area that is reserved for Cook Islanders, he would have been subject to the scrutiny of the BTI Board. Mr Hill did not do this. Mr Hill and his 'good friend – Terry Rangi' (who just happens to be the CEO of BTIB) formed a 'local' film company. You have advised that your 'involvement in this matter was fully disclosed to the BTIB Board' – why would you need

to disclose anything to the BTI Board? Is it because there is a 'conflict of interest'?

Mr Rangi – you failed to answer a number of questions in my letter. Does Mr Hill have a work permit? Let's assume, NO – the CEO of BTIB is now on record as confirming that Mr Hill has 'worked with numerous Cook Islanders' without a work permit. And while you have mentioned that some of his work was voluntary, would you care to advise of the work that was non-voluntary? Can you confirm that Mr Hill received no benefit/gift/equipment/reward, or other? And if Mr Hill did receive monetary payment – has he paid tax on those monies? But then, if he had no work permit, why would he need to?

As to naming 'Paolo' – the 'disgruntled and overpriced expat film maker or wannabe film maker'. Can you advise if you have made these comments based on experience? Did you, Mr Rangi, advertise for a filmmaker, but 'Paolo' was overpriced? Did you determine he was a 'wannabe' film maker because he has no qualifications/or has never made any film? You also mention 'Paolo's' ex-pat status. It is my understanding that

'Paolo' is a permanent resident and a film maker. Under the terms of the Investment Code, he is entitled to operate in the area reserved for Cook Island film makers. Your Mr Hill is not.

Mr Rangi, you may be a Cook Islander with a 70% share in a local film making company but you have advised that Mr Hill is the film maker in your business. You are promoting the services of a non-Cook Islander, who does not have permanent residence and presumably no work permit, in an area that is reserved for Cook Island Film Makers.

Mr Rangi, if you and Mr Hill had decided to open a takeaway bar that specialised in hangi and kumara chips and then called your business enterprise 'Ngapuhi Kai Ltd' – then we would not be having this

discussion, and that is because a 'takeaway bar' selling kumara chips, is not listed as an area reserved for Cook Islanders! Are you getting it? Surely, when you were employed as CEO of BTIB, it was because you displayed some basic acumen?

What you have done Mr Rangi, is not only objectionable, it is highly offensive. You are not a filmmaker and yet you have knowingly engaged a non-Cook Islander to 'work' in this area of expertise. The current CEO of BTIB, is openly exploiting an area of expertise that is reserved for Cook Islanders.

I am more than happy to confirm with 'Paolo's' legal team as to the identity of the author of this and my last letter -should 'Paolo' choose to look at either a libel or defamation as a cause of action.

First Ever ANZ U19 Finals Showdown

This coming Saturday morning Rarotonga will showcase the best of its Under 19 talent when both the ANZ Boys and ANZ Girls Under 19 Round Robin champions are decided.

Starting early in the morning the Te Ava Rau girls will take on Turangi. Their last encounter was a hard fought battle so a win could go either way.

The Matavera boys haven't lost a game this season and they face off against a talented Tupapa team which includes national representatives Pokelea Yeutu, Anka Atiau and Mataora Toru.

Despite which teams take home the trophies it will be an historic moment for all the players to have played in the first ever Rarotonga Under 19 ANZ Round Robin Cup.

All finals matches are being played at neutral venue Turangi with neutral umpires. The ANZ U19 Girls start at 9am and the boys at 10:30am.

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Pacific Youth and Sports Conference





PYASC wraps on a high-note

Host country New Caledonia were the big winners this evening, taking home four of the eight prizes up for grabs on the final day of the Pacific Youth and Sport Conference.

Thirteen of the countries attending the conference had the opportunity earlier this afternoon to spend ten minutes presenting the projects they have developed and refined over the past five days.

The eight different prizes had certain criteria attached with the Prix du gouvernement de la Nouvelle-Calédonie being available only to New Caledonia projects, the SPC Award available only to Non-Communicable Diseases projects from any country, excluding Australia and New Zealand while the PYASC Award and New Caledonia Awards could go to a Sport for Development project from any country.

The two major New Caledonia prizes, in which only the host countries projects were eligible, went to the cities of Noumea and Mont Dore.

The Mont Dore Beach Games will run over four weeks of the summer holidays, three days a week. The initiative aims to bring together all of the young people in the wider suburb. The goal is to accept each

other's differences and leave everyone with a strong feeling of inclusion.

Noumea was represented by the Association Kaledoaction, which based its project on the conference theme of Education. The proposal will see youth invited to take part in a number of different workshops such as graffiti art, dance and slam in an effort to inspire them to learn, while having fun. The well-organised presentation was a crowd favourite.

The two New Caledonia Government prizes, which were open to all countries, were eventually awarded to two well thought through prizes from the local delegations of Païta and Province Nord.

Both projects addressed social inclusion with the group from the north focusing on people with disabilities through their Handicappable idea which aims to change the way people look at people with disabilities – to look further than what you see at first sight. Païta's project is aimed at integrating young people into society and giving them a sense of worth.

The PYASC Award went to the delegation from New Zealand who focused on the theme of social inclusion. The objective is to raise and develop empathy and awareness of physical

and intellectual disability. The project will be launched in Dunedin, New Zealand.

Two UNICEF Awards were handed out, with Samoa and Solomon Islands taking the honours.

Samoa's "Silence" project will launch a sport event in the next 12 months to raise public awareness of mental illness and build resilience.

