

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

26 March 2014 \$2 (incl VAT)

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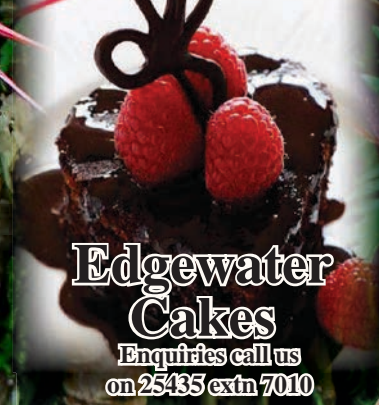
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Congratulations to Woman of the Month, Peka Takai George who is pictured here wearing earrings, a necklace and bracelet from Goldmine.

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OPEN LETTER TO THE DEPUTY PM TEARIKI HEATHER

QUESTION 1: What is your interpretation of the **Standing Orders of the Parliament of the Cook Islands. PART XLV CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS?**

394. The Principles- (4) Proper Exercise of Power: Every member shall-(c)

Exercise any influence or authority obtained from Public Office only to advance the public interest and where any potential and actual conflict of interest arises whether in the member's private, financial, pecuniary or any interest the member shall be required to declare that interest and take any steps to remove the conflict or withdraw from the particular process of transaction.

395. Special Requirements for Ministers and Other Officeholders- Every member who holds parliamentary office of any kind is required to adhere strictly to the principles outlined above and shall not under any circumstances undertake any decision or exert influence in any form whatsoever in respect of a matter in which the Member will derive personal gain or benefit.

QUESTION 2: Have you read all the Principles listed in **394?**

QUESTION 3: If you have, why did you behave in such a disrespectful manner on Radio Cook Islands on Friday the 7th March to an individual and not observe with dignity **(3) Respect for all Persons ?**

QUESTION 4: Is it not an obvious perception a potential conflict of interest exists because as the Minister of Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) you are the administrator and driver of the Cook Islands biggest monetary project Te Mato Vai, your company T&M Heather Ltd are the likely biggest financial beneficiary to the tune of many millions of dollars?

QUESTION 5: Is your company T&M Heather Ltd going to tender for any of the TMV contracts?

QUESTION 6: Has your company T&M Heather Ltd been in discussions with CCECC negotiating costs and pricing of work to be contracted?

QUESTION 7: Do you understand what the illegal practise of **INSIDER TRADING** is?

Mr Teariki Heather,

When you were elected to Parliament you took a solemn Oath before this Nation and God to uphold its laws. Demonstrate to us you are a man of **HONOUR** and **INTEGRITY**. If you are the **Christian** you proclaim you are, you know what you must do. Either withdraw your company T&M Heather Ltd from bidding for any TMV contracts or resign from being the Minister of ICI and rescue yourself from all public or Parliamentary debates regarding potential conflicts of interest and the public perception you are a self enriching politician seriously damaging your ambition of being the **Prime Minister**.

Your friend

George Pitt

Caregiver slams CIP Government

Right now Ruta Strickland is one unhappy woman with justified reasons, six weeks after her father passed away she still fumes over the way government wriggled their way out of approving her application for the Care-Givers Allowance.

After witnessing the public outcry over the CIP government's harsh treatment of pensioners, her own experience has reinforced in her own mind the claims the government is harsh and doesn't care about the suffering of the people are real.

In November 2012 she returned from Australia to care for her father the late Papa Kura Strickland who had been diagnosed with prostate cancer. After over a year as her father's care giver, on 5 December 2013 Ruta applied for the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) Care Givers Allowance of \$75 per fortnight. By now Ruta was also the care giver for her sick 63 year old brother George, on the 31 January 2014, 84 year old Papa Kura passed away in her arms, incidentally it was the same day she received a reply from the Internal Affairs stating they had declined her application for the Allowance.

Ruta explains she only applied for the Allowance after she had spoken to the Minister Nandi Glassie and staff at MIA. "I wasn't working as I was full time as a care giver for Dad and my brother and it was only after I used all my own resources that some friends suggested I should apply for some financial assistance."

She said everyone she spoke to at MIA was positive and helpful till her application was brought before the Destitute and Infirm Committee which includes Health secretary Liz Iro and MIA secretary Bredina Drollet which is responsible for the approval of applications. They met on two occasions to consider Ruta's application, 26 November and 19 December 2013.

The reasons stated as to why her application was declined has infuriated Kura and her family.

"1. Immediate family members should not be paid for looking after family members. The care

of parents and children is the responsibility of the immediate family and they should endeavour to organize themselves to meet these obligations."

The Administrative Policies for the Care-Givers Allowance state *"Individuals within the community who look after and care for those and care for those needy beneficiaries can be an adult member of the same household whom the very sick and or the permanently disabled beneficiary live with."*

Nowhere in the policies does it state family members are excluded from receiving the Care-Givers Allowance, this has angered Ruta Strickland.

In the second paragraph a further reason states, *"Papa Kura is over the age of 70 and is receiving the higher rate at which this was intended for. The recommendation is that Papa Kura's pension should assist with the expenses of the caregiver."*

"Thirdly, Papa Kura has family support that should share the responsibility and cost of his care. He is not without means to assist him receive proper care."

"At Dad's family service Minister Glassie attended and I told him my application was declined and he assured me he would look into it and since then I've heard nothing from anyone," said Ruta. "When I applied for the Allowance Dad had very limited time to go, it wasn't as if it would be a huge amount of money, just \$37.50 cents a week. It took seven weeks to inform me of their decision and they found the most ridiculous reasons to say no, what a way to treat people, what kind of government is this?"

"My father served the CIP as a member of Parliament for many years and this is the unbelievable treatment he gets, our family are deeply disappointed with Minister Glassie, I want to thank Aunty Nga Teau for the help but the rest don't have a heart for the old people, this government is cruel and should be ashamed of themselves, I'm sorry I voted for them in 2010, not anymore," concluded Ruta Strickland.

- George Pitt



Ruta Strickland with the letter of decline and the policy statement



SWITCH ON WITH
TE APONGA UIRA

Tracking Mike...



Tropical Cyclone Mike didn't last a day after it was born last week.

Although it was a squib barely reaching category 2, what lessons did we learn?

Probably the biggest insight was how quickly a cyclone can form. Mike developed near Aitutaki on Wednesday afternoon, moved south east past Rarotonga and dissipated 1,145 km south west of Papeete, all in the space of 24 hours.

And how many people were caught out at the last minute dashing home from work to clear their yards of stuff that could be tossed about by winds and gale? Or stopping off at the supermarket to buy torches and other basic supplies?

If nothing else, Mike was a good wakeup call for us to be prepared in case of a cyclone in the remaining 5 weeks of the current season.

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Politics ignored as Manihiki residents survive on own resources

It was in November 2013 when Manihiki and Rakahanga last saw a visiting vessel and such a rare occasion is expected this week. With nearly every imported goods well consumed in quick time newly arrived cargo gets absorbed by the backlogged vacuum. Reports from the northern islands are critical of the worst shipping service by any government.

Residents report both islands ran out of just about everything before Christmas. Thankful they have a more regular service from Air Rarotonga cargo space is a luxury that takes skilful negotiating along with using connections to ensure basic items such as toilet paper and soap get freighted.

Passengers are quickly identified then pressured to include desired cargo is included as theirs. Everything becomes urgent when a plane heads north and not all get what they want through the sheer lack of freight capacity, when the demand out strips the ability to supply frustrations are expected.

Life in Manihiki is tough and certainly isn't for the faint hearted. Last week a prominent lady passed away and despite the lack of food a worthy feast of local produce was enjoyed during the celebration of her life. Communal sharing is an integral part of sustainability in the North. Everyone needs each other regardless of differences, it's a vital cog in the wheel of survival. Somehow a group from Rakahanga managed to scrape together enough fuel for the trip to Manihiki to attend the funeral and would need to rely on good will to collect enough fuel for the return trip.

