

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

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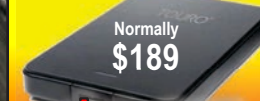
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NEWS FLASH

Taxing of local Pension may be illegal

By Charles Pitt

It has come to light that the taxing of the local pension may be illegal. That is because the amendment to the Income Tax Act 1997 has not yet been passed by parliament.

The Herald has learnt that the Cabinet submission from the Ministry of Finance seeking Cabinet's approval to the amendments only went to Cabinet last week on 19 February.

The proposed changes to enable the taxing of the old age pension under Part IX of the Act are contained in the "Income Tax Amendment Bill."

This Bill also contains a raft of other changes including the change to VAT.

Where the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Internal Affairs derive the lawful authority to tax the old age pension when the law enabling this to be done has not

yet been enacted, has not been explained.

Government has not yet indicated when the House will sit.

The Herald understands that if the VAT changes are not passed in parliament, government stands to lose some \$8 million in revenue. However, why that should be a concern is questionable since government already has some \$18 million sitting in its reserves account.

McCully gaffe on pension tax?

By Charles Pitt

Did NZ Foreign Minister Murray McCully get it wrong?

If the report in last Tuesday's daily that McCully endorses the Cook Islands government's right to tax the NZ pension, is correct, then it is a most inappropriate endorsement from a diplomatic point of view.

As a senior diplomat, McCully is fully aware the NZ government cannot be seen to be endorsing another government's internal administration of its laws and must maintain a neutral stance. He must be careful not to allow our government to draw NZ into the controversy surrounding the taxing of those on the NZ pension or allow NZ to be seen to be propping up a government whose dubious policies have made it very unpopular.

Minister McCully if he had been fully briefed by his local office, would be well aware that the controversy surrounding the issue of back taxing the NZ pension is not going away in a hurry. He will be aware that Grey Power is seeking legal advice on the issue from a QC in NZ. While Grey Power numbers are small, their influence as community elders is extensive and their influence on voting patterns in the next election will be critical. Their numbers are also likely to

increase now that a growing number of local pensioners are expressing concern that their pensions are now subject to tax after 49 years of being exempt from tax.

McCully should also be aware that the matter is so contentious that it will be an election issue. He should have noted the huge swing away from government as the former CIP safe seat of Murienua went to the Democratic Party in last week's by-election. As an experienced MP McCully will sense that the writing is clearly on the wall for the Puna government. Endorsing the CIP's unpopular taxation policies will not help Puna.

McCully should also be aware that previous Cook Islands governments had for some 17 years adopted a no-tax policy in relation to the NZ pension. Although the existing law required tax to be paid, even if a pensioner wanted to pay the tax, government refused to accept payment due to the no-tax policy.

The current government ended that policy in 2012 without any warning or prior notice. This is tantamount to poor governance. Government then, without any prior warning, raided bank accounts to seize back tax when the legal right to do so was unclear. It was so unclear that MFEM had to seek an opinion from

an as yet unidentified QC based overseas. Does the NZ government support these examples of poor governance? Those actions have been likened by some locals to Gestapo tactics. The reason for the change in policy was never explained –another example of poor governance, but it is

suspected that government needed cash to counter a \$1.9 million deficit.

During his time in the Cook Islands it would have made more sense for McCully to have devoted some time to discussions with the Democratic Party opposition, after all, they could very well be the next government.



SWITCH ON WITH
TE APONGA UIRA

What's in a basic survival kit?



Cyclone Kofi passed well away from us this week, thank goodness!

But keep your survival kit handy. With two months left in the cyclone season, now is not the time to relax.

Be sure you maintain a torch, portable radio and spare batteries in your survival kit. Keep a first aid kit close by and a supply of tinned foods to last you three days, along with a can opener and plastic cutlery and plates.

www.teaponga.com

Super Brown raid a Police set up?



Super Brown Store Tupapa

The early morning raid of Taoro Brown's Tupapa home and 24 hour Super Brown business last Thursday isn't the first time the Police have taken an investigated interest in him. Friends of the Atiu Mayor claim the recent police raid was a set up to ensure Brown would be charged and convicted of something because of their past failures to have him charged with a criminal offence.

The Police raid closed the Super Brown business for over four hours while a warranted search was conducted prompting speculative rumours to be rife around the Island within minutes of the highly visible presence of the nine police officers.

While Brown is remaining tight lipped after fronting up to Court and being charged with receiving stolen goods, friends have plenty to say about Police actions bordering on harassment and victimisation. They claim Brown's successful

businesses on Rarotonga and Atiu have caused commercial jealousy and a concern he is about to extend his commercial interest in Aitutaki and Mitiaro. They also say Brown's political aspirations have got some upset and made him a target for discredibly.

"There are at least two sides to the story and only the Police side and rumours are being heard including he's going to prison."

Brown's relationship with successful business people is also an issue of jealousy as it is perceived some of them had funded Brown into his business ventures, "some are simply jealous of Taoro's success but that's been the result of a lot of hard work. Taoro's success has helped a lot of people who think highly of him but it has also made him some envious enemies."

"If the Police were impartial and did their investigation properly they wouldn't have acted hastily in charging

him," stated a friend, "when other people are investigated the Police run off to Crown Law to get an opinion, so why not this time?"

Earlier before being charged on Friday 28 February Brown claimed the Police had removed packages of cigarettes from his shop and Police said he had fully co-operated with their investigation. Brown had claimed the cigarettes were dropped off on the day before and was assured by the provider they were not stolen. Brown also claimed the cigarettes were expired past their used by dates and started to think they had been retrieved from the rubbish tip. Brown said he hadn't paid for them and was too busy to decide what to do with them.

The speed at which the Police acted after Brown had received the goods is cause to believe this was a set up insist Brown's friends. They also state the provider is the Police's prime witness after

the Police convinced him to cooperate because they wanted Brown not him. They question the Police charging of Brown prior to charging the provider with the theft of the cigarettes. "How can the cigarettes be stolen if no one has been charged with stealing them?"

The other concern is, will the cigarettes be safe in Police custody? Evidence held by Police has in the past gone missing. Police claims the cigarettes are valued at \$13,000 is ridicules seeing they are past their used by date stated Brown's friends who are encouraging him to sue the Police after he is cleared. This incident was engineered to wreck Taoro's reputation stated his friends who are pointing the finger at several business and political individuals that this publication cannot name.

Brown represented by lawyer Tina Browne will defend the charge of receiving laid against him.

- George Pitt

Over 300 pensioners without RMD forms

On Saturday 1 March, the Ministry of Internal Affairs paid 1,054 pensioners on the island of Rarotonga. It was an ambitious pension run, as this was the pension payment that incorporates the combination of the 25% increase in pensions from 1 March 2014 and the new tax changes. The pension for those 60 and over increased from \$200 a fortnight to \$250 a fortnight, and for those aged 70 and over from \$250 a fortnight to \$312.50 a fortnight.

It is a requirement for a pensioner to submit an RMD number and choose which tax bracket they would prefer to be in. For many pensioners who earn no other significant income in a year that would be the 0% bracket.

728 pensioners filled out their forms whilst 356 have not completed their RMD forms.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs will extend the period by which pensioners are able to submit a form in order to receive the correct amount of the pensioner. Those pensioners who have not submitted a form will get the opportunity to submit it before Tuesday 1 April and the Ministry of Internal Affairs

Marginal tax rate	60+ (\$250.00 fortnight)			70+ (\$312.50 fortnight)		
	Payment	Tax Deducted	Number of people	Payment	Tax Deducted	Number of people
0% form submitted (earn below \$11,000)	\$250.00	-	287	\$312.05	-	267
18.5% form submitted (earn \$11,000 to \$30,000)	\$203.75	\$46.25	98	\$254.69	\$57.36	27
27.5% form submitted (earn \$30,000 to \$80,000)	\$181.25	\$68.75	31	\$226.56	\$85.49	11
30% form submitted (earn \$80,000 and over)	\$175.00	\$75.00	6	\$218.75	\$93.30	1
Total Forms Received			422			306
No form received	\$175.00	\$75.00	214	\$218.75	\$93.30	112
Total People Paid			636			418

will make an adjustment to ensure that people get the correct amount.