Solomon Islands developed Youth Substance Striker – Kicking the Habit by Kicking Goals. It aims to reduce the number of people abusing drugs and alcohol which is a major problem throughout the country, but in the capital of Honiara, where the project will be piloted, especially.

The final prize of the evening, the SPC Award, was presented to Tahiti for their Health themed programme No te Ora, 'a Ha'uti 'Ana'e, or For our Life, Let's Play. The programme will tackle Non-Communicable Diseases – a major issue affecting the majority of the island nation's population in one way or another.

All of the award winners received \$3,000 in prize money that will go towards further development and implementation of the projects that were presented at PYASC.

The jury was comprised

of Isabelle Austin of UNICEF, Sophie Beauvais of ASOP and Viliami Puloka of the SPC, with voting assessed by Edward Bernard of the ILO.

The official closing of the Pacific Youth and Sports Conference 2013 followed the awards ceremony and was a chance for the organising committee to thank each and every one of the people who helped to make the conference a success.

"New Caledonia, thanks for making this happen in your country," SPC Director General Jimmie Rogers said.

"To the Minister, Heads of Delegations of all the Pacific Islands countries and territories, it's wonderful to have you here.

"Our young people here behind and all around you – you should be proud of.

"Because for the past week they've transformed not only themselves into instruments of change, but they have the potential to transform their communities, their countries and our region into one.

"To the youth here tonight, you are our future. Shape our countries, be instruments of change, because that is what we're here for this week and I'm very happy that the Ministers are here to witness it."

- Media release

Does Minister Heather have an unfair contractual advantage?

Being the Minister of Infrastructure and Planning and the owner of T & M Heather Ltd the country's biggest public works contractor will not exclude Teariki Heather from tendering for spin off sub project contractual opportunities from the \$60 million Te Mato Vai.

Just what and how much local contractors can expect to be offered to bid for is still closely protected information that Heather has privileged access to. What if any, will be broken down to just under the \$30,000 mark in order to escape the contestable tendering process giving the Management discretionary rights to award the contract to a company of their choosing? Will this dubious practice be used to feed the Minister contracts as has alleged to have happened in the past.

With Heather having access to the Master Plan draft that details the estimate costs for the nearly 70 different sub projects within TMV currently totaling \$72 million. For example project number 3 is the Avatiu Storage Reservoirs under the category of water storage, cost \$NZ 593,000. Project number 21 the Turangi storage reservoirs cost is \$3,672,000.

While the Peoples Republic of China company China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) will account for half the project's budget that still leaves \$30 million to be dispersed among competing contractors.

Will all potential bidders be provided with the detailed financial estimates Heather has had the privileged access to for many months? Already there are murmurings among some members of the TMV Steering Committee who question how they are going to raise this concern with Minister Heather.

Does having this information give Minister Heather a distinctly unfair advantage over other building supplies and construction competitors? The Cook Islands is a country where



Minister Teariki Heather - Soon to be smiling all the way to the Bank?

access to privileged information resulting in the unfair practice of insider trading is seen as business smartness and astuteness over competitors as loop holes in the law are the order of the day.

In Parliament on Tuesday 3 December Minister Mark Brown assertively stated the politicians had separated themselves "from the rewarding" of TMV. He also stated "The work should not be overseen by politicians."

Let's hope Minister Heather hears every one of those words because it is obvious he is directly involved in the overseeing process. Heather traveled to China recently to check the pipes met the specifications, what is that called? If not overseeing, then what?

Arranged deals that give the more business savvy are not unusual, currently the country's biggest businessman Trevor Clark owner of CITC and the Colagate allegations of unprecedented commercial advantage and a massive multimillion dollar tax wrought are before a Public

Accounts Committee hearing being conducted in secrecy. The net result of the PAC session will be a likely recommendation of an independent Commission of Inquiry, a strongly suggested scenario veteran MP Norman George has been advocating. Geoff Stoddard's the former Inland Revenue collector's close tag team working association with Clarke has now surfaced in the Court of Appeal and exposed as anything but appropriate in a tax assessment appeal case by Rarotongan Beach and Spa Resort owner Tata Crocombe, a competitor of Clark.

TOA Petroleum's owner Brett Porter enjoys a significant commercial advantage over all other businesses in the Cook Islands due to an in house deal struck up between himself and a former Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management. (MFEM) Porter effortlessly collects over \$100,000 a month courtesy of the tax payer for eight years. While many businesses are currently struggling to stay solvent in a

stagnating economy, Porter is able to without reservation flaunt his ostentatious life style. What other business in the country can continue to rapidly expand (A new cycle shop about to open in Avatiu) and be government guaranteed to at least break even or remain solvent for the next six years?

It's not the first time Porter has sponged and enjoyed the financial backing at individual investors and the tax payer's expense. The Marthalina saga is a seedy story of its own.

It's no secret Heather has back tax issues with the Tax collector and TMV is an opportunity to receive substantial contracted work to make amends with MFEM and catch up on the years of fiscal famine. A pool of \$60 million is a lot to spread around among all the local contractors so let's hope the Project Managers KEW Consult Ltd take the moral high ground and ensure Minister Heather's access to privileged information is not schemed into a covertly unfair commercial

Continued bottom of next page

About those cracks in the wharf and spin doctoring



Neves - No worries mate those cracks are only this big

After reading Government's response to the media publicity about the cracks in the new multimillion dollar Avatiu wharf development one can only come to the conclusion the Ports Authority CEO Bim Tou's spin doctoring efforts are comical.