Northerners don't talk about food security they practise and live it every day. Prudence in every sense of the word is observed vigilantly, going



without perceived necessities many Rarotongans take for granted is embraced as normal. If life is tough on Manihiki it is even tougher on Rakahanga which has no airport. Rakahangans generally rely on Manahiki for supplies. It is little wonder both islands continue to farewell residents.

Residents have got past being disappointed when their

Residents have got past being disappointed when their ordered cargo doesn't arrive due to limited freight space.

ordered cargo doesn't arrive due to limited freight space. Most will get some of their cargo said Josia Taio, "we have 40 drums of fuel on this trip, no one will get nothing, we try to prioritise the cargo fairly so that the more urgent gets delivered." 25 passengers are travelling north and there will be a full complement returning.

Taio said they will return to the North straight away to deliver the rest of the cargo

and passengers to Pukapuka who don't have a current air service due to airport reinstatement. Taio said the declining population had reduced the profitable trips to the North and was risky during the cyclone season as rough weather sometimes prohibited unloading cargo forcing it to be returned.

The irregular shipping has

cost the government thousands of dollars in emergency delivery of fuel and medical supplies. Some remaining residents claimed more people would stay if the daily grind of life wasn't so tedious and strenuous, many are influenced by those who have already left.

Some of those that are hanging in there have become industrious survivors who by being clever and hard working, have created their own

comforts of life. Going without a lot of processed food has also improved their health. The lack of sugar and fizzy drinks is substituted for by healthy coconut juice and natural sugars from home grown fruits and vegetables.

One resident said they have given up relying on their politician to help them, "We are surviving without their empty promises, our member the Prime Minister Puna didn't bother having a public meeting the last time he visited because only the government employees attend them not the rest of us, we can't be bothered listening to their rubbish."

With political expectations at an all time low point, one household had a united message for their MP, "There's a lot that goes on here that he knows nothing about, he won't have much achievements to point to get anyone excited about voting for him again. We are out of sight and out of mind and that's what he will get back."

Over 10 years ago government started to draw up a physical plan for a purpose built boat to service the outer islands which can adequately meet the cargo and passenger demands of our sister islands and be run efficiently. Where is that plan? The person who oversaw that work is the current secretary to Cabinet. One wonders if Cabinet is aware of this or could not care less.

We have been told the cost is between \$7-10m. How come other countries like Samoa, Tonga and even little Tokelau can get aid money to buy boats for them but we can't? However, we seem to have little problem getting \$80m for a new water supply for Rarotonga that will be a millstone around the country's collective neck to the benefit of a few. -George Pitt

Solar panels to dominate landscape and increase deficit

If Prime Minister Henry Puna ever got to see his unrealistic vision of 100 percent renewable energy by 2020 Rarotonga will be engulfed by solar panels. Starting next month about 5,000 panels will be installed at the Rarotonga International Airport at a cost of \$3.3 million, fully funded by the New Zealand government.

This will be the biggest solar installation in the Cook Islands to date and is claimed by government to reduce diesel imports of 370,000 litres per year. Once connected to the Te Aponga grid the installation will provide five percent of Rarotonga's annual electricity generation.

We are told that this all represents a saving of nearly \$530,000 presumably to T Aponga. With less fossil fuel imported and the outer Islands converting to solar generated electricity, the need for two fuel importers may be too competitive for both to profitably survive.

All this represents a substantial loss of fuel taxes and levies in revenue for the financial secretary Richard Neves at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) Millions of dollars will be needed to be found from alternative sources but with the lack of innovation and business acumen in MFEM don't expect Neves to come up with anything but increased electricity tariffs or a



new energy tax.

The Airport installation will reduce MFEMs fuel based revenue by nearly \$63,000 from the 370,000 litres of fuel savings. The savings of fuel for the outer Islands could deprive MFEM of as much as \$3 million. It is highly unlikely Neves has calculated the revenue loss resulting in the conversion to renewable energy let alone how he will generate its replacement. Neves deficit account shows no signs of shrinkage nor does he have

the skills to turn the red into black.

In addition to Neves revenue problem, which won't be his from July this year when his contract ends there will be the ascetic eyesore to tourists of solar panels littering the landscape. Up to 100,000 solar panels will be required to provide the energy for 100 percent conversion to renewable energy.

The current Te Aponga generation station in the Avatiu valley will become obsolete requiring a new hybrid generation plant capable

of integrating diesel generation as backup with the renewable energy means of creating and distributing electricity. To this date there is no evidence a global model exists so once again Puna's government can become a world's first and build such a generation portal with Te Aponga becoming a broker of electricity. Total cost of the 100 percent conversion with a hybrid generation and distribution network will be a \$180 million plus extravaganza. -George Pitt

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Northern Group want to be included in the Marae Moana Marine Park project

There is overwhelming support from the Northern Group for the moemoe'a of a marine park and they want to be included. That is the finding by the marine park steering committee delegates during their Pae Tokerau consultation visits from 17 February to 3 March 2014.

The team were there to seek the views of the people of the islands of Manihiki, Rakahanga and Penrhyn, but not Pukapuka or Nassau owing to the airport closure. Team members were Tou Travel Ariki, Uirangi Mataiapo, Elizabeth Wright-Koteka, Kevin Iro, Jacqui Evans and Dr Teina Rongo and all meetings and interviews were digitally recorded on audio-visual footage.

KARERE FROM THE PA ENUA TOKERAU

All islands were fascinated by the presentations on the enormous size of the EEZ on the Seasketch map as explained by Kevin Iro but were less than impressed with the fact that they are not (yet) included in the marine park and want to be included.

Kevin explained there are many different views and encouraged everyone to check the Seasketch website for their own input as to boundaries and that will be taken on board when designing the zones of the marine park. Kevin explained that 90pc of the fish caught in Cook Islands waters is in fact from the north because that is where fishstocks are most abundant.

The people of all three islands were delighted to hear it confirmed

that the Pae Tokerau has the most abundant fishstocks of the Cook Islands as explained by marine biologist, Dr Teina Rongo. However, it was his explanation of what El Nino and La Nina mean and their effects on weather patterns. In turn, the weather patterns affect where the fishstocks are most abundant and told them that there would need to be scientific research that could be carried out by our people and the results could assist them and government in making decisions as to fisheries and marine conservation.

They were very impressed by the proposal by the House of Ariki and Koutu Nui that the boundaries of each island be extended from only 12 miles to 50 miles exclusion zone for local fishing in order to improve food security for each island to try to ensure that they do not suffer effects from overfishing of fishstocks. The traditional leaders also suggested a further 50 miles buffer zone in order to try and protect island from the effects of seabed mining in future. Each island wanted that protection for them – if that should even come to pass under the marine park zonings in future.

Quite a number say they have seen the lights of the fishing vessels at night, which they say show that the fleets are too close to their island and hinder their food security. Snippets from Rakahanga

The message from Rakahanga is that while they can understand the reasons given as to why the marine park should start in the south, nevertheless, they do not want to



Meeting on Penrhyn

be left out. They even have their own preferred name for the marine park, the KORO MOANA and were undeterred that Cabinet have already chosen the name MARAE MOANA in a naming competition.

Manihiki - Laptops in exchange for fishstocks?

The people of Manihiki are not impressed with receiving laptops for school children – which they say could break down in months - in exchange for fish. They feel it is not a fair reward for fishing the mekameka of their part of the EEZ and the benefits go to government based in Rarotonga. The consensus is that it would be fairer if they were to be given a slice of the pie from licence fees that have added several millions to government coffers. That is not the case at the moment.

The people of Manihiki are so impressed that when the team returned from their trip, they were presented with a signed petition that they had compiled in the hope that the team would present it to Cabinet. The team say the petition was wholly unsolicited and they

were shocked but delighted by the petition.