For example, if you are 70 years and over and earning below \$11,000 year, and have not submitted a form, submit your RMD form declaring your income by 1 April to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Your next pension payment (if you earn below \$11,000 a year) will be for the regular \$312.50 plus an additional \$93.75 to correct for not submitting a form earlier (a total of \$405.25). For a 60 year old pensioner that will be \$250 plus \$75 (a total one off payment of \$325).

We strongly encourage

everyone entitled to a pension to submit their RMD form to Internal Affairs as soon as possible to fix this administrative issue so they can enjoy their full benefit.

If forms are not received by the end of March, then pensioners are advised that the next opportunity to

correct for any underpayment would be during their tax return at the end of the year. If they have had too much of their payment withheld, they will receive a refund from RMD once their tax return is processed.- Media release from Ministry of Internal Affairs

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The great pension fiddle

By Charles Pitt

One golden rule of politics is never fiddle with the old age pension just before a general election, especially if that fiddling reduces the amount the pensioner gets compared to previously.

This CIP government in making the old age pension part of the taxable income, is playing with fire. We often tell children not to play with matches for good reason. This CIP government however, is playing with a blow torch and has already set fire to the bridge behind it.

Some pensioners will have got a shock when collecting their pensions on Monday. They will have discovered that after tax, they are collecting less than they got before.

Example: one pensioner previously collecting \$200 a fortnight, now collects \$181. Even though the pension has increased to \$250, there is \$69 payable in tax leaving \$181. That's \$19 less than what the pensioner collected before.

However, government say that now the pension must be added to other income and there is a drop in the tax rate which puts some money back into most pockets. Yes, that's true. The same pensioner now receives an additional \$40 a fortnight because of this drop in tax. When this drop in tax is taken into account, the pensioner, at the end of the day, is \$20 ahead each fortnight.

The next question is, will this extra be enough to cope with the increase in VAT? The increases in the cost of electricity, telephone charges, petrol, food, government fees for car registration and so on.

Those on the local pension need another income just to cope with current costs. How the tax review missed this obvious point is a mystery. The Democratic Party however, recognize this and have indicated they will make the local pension non-taxable as it was previously.

The true test of government's meddling with the local pension will come at the next general election. For the CIP, don't count on the votes of local pensioners and remember there are 1,700 of them. Add in 300 pensioners from Grey Power and that's a sizeable portion of the voting public.



You may have seen this pretty face, our Front-page model Jesse Blizzard serve you coffee at Reefside Rarotonga. The 16 year old is currently taking a gap year here in Rarotonga working for her parents at Reefside Rarotonga, while doing a bit of online studies. Next year she heads to University in Melbourne, where she will be studying towards a double degree in Journalism and Marketing. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck. and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald



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The Cook Islands Herald now has a QR (Quick Response) code.

Simply scan this code into your Iphone or Smartphone and it will automatically take you to the Herald Website in your phone's internet browser.

CIP full steam ahead to being a one term government

The Bureaucratic revolution chokes political will of Government

The Cook Islands Party Government is lazy and is now paying a price rendering their political plight irreversible. The next general elections will see them tossed out with as little as four seats retained on Rarotonga.

Preoccupied with enjoying the overseas junket trips and the trimmings of being in power the CIP Government has left the front door open for the bureaucrats led by expat Richard Neves to plunder their agenda and political will. High level decisions do not reflect the policies and principles of the CIP.

The politicians are now at the mercy of a bureaucracy of obesely paid officials who have prescribed and institutionalised all the boundaries in which our lazy political masters can operate as a government. Neves has single handed orchestrated the demise of the Henry Puna administration.

The CIP is reaping what it has sown to the point their failure to curb the likes of Neves has cost them any further chance of governance. The Murienua by election was the third strike out and a message to the government they are living on borrowed time. The first by election in Murienua was campaigned on personality and won by the CIP candidate Koata Tuariki but once James Beer during the second by election took the tax issues to the people it signalled electoral disaster ahead for the CIP.

There is a serious erosion of political authority going on where everything is being determined by officials who consistently throw out the line of established rules, law and policy. We don't see any connection between the political agenda/mandate and what the bureaucracy is doing. They have become an authority of their own, which is dangerous



Prime Minister Henry Puna and Financial Secretary Richard Neves

if this dismantling of political power and authority is allowed to become government proof. The price one pays for being self serving.

The CIP government's grandstanding politics of self enrichment has undermined their primary duty of providing impartial justice for all by standing up for the overdog at the expense of the underdog who are

being crushed by the weight of Neves numerous uncaring efforts to get out of the \$2 million deficit hanging over his head.

The CIP executive needs to step up and do something and retrieve that connectivity back between what the Party wants and was voted in for, and what the government does. As one plain and simple example, we don't see the issues of a Tax Review anywhere near the party manifesto of 2010 or

part of any mandate received from the people. Delving into taxation before an election is suicide and exactly why no incumbent government ever does it.

Attempts by the Public Service Commissioner Russell Thomas to extend his powers to include

budget appropriations are not being determined by Cabinet, further evidence Neves is wearing the political pants.

Both New Zealand and Australia have gone this way already leaving politicians very little wriggle room. That may be okay for them but for a small nation like ours, the political will and its influence to get things done and make the votes count is crucial.

With the guess work taken out of

predictions who will win the next general elections, it is a fore gone conclusion the CIP will lose it, this has prompt the Democratic Party to start their selection process for candidates. Such is the confidence in the DP record numbers of hopefuls are offering their names for selection. Ngatangia currently have eleven putting their hand up with nominations closing at the end of March.

The CIP is reaping what it has sown to the point their failure to curb the likes of Neves has cost them any further chance of governance.

the ministerial office staff were driven by Neves' influence but where totally rejected by the Minister's politically appointed CEOs. Thomas demands to be provided with job descriptions and CVs of all ministry support staff fell on deaf ears.

At a recent retreat of support Ministry CEOs and Heads of Ministries, Neves made it clear the next budget would have a deficit of \$1 million, this is indicative the forth coming

- George Pitt

For those who have forgotten... Tax increase not on

Tuesday 22 Feb 2011



Finance Minister Mark Brown has no plans to hike taxes. 11021819

Finance Minister Mark Brown said at a press conference on Friday that there is “no truth at all” to recent speculation that government has plans to increase taxes.

“In fact, what we’re looking at doing is trying to provide an environment for business to actually thrive and adding taxes to the equation definitely doesn’t do that so that is not on the agenda – any increase in taxes or even the re-introduction of the levies,” he said.

“In fact, we’re looking at ways where we can try and ease the tax burden on people without compromising government’s

ability to collect revenue to meet its social obligations.”

He said that instead of increasing taxes, government hopes to generate revenue by stimulating economic activity.

“What we’re trying to do is create revenues by increasing productivity and increasing economic activity and getting our gains from that,” Brown said.

One way government hopes to increase productivity on a national scale – and to discourage the depopulation of outer islands – is to do away with income tax and company tax for businesses in outer islands.

Brown said the proposal has

not met with much resistance, probably because people realise that there is “very little commercial activity” in outer islands (with the exception of Aitutaki).

“I’m getting some economic modelling done so that we can get an indication of what impact it’s going to have on the economy,” he said. “What we’re going to propose at this stage will have a minimal effect.”

Brown said that government does not plan to lift VAT (value-added tax), either in outer islands or on Rarotonga.

“I know New Zealand has done it but what they’ve been

able to do to offset that – because it affects low earners primarily – is offer tax cuts to the low earners,” he said. “Here our low earners already receive a \$10,000 tax free threshold so we don’t have an ability to even offer them any incentives. If we were to increase the VAT we’d be adding a burden without taking anything away.”

Brown added that the Cook Islands has one of “the best tax regimes in the region” and that the country’s PAYE (pay as you earn) system is “much more progressive” than that of other neighbouring nations.

Rachel Reeves

Memories of my fallen M.P. Friends

By Norman George MP for
Teenui/Mapumai (Atiu)

Twenty nine of M.P.s, I served with have passed on. I wish to share some fond memories of them with you.

Sir Terepai Maoate was a real charmer. He can charm the devil into submission! That is when he wants to. Of course when the charm is reversed, it can turn into a volcanic eruption! He had some nasty streaks of being unforgiving.