Even the Minister of Finance Mark Brown commented in Parliament's question time the cracks were normal and due to shrinkage. Hello, any experienced concrete worker will tell you shrinkage cracks are one directional, structural failure cracks are multi directional just like the photo evidence reveals.

Normal? What a load of pure

100% hog wash! Of all the seven experienced concrete workers who gave an opinion of the Avatiu wharf cracks, none said the cracks were normal. In fact everyone said the contrary.

Next door, the locally built Avatiu harbor extension after nearly ten years strangely is minus any of those normal shrinkage cracks that are getting worse after every unloading on the multimillion dollar foreign built wharf. Both are concrete surfaces, the crack free one was built by locals and that's a lesson this Government still ignores, that is we have the local expertise and skills to do the work.

When the question was

Neves - Sorry mate I told you a furfy, they are this big

raised in the House why didn't the experienced concrete manufacturer Minister of Planning and Infrastructure Teariki Heather make the reply? Instead it was the articulate Minister of Finance Mark Brown whose comments only served to demonstrate he was talking eloquently beyond his comprehension of the facts.

Come on Heather how about demonstrating some integrity and tell the house Brown's answer was so far removed from reality as the moon is from the earth and come clean, the Avatiu wharf's concrete deterioration is a serious problem that needs immediate remedial attention.

Or was Heather so embarrassed about what was happening under the CIP Government's watch that he was smart enough to dodge the bullet and expediently kept his mouth shut and let a fellow contender for the Deputy Prime Ministership put his foot in his mouth and make a fool of himself.

Donor funding no longer has to be boomeranged, it's about time our political masters understood that and imposed that understanding on the donor agencies, otherwise drop the go local mantra and say local go because your skills aren't needed as much as an Australian mine.

- George Pitt

From previous page

advantage over his competitors.

Will the fiscal rewards in the offering drive Heather's motivation to sway the resistant factions during the public consultations to embrace TMV? As the Minister most closely linked with TMV Heather is not in an enviable position and all credit to him if he can sustain transparency and his credibility because if any indiscretions are perceived they will be unearthed and dealt with if there is a change in Government.

Already there are concerns in the bowels of MFEM that TMV contracts are not perceived to be handed to T&M Heather on a plate or they receive an

imbalance of the \$30 million worth of sub project contracts expected to be contestable through tenders. With enough to deal with on their political plate Cook Island Party insiders consciously want to avoid political fallout over allegations or litigation over the perception that Minister Heather has received preferential or favorable treatment because of insider trading.

Whatever Financial Secretary Richard Neves feels Minister Heather has got away with in the past will not be repeated, he is adamant the reins are kept tight from now on knowing he has the support from Prime Minister Henry Puna.

Minister Heather can be over assertive when public works projects require private sector collaboration; rumor has it the former longtime and experienced Water Works Director Ben Parokoti is lost to MOIP due to Minister Heather wanting more than his share of the crushed metal supply for T&M Heather Ltd.

Competing contractors have also indicated it is a foregone conclusion they have an uphill battle to be awarded contracts while Minister Heather has access to confidential information and holds a principal position in TMV.

It has been suggested MOIP secretary Mac Mokoroa has

made an advance payment of \$60,000 to T&M Heather to purchase gravel; these funds were used by Minister Heather while in transit during his recent China to purchase equipment in New Zealand. Proactively anticipating he will be contractually involved in the lucrative TMV project this equipment was a preparatory purchase for that purpose.

While it is expected the TMV project management contractor Kupa Engineering and Water Consult Ltd (KEW) will be part of the tendering process no details are currently known to the public as to how the 65 plus sub projects and contracting bids will be processed. - George Pitt

Teens these days...

By Norma Ngatamariki

Hello peeps! The official school holidays are almost upon us, so, for the juniors who are still struggling through their last week of school, hang in there! Anyway, as you may have picked up from the title of the article, I'm going to talk about teens. Basically, I'm going to give you an insight on what makes them tick, why they do the things they do and how to handle them. As a teenager myself, I know quite a few things about teens that would surprise you, but I'm not going to shock you with the details.

First off, the most likely way you'll get to know a teen is through their Facebook profile. Social networking is becoming more common these days and websites such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and MySpace are popular with the teens. Why meet someone face-to-face when it's more convenient to look up their profile online? Seriously, the state of these people. Call me old-fashioned, but I prefer meeting someone in person before I actually add them as a friend on my FB page, just to stay on the safe side. You never know, you might have added a serial killer and all because you thought his profile sounded cool. (Just saying)

Nowadays, teens are more into their electronics than ever! If you own any of the following: A Samsung S4, an iPhone 5, an iPad 3 (the list goes on forever, then you are the shizz) People seem to judge other people by what kind of phone they have. Electronics also enables teens to access the Internet and to music, which is our main source of entertainment. What would we do without our jams? Get bored to death, that's what. I am a classic example of a teen that relies on music to get through my day.



This may not be surprising, but we teens also love new experiences. We like to experiment with what's out there and discovering for ourselves what's right and what's wrong. This could be stuff like sex, establishing new friendships or even alcohol. Whatever the case, a teenager's curiosity is a force to be reckoned with. If we're not satisfied with the advice our parents give us, then we'll just go ahead and find out on our own. Trying out new or trending fashions is one of our many traits.