Message from Penrhyn

The people of Mangarongaro agree with the views of those in Rakahanga and Manihiki and want to be part of the Marae Moana. They told the team that fish is not so abundant when they fish, nor is the size of the fish as large. In the past, they would catch large fish (20-30kg) whereas nowadays the fish is only about three kg in weight.

Dr Teina Rongo joked that he would go and check the state of their fishing himself, rather than accepting their views, which are not reliable. Teina and the team went fishing and their catch size in fact did confirm what the people were saying.

The possibility of pirate fishing ships hopping over from the high seas pockets on the borders between us and other Pacific nations was also enlightening. Having a marine park would be beneficial in managing and monitoring our EEZ. *Release by House of Ariki-Koutu Nui by Itaata Rangatira, Noeline Browne*



Congratulations to Mrs Peka Takai George

Congratulations to Mrs Peka Takai George our woman of this month, who is closely involved in the Tutakimoa Vainetini, Youth and Community.

Peka is closely involved in the Tutakimoa Vainetini, Youth and Community groups

She grew up in Tutakimoa and was involved in the Brownies, Girl Guides, CICC Youth, Ekalesia and Vainetini, she is currently 1st Councilor of the District relief Society for the LDS Avarua District.

Peka was born on 31st May 1960 in Rakahanga, her Father is Munokoa Takai and her Mother is Porohu Takai, and has 3 brothers and 5 Sisters. Peka is married to Ben Tangatakino George and they have 3 beautiful children.

Her interests are Cultural and Cook Islands Dance and with her beautiful long black hair and dancing skills, she was dubbed as Female Dancer of the year for several years which has seen her represent the Cook Islands in Cultural events around the world. She has promoted the Cook Islands with the Te Iva Maori Dance Troupe with their world tours. She describes her trip to China with the Te Iva Maori Dance Troupe as one of her major highlights to date.

From 2006-2011- she assisted with the Tongareva Dance Group and travelled to China for a promotion trip in 2007.

She is involved in the Maire Maeva Nui every year as a judge and also in the Cook Islands International Competition judging.

Peka says this has contributed to her advancement and experience as a judge as well as

given her personal satisfaction. Our woman of the month began her years of education at Avarua Primary School and Tereora College before working with the National Bank of New Zealand after leaving Tereora College, for 3 years. She then left for Australia for OE, returned after a year and worked for the Telecom Postal Services. From there moved to the Airport Authority where she worked for 26 years before taking retirement last year and is now self employed.

Peka grew up in the Cook Island Christian Church, today is an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1st Councilor of the District Relief Society, Former President for Avarua Relief Society, Secretary for the World Day of Prayer Committee and the current Vice President of the Cook Islands National Council of Women representing the Pa Tokerau. In sports, Peka played Netball for Takuvaine Netball Club during her Teen years and took up squash, where she represented the Cook Islands at the Squash Oceania Champs in Fiji, New Caledonia, Samoa and the Mini Pacific Games here in Rarotonga in 2009. She also won Cook Islands Women's Squash Champs for several years in the 1990's and was President for the Avarua Squash Club and Secretary for several years.

With a number of achievements throughout the years in Cook Islands dancing, education, community involvement and church group contribution, she counts that and her family as most important assets in her life.



Congratulations to Mrs Peka Takai George, Woman of the Month of March

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16. CISNOC - Women in sport Commission/WOM Organising Committee

Cook Islands a Christian country with ungodly leaders

If the vulnerable elderly citizens of the Cook Islands cannot find comfort or a hope for a good future under the leadership of their elected politicians to whom can they turn? Retirees returning from New Zealand to enjoy their remaining years living a stress free relaxed lifestyle have by self preservation turned into angry combatants to fight government's oppressive stance on back taxing their NZ pensions.

While Minister of Internal Affairs, Mark Brown initially sympathised with the evolving Grey Power with promises to support their grievances giving them hope the back tax burden would be lifted quickly, but once Brown put his Minister of Finance hat on it soon became obvious he had a split political personality.

If anything happened quickly, it was his Finance Ministry's secretary Richard Neves' effortless hypnotic persuasion that Brown melted into that overnight resulted in him becoming an uncompromising staunch advocate of back taxes. Without an ounce of shame Brown dumped the Ministry Of Internal Affairs as he chose the money over the people taking Neves uncaring hard line approach of enforcement.

In the meantime the Prime Minister Henry Puna sat on the Pontius Pilate fence keeping his hands clean only to comment when he was cornered outside his office. Puna's attitude was to let the Grey Power march and protest because he suggested to his colleagues they would serve as their entertainment. Instead of accepting responsibility for the cruel predation of the Grey Power, Puna claimed he had no power to intervene and he

pointed the finger of blame to Neves saying he had the power.

Grey Power member's resolve and resistance to the written threats from Tax man Andrew Haigh resulted in their personal Bank accounts being illegally plundered with no intervention by Brown or Puna. When the Grey Power retaliated with a "He doesn't care" media campaign Puna buckled, not only was he cruel but it was now publically unchallengeable that the PM didn't care about the elderly being bullied by the expats hired help Haigh and Neves.

If anything happened quickly, it was his Finance Ministry's secretary Richard Neves' effortless hypnotic persuasion that Brown melted into that overnight resulted in him becoming an uncompromising staunch advocate of back taxes.

In an amateurish attempt to shift blame for such ungodly treatment of elderly Cook Island citizens, in a hurried television conference Puna, giving the appearance he was horrified and angry launched spin doctoring media releases to shift the blame onto his officials as he promised to reimburse the \$30,000 plus unauthorised Bank account extractions.

Up lifted that the Prime Minister had at last intervened and giving the impression he was going to put an end to their grievances, Dennis Tunui and the Grey Power's rush of joy and relief was extinguished as

quick as it was ignited. To the utter shame of Puna and Brown after four months not one cent has been reimbursed.

Despite the retirees bringing nearly \$6 million of new money into the Cook Islands they are treated as opinionated intruders and not resourceful assets who could still contribute their life experiences and skills for the benefit of the country.

The short sighted uncaring Puna and his lap dog Brown are modern day Pharaohs. When Moses stood before Pharaoh and pleaded for a less burdensome life for the

government service fees and levies are becoming instruments of punishment and a heavy burden for middle and low income earning Cook Islanders who if they can, exodus their own country looking for a promised land elsewhere.

Far removed from the struggles of life Puna and Brown are ungodly Pharaoh Leaders who don't deserve any sympathy when they are tossed from power at the next general elections. Elected to be responsive to the voice of the people, Puna and Brown have chosen to respond to the voice of overpaid expat bureaucrats that have no empathy for Cook Island people. For those who can remember Papa Arapati's wise words, "Look after your own people first and they will take care of you."

Where are the courageous Moses like Church leaders who have the overwhelming compassion for the down trodden and vulnerable that they dare stand before government leaders and petition for the lost foundation love of the CIP? Courage is a valued human trait as is respect. Respect is appropriate when those in authority act properly respecting the rights of those who are led. Respecting acts of ungodly treatment supports wrongdoing.

Puna and Brown are vigorously denying the CIP members their Party constitution right to have a Conference because they have become leaders without followers who fear their demise if a CIP conference is convened.

Remember the words of Jesus when he said, "I tell you the truth, whatsoever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine you did it for me." Mathew 25v40
- George Pitt

At every turn increased



GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS
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MEDIA RELEASE

COOK ISLANDS OLD AGE PENSION - RECALCULATION OF LATE REGISTRATIONS

The Government announced last week that it would re-calculate the March 2014 pension payment rate for those pensioners that had made late registrations for the 25% pension increase, which was introduced as part of the tax reforms. Pensioners that submitted late registrations may be entitled to a reimbursement correcting their March 2014 payment rate. Due to increased administration arising from the recalculation process, the additional payment will be made separately from the regular 16 March 2014 payment. Those pensioners that will receive a reimbursement should expect an additional payment to be made in their Bank of Cook Islands accounts in the period prior to 1 April 2014. If you are expecting a pension reimbursement and have not received it by 1 April 2014, please contact the Ministry of Internal Affairs for further information.