I can never forget the scene captured on television when he and Peri Vaevae Pare were together at the Rarotonga airport. Peri was there to see Maoate off on a flight to Aitutaki. Maoate had his arms around Peri's shoulder they exchanged pleasantries and laughed a lot. Two days later, Peri was fired as a Minister. Pai had the dismissal warrant signed two days before the airport scene. It was a real Godfather act!

Pai had a very heavy baritone voice which can unnerve the unwary. He sometimes dominates Parliamentary debates with his booming voice.

Stubborn, hard, arrogant, forceful with intervals of gentleness in between.

He was good fun to drink with at cocktails; he could dance too, much better than my humble efforts. Pai was always physically fit with impressive appearance. One could never think that with such physical qualities that he could never ultimately be hit with a fatal illness. We were both good friends and remorseless adversaries.

Matepi Matepi was one remarkable character and a

great fun to be with. He was a first cousin of Laveta Arthur's. There was always sex related jokes and gossip.

Matepi was unusually intelligent, although his education was restricted by not studying outside of Mangaia. As an only child, he was extremely spoiled. He made up for the lone child situation by producing many of his own.

Pi had a great fear of the dark. Whenever he went across to have drinks with neighbours in Matavera, he would make sure he got home before it got dark. Walking past strange cemeteries on the main road in Matavera must have been challenging for Pi.

He loved robust debate. His favourite opponent was "Inatiotio". Both Matepi and Papamama Pokino were sons of former M.P.s, both succeeded their fathers. While the dynastic pattern looked good for a start, it disintegrated after two general elections.

Matepi eventually lost his seat to Nooroa Samuel. Matepi died in Sydney after living there for 10 years. His body was brought back, we took him for a quick prayer service in Parliament before he was flown to Mangaia for burial.

Utia Matata was a devoted CIP from Arorangi. Quietly spoken, he never shook the building with thunderous debate. He was reputed to have struck the lotto for a million dollars while retired. Papa Utia never did anyone any harm. He was a giant in

his village of Puaikura.

Papa Jim Mare was a giant of a man, also from Puaikura. At 6ft 6inches, he was tall, strong and very gentle. Papa Jim entered Parliament as a CIP in 1983. Sir Geoffrey Henry upset him and 5 others by his regular meanderings that when Geoff broke off a coalition with the Demos in 1984, 5 CIP caucus members stayed behind. They were Raymond Pirangi, Sir Terepai Maoate, Papa Jim, Ngatupuna David and Mariri Paratainga.

Papa Jim made the mistake of his life when during the distribution of cyclone homes after Cyclone Sally in 1987, he awarded himself one. That led to him losing his seat to Tom Marsters.

Sir Pupuke Robati was the M.P. for Rakahanga for about 30 years. He was elected way back in 1965. The man lived and breathed Rakahanga during his life time. The people of the northern group benefitted a lot from Pupuke during his tenure.

He was Papa Tom's deputy in the Democratic Party. He had a brand new airport built for Rakahanga. The problem was it was partially built on a reef.

Unfortunately whenever there were very rough seas, the airport would be heavily damaged.

Attempts to build a new airport for Rakahanga failed because Pupuke refused to relocate the airport to another site, he insisted on the same site. It would have meant heavy maintenance whenever there are rough seas.

The man was stubborn, cunning, devious and very



smart. He and the late Dick Chapman, who was public service commissioner, had a little racket which I stumbled on by accident. The island of Rakahanga which had a population of just over 200, had over 50 government workers!

Every able bodied person had a job. Atiu with a then population of 1,200 people only had a dozen labourers. I soon jumped into the act by having Dick Chapman employ an additional 30 plus labourers.

Putting food on the table for families in Atiu became my justification.

Papa Pupuke was defeated for the first time in his life by the late ex-cop Piho Rua. Very few of the current crops of M.P.s can match this M.P. for resourcefulness and devotion to his people!

A Pink Day in Paradise



Araura College organised the investiture ceremony of its student representatives and student prefects on Friday 28th February in the school's Prince Edward Hall.

Guests included the Honourable Minister of Education, Teina Bishop, his worship Mayor John Baxter, Deputy Mayor Tekura Bishop, Orometuas, Ariki Chiefs, PTA members, staff, students and proud parents.

The Principal, Tracy Spiers, welcomed the guests and addressed all the students of the college not only outlying what it takes to be a leader and what responsibilities the leaders will have but also inspiring them to become future leaders.

Pastor Charlie Charlie spoke about leadership and the importance of 'we' not "I" when being a leader, he also blessed the badges and all of the student leaders.

The Minister of Education and the Mayor and his deputy pinned the badges of the Student Representatives and Prefects. A total of fifteen student representatives and ten prefects have been entrusted with

responsibilities to carry out their obligation as the new student leaders of Araura College.

The Minister of Education used this opportunity to speak about the importance of working together as a team - the students, the staff and the parents all taking a part in education.

The Head Girl for 2014 was named as Teremoana Benioni with the Deputy Head Girl: Fasolo Tekatau

The Head Boy for 2014 was named as John Charlie with the Deputy Head Boy: Christopher Titi

The 2014 Girl Prefects are:

- Tekuralmoko
- Maria Marsters
- Mareta Potini

The 2014 Boy Prefects are:

- Apera Vaasa
- Apike Marsters
- Hosea Teiti

The event concluded with a speeches by the head boy and girl, they too spoke about working together as a team and making this year the best yet for Araura College. Then the student representatives and prefects made a pledge of allegiance to the college to fulfil all their duties for 2014.



Old newspapers brought back to life in exhibition

By Charles Pitt

Twenty three newspapers dating from 1896 are being exhibited at the National Museum.

The "Cook Islands Newspapers Exhibition-Te Tuianga Tua Tapapa" opened at 3pm on Tuesday and will last for a month.

The copies of newspapers for the exhibition came from various sources but mainly from the National Archives.

After an opening prayer by the Catholic Bishop, Museum manager Justina Nicholas welcomed guests and spoke of the theme of the exhibition which was "connecting our storylines." She thanked Chief Archivist George Paniani and his National Archives staff for their input. Nicholas said the show was about telling the community our stories. Paniani said the diverse range of papers illustrates the freedom of news and the people who wrote about politics and the way the country develops. He said National Archives had copies of 25 different newspapers but on this occasion, 23 were on show. He presented a look back, through old newspapers, at cyclone Sally, one of the most destructive hurricanes to hit the Cook Islands in 1987. Cyclone Sally made a direct hit on Rarotonga after passing close to Suwarrow and Palmerston.

The diversity of the newspapers on show is an eye opener and it was surprising to note how active and prolific journalists have been since 1896.

The earliest paper on show is the Catholic publication "Te Torea" started in 1896. It reported on events arising from the activities of the Catholic communities.

Another early publication was the "Cook Islands Gazette" started by the Federal Council in 1898 and printed by Henry Nicholas.

A community newspaper also printed by Henry Nicholas in 1898 was the "Io'i Karanga."

It was interesting to see a copy of the newspaper started by Albert Henry in 1936 called "Te Akataurira."

This exhibition of historical newspapers is well worth a visit and would be especially educational for school children.



Justina Nicholas welcomes guests to the exhibition



Public Health launch Invest in your Health Campaign

Public Health launched its "Invest in Your Health" campaign on Wednesday at the park across the road from the Banana Court. Two Billboards were also unveiled as part of the event. *Photos by Poko Utia.*





Letter to the Editor

Message to the Prime Minister, Ministers and people of Murienua

Dear Editor,
I want to tell the Prime Minister, the Ministers and the people of Murienua why James Beer gave that money (\$50) when he came to have a talk at our Grey Power meeting.

Every meeting we have, we put \$5 or more, whatever you want, into our kitty and that money is used to pay for the hall we have our meeting in, our tea, coffee, sugar, milk and also our expenses and if any member has passed away, we give a donation.

So all of you out there, now you understand, ok. If you don't, you are dumb so don't blame James for giving us that money. We all thought that was very kind of him to do that. When Richard Neves came to our meeting he never gave any money to put in our kitty. That's how mean he is or has no feelings for us to make a donation. See, he is not one of us. He has no feelings that's why he back taxed us, as long as he gets what he wants from us.