Physical exercise is another thing for teenagers to tackle. It's all about body image these days. If your body doesn't match the "ideal" physical appearance that's seen in magazines, then there is something wrong with you. Quite frankly, I disagree with this. Big time. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and you should always feel comfortable in your own skin. If you aren't, then change it. Teens are pressured to look "fabulously skinny" (which is defined as losing weight until you can see your ribs) and keep up with the latest fashion. Your body image is what you make of it.

The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

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Android - Getting Started

I am hoping this post will at least cover enough to get most users from their first power on to first post easily.

So you have bought your Android Tablet or received it as a gift, or however you acquired your little toy. Now what? I am not going to go into the history of Android, or talk about specific OS versions, but I will hopefully provide a primer that will get you going in the right direction.

Day One - Unboxing

Let's assume that you are like the majority of people and you are NOT going to read the documentation. Don't worry, a lot of tablets don't even come with anything, and a lot of those that do the docs are not particularly good. Here are the basics of what you need (I hope).

POWER UP

1. Plug it in to the wall to charge it up. Assume that it was at least partially charged at the factory, but you really do want to let it charge up all the way. At the time of writing this almost every single Android Tablet has a small LED on the front that will glow red while charging, and change to green when it is full. Be sure to charge it all the way the first time.

There is also a lot of debate and discussion about battery use and life, etc., so if you want more info then do a search in the forum or Google. Either way, my experience is you will get the best long-term use if you let it run all the way down and charge it full for several cycles when you are starting to use the tablet.

2. Power up your tablet. Let it boot completely up, since this may or may not be the first time it has ever been started it can take several minutes to boot all the way up. Many of the manufacturers are now customizing the Home Page, so this can look different depending on your tablet, but again I have found that almost always if you look at the pictures on the box there is at least one that looks like your Home Page.

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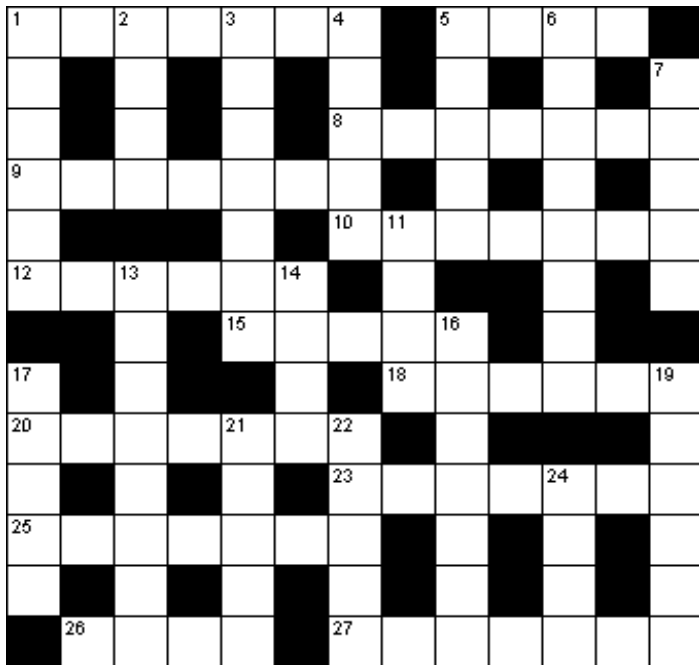


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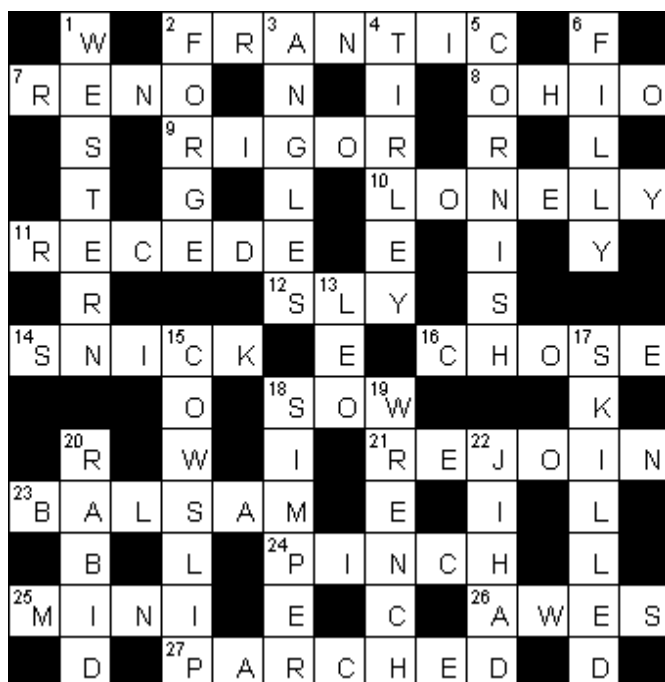
1. See (7)
5. Rime (4)
8. Paving substance (7)
9. Spear-like missile (7)
10. Couple (7)
12. Expensive (6)
15. Defiles (5)
18. Unarm (6)
20. Not either (7)
23. Public sale (7)
25. Notice (7)
26. Repudiate (4)
27. Supervise (7)

2. Norse god of thunder

- (4)
3. Curtain calls (7)
4. Slope (5)
5. Hippopotamus (5)
6. South American boa (8)
7. Speak (5)
11. Bring into complete union (4)
13. Cosy (8)
14. Symbol of slavery (4)
16. Genuine (7)
17. Mournful sound (5)
19. Excrement used as fertilizer (6)
21. Full of hills (5)
22. Rate (5)
24. Evils (4)

Down

1. Clean dishes (4,2)



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.