MONI PAKARI KUKI AIRANI – AKATANOANGA I TE TUTAKIANGA A TE ARONGA TEI TAVAREVARE I TE RETITA

I te epetoma i topa manako te Kavamani kia akatanoia te moni pakarki a te au metua no te marama (Mati) koia te au metua tei tavarevare te retitaanga ki roto i te akakakeanga ruangauru ma rima patene.

Ko te au metua pakari tei kore i vivki i te retita, ka akaoki ia mai te moni tei kiritiia mei roto mai i te tutakianga moni pakari o Mati. No te maata i te tauianza te ka raveia ka tutaki takake ia te reira moni mei te tutakianga moni pakari o te ra 16 o Mati. E ka tae te reira tienianza ki roto i ta kotou puka moni i mua ake i te ra 01 o Aperira e tu mai nei.

Me kare taau moni i tae ki roto i taau buka i te ra 01 Aperira no runga i te akatanoanga moni, taniuniu mai i te Opati o te Tango Ropianga no tetai akamaramaanga takake.

END

CONTACT:

Bredina Drollet, Secretary of Internal Affairs

Please reply all correspondence to the Secretary of Internal Affairs

Cook Islands Party cruel and doesn't care

Democratic Party insiders are saying their political foes have created "a government that doesn't care" and that the forthcoming campaign will target the Cook Islands Party's failures to look after the people.

With only eight months to go before the end of the Cook Islands Party's four year term, the Opposition are beginning to establish its campaign platform to exploit the poor treatment of local people.

"This is a government with no feelings for how the people have suffered, and are suffering because of the lack of sympathy and concern," according to Demo Party policy developers.

"This is a government that is saying I'm okay but who cares what you're going through."

The campaign is expected to gather momentum on promoting the CIP as the party that lost touch with the people. Three issues look like they will grab headlines for the next several months: the CIP's excessive travel overseas, pressuring the old people for back taxes, and an uncontrolled bureaucracy with poor consultation on major developments. It's "open season" on all the controversies tagged to these issues, say the campaign policy insiders.

The overseas travel list of international destinations would cast a giant shadow over US President Obama. The Government tourist brochure over the last four years is so bad that the daily newspaper started a 'watch list' that gets published every week detailing the absences. It's a clear public record of draining the Civil List money that politicians use to dip into on every trip overseas but without the costs attached. The overseas travel is also a regular feature of the daily cartoon that features a singing Prime Minister and Ministers with little care in the world about the poor suffering people left behind at home.

The taxation on the elderly and the pressure to pay back taxes has been managed so badly that the pensioners started their own movement—the Grey Power. Those members have been subject to



PM Henry Puna – a lot of talk and no substance

bank account raids and threatening letters, and misinformation from the government. Just before last Christmas, Grey Power was given the impression that raided money would be returned. Government promised the money would be returned. The Financial Secretary was overseas but when the architect of "Neneva-nomics" came home,

the story changed. Pensioners will only get the money back if they promise to pay the back taxes.

The back taxes have been lumped onto the old people's backs like a sack of manure. It's a heavy burden that cannot be carried, especially as at least three Grey Power members have since passed away. The elderly are dying with the back taxes still on

their backs.

"Maybe that's why they're called back taxes," the political campaign insiders are saying with a touch of dark humour.

The two years of additional burdens on the old people to pay taxes, and the failure of the government to talk sensitively to the pensioners in a way they can understand, is ammo for the Demo Party campaign claims.

The "don't care" claims will be further highlighted in the way that government has allowed the Neneva-nomics of the Financial Secretary to run rough-shod over every bureaucratic step. The PM and Finance Minister Brown helped establish this pattern of governing by giving up the ghost on controlling the taxation review. The foregone conclusion about the tax changes that the community cried out over has come to pass and every change will be carried out.

The cries of opposition over the taxes and the Te Mato Vai project management has raised more questions than answers over government performance but none of the concerns have been taken on board. That's left the CIP wide open on the Demo call to oust a government that doesn't care about the people—or their suffering.

- George Pitt

Letter to the Editor

When is conflict of interest not a conflict of interest?

(Cook Islands News declined to publish this letter)

George Pitt, always a controversial figure, got the boot from the chairmanship of BTIB because he alleges conflict of interest for Minister Heather who was allegedly about to sign a \$7 million agreement with the Chinese contractor for Te Mato Vai. Other than sacking Pitt government has not bothered to explain whether Pitt's allegation has any merit at all. Rumour has it that the Minister will sue and even the Chinese contractor will also sue George Pitt.

Before the Minister bothers

to go to court can he just simply assure the community that there is absolutely no truth in what George is alleging? This means George Pitt is telling an outright lie and T&M has no semblance of something akin to an agreement with the Chinese that could reap millions to T&M. It has also been said that because this is a sub contract from the Chinese contractor there is no need for tendering and transparency and contestability. I believe the money involved here is a loan the Cook Islands people are suppose to pay, if so, why has not all contracts and sub

contracts from this loan been subjected to Cook Islands rules of transparency.

Mind you, if Minister Heather's definition of conflict of interest is to be believed, if government is in serious trouble indeed. As it was explained to me, The Minister felt no conflict of interest with all these works contracts he is intimately involved because he is the only one in Cabinet who can drive a bulldozer!! What hope did poor George Pitt have when government is ruled by such fantastic logic!

A bulldozer mechanic.

Memories of my fallen M.P. friends

By Norman George MP for Teenui/Mapumai (Atiu)

I have lost 30 not 29 of Members of Parliament who I have served with in Parliament. I would like to share a few of some lighter moments involving them with you.

One of my best mates in Parliament was Ngereteina Puna. He is alive, well and fighting fit in Auckland! I must share this one fun incident with you. Ngere had just returned from a Pacific Regional Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Meeting. At the beginning of the sitting, he got up to announce that he had been appointed to the Executive of that organisation. The appointment being one of the highest in the Commonwealth and a major achievement for the Cook Islands.

True to CIP grandstanding, MP after MP got up to praise Ngere for his outstanding achievement. I had to toss a hand grenade in. I got up and congratulated Ngere. I reminded him of a Buddhist proverb, which said that the higher the monkey climbs up a pole, the more you see of its bum.

There was immediate havoc! Outcry! And out! Out! Calls from the CIP!

Teariki Matenga was the quietly spoken MP for Titikaveka. He was a retired doctor. Teariki was the secretary of the Titikaveka CICC and a Cabinet Minister at the same time. When we were in Cabinet, Teariki had a habit of nodding off to sleep. I used to put it down to all the church services he was attending. On a very rare occasion, he and I ended up disagreeing with each other over a submission I made to cabinet. The submission was to set up an

Authority to control all road diggings which involved tar sealed roads. The purpose was for people wishing to dig roads to obtain permits first before digging and to repair the road afterwards. Teariki said some people in Titikaveka were opposed to the idea. In order to let things cool off, I adjourned my submission to the following weeks cabinet.

My calculation was to let him doze off to sleep before a quick discussion and approval. I arranged with the Cabinet secretary to place it midway through the agenda.