So Murienua, don't blame James now you know this is from a Grey Power member. One voice, one choice.

P.S. Pensioners, you better join Grey Power as they are taking your money too. This is what Grey Power is fighting for, the back tax and to pay tax. Kia manuia.

News Briefs *By TeRiu Woonton*

Reusable Nappies for the outer islands

After last year's Xmas in the market event, Rotaract Rarotonga donated funds of \$500 each from the event to Avatea Primary School and Nukutere College to help assist with the rebuilding of the schools and the Rarotonga Tongan Community for the victims of Cyclone Ian. And this month they are giving back to the community again! A batch of reusable nappies bought from NZ will be sent to the outer islands, from Rotaract Rarotonga. Mauke has already been sent their share of reusable nappies and the organization is looking at Pukapuka next before distributing them to the other islands. The initiative is to encourage re-usable nappies, which will also be cheaper for mothers in the outer islands

Creative Centre cruise to Aitutaki

The General Manager of Polynesian Rental Cars & Bikes, Arthur Pickering along with Teariki Numanga, Assistant to the Management of Air Rarotonga, have taken upon themselves to organize a day tour to Aitutaki for the students and teachers of the Creative Centre.

Ten students along with 4 caregivers who will fly out on a special charter flight by Air Rarotonga will depart this Thursday the 6th of March. They will be met by the students and members of the Aitutaki Creative Centre who will join them on the cruise.

For the students who are unable to partake in the day tour to Aitutaki, will be hosted to a lunch, courtesy of Gerard and Erika from Café Salsa.

Pickering says the initiative came about after realizing that most of the Creative Centre Students have never been off the island, in fact may never get to see the outer islands. He says the trip to Aitutaki may change their whole outlook on life and whether it's big or small the students contribute to our busy society and yet their efforts often go unrecognized.

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Tips & Tricks

Prevent Phishing Attacks

Protect yourself from identity theft and phishing attacks by using the latest versions of Firefox, Internet Explorer, and Opera. These browsers include protection that double-checks URLs against a blacklist, and will notify you if you're about to visit a known phishing site.

Back Up Your Data

You must back up your data, period. If you have the means, we highly recommend an external USB drive (see The Computer Man for advice). If you already have an extra drive in your system—but just need some good backup software—try the free version of 2BrightSpark's Syncback, which is sublimely easy to configure.

Encrypt Sensitive Files

If you want to encrypt sensitive data, you can buy a portable USB drive with built-in encryption like the CMS ABS-Secure Encrypted Backup System, but if you just want to protect a specific folder or group of files, we recommend Truecrypt, which is free. It encrypts a custom-sized volume with 256-bit AES encryption, so it's extremely secure.

Verify Your Backups

Many people have a "set it and forget it" mindset when it comes to backups. Even after you establish a regimen, however, it's critical that you check the target folders periodically to ensure the proper files are being backed up. If not, re-configure your backup routine to make sure it's working properly.

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China : “We live for the Future”

By Howard Henry

I grew up during the years of the Vietnam War.

While living on Rarotonga during the 1960's, with no television and very little overseas news coverage, the Vietnam War was almost insignificant. We all knew that it was happening. But because we were not directly affected, there was little or no interest with what was going on in that country.

While going to school in New Zealand, the situation was a little different.

In those days there was only one black and white TV channel in Auckland. And all news about the Vietnam War was heavily censored and so we, the public, were only told what the Government of New Zealand wanted us to know and to believe.

The New Zealand Government, along with the Government of Australia, sent troops into Vietnam because the Americans asked them to do so. The reason they were sent was supposedly to stop the spread of Chinese communism, through Vietnam and into the various countries of South-east Asia.

Looking back at that period of time of the late 1960's and early 1970's, the people of New Zealand, Australia and the United States were virtually “brainwashed” through political propaganda as to why troops had to be sent to Vietnam and why the war in that country had to won at all costs.

We were told that the Vietnam War was to stop the spread of Chinese communism. We were told about the “domino theory”. This being that once communism got a foothold through military invasion and conquest of Vietnam, the communist military machine would then spread to invade Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore. Each country would then fall like a “domino” under

the control of the Chinese Government in Beijing.

Once those countries had fallen to communism through military invasion, the next “domino's” to fall would be the Philippines and Indonesia. This would then bring the military might of Chinese communism to the borders of Australia and so be on the verge of invading New Zealand.

That is what the public of that time had been “brainwashed” to believe. Even the Governments and most politicians of that time, firmly believed, that this was the case. And so everyone looked upon China with great fear and suspicion as being a “Communist Military Aggressor”.

Most people in New Zealand supported sending troops to the Vietnam War because that was the war that was going stop the spread of Chinese communism. That was the war that would prevent New Zealand coming under the threat of Chinese domination through military invasion.

History now shows how wrong we all were.

The Vietnam War was not about the spread of communism. But rather, it was all about self-determination for the people of Vietnam. They had already fought a civil war against the French in the 1950's and “kicked” them out. Then they were invaded again with troops from America, New Zealand and Australia under the pretext of stopping communism.

And so the people of Vietnam rose up a second time to rid their country of unwanted foreigners. But in this case, the Chinese military came in on their side. And so with the help of the Chinese Army, the people of Vietnam ... won the Vietnam War.

The Americans, and her allies were all driven out of that country. And so communism took over Vietnam as their

preferred political option for self-determination.

The “domino theory” never materialized.

Chinese communism did not spread to engulf neighbouring countries.

Chinese military did not progress to threaten any other country in the region as first feared.

All the reasons originally given as to why the Vietnam War had to be fought ... were then seen to be baseless and wrong.

Moving forward to the present day ...

China is now the second largest economic power in the world behind the United States. In a few years it will be the largest and most significant economic power the world has ever known.

Whether we like it or not, the economic strength of China is what so many countries of the western world are now depending upon. A strong Chinese economy will mean a strong economy and prosperity in those countries as well. A weakening Chinese economy will have a similar adverse effect on those countries who deal and trade with China.

Australia's largest trading partner is China. The annual export of mineral resources in particular is phenomenal. It is therefore the Chinese economy which is fueling the Australian economy to the levels of strength, growth and prosperity which it currently enjoys.

New Zealand is exactly the same. Their number one trading partner in the world is also China. Through the export of dairy products and other food exports, it is therefore the Chinese economy which is fueling the New Zealand economy to the levels of strength, growth and prosperity which it currently enjoys.

The question is therefore asked as to where does the Cook Islands fit into all this mix.

Our number one industry is tourism. New Zealand is our principle market with Australia being our second most important market. In order for our tourism industry to flourish and prosper, it is of critical importance that the economy's of New Zealand and Australia continue to flourish and grow as well.

In order for that to happen ... will depend entirely on China and its economic performance. If China's economy continues to grow, then so does the economy's of New Zealand and Australia which in turn will mean that our tourism industry will continue to prosper and grow as well.

If the Chinese economy goes into deep recession, then so will the economies of New Zealand and Australia which will mean that the Cook Islands tourism industry will consequently go into recession because of what had happened in those two countries.

We are all economically inter-connected. Each dependant upon the other. But it is China who is the economic driving force and so it is in the best interests of the Cook Islands that the Chinese economy continues to grow and prosper in order for our tourism industry in particular to prosper.

There are still some people walking around today with the 1960's and 1970's mentality towards China. They still have an element of political fear towards that country. They distrust anything China does in the South Pacific because they are still “thinking” the same “thinking” of the 1960's and 1970's.

In some ways you could say they are carrying a “Vietnam War Hangover”.

But times have changed. The world has changed.

Stop living in the past. ... we have to live for the future.

TE REO MAORI



Tēta`i Au Kōrero Pakari ā tō tātou `Ui-Tūpuna

Some Wise Sayings of our Ancestors

E mānganui `uātu rāi te au Kōrero Pakari, te au Tuatua ta`ito `ē te au Mānakonako`anga `o`onu ā tō tātou `Ui-tupuna te kā riro `ei tauturu i tō tātou au `akakoro`anga `ē te kaveinga tau tā tātou e umuumu nei. Te vaī ra, te vaī ra `ē te vaī ra kia māro`iro`i tātou i te kimi makitoro atu.