WANTED: A UNIQUE COOK ISLANDS NAME FOR OUR MARINE PARK

New Hope Church

Parekura Conference Centre

Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you

Sunday at 10.30am



Karate youngster wins CIMAA award

"Martial arts helps me to face life, to understand our society, to relate to people, to compete in tournaments, to feel confident to walk on the street, to help people, to forgive."

Brazil Jiu Jitsu master Rickson Gracie

Coco Putt at Aroa, Arorangi, venue for the Cook Islands Martial Arts Academy [CIMAA] Awards 2013 was buzzing as parents, supporters & students witnessed and celebrated Adoni Rairoa, 12 yrs, from Rangiatea [Matavera], recipient of the CIMAA Student of the Year Award for Overall Excellence.

Adoni is Head boy at Avatea Primary School. In 2006 at age 5, he enrolled into the Academy and has continually over the years, persevered to attain his goals in life thru martial arts.

An all-round sports enthusiast, an Avatiu Eels soccer player, and a rising star in the world of Bowls at the Tutakimooa greens.

When interviewed Adoni said: "Shogun

Dojo is like home, I enjoy the martial arts feel, the friendship, discipline, and mostly, learning to become a better Cook Islander in the near future."

Academy Chief Instructor Shihan Dan Turua explains: "He is the youngest student to receive this award, donated by the master carvers Michael and Henry Tavioni in 2000. Teumere Koteka was the first recipient in that year. Other holders are Mark Anderson, Issac Tutai, Angela Makikiriti, Tania Apera, Justine Vano and John Lowry."

"I'm so humbled to have been Adoni's mentor/teacher for the past 8 yrs, God willing, this talented kid will endeavor to walk the walk, hopefully, achieve his Blackbelt in 2015," Turua added.

- Shogun Media



CIMAA DISCIPLINE EXCELLENCE AWARD 2013

JUDO - LITTLE DRAGONS: Maiata Newnham

JUNIORS : Zsaleya Sword Tua

INTERMEDIATES : Epi Mana

SENIORS : Dane Newnham

KATA - LITTLE DRAGONS : Estelle Short

JUNIORS : Arikitoa Allsworth

INTERMEDIATES : Khan Metuarau

SENIORS : Maea Richmond

KUMITE - LITTLE DRAGONS : Antony Apera

JUNIORS : Luke Areai

INTERMEDIATES : Khan Metuarau

SENIORS : Adoni Rairoa

CIMAA MOST OUTSTANDING OVERALL AWARDS

LITTLE DRAGONS : Antony Apera

JUNIORS : Luke Areai

INTERMEDIATES : Khan Metuarau

SENIORS : Adoni Rairoa

CIMAA STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD:

ADONI RAIROA

COOK ISLANDS MARTIAL ARTS ACADEMY 2013

ASSESSMENT & GRADING RESULTS

LITTLE DRAGONS:

Maiata Newnham - YELLOW
Antony Apera - YELLOW
Estelle Short - YELLOW

JUNIORS :

Zsaleya Sword Tua - GREEN
Riley Firmstone - GREEN
Asia Areora - GREEN
Mana Wakelin - PURPLE
Arikitoa Allsworth - PURPLE
Memory Mana - PURPLE
Robert Ruaporo - PURPLE
Luke Areai - PURPLE
Rouruina Porio - PURPLE

INTERMEDIATES :

Siana Short - PURPLE
Maka Ponia - PURPLE
Khan Metuarau - BROWN
Epi Mana - BROWN 3rd kyu

SENIORS :

Maea Richmond - BROWN
Dane Newnham - BROWN
Naomi Mana - BROWN 3rd kyu
Kristian Young - BROWN 3rd kyu
Adoni Rairoa - BROWN 2nd kyu

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MOVE MORE

HEART FOUNDATION

Cricket Briefs

Muri Emerge as Edgewater Round Robin Cup Champions

The Matavera women were favourites to end The Edgewater Round Robin Cup as winners last weekend however a surprise loss to Takuvaine opened the gates for the Arorangi Red Hot Chicks and Muri. Both Arorangi and Muri collected four points with wins over opponents Te Ava Rau and Nikao respectively.

The wins meant both Muri and Arorangi ended the season on equal points with the winner needing to be decided by Section A of the Rarotonga Playing Conditions 'by who beat who' during their round robin play. That honour went to Muri and with it the title of The Edgewater Resort and Spa Round Robin Cup and a direct spot through to The Edgewater Resort and Spa Champion of Champions.

Arorangi get their chance for revenge however as Muri and Arorangi are coincidentally both in this weekend's Edgewater East vs. West Conference Cup final. If Arorangi win they will head through to the Champion of Champions final (Muri have automatic qualification as Round Robin winners), however if Muri win on Saturday they will automatically collect the Champion of Champions title.

All finals matches are being played at neutral venue Turangi with neutral umpires. The Edgewater Resort and Spa women's match starts at 12:30pm.

The Edgewater Round Robin Cup final standings: Winners Muri, 2nd Arorangi, 3rd Matavera, 4th Takuvaine, 5th Avana, 6th Tupapa, 7th Turangi, 8th Nikao and 9th Te Ava Rau.

East Meets West In This Saturday's Final

Having gone the season unbeaten the Tupapa mens cricket team were crowned The Computer Man Round robin cup champions and with it direct entry into the Champion of Champions final. However Tupapa still have plenty of work to do when they meet western conference winners Titans in this weekend's East vs. West final.