The following week, everything went according to plan. Papa Teariki snoozed off as expected, Cabinet decisions went through without comment. Nervously I watched – “keep snoozing Papa”. But right on schedule, when my submission was called, he woke up! “Is that the Road Authority Submission?” He repeated his opposition! Papa Matenga won! That is why we have no Road Authority today. I repeated the event at Papa Teariki’s 80th birthday and we all had a good laugh about it. He was a 100% consensus man. If anyone disagreed with anything he feels extremely concerned. I asked him to go by a 55% majority option, but he stuck to the 100% principle which is impossible! He had a reputation of keeping his waistline and weight the same from his graduation from medical school all of his life. You can see why. Hard physical work! He spends all his time in the taro patch and breeding pigs. He always had a ready smile, quietly spoken and fun to have a few drinks with. He was a great dancer! Then which of our doctors aren’t? Not lawyer’s domain,

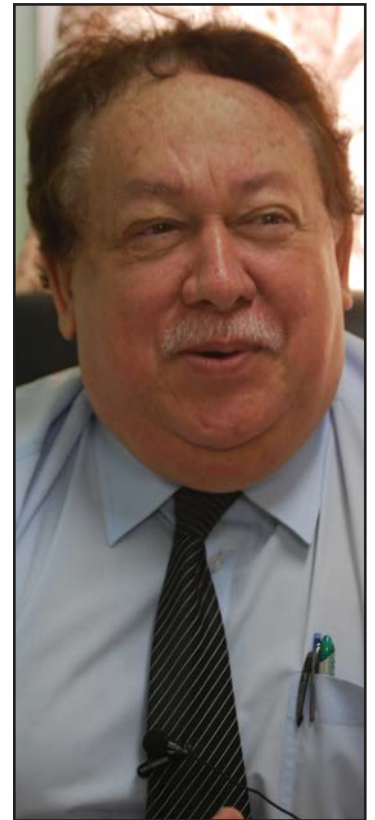
I am afraid!

Robert Wigmore was a hard and tireless worker. He laboured 7 days a week. There was no such thing as public holidays to Rob and his children. He was a very kind generous man. He was unbeatable in Titikaveka because of his generosity. Whatever happens in the electorate, Rob was there to assist. He hosted many parties at the old Wigmore homestead. He would never let us leave unless we ate from his well supplied umu. No one ever went hungry when Robert Wigmore hosted a Sunday or Christmas party.

His business boomed. He became deservedly wealthy and successful. All his own efforts. His long exposure to agriculture chemicals created serious health problems for Rob in the end. He fought it hard. He was still active until about 6 months to the end. Robert was a human caterpillar, energetic, hard headed person, determined and unashamedly successful.

Papa Tata Samuel was from Arorangi. He was head of the Public Health division for many years before retiring. He was CIP MP for Ruaau for two terms. He was gentle and business like. He was very effective in village matters in Puaikura. He stole no headlines and neither did he catch the blacksmokes of the smoke signal column. Papa Tata was a true kindly gentleman.

Albert Peto Nicholas, was Mr. Avatiu Club through and through. He devoted his life to supporting all kinds of sport in Avatiu and Ruatonga. From rugby, cricket, rugby league and athletics, especially Kumete Sport. Year after year, Peto was there at the Avatiu



swamps to motivate young athletes.

An outstanding sportsman himself, he was a black belt in Karate. No one bothers the quietly spoken Mr. Nicholas. He was also a champion Avatiu A grade rugby player.

Peto never drank alcohol. He was also a guitarist in a well known local band. He never raised his voice. He had a wicked sense of humour. I never saw him back down from an argument.

He was very loyal to the CIP, but in the end they betrayed him – he lost the Avatiu seat to the present CIP MP John Henry.

It was so tragic to lose Peto so early. He did not deserve to leave us so soon – but maybe he was needed elsewhere. We still find it hard to bring closure to Peto’s loss, we were very close friends. Whoops a couple of tear drops have fallen again!

Political Reform ... "A Dream to Reality?"

The "Political Reform Package" to go before the next sitting of Parliament consist if :

* Aitutaki : going from 3 seats down to 2 seats in Parliament.

* Atiu : 2 seats down to 1 seat in Parliament.

* Mangaia 3 seats down to 1 seat in Parliament.

Total seats in the Cook Islands Parliament to be reduced from 24 to 20.

After many years being tossed around as a "political hot potato", the present Cook Islands Party Government has finally had the "courage" to put together a Political Reform Package.

This will now go before Parliament at its next sitting in the next few days as being the most significant political reform this country has seen since before Self-Government in 1965.

Some may say this "Political Reform Package" does not go far enough.

Others will say at least this is a start after so many years of being ignored and placed in the "too-hard-basket" by numerous Governments in recent years.

In order to bring these changes into effect, the Cook Islands Constitution Act 1965 has to be amended.

After being tabled in the House, and following the First Reading (Tabling and Introduction), and the Second Reading, being the time when the main Parliamentary debate will take place, this Constitutional Amendment then has been held in abeyance for a period of at least three months for public scrutiny and discussion.

It is only after a 3 month period has elapsed, that this piece of legislation will then come back before Parliament for the Third and Final Reading where it will then be finally endorsed and approved sometime later in the year.

And so when the country goes to the General Election at the end of this year, it will be to elect 20 members of Parliament and not 24 as it is at the moment.

That is the "theory". Bit in "practical terms" it might not be as simple as that.

Being a Constitutional Amendment means there has to be a two-thirds majority support (or a minimum of 16 votes) in Parliament, to enable these Political Reforms to succeed.

If this amendment does not receive a minimum of 16 member votes in Parliament, then these Political Reforms will not go ahead and so the "Status Quo" will remain in place.

The Cook Islands Party Cabinet, Caucus and C.I.P. Executive Committee has already pledged its full support to these Reforms. They are "Rock Solid" in this regard.

But they only have 13 members in Parliament. The C.I.P. need at least 3 more votes from the Opposition side in order for this Constitutional Amendment to go through.

So without a significant element of Democratic Party support, these Political Reforms will not succeed.

The "driving force" behind these Political Reforms has been Teina Bishop.

It was he who pulled them out of the "too-hard-basket", got these proposals through Cabinet and now into Parliament.

Teina has been working behind the scenes for almost two years to "pull this whole thing together".

I know this to be that case.

Why?

... because I helped him do it.

This has not been an easy road for Teina.

While his various caucus and cabinet colleagues always agreed in principle there had to be political/electoral reform, (that was the easy part) but getting a commitment to support definite Political

Reform Proposals from "A Dream to Reality" was not forthcoming until just recently.

Since the Cook Islands gained Self-Government in 1965, the voting population on most of the outer islands has steadily declined as reflected in the two charts included here.

However, the adult population of Aitutaki has held up really well. It has not declined since 1965, but rather shown a small steady increase which has been a surprise to many ... including myself.

Rarotonga has shown steady adult population growth over the years, which then begs the question : What is really behind the question of apparent Cook Islands "de-population" in recent years? But that is another issue to be considered at another time.

In the case of Atiu and Mangaia with more than one MP, the decline in adult population numbers has been substantial to the extent that having more than one MP is really hard to justify anymore.

If we take the results of the November 2010 General Election where Norman George won his seat on Atiu for the Cook Islands Party, then these Political Reforms will see the Democratic Party losing 2 seats on Mangaia and the Cook Islands Party losing 2 seats being one on Atiu and a second on Aitutaki.

So in this regard one could say these Political Reforms will affect both parties to equal extent.

So it is "fair-fair" in that respect.