Tātā`ia e Ruteru Taripo

`Utia te kura-ora, avai`o te kura-mate

Pull up the sacred emblem of life, but touch not the sacred emblem of death

Kano e, kanokano atu ki te paerangi

Move, and move onward steadily to the horizon

Kaura! Kaura! Kaura tapu vananga

Reveal! Reveal the sacred teaching

E ra kurakura teia, kua nakenakea mai

This is a bright clear day; it makes one cheerful and happy

Mātiketike! Mārangaranga! Ka roko`ia koe `e te pō kino, `e te pō `ara, `e te pō tapu, `āitu ē, e ara!

Arise! Be alert! Lest you be tempted by the evil night, the sinful night, the sacred night! Take care! [A saying of Encouragement]

Tēnā pa`a tei i ā koe, `akiā mai! Tikiri-rī!

Perhaps you have it! Give it your all! Tikiri-rī

`Ei tō rima rāi te rapa i tō `0e.

In your hands is the blade of your oar

Korokoromaki, E aruaru mārie atu rāi

Persevere and strive on relentlessly

Pākau rikiriki tei tae ki Ārangī-Rea, ākā `ua ia

What little that arrives at Ārangī-Rea is totally adequate (Arangi-rea is a marae)

E kariko pao ngatā

A shell in the sea that is very hard to crack –representing:

A very stubborn person

Moemoeā panako

The small fish which never properly goes to sleep

Be wary, watchful, wide awake, hard to beat

A`aere marie e aku pōtiki kia kite koe i ngā inapōtea

Go quietly my sons, so that you may see many moonlight

Go slowly and be careful so you may live longer

Kōkiri kai ate

A small fish which eats its own liver

A person who is always angry and who does not try to get rid of it

Hot temper

Kia pupuru ō vaevae, kia mokora o kakī

Your legs like the *pupuru* and your neck like the ducks

Be wise, be steady and cool/ Stand firmly and be alert

A te kereārako `ua koe

You are like a kerearako. You are a big talker

A person who makes a lot of noise

Akara ka ve`u te punā vai

Be careful or the clear pool might become dirty

Be careful that your cleverness does not turn into foolishness

Pakau a kikino kia kite te rave

A person who does not look well for the job but when he tackles it he does it well

Poor tool but well used

E tu`a Pukuruva`a-nui

A Pukuruva`a-nui distribution

When the food is distributed everyone gets a share

Kia mau te Selenga, Kia mau te napenga

Hold on to your identity, hold on to your heritage

Me mawutu, ka tungakilu Me waletiko ka wakayapi

Me kite koe i toou kāpua`anga e toa koe

**Aue te kakara i angi mai mei silo, kua topa kina tapatapa o te ao nei Kua uiui
te no`o o te henua E oue...eaha teia?**

`Ānau`ia i te piriau matangi, aaki te tōrea i tāna putarananga

Performed like their mighty mother who laboured to bring one to this world

Kia `aite tāku ki te pe`au o te tavake, i te akatika`anga

i tō tātou rere`anga ki Avaiki

Let us be like the wings of the white tropic bird coordinating our flight home.

[Let us be in harmony]

`E rā au te `opu atū ra, `e rā koe te `iti māi ra

I am the setting sun, you are the rising sun

Tēnā pa`a tei iā koe, `akiā mai! Tikiri-rī!

Perhaps you have it! Give it your all! Tikiri-rī

Bowls Cook Islands to World Invitation Tiger Bowls, 2014

By Ben Mose, BCI Media Watch

Early off the starting blocks are the Champion Bowlers from the 2013, Nationals Fours, men and women Gold Medalist. Who are they and where they come from? But first, what do we know, about Tiger Bowls!

In 1997, the year Hong Kong reunified with China, Lawn bowls Training Centre hosted the "Hong Kong Reunification Cup" in Graigengower Cricket Club and invited all the clubs in Hong Kong to participate. Ten years later, in 2007 and 2011 the "Hong Kong Reunification Cup" was held again, this time in Shenzhen's Bijiashan Park.

And in 1998 the first Tiger Bowls was held in Hong Kong. Today the tournament is held in high esteem throughout the world. In 2001, Hong Kong Lawn Bowls Training Centre introduced lawn bowls to China, meeting with the personnel from China National Sports Bureau's Small Balls Administration Centre in Beijing and introducing them to the modern game of lawn bowls.

Team Bowls Cook Islands, will be under the management of Tour



Team Manager, Papatua Papatua. 18 countries mostly from Asia/Pacific will be there and the Cook Islands team are : Men : Lawrence Paniani, Philip Jim, Vaine Henry and Tere Daniel. Women : Mata Vaile, Tereapii Urlich, Irene Tupuna and Tonina Browne.

The team will be farewell by Bowls Cook Islands and CISNOC at the Rarotonga Bowling Club on Saturday 8th March 2014.

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How to stay away from trouble

part 1

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

Many of our young people now-a-days are being tempted into doing things that will bring harm to them. As responsible citizens we should do what we can to help them. Therefore this Article of Encouragement is written with the aim of assisting our young people, and also offers some guidance to help others also on HOW TO STAY AWAY FROM TROUBLE.

In John 10v.10 Jesus said Satan comes “..to steal, kill and destroy, but I have come that you may have life, and that you may have it more abundantly.” Furthermore, Isaiah 59v.19 says that “..When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.” The main scripture reading for this article is Psalm 1v.1-3 (GN) which reads “Happy are those who reject the advice of evil men. Who do not follow the example of sinners, or join those who have no use for God, instead, they find joy in obeying the Law of the Lord, and they study it day and night. They are like trees that grow beside a stream, that bear fruit at the right time, and whose leaves do not dry up. They succeed in everything they do.” From these three verses, I want to show you three important lessons on How To Stay Away From Trouble!

Lesson 1. SEPARATE YOURSELVES FROM THE WORLD v.1 reads “Happy are those who reject the advice of evil men. Who do not follow the example of sinners, or join those

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

who have no use for God.” Although we are in this world, we do not belong to this world! Jesus said in John 14v.2-3 “..I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.” The apostle Paul said in Romans 12v.2 “..do not be conformed to this world..” I John 2v.15 and 17(b) “If anyone loves the world and the things of it, the love of the Father is not in him..” James 4v.4 reads “..whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes an enemy of God.” Anyone who continues to remain in the world, and does what is not right in the sight of God, is committing a sin before God.

In the story of Sodom and Gomorrah; and the great flood during the days of Noah, people refused to repent and to separate themselves from the things of the world, so they perished. Romans 6v.23 reads “..the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Noah and his family were saved! Lot and his daughters were saved! But for Lot’s wife, the love of the things of the world was too strong on her, so she was also destroyed!

Jesus said in John 16v.33 “..in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but



be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” Some people might say, ‘I can’t get away from my old habits of drinking, smoking, partying, and so on. I can’t change my ways!’ Know this, ‘if God can change a murderer like Saul into a new person, then God can do the same for you!’ James 4v.7, v.10 says that if you “..submit to God and resist the devil, and the devil will flee from us... and if we humble ourselves in the sight of God, He will lift us up.”, and out of our negative situations.

Remember that God never allow us to be tempted beyond our ability to overcome those temptations. But He provides a way of escape for us! The apostle Paul in Romans 8v.31 said “If God is for us who can be against us.” In order for us to stay out of trouble, Lesson 1 is we must SEPARATE OURSELVES FROM THE WORLD! Next week I will continue with Part 2 of this article on How To Stay Away From Trouble. May you have a God blessed week, te Atua te aroa.

Student Leaders and the Assembly

By Norma Ngatamariki

Since the Investiture, a lot of responsibilities have fallen on the shoulders of the 16 student leaders from Te Kou, Ikurangi, Te Manga and Maungaroa. It was decided that, as part of our job description, we should be given the responsibility of leading the school assemblies. At first, I was like, OMG this is what I signed up for? I took a little while to think it over. Well, what did you expect, Norma? Being a student leader doesn't mean that you're just given a nice-looking uniform to wear around. With that uniform, there will be certain expectations to be met. I guess leading the assembly was one of those expectations.