The Titans are one of only two teams that have pushed Tupapa close this season so the match is sure to throw up plenty of nerves for Tupapa and provide Titans with confidence.

Tupapa, having already gained entry into the Champion of Champions due to winning the round robin cup, understand that if they can beat the Titans this Saturday not only will they have claimed the round robin cup title, the East vs. West title but they will also automatically collect the Champion of Champions title.

Should Tupapa lose to the Titans, Titikaveka will advance through to the Champion of Champions final the week after, where the two teams will meet again.

All finals matches are being played at neutral venue Turangi with neutral umpires. The Computer Man men's match starts at 3:15pm.

The Computer Man Round Robin Cup final standings: Winners Tupapa, 2nd Titans, 3rd Matavera, 4th Turangi, 5th Muri, 6th Arorangi, 7th Takuvaine, 8th Nikao, 9th Davana and 10th Tupapa 2.



CIMAA 2013 Adoni Rairoa - Student of theYear AWARD

How to earn the respect of others

part 1

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

The purpose of this message is to encourage us with our attitude and behaviour before we move into the New Year 2014. Some people in the community are not getting the respect they should get from others simply because of their attitude or behaviour. Yet they wanted people to respect them. Let us look at what the Bible say on 'How to Earn the Respect of Others'. Proverbs 22v.1 reads "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favour rather than silver and gold." It is in our nature to want to be respected by others, to be valued as important by others, to have a good reputation! The key to good reputation is character! Reputation is what people say about you. Character is what you really are in the inside! The Bible says that 'man looks at the outward appearance of a person, but God looks at the heart!' Our character produces respect. The question is "What Character or Behaviour, produces respect?" The Book of Proverbs says... Speak with Integrity / Honesty; Serve with Intensity; Share with Generosity; Succeed in Humility. If we manage to do the first 3, then we will be able to succeed with the last one. Let us look at Lesson 1 SPEAKING WITH INTEGRITY / HONESTY Integrity means "If you say Yes! it means Yes!" "No! means No!" Proverbs 17v.7 (GN) reads "Respected people do not tell lies." People of integrity don't lie. Jesus said that "He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life". God does not lie. Remember also that Satan is the 'father of lies'! Proverbs 25v.15 (GN) reads "Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of gifts he does not give." Are you a person who promises something and doesn't keep it? Let us look at some illustrations! "Don't worry, I'll return it as soon as I'm finish with it!" "I'll pay you back next fortnight!" "When I get my raise in salary I'll start tithing!" The great Napoleon Bonaparte of

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

France said "Promise anything, but deliver nothing!" Proverbs 10v.9 (GN) reads "The man of integrity walks securely." In other words "Reliability" produces "Stability". Let us evaluate ourselves on Integrity! "How honest am I with my wife?" "How honest am I with my husband?" "How about children with their parents?" "How about us with God?" Proverbs 27v.21 reads "The person's reputation can be tested." Test yourself on Integrity! Lesson 2 SERVE WITH INTENSITY This means having the desire to help others, be interested in serving others, be enthusiastic about doing good, and in serving God. Proverbs 14v.22 (GN) reads "You will earn the trust and respect of others if you work for good." If you do good you will gain the respect of others. Jesus said "If you want to be great, learn to be the servant of others!" Jesus said "I come to serve and not to be served!" Mother Theresa (in India) once said that "It's not what you do that matters, but how much love we put in it!" The Apostle Paul said in Colossians 3v.23 "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." I believe that wherever we are, whatever we do, God put us there for His purposes. And that is why Paul said "...whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." (Colossians 3v.23) – serving with INTENSITY! Proverbs 11v.27 (GN) reads "If your goals are good, you will be respected." I also believe that there is no such thing as 'great people', they're just 'ordinary people' committed to 'great purposes!' It is my prayer that you will find this article of Encouragement helpful and useful in your life forthwith. May you have an enjoyable; useful and a God blessed festive period and beyond. Te Atua te aoa.





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and a Prosperous New Year.*

Youth conference highlights



By Hareta Tiraa Passfield

Last week I attended the second youth and sport conference in New Caledonia. It was by far the most rewarding experience. I made friends from all over the Pacific and I got experience all the cultures of the Pacific.

How I got involved in this conference was pretty much like any other. I got a form, I filled it in and then waited. A few weeks later I had been told that I would be going to New Caledonia in November. The following week (after I got accepted) we got to meet all the people that would be going with us, the group started out really big then slowly people dropped out due to

other commitments. After months of fundraising we finally got the money to make the trip possible.

On the 30th of November a group of 13 people boarded a plane to New Zealand, the team consisted of 10 young people from all over the Cook Islands and 3 delegation leaders. It took almost a full day to get to New Caledonia but it was all worth it. The first of seminars we got to listen to some amazing people. They spoke about all the things that the youth of today is facing for example, teenage pregnancy, Non communicable diseases, sexually transmitted diseases and many issues. Over 500 people attended the conference, countries such

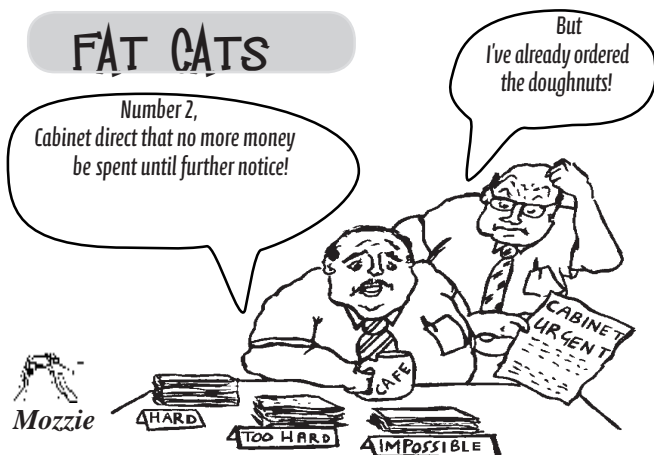
as Samoa, PNG, Vanuatu, Tonga attended (more than 15 different counties sent flag delegations).