By reducing the number of Members of Parliament for Aitutaki, Atiu and Mangaia, there will be considerable

Aitutaki, Atiu and Mangaia : Voter Registration and Constituency Breakdown : 1965 -2010

	1965	1999	2004	2006	26 November 2010 : General Election		
	Election	Election	Election	Election	On Roll	Voted	Non-voters
(Registrations on Rolls 1999 to 2006)							
Aitutaki : Amuri-Ureia	?	399	377	397	389	..... 352	..... 37
Arutanga-Reureu-Nikaupara :	?	300	333	320	354	..... 335	..... 19
Vaipae-Tautu :	?	<u>422</u>	<u>441</u>	<u>462</u>	<u>432</u>	..... <u>349</u>	..... <u>83</u>
Island totals :		<u>1121</u>	<u>1151</u>	<u>1179</u>		<u>1036</u>	<u>139</u>
		1032			1175	Increase of 143 voters from 1965 to 2010	
Atiu : Teenui-Mapumai :	?	173	141	144	127	..... 113	..... 14
Tengatangi-Areora-Ngatiarua :	?	<u>254</u>	<u>212</u>	<u>177</u>	<u>167</u>	..... <u>159</u>	..... <u>8</u>
Island totals :		<u>427</u>	<u>353</u>	<u>321</u>		<u>272</u>	<u>22</u>
		488			294	Decrease of 194 voters from 1965 to 2010	
Mangaia : Oneroa :	?	304	229	218	233	..... 216	..... 17
Ivirua :	?	132	94	90	79	..... 74	..... 5
Tamarua :	?	<u>100</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>64</u>	..... <u>61</u>	..... <u>3</u>
Island totals :		<u>536</u>	<u>398</u>	<u>382</u>		<u>351</u>	<u>25</u>
		726			376	Decrease of 350 voters from 1965 to 2010	

savings in the Civil List of about \$60,000 per member per year. This amount being the basic member's salary as well as various allowances and other financial benefits.

However, these Political Reforms are not about "money". It is not a cost-cutting exercise.

It is understood that these savings from the Civil List will be transferred as additional funds to the three Island Government Budgets for next year, and in each subsequent year after that.

In this way, the Island Government Budget's for Aitutaki and Atiu will increase by \$60,000 a year, while the Island Government Budget for Mangaia will increase by \$120,000 a year.

Having recently passed the Island Government Act 2013, the Cook Islands Government has pledged itself to allowing each outer island government an effective, devolved, autonomous role in running its own island.

On those islands with a single MP, the member's roll is well understood and is complementary to that of the mayor and the island council.

On the other hand, those islands with more than one MP were often fragmented into various constituencies with competing political agendas that often cut across a unified system of island government.

By reducing the numbers of MPs for Aitutaki, Atiu and Mangaia will therefore eliminate this fragmentation and so should be seen as a natural progression in empowering the new Island Governments of those islands.

The introduction of the "1000 voters per "Geographical Identity" is a good one.

Rarotonga is divided into 10 Constituencies on a geographical (or village) basis with all but one Constituency (Tupapa) having less than 1,000 registered electors for the 2010 General Election. It is envisaged that the voting numbers will be similar for the 2014 General Election.

The same principle of 1 Member of Parliament for up to 1,000 registered electors, for each "Geographical Identity" has therefore been applied to all the outer islands as well.

While most of the outer islands are well below the 1,000 number of registered electors, each of these islands are "Geographical Identities" in their own right which are totally unique and completely separate from each other.

Each of the outer islands is therefore still guaranteed to have their own voice in Parliament and so it is very pleasing there is no proposed changes to those single constituency outer islands.

However, one casualty to the "1,000 elector" principle is Aitutaki.

Having 1175 registered electors on the combined electoral rolls, means they only qualify for 2 members of Parliament. 1,000 electors qualifies Aitutaki for 1 MP. They have more than 1,000 voters, so this qualifies Aitutaki to have a 2nd MP. It is on this basic 1000/1MP formula that sees Aitutaki lose one of its seats in Parliament.

This is not the end of Political/Electoral Reform here in the Cook Islands. But rather, this is just the end of the beginning.

Following the next election, there will be other political reform options that need to be considered as part of our ongoing process of "democratic evolution".

The length of Parliament is 4 years at the moment. Should it be extended to 5 years? (no : that's too long). Should it be reduced to 3 years? A possible option.

Is it worthwhile to consider a return to the "Vaka Constituencies" on Rarotonga with multiple candidates and multiple votes in each of the three "Vaka Constituencies" as it was up until 1982?

Should Rarotonga have a reduction in MP's from 10 to say 7 or 8 as suggested by the Leader of the Opposition?

All these, and other ideas/options, await discussion and consideration at a future time.

In the meantime, I am hopeful that the Constitutional Amendment due to go before Parliament in the next few weeks to reduce the number of MP'S in Parliament from 24 to 20 will be successful and so be in place before the next General Election.

But that will depend entirely upon members of the Democratic Party. The destiny of this Constitutional Amendment rests fairly and squarely with them.

3 or more Demo MP's need to support this "Political Reform Package". If that does not happen, then this whole "Political Reform Package" will go down the "political toilet" and won't succeed.

Simple as that.

Next week . . .

I might to talk about Mangaia.

"Island of my Grandmother".

Howard Henry

Cook Islands Population Voting Statistics : 1965-2010

All numbers quoted below (apart from 1965) are those who were Registered on the respective Electoral Rolls for each General Election ... not votes cast.

	20 April 1965	16 June 1999	7 September 2004	27 September 2006	17 November 2010	Pop. Increase/Decrease 1965 compared to 2010
Rarotonga						
Te-au-o-Tonga :	2405	3026	3094	3307	3577	Increase of 1172
Takitumu :	877	1623	1792	1727	2110	Increase of 1233
Puaikura :	817	1810	1630	1531	1840	Increase of 1023
	4099	6459	6516	6565	7527	<u>Total Rarotonga increase of 3428</u>
Aitutaki :	1032	1121	1151	1179	1175	<u>Increase of 143</u>
Mangaia :	726	536	398	382	376	Decrease of 350
Atiu :	488	427	353	321	294	Decrease of 194
Manihiki :	259	310	221	173	183	Decrease of 76
Rakahanga :	150*	118	80	68	59	Decrease of 91
Penrhyn :	300*	258	197	147	146	Decrease of 154
Pukapuka/Nassau :	381	453	369	285	243	Decrease of 138
Mitiaro :	103	158	127	104	117	<u>Increase of 14</u>
Mauke :	265	292	243	218	226	Decrease of 39
Total on the Roll :	7803	10,132	9655	9442	10,346	<u>Total Cook Islands Increase of 2543</u>

- * Figures quoted for Rakahanga and Penrhyn in the 1965 General Election are estimates only as both candidates were elected unopposed.
- Figures quoted for the 1965 General Election represent Total Votes cast. Statistics regarding Total Electoral Roll numbers are not available. However, voter turnout is thought to have been about 90 - 95%.
- Figures quoted for the General Elections 1999 to 2010 are the totals of Registered Voters on the various Electoral Rolls ... and not total votes cast.
- For the 1965 General Election, "Vaka Constituencies" existed for Rarotonga (9 members) and "Single Island Constituencies" were in place for Aitutaki (3 members), Mangaia (2 members) and Atiu (2 members). Both "Vaka Constituencies" and "Single Island Constituencies" were abolished in 1982 and replaced with "Single Member Constituencies" as we have today. It was at this time that the number of MP's for Mangaia increased from 2 to 3 members in Parliament.

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PRINTER INK Cartridges

Check your printer's software or driver settings. Most printers come with a user-friendly software interface that lets you access and tweak many of the printer's functions. All come with (or instruct you to download) a printer driver—a program that controls the printer, converting files and commands into a format the printer can recognize. The driver offers a more direct way (and in some cases, the only way) to change printer settings, with all the settings accessible through a tabbed interface.

To find the driver, open the Printers page (in some Windows versions called Devices and Printers) from the Start menu or the Control Panel, right-click on your printer's name (or icon), and open the Printing Preferences tab.

Whether you work from the software interface or the driver, our recommendations are the same. Look for ink saver or toner saver mode. Print in Draft mode except when presentation quality is required. Wherever possible, print in black instead of color. If your printer supports duplex printing, using it will enable you to save paper.

With laser printers, toner will settle over time, causing it to be unevenly distributed on the printed page, causing faded areas and/or streaking. If your laser print quality is deteriorating, remove the toner cartridge from the printer and shake or rock it from side to side five or six times. You may be able to do this several times before the cartridge actually needs replacing.