We had a whole week to prepare for this assembly and I hoped that it was more than enough time. Our supervisors had given us the roles in which to fill: two MC's, two people

to read the scriptures (Maori and English), two people to say the prayers and read out the theme speech (again, in both languages). The rest would be on seating duty. I volunteered to read out the English scripture (I think it was the holy person inside of me trying to reach out) and soon the others followed suit. Nobody wanted to touch the theme or MC roles, so they had to be chosen.

The theme for this particular assembly was service. How exactly do you serve your school? It was a question that was hard to answer. But I had to find a scripture to match the theme and because of 3G (which I am totes loving right now) it was possible. I looked it up on Google (so convenient) and found the perfect one: 1 Peter, 4:10-11. Yes! Now all I had to do was memorize it.

In the end, I decided that I

couldn't squeeze that whole thing in my head, so I just read off a paper. On the actual day of the assembly, we had a little run through just to see how things flowed. Apparently, it looked good. The bell fired a shrill sound, signalling the end of second period. It was time to get this party started!

Jessica and Nadia were the awesome MC's for the day. They would invite the leaders and the teachers inside while the school was standing. It made me feel really important, but for real though...When we finally reached the stage, I realized how big the audience was. I was getting the chills. Jessica started off real nicely and invited Nurse for the opening prayer. Robyn and I were up next, with Robyn reading the Maori scripture. I'll admit, I was nervous but I just wanted it over and done with.

We all got positive feedback



from the teachers and students, so I reckoned that we did a damn good job. Now, I know for a fact that the leaders are going to fight over themselves for the seating roles, because no one is going to touch the MC and Theme roles. I can't wait for the next assembly.

Love is in the air

By Nadia George

Nadia is a Year 13 student at Tereora College, and a student leader for her Anau, Maungaroa. Her interests are paddling, performing arts and media studies. She enjoys spending quality time with family and friends.

Last week, Saturday, my friend Nga wanted to go all out, for a romantic dinner with her partner. So she asked me if she could use my parents' rental house as the venue. Me being the person who loves to be in the midst of special occasions, I said yes and even volunteered to help out a little. She had everything planned out, well kind of. She got her three cousins, Justin, Norma and Stephanie to help out as well, using them as the cooking, waiting and cleaning staff. I immediately felt envious of her, if only my cousins cared enough to do that for me lol.

So anyway, Nga showed up at the house around 6pm with grocery bags full of ingredients, or so I thought. Turns out she, (in

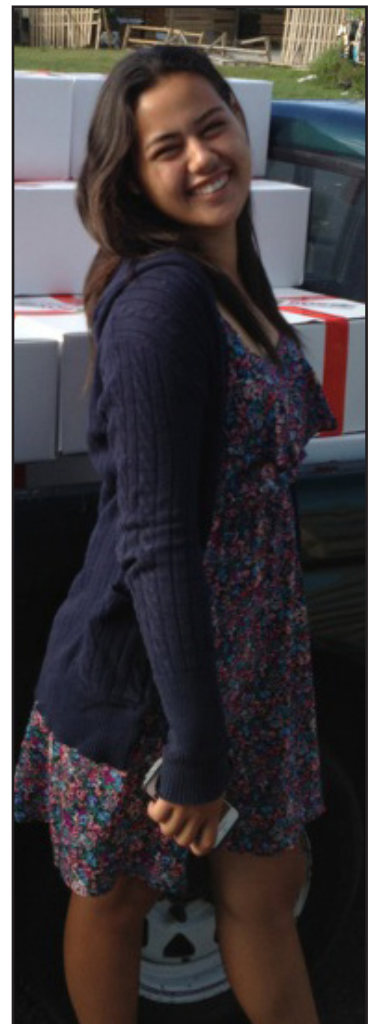
all her bloneness), had skipped out on lots of major ingredients like butter for Potato mash, soy for the meat, salt for seasoning and even a gas bottle! So we quickly scrambled around looking for things we could use, and draining whatever was left out the gas bottle that was already hooked on. The whole time leading up to the actual dinner was very heated, as I had gotten into "hero mode" as I like to call it and quickly thought of ways to make everything work.

For the setting, we had put the table at the centre of the veranda, and surrounded it with a 100 tea candles. The centerpiece of the dinning area would be a fish bowl filled with river rocks and candles, with flower petals spread all around. Fairy lights hung in the garden and an additional two sets of fish bowls filled with candles, set off to the side. I know it doesn't sound like much, but you really had to be there to see the full effect. It was magical. Almost as good as a scene out of "The

Bachelor", TV series. Oh and not forgetting the romantic music that we had, blaring in the background. Beyoncé's drunk in love, played on repeat for quite a while, till someone finally changed the song!

The food was a disaster in its own. Like I said, she had skipped out on a lot of ingredients, but we managed to make a beautifully home cooked meal out of what we had. We gave them both small portions, when it came to the plating part, because we were all so hungry, so we ate whatever was left over in the kitchen. And with everyone pitching in we were able to serve up steak and mushroom with salad and mash, as the mains. Oh and not forgetting Nga's favorite.... rice. And for desert, chocolate cake, prepared in advance by master chef, Stephanie Tua.

Ending the night on a high, with a bit of 'twerking' and lip singing while the clean up was going on. All in all, it was a night filled with laughter, disaster, and a whole bunch of love.



Talk about those annoying petty thefts on Rarotonga of small electronic items and cash, in Suva, it's clothes they're after as one Cookie on an official visit discovered. And they weren't even designer clothes! So when visiting Suva on business, do not leave your clothes in your hotel room, wear all your clothes every time you go out! You may sweat a lot but hey, you won't go naked for the trip home!



Isn't great to be able to swim safely again in Avarua harbour? Hordes of citizens swimming every day in the clean, virtually non polluted waters. But that could all change chooks at the drop of a Chinese poop! You see, the Chinese have been caught with their trou down building their septic tank near the stream that flows past the old Kia Orana Foods site, down into the harbour! In heavy rain the overflow will enter the creek and flow down to the sea. What is the Environment Service doing? What is the Ministry of Health doing? Who is enforcing the new Septic Tank Regulations? Where are the poop police? Perhaps those in authority are afraid of speaking up for fear of being seen to delay the \$80 million Te Mato Vai project.



If you are happily breast stroking in Avarua harbour and are confronted by a strange looking turd bobbing up and down, do not panic, it may be from the Chinese camp up creek. Bits of rice may be sticking out. Carefully pick the turd up using long tongs and insert it into a plastic bag. Seal the bag then

deliver it to the Ministry of Health for their follow up and action. If you find yourself surrounded by bobbing turds, leave the water immediately and notify the authorities.



What a bunch of barking mad roosters the Murienua CIP lot are, instead of fronting up to the Judge to prove his innocence Kaota crowded with the backing of Elvis Puna and the noble Row Nga about going back to let the people decide then after his poll both spanking Kaota went running off to the Courts because the people got it wrong. His petition is not against Beer but against the people for lying they would vote for him. What does the junior space cadet want, Beer to resign and let the people decide again? Just typical CIP idiotic nonsense, what do you expect with a Bulldozer space cadet for a mentor?



After his minders kept denying PM Elvis was going off to NZ to play golf and recover from the Murienua whipping at the polls he sneaked out on Thursday's jet plane. A pattern has now been detected; The Great

Pretender does his leaving on a jet plane either on a Thursday or Sunday because that's when the 777 is flying which offers first class service unlike the other flights during the week. Nothing but the very best if Elvis is going to leave the building.



It hasn't taken the daily dribble's new editor Edrey long to get his brain fried by the Raro sunshine; already he's broken his own rules for the umpteenth time. That's what happens when fresh expats try and stamp their mark on the local way. What happened to his silly new rule letters to the editor wouldn't be printed if they were over 300 words? In last Saturday's edition two of the letters were 368 and 457 words long, how about retracting your rule so you don't keep looking silly like many fresh of the boat expats who try to throw their silly weight around, learn to flow Edrey and cover your head in the sunshine, no charge for the advice.