After the opening we broke off into smaller groups where we attended workshops where we learnt about how to face the issues that we as teenagers face. On the first night the New Caledonian team put on a show for everyone and it was most amazing display of talent I'd ever seen. It was something out of a movie. There were young boys around the age of 10 that were doing back flips and all sorts of stunts. There were women doing ballet and gymnastics. And there were men break dancing.

The next day was a busy

day full of seminars and making new friends. Each seminar was different. I learnt so many new and interesting things that I can't wait to share with everyone here. We tackled some big issues, like social inclusion and disability inclusion. That night was when all the other counties had to put on their cultural show. The Cook Islands team did a haka, a short fast beat and a longer slow beat which got the crowd cheering. I was so thankful to have some amazing dancers on the Cook Island team. I was so proud to be part of the team. I'll continue this article on next week running out of space.

FAT CATS



Talk about hypocrites, while Jacko and his fellow restaurateurs are up in arms over the Muri night Market not having toilet facilities, what about the Vaka Eva breakup party hosted by Traders? With over 800 people reveling it up many couldn't get near a toilet so both men and women were unashamedly emptying their lot against the side of the buildings and not a public health inspector insight. Just like the liquor rules, there's one rule for some and another one for the others.



Livelihood of local fishermen affected by cheap Chinese drop offs? C'mon Don Don, you can't include game fishing charters among this lot. Game fishing charters make their prime income from charters not the fish. The reason why those game fish did not sell was because the restaurants were already oversupplied with game fish! The Chinese don't drop off "game fish" Don Don, you know that!



Chook asks, what's the point of a multi-million dollar water treatment system to feed households with drinking water if the same households are going to collect potentially bird and rat poop infected rain water from their rusty roofs? How will that water be treated for harmful metals and bacteria?



Don't pull out the old pipes! Leave them

COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



CHOOKS CORNER

WITH BIG RED



in the ground to service the agricultural sector so they have their own separate system which does not interfere with the domestic system! Just fix the leaks. Will someone in government start using their brains says one outraged chook.



Oh dear chooks! National Standards for the water project? Has the Public Service gone stark raving mad? Minister! Restore some sanity-please! You can't just decide one minute to develop national standards at the drop of a hat. Where's the legislation that allows you to do that? You can't just borrow bits and pieces of other countries standards without their permission. Will our standards be recognized internationally? A cut and paste job will have no credibility. Where is our national standards body responsible for registering and reviewing and formulating national standards? Oh dear! Looks like we'll need to call on more overseas consultants!



So the CIP chappie, knowing his chances are already down the toilet, pulls

out of the Murienua petition hearing, on the advice of the Leader we hear. To try and force another by-election? This is utter crap says one chook who points out it costs the tax payer some \$30,000 to stage a by-election and now we are possibly facing another one! This nonsense of forcing a by-election simply because the result doesn't go your way is nuts and the Court must knock it on the head! If the Beer fellow ran a clean campaign he should be declared the winner! It's like a game of rugby. If one team defaults, the other side gets the win and the points. The defaulting team cannot say let's play the game again next week.



How much dosh did government put in to help Miss Cook Islands get to the Solomons for the Miss South Pacific pageant? Whisper is when Miss CI won the float parade, the banner was not put on the float! Cook Islands girls consistently win this pageant and so deserve to have full government support. These girls are great, intelligent, ambassadors for

the country. It's high time government supported winners-not losers! Watch now as all the social climbing politicians try to leap onto the Miss CI bandwagon!



Whoops chooks! Chinese funded grader in Mitiaro has ended up submerged in the mud! Solution? Government has had to hire a machine from T&M Heather to go by barge to pull the grader out!



Oh dear chooks! Whispers on CNN-Coconut Network News, that the Chief Law Scribe and the Guardian of the dosh box have advised the Lord High Mandarins that to change the tax laws to quell the grey hairs revolt, would be frowned upon by our foreign, tax like minded, friends! Their fear is that this bureaucrat ridden heaven would lose its credibility! But what say ye "Alex" a top constitutional lawyer in NZ? Art thou in the frame? Surely thine Lord High Mandarins should have consulted more widely! As one outspoken bearded Rabbi-like developer of note has oft been heard to advise, "Grow some Kosher balls!"

Cook Islands
HERALD
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The point of no return

By Charles Pitt

Very soon, government's aspirations of winning the next election in order to advance its ambitious work programme, will reach a point of "no return."

That point will be when it becomes crystal clear to government that it will not win unless the matter of back taxing the NZ pension is resolved. But it may already be too late.

At present government has allowed its vision to become clouded by assurances from outsiders (non-Polynesians) that it is "on track."

Unless government wakes up and soon, somewhere up ahead on the "tracks" the government is going to become de-railed.

Government has lost an important sense of value in that by preferring the advice of outsiders it has forgotten

the importance in Polynesia of the "extended family." The NZ pension is not just spent by the elderly on themselves, it is also distributed through the rest of the family. It assists with the upkeep of the whole family. This was the wisdom of earlier governments when for more than 15 years, they decided not to apply tax although the law was clear.