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Minimum wage now \$6 an hour

The Minimum Wage Review Panel has recommended that the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Hon. Nandi Glassie, increase the minimum wage rate of pay to \$6 per hour, a 20% increase on the current minimum wage rate of \$5 per hour.

The Minister is yet to make a final decision on the minimum wage rate, which is expected to take effect on 1 April 2014 (next week) to coincide with the VAT increases. An announcement by the Minister is expected to be made by the end of this week.

Working in accordance with the Employment Relations Act 2012, and guided by terms of reference, criteria, and public feedback, the Minimum Wage Panel submitted the 2014 Minimum Wage Rate Review Report to the Minister Glassie earlier this month.

Review findings showed that the majority of employers in Rarotonga pay most, if not all, of

their employees at rates of pay in excess of the current minimum wage. Pa Eヌua businesses, on the other hand, have revenue and profit constraints that may limit their ability to raise wages.

The cost of the increase to \$6 per hour to government is estimated to be \$150,000 per annum.

The Minimum Wage Panel was appointed by Minister Glassie and comprised Patricia Tuara Demmke (Ministry of Internal Affairs), James Webb (Ministry of Finance and Economic Management), Steve Anderson (Chamber of Commerce), Anthony Turua (Cook Islands Workers Association) and Andrew Turua (community representative).

Copies of the Minimum Wage Review report panel can be obtained on request. For further information, please contact the Labour Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs, ph 29370.

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Top NZ Rapper K. One and NZ Hiphop DJ CXL to perform at Rehab Friday 4th of April

DJ CXL...

Unlike last month's guest artists to Rehab Rarotonga; Sammy J and Chad Chambers, this won't be the first time for New Zealand DJ, Producer and member of the band Ill Semantics, DJ CXL to sunny Rarotonga. Although he loves to play more at festivals rather than club shows, his performance at Rehab Rarotonga will be a spectacular one.

The DJ is part Pakeha and part Maori, who comes from a small town on the East Coast of the North Island called Tikitiki from iwi Ngati Porou. The 2003 NZ Disco Mix Club (DMC) Champion has been involved in music since his early teens and has been DJ'ing for roughly 15 years, "I taught myself how to pay drums, played in some school rock bands until I discovered the turntables. I then traded my sticks for some records and never looked back" he says.

After coming out as Champion for the DMC, he went on to represent NZ in the DMC World Finals placing in the top 12, which is not bad for a self taught DJ. His music taste varies from Hip Hop, RnB, Trap, DnB, House, Dubstep, Electro, Reggae and Party Music, he believes the 'catch' is important; if the crowds don't know the song at least the catchiness will grab them, "well hopefully," he laughs.

The music he produces is sample based, he digs through old records such as that from the 70s then rebuilds the music around that to create something new and fresh and he is inspired from absolutely anything, "anything inspires me when it comes to DJ'ing or producing music, could be an awesome view from on top of a mountain, going back home to my roots, a movie...anything."

Awesome fact and biggest highlight for DJ CXL during his profession is that he was the support DJ for Destiny's Child in Auckland in 2001, he reminisces the event that drew crowds of 15,000; "every song I played felt like the actual Artist was there, the crowd sang and roared like there was no tomorrow,



DJ CXL

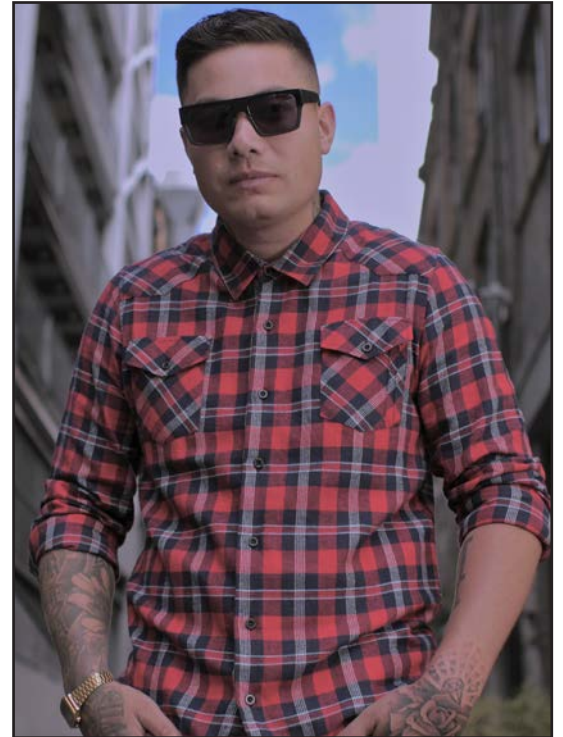
Destiny's Child dancers even came out on stage to dance! As I was packing up, Beyonce's mother came up to me saying she really loved how I DJ'd and if I would be interested in opening for Destiny's Child in London, of course I was pretty shocked but keen as to do so I gave her my number and left it at that".

Unfortunately DJ CXL didn't end up making it to London but the fact that they loved his performance was enough to keep him going. His DJing profession has seen him open for artists including 50 Cent, Busta Rhymes, Destinys Child, A\$AP Rocky, RZA, DMX, Chris Brown, Rihanna and DJ Qbert and the next International artist he will be supporting alongside K.One is Tyga.

At the moment the DJ is working on music for the new Ill Semantics album and is looking forward to performing at Rehab, "come check us out at Boom Boom beats, really looking forward to playing and hanging out with some old faces and hopefully some new ones, if that's you, see ya there!"

K.One

Before pursuing his dream of becoming a recording artist, New Zealand



K.One

Rapper K.One currently signed to Illegal Musik worked 7 years in Forestry, now he is a well known rapper who has shared the stage with legends both locally and internationally.

The half Samoan/Tokelauan, half European rapper calls himself a small-town kid from a place called Masterton but since becoming an artist, has moved to Auckland City. K.One has been producing music for a long time now, but has been in the industry for 4 years, "I started out as a teenager recording my songs onto cassette tape on my mum's stereo using a karaoke microphone and was signed in 2010 by Illegal Musik who discovered me through a demo I submitted," he says.

Many of you may have heard 'Night of Your Life' featuring J.Williams; that is the most successful song of his career that reached number 4 on the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand charts and received gold certification in 2010. His latest single is 'Same You' which features label-mate and NZ pop star Brooke Duff.

K.One depicts himself as a storyteller, with the majority of his music being influenced by Artists he listened to as he was growing up whom he believes

were great storytellers as well such as Nas and 2Pac.

He is also greatly influenced by the everyday life and the experiences he or someone close to him has had, "I like to make songs that people can resonate with, what can still be enjoyed in the club and on the radio and still makes you think when you really take time to listen to the content," he says.

There have been many highlights for him during his 4 years in the music industry, performing around NZ or Australia on most weekends. The rapper performed in front of 180,000 people at a relief concert called 'Band Together' for the victims of the devastating Christchurch earthquake that took place in 2011 and his tour around Japan with label-mate J Williams is definitely a highlight that stands out for him, which he describes as "a crazy two weeks in an amazing country."

K.One is super excited to not only be performing for us at Rehab, but with his daughters having Rarotonga connection, he is looking forward to seeing and experiencing the homeland.

Grab your \$20 pre-sale tickets at REHAB or 88FM, or buy \$25 tickets at the door.

Internship at SOPAC for Cook Islander

As part of the on-going local Training and Capacity building program of the Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Authority, a young qualified Cook Islander is now on a fully funded, 3 month Technical Internship at SOPAC in Fiji.

SOPAC is the regional scientific organisation of the Pacific. Its goal is to apply geosciences and technology to realise new opportunities for improving livelihoods of Pacific communities.

This SOPAC Technical internship is being undertaken by Cook Islander, Mr. Marino Wichman, a GIS Science graduate from Otago University. Marino is a son of local lawyer, Mr. Puai Wichman. A Geographic Information System (GIS) is a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present all types of geographical data.