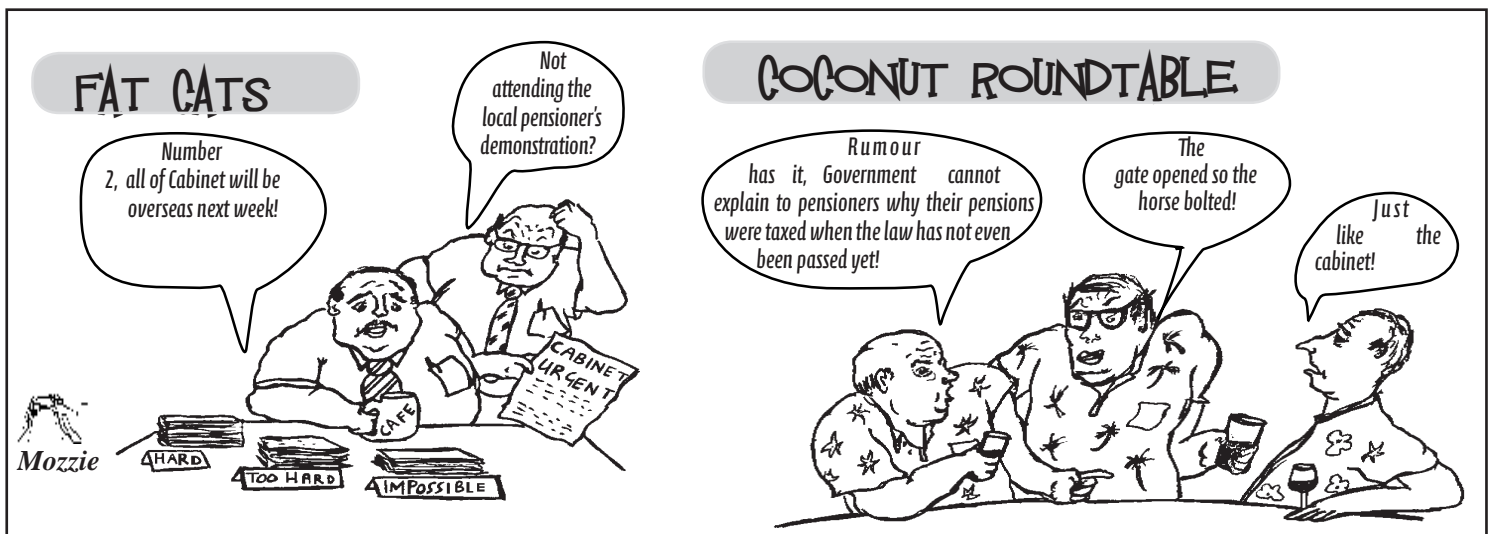


What is it with the daily dribble? Do they have an arrangement with Immigration? How is it they can at

the drop of the hat have expats working instead of training up locals to become a journo, each foreign worker at the dribble should be made to have a local attachment to train to replace them. With so many foreigners working for the foreigner Timber top, the company needs to be registered as a Foreign Enterprise, something for BTIB to check out. Also how did Timber manage to get his PR after only one year when others have to wait at least five or more years? Wonder who was the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration who let that one through the crack? And what about putting 30% of the articles in Maori and dump the internet sourced junk used to fill up 30% of the paper. Get some real stories that mean something to the locals.



Word in the chook pen is Neneva Neves is doing his hardest to roll over his contract that only has months to run. He'll certainly be trying every trick in the book to get a caving in Mark Brown to agree despite not one other Minister in support of retaining the dingo. If N.N. fails to score he'll head to East Timor and try his luck in a former hunting ground. The word is a web site and Facebook page displaying every terrible story published about him will be posted so he'll have to get his name changed by deed poll back in dingo land otherwise he'll never get another job anywhere in the world. That will teach the sumbug for bad mouthing good local people and stuffing up our great country. Some people have all the luck.



FADs contribute to increase on catches

A doubling of catches by local fishermen in Rarotonga last year has been credited to the increased use of fish aggregate devices (FADs).

The 2013 reported catches for Rarotonga was around 110 tonnes – twice that of the previous year.

According to the last quarterly catch data released by the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR), in the fourth quarter 30 tonnes of fish were caught in Rarotonga, 19 tonnes of which was yellow fin tuna.

MMR has attributed the improved catches for Rarotonga to the increased number of FADs deployed around the island and the increasing number of local fishers and game charter operators.

Cook Islands Fishing Association chairman Don Beer says local fishermen are now catching an average of 10 tonnes of fish a month and credits FADs with keeping catch rates up.

“The FADs are an effective way of local artisanal fishers to fish – 90 per cent of the fish are being caught at the FADs.”

Beer, who chairs the Ministry’s

FAD committee, says catch reporting helps the Ministry collect data on the fish, the effectiveness of fishing techniques and the use of FADs.

“The more fishers that contribute their catch data the better – it certainly gives us a strong case for the value of FADs to the artisanal fishery.”

He believes the main issues for local fishermen at present are a slower market and a drop in the size of some of the fish being caught, especially yellowfin tuna.

He says the challenging times for fishermen are the winter months outside of the typical peak season from November to April.

“The shallow-water FADs work well in the winter when catch is usually low for local artisanal and game fishers.”

FADs were designed to help local fishermen catch fish in greater quantities, more safely and more easily. MMR also sees FADs as a means of ensuring food security for both the domestic population and tourism sector.

Eleven FADs have been deployed around Rarotonga, six of them

classified as deep-water FADs.

FADs are typically placed about one kilometre or more offshore where the depth of the ocean is between 800 to 1600 metres. They are usually made up of a large concrete weight attached to a length of chain and rope which stretches to the surface with a float at the end.

FAD committee member Wayne Barclay says the increase in Rarotonga catches may be due to a number of factors including the use of FADs, increased reporting by fishermen, and an increased fishing effort during the year.

“There are more FADs out there and that makes a real difference,” says Barclay.

He says there is growing competition in the game fishing industry and an increase in the number of fishermen using the six deep-water FADs around Rarotonga.

A total of 233 active fishing vessels reported their catch to MMR in 2013 with 103 vessels reporting in the fourth quarter. Fourth quarter data for the artisanal fishery was collected

in eight (8) islands with the total catch recorded at 70 tonnes. Total artisanal catch for 2013 was 213 tonnes of fish.

The most common fishing method for high powered boats is trolling, while handlining-drop stone is the preferred method for small powered boats and canoes.

The artisanal catch data is compiled based on log sheets provided by fishers, fishing clubs and fishery officers in the outer islands. The Ministry is hoping to extend its coverage of local catches to all 12 inhabited islands in the near future.

The Cook Islands Pelagic Fisheries 4th Quarterly Report (1 October – 31 December) also includes commercial catch data for 2013.

A total of 1100 tonnes was caught by 34 licenced longliners in the fourth quarter. About 70 per cent of the catch was albacore tuna. The last quarter is traditionally a low season for the commercial fishery and results for 2013 are consistent with previous trends.

To obtain a copy of the full quarterly report contact MMR on 28721.

Aitutaki Collect First Points From D-League

It was a tough ask for the Aitutaki mens side in the opening round of the Domestic League last weekend as the boys from Araura played three matches in 24 hours.

Batting first, Aitutaki opened their first D-League campaign with a win over the Cook Islands womens national team. The national womens side got off to a great start teaching 42-1 courtesy of a 37 run partnership between Punanga Kaveao (16 runs) and Marii Kaukura (12) before being dismissed for 64. Aitutaki’s Teararo Pokoina made light work of the run chase scoring 38 runs before top edging to keeper Daena Kataina off the bowling of Benedicta Matapo. Aitutaki winning the game just 1 wicket down.

Aitutaki’s second match

against the World XI was a runs feast as over 450 runs were scored. Batting first the expat World side piled on 251 runs for the loss of six wickets courtesy of three half centuries coming by way of Glenn Miller (64), Cameron Thorp (54 not out) and a master class performance from Jeff Viniconbe (66). Nga Taiti was the pick of the Aitutakian bowlers collecting 3 wickets from his four overs. Aitutaki threw everything they had at the run chase reaching 195 all out in reply with Morgan Upu reaching 35 and Sunga Monga hitting his way to 36. World XI opening bowler and left armer Denne Bourke was in top form collecting 4 scalps for 37 runs from his 4 overs.