The PM seems to have

forgotten that his mentor, former Finance Minister Sir Geoffrey Henry resisted taxing the NZ pension. The PM, a strong promoter of the Polynesian Leaders Group, also seems to have forgotten how important it is in Polynesia, to include the elderly. The actions of this government have the effect of shutting them out. If the elderly turn their back on this government, then it is finished.

Pacific Youth and Sports Conference



PUBLIC NOTICE



Business Trade Investment Board
Cook Islands

TROPICAL XMAS IN RARO PAVEMENT ART COMPETITION

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

When: Friday 20th December 2013

Venue: Lagoon Side of the Avarua CBD, Opposite Foodland

Limited to the school pupils/students of the Cook Islands
5 to a team plus 1 parent!

Criteria and Registration Forms available.

Registrations close Friday 13th December, 3pm.

Contact: Trade and Marketing Staff, Taimata Allsworth or Te Tuhi Kelly.

Phone: 24-296 or Email: taimata.allsworth@cookislands.gov.ck for further information.



Letter to the Editor

Response to latest letter from Teremoana re: Conflict of interest

Thank you for entertaining us with your verbal diarrhea and providing Ngapuhi Filmworks with free publicity. Please read my response again as it states my position. I will not be providing further comment, the public deserve better reading than this.

Terry Rangi

PUBLIC NOTICES



**TE APONGA UIRA
FESTIVE SEASON TRADING HOURS**

Te Aponga Uira will close for the Christmas/New Year holidays from 1pm Tuesday 24th December 2013 and will re-open for normal operations at 8am on Monday 6th January 2014.

Customers seeking new power connections before Christmas will need to have completed administration work (application, inspections, etc) by 4.30pm Monday 23 December 2013.

During the holidays, the following services will be available:

1. 24 hour fault services remain available 7 days a week throughout the festive period. Call 25 257 for this service.
2. Receipting of electricity payments only on your accounts will be available at the Tutakimoa Office on the 27th, 30th and 31st December 2013 and 3rd January 2014 between the hours of 9am and 12 noon.

"We wish you a Happy Xmas and wonderful New Year" – The Board and staff of TAU.

TENDER



**MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE
AND PLANNING
Expression of Interest**

**CLEARING OF VEGETATION, SORTING
RECYCLABLE MATERIALS, PROCESS AND SHIP
TO NEW ZEALAND
CONTRACT No. C13/16**

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning seeks registration of interest from Contractors for the Clearing of Vegetation, Sorting out of Recyclable Materials from the old Turangi Dump Site, Process and ship to New Zealand reputable recyclable partners of your choice.

Registration of Interest will close at 3pm on Friday, 20th December 2013, and must be submitted to the MOIP Office in Arorangi and addressed to:

Contact: Fred Hosking
Project Officer
Ministry of Infrastructure
and Planning
P.O.Box 24321
Email: fred.hosking@moip.gov.ck
Phone: +682 20321

VACANCY



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

PUBLIC NOTICE



Business Trade Investment Board
Cook Islands

TROPICAL XMAS IN RARO NITE MARKET
in Association with the Takuvaine Tutakimoa Committee
and the Avarua Business CBD

STALL SPACES AVAILABLE LATE NIGHT SHOPPING

When: Thursday 19th December 2013
Venue: Opposite Banana Court, Maire Nui Drive
Time: 5pm – 9pm

Limited space available for Food & Beverage and Arts & Crafts Vendors.
Reserve a stall now!

Criteria and Registration Forms available.
Registrations close Friday 13th December, 3pm.
Contact: Trade and Marketing Staff, Taimata Allsworth or Te Tuhi Kelly.
Phone: 24-296 or Email: taimata.allsworth@cookislands.gov.ck for further information.

French Ambassador visits the Cook Islands

His Excellency Laurent Contini, the French Ambassador Designate to the Cook Islands will visit the Cook Islands from 10 to 19 December 2013 to present his credentials to the Queen's Representative as the Ambassador for the Republic of France to the Cook Islands.

The Ambassador is based in Wellington and is concurrently accredited to New Zealand, Niue and Samoa. Ambassador Contini replaces his predecessor His Excellency Francis Etienne as the French Ambassador.

The Cook Islands and the Republic of France established diplomatic relations in 2000 and have enjoyed over a

decade of friendly relations. France has provided invaluable maritime surveillance assistance to the Cook Islands including interception of foreign vessels in Cook Islands waters illegally. Maritime Surveillance assistance has also been rendered via French air force flights in Cook Islands airspace.

The Ambassador's visit also coincides with the arrival of the French Navy Vessel Le Prairial, on its routine visit to the Cook Islands.

The French Government has also appointed an Honorary Consul for the Cook Islands, Mrs. Nathalie Rossette-Cazel Tierney.

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KA INANGARO MAATA IA: TETAINGOA 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 teianei ka anoano ia tetai ingoa tuke uake rai ei tapiri atu kite pae ite tutu-akairo.

I teianei, 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 aranga 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 teianei koia, kia rauka mai tetai INGOA no to tatou marine park – ko tetai mea maatamaata rava atu i roto i teianei 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 Tiren.

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 vaitata rai e ki runga pouroa ite au mea ka piri atu kite Marine Park.

Ina! Tetai ingoa kia kapiti atu kite tutu-akairo! Peea 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.