Aitutaki’s third match up was against the lads from Wale. After winning the

toss captain Daniel Mataiti elected to bat first. Aitutaki got off to a good start before losing three quick wickets to Pukapukan opener Takatua Puiki. Tairi Paulo (38) and Pastor Zekaria (23) provided a fight back for Aitutaki as they reached 132 runs before closing their innings all out. Wayken Punga had a good day with the ball collecting 3 wickets from his 3 overs. Aitutaki had Pukapuka on the ropes early in their run chase until a blazing innings from youngster Ngametua Tariau put the Pukapukan’s back in the game with a cameo 44 off just 14 balls. Tight bowling from Nga Taiti (4 wickets) set up a double wicket over from Shane Munokoa (3) that levelled the balance of the game. Needing just 20 runs for the win Pukapuka lost 4 quick wickets and it looked liked the

talented Aitutaki team would take the win however number 11 Takatui Puiki glanced a ball off his legs to bring up the Pukapuka victory with a four.

Aitutaki return in three weeks time to take on Rarotonga and with four points and a win over Rarotonga Aitutaki are still a chance of making the final. This weekend’s round two sees the Rarotonga side take on the Cook Islands national women at 11am and the World XI take on Pukapuka at 3pm, both matches are scheduled for the Turangi Oval.

Points: World XI 4 Points (1 win from 1 game), Pukapuka 4 Points (1 win from 1), Aitutaki 4 Points (1 win from 3), Cook Islands Women 0 Points (0 wins from 1) and Rarotonga 0 Points (0 wins from 0 matches).

PUBLIC NOTICE



**MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
SOCIAL IMPACT FUND (SIF)
PROJECT FUNDING**

The SIF provides combined Cook Islands and New Zealand support to Cook Islands Civil Society Sector to meet the needs of those most vulnerable in the community and is focused on 6 priority areas: Gender equality, Children & Youth, Disabilities, The Elderly, Domestic Violence and Mental Health.

The SIF Board now invite proposals for Project Funding in the following eligible project areas

- Community Education Projects
- Training
- Workshops
- Awareness raising activities
- Income generation
- Organisational Strengthening

Please note Infrastructure projects and International travel are not encouraged, but will be considered on a case by case basis.

For further inquiries please contact the SIF Manager on telephone 29378 or email angeline.tuara@cookislands.gov.ck Ministry of Internal Affairs. The deadline for submission of Project Funding Application is Thursday 24 April 2014. No applications will be accepted after this date.



Business Trade Investment Board
Cook Islands

**TE MATO VAI PROJECT
– SOCIAL & ECONOMIC
IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

The BTIB are undertaking two assessments in respect of the Te Mato Vai project. The assessments are in two parts, one being a social impact assessment & one an economic impact assessment. The purpose of the assessments is to determine the impact the project will have on the wider community.

The assessment will be carried out by way of written & verbal submissions given to the BTIB office. To all members of the community, businesses & NGOs. Tell us what you think. What are your concerns? How will the project affect you both in a positive or negative way?

For further details please contact the BTIB office. Submissions may be sent to btib@cookislands.gov.ck or delivered to the office. Deadline for submissions Friday 14th March, 2014.

VACANCIES



Due to continuing growth and high occupancies, The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa, Sanctuary Rarotonga on the beach and Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa have a wide range of employment opportunities seeking enthusiastic, motivated staff serious about a long term career, in all areas of all three Resorts operations, in Rarotonga and Aitutaki, on a full or part time basis, including school leavers such as;

- Purchasing Officers
- Accounts Officers/Qualified Senior Accountants
- Activities & Kids Club Officers
- Restaurant & Bar Servers
- Chefs & Kitchen Hands
- Porters
- Security Officers
- Room Attendants
- Laundry Runners
- Gardeners
- Front Office/Spa/Tour Desk Receptionist
- Duty Managers
- Sales Coordinator
- Qualified Tradesmen including Plumbers, Mechanics, Electricians, Carpenters, Refrigeration Engineers, Painters, Tilers etc.

You will have excellent communication skills, be able to relate well to guests and staff alike and be able to work shift work. Previous experience is preferred however full international standard training will be provided to the right candidates. For more information on the position and the Resort visit our website www.TheRarotongan.com or apply to Human Resources on; Email hr@rarotongan.co.ck Phone (682) 25-800 ext 8069

TENDER



**INFRASTRUCTURE COOK ISLANDS
TENDER**

Rarotonga Road Network Improvements

Supply and Construction of Road Network for Project City 3 Hotmix—Contract No. C13/13.2, Chip Seal—Contract No. C13/13.3 Under the Asian Development Bank Economic Recovery Support Programme (ADB – ERSP), the Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) is managing a number of projects related to water supply network upgrade and roadnetwork improvements on Rarotonga. These contracts involve the improvements of road network within the areas from Panama through Avarua Township to Tupapa. A copy of eachtender document can be collected during work hours from the ICI office in Arorangi. Note that a non-refundable deposit of \$200 will be required before each tender documentis issued.

Tenders close at 3pm Friday, 21 March 2014, and must be submitted to the ICI Office in Arorangi in accordance with the requirements of the Tender Document.

Enquiries to: Tenga Mana
Project Engineer
Email: tenga.mana@ici.gov.ck
Phone: +682 20321

Last weeks results

Bears 49 v Sharks 23
Bulldogs 19 v Eels 30
Warriors 26 v Sea Eagles 26

RUGBY LEAGUE.. IS IT TRUE?

IS IT TRUE

Sea Eagles were lucky to draw with the Warriors – If Moti had kicked the easiest of his kicks over (in front) the result might had been different.

IS IT TRUE

Sharks will lose again at home this week against the visiting Warriors – by 15 points

IS IT TRUE

Bulldogs camp is not the happy environment it should be – the coach is blamed for losing streak

IS IT TRUE

Eels majors sponsor has more problems on his hands than just cheap cigarettes

IS IT TRUE

Panther fans want to know when are they going to be on TV?

Bear fans want to know when are they going to be on TV?

Sea Eagle fans are enjoying been on TV

IS IT TRUE

New Players names appearing on team lists include
N.O AdvanTage, Phan Tom, Albert Bald Nicholas.

Simple Simon says....

Bulldogs Win 1st Half - Eels Win Game

In what is fast becoming a GAME of TWO halves the Bulldogs in Titikaveka field, started with all the thunder and clap of a team on fire. Their huge forwards smashed and bashed the Avatiu Eels in the early minutes of the game to dominate and control at will. Such was the ferocity the eels were like stunned mullets in this period and could only defend as they were denied good ball in good field position. Two unanswered converted tries and a drop kick had the Bulldogs 13 points up until a late try to Bruce Goldsworthy just before the interval, I saw the Bulldogs go into the half time break leading 13 – 6.

The brains trust of the Eels once again pulled a bunny out of the hat and turned around the fortunes of their struggling team. It was commented that Eels coach Albert Nicholas would had been pulling his hair out after watching his teams first half performance and needing a wig by the end of play. What ever was discussed at the break worked as the Eels produced an eye catching performance to match their favourites tag to win the competition. Such was the turn around and dominances of the Eels questions must now be asked what happened to the Bulldogs? It was rumoured that the some Bulldog players had gone out the night before and were under the weather and tired. True or not the performance was disappointing for the Bulldog supporters who turned up. Final score 30 – 19

Who Had Good Games

Bull Dogs

Ozwell – the man with a Gun – industrious first half with barn storming runs

Lloyd Matapo – Some Hard hit ups

Mana Ngaau – some good telling breaks from around the play the ball area

Eels

Mark Charlie – Devastating runs and very hard to stop

Bruce Goldsworthy – nippy and a real danger from dummy half

Joe Hofflick – great supporting winger who tirelessly took the ball up on defence

Sisa - from fullback he proved to be capable and at times safe

.....So Says Sharkless Simon the Second half Winner

Draw Wk6

Fri March 7th

Sharks v Warriors

Arutanga Pk, 4pm

Sat 8th March

Sea Eagles v Bulldogs

Nukupure Pk, 4pm

Bears v Panthers

Raemaru Pk, 4pm

Eels - BYE

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