This is the second Internship generously provided to the Seabed Minerals Authority by SOPAC. In 2012, Cook Islands lawyer, Ms. Alex Herman, undertook training through a Legal internship, provided under the regional SPC-EU Deep Sea Minerals project. Alex is now employed full-time as



Marino Wichman is second from the right

Legal Adviser in the SBM Authority in Avarua.

Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Commissioner, Paul Lynch, states that "We are very pleased to be able to access further Seabed minerals related training for young Cook Islanders like Marino and others. Having Cook Islands people with the relevant qualifications, skills and experience is an essential requirement for the positive development of our national seabed minerals sector. At this time, with Exploratory Licencing likely to happen in

2014/15, we need to build more local capacity for the SBM Authority to be able to initiate and establish appropriate GIS solutions and protocols in terms of management of data management needs for the Seabed Minerals sector, which is under the Cook Islands jurisdiction and control".

GIS skills will be needed for the SBM Authority to map and identify seabed minerals zones in the Cook Islands large EEZ, which will assist future licencing, monitoring, compliance and enforcement activities, as

required under the Seabed Minerals Act 2009, now in force.

Seabed Minerals Commissioner Paul Lynch, states that "Marino Wichman has been sending back regular reports to us, as required, and is clearly receiving the benefit of a lot of exposure to the wide range of scientific, technical work that SOPAC administers in the Pacific region. Marino is the third Pacific Islander to take up this type of Technical Internship with SOPAC. And we are very grateful for this continuing assistance provided by SOPAC to the Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Authority".

Control of internet function transferred

Though it will hardly be registering a ripple in the lives of internet users in the Cook Islands, or perhaps even in the Pacific, the United States government made a momentous decision last week to relinquish its role in the control of one of the most important sections of the management of the internet. The Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is currently looking at how it will manage the transition process.

At the ICANN meeting in Singapore, internet governance has become the hot topic as the stewardship of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) was transferred from the joint control of the US Government, the Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and Verisign (a company that was tasked with coordinating the management of generic top level domains) to that of the global multistakeholder community.

IANA looks after the internet's root zone (the address book of the internet).

The decision by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration of the US Government was made just before the ICANN meeting in Singapore where consultation meetings are being held to begin the transition process. Larry Strickling, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for the US Government, is at the ICANN meeting to support the transition process.

On a local level, the company which will probably be affected, if at all, will be Telecom Cook Islands. IANA allocates and maintains the unique numbering systems that drive the internet. These are the IP (internet protocol) addresses that each internet connection uses to connect from one computer to another. These IP addresses are first of all allocated by IANA to Regional Internet Registries



Cook Islands Rep Maureen Hilyard in Singapore

(RIR) who then distribute them to regional registrars who are usually internet service providers (ISP) in individual countries. Our RIR is the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) based in Brisbane. APNIC also manages a Who is Database of all registered users of allocated resources (IP addresses and domain names).

An IP address comes in two formats. The first one is what ordinary internet users refer to

as their domain name or email address (e.g. info@oyster.net.ck). But when you send an email, the internet system uses its second format which is its numbered format. In the Pacific which uses IPv4 numbering, so that your address could look like 172.16.254.1. This is hardly a format that an internet user would remember easily, which is why the system allows for the use of words for email addresses and domain names.

Caught on Camera in Feilding, NZ



Jenny Crane who resides in Fielding is the daughter of former Tereora College Head of Maths teacher “Papa Crane” and the mother of CITV News Aitutaki Correspondent Alan Nanae. Jenny said her father taught at Tereora for several years from the early 60,s thru to the 70’s. She has two children with Cook Islands heritage and was delighted to bump into someone with Cook Islands connections. A retired school teacher she is based in Fielding , and would dearly love to return to the Cook Islands one day to visit her grandchildren. -*Shona Pitt*

Heidi Massicks is the niece of Tom and Shirley Wills of Palm Grove in Titikaveka. A Supervisor at Gails childcare in Fielding Heidi said she last visited Rarotonga in 2011 on a “Girls trip”.

“We stayed at Muri and had the most wonderful time, we had a ball and all the girls enjoyed their stay especially the island night” Heidi said.

“I especially want to send my love to my aunt and uncle”. - *Shona Pitt*

MMR team at FFA Annual Meeting



L-R: Andrew Jones, MMR Director of Offshore Fisheries, Peter Graham, FFA Surveillance Operations Officer, Pamela Maru, FFA Fisheries Management Adviser, and Lara Manarangi-Trott, Compliance Manager with the WCPFC in FSM. *Photocredit-FFAmedia.*

Peter is a leading part of the FFA technical team coordinating this weeks annual meeting, and Pamela is also providing technical advice to the gathering. Lara who is based in the North Pacific is amongst the resource presenters and helped chair the WWF Emerging technologies workshop for MCS on the weekend. She takes the lead for next weeks regional WCPFC e-monitoring workshop, which is being hosted at FFA in Honiara. - *Lisa Williams Lahari*

Fantasy Odds on who will WIN League Premier FINAL

Team	Date	Date
	Mar 19 th	Mar 25 th
Eels	\$5	\$5
Bulldogs	\$9	\$9
Panthers	\$9	\$9
Sea Eagles	\$35	\$35
Bears	\$20	\$20
Warriors	\$40	\$40
Sharks	\$40	\$40

No movement on the Fantasy odds board today which only makes the Warriors option even better after there fantastic win over the weekend. Better get some of these fantastic Fantasy odds while they last.

The Fantasy Odds column is a hypothetical scenario based on the writer's opinion. This is NOT real

RUGBY LEAGUE.. IS IT TRUE?

IS IT TRUE

The Gestapo Police (S.S) have infiltrated the CIRL referees association - S.S – Shaun and Simi

IS IT TRUE

Panthers Hair Bear Prop Rongo got a haircut last week. Probably the reason why we couldn't see him on the field

IS IT TRUE

Noise control officers tell house owner near Avatiu clubrooms to turn down stereo - The soundtrack to the movie – Highlander - "There Can Only be One" was on auto replay all weekend.

IS IT TRUE

We await the result of the 2 new teams in the CIRL – Taua Knights v Simi Seals

IS IT TRUE

Capt Tama (Sea Eagles) looking for a promotion. Might soon be COACH TAMA aswell

IS IT TRUE

Seen the TV movie CHARLES in CHARGE? – watch the sequel unfold in CIRL

IS IT TRUE

Takuvaine Warriors epic victory over Bulldogs – forgot story over the weekend because of League politics – CONGRATULATION to the TKV Warriors – GO BOOGIE!!!!

IS IT TRUE

The commentator said - 20 Fijians, a bald headed referee and a partrich in a pear tree. This equals 22 people where are the rest???

Simple Simon says....

Poor Facility's Makes for Poor Crowds

What do you get for your \$???

When going to a sports game anywhere on the island we as paying customers are short changed. What do you get for your dollar? Too often sports organisations take your money and that of the tourist, and give you very little back in return. Toilets, Bar facilities, Car parking and even dangerous areas are NOT sign posted nor cordoned off. Evening lighting is abysmal, bordering on dangerous due to the lack of lighting and some fields don't even have toilet facilities onsite! There is very little accountability by clubs who shove an ice cream container in your face and expect you to know what to do and how much to pay. Where's the sign that's says how much too pay! Smiles are RARE, Thank You's are only said sometimes and NOT ALL PEOPLE PAY.

How many times have you seen a group of locals ignore the gatekeeper or mutter something then continue on their way. I've seen Heaps!

When coming to a sports game often Scoreboards, Clocks even tables and chairs are as scarce as hen's teeth. You sit on the ground sometimes littered with dog doodle, or last nights waste and even under garments from a amorous encounter during the week. The privileged few might be under a shelter, on a seat or even inside the club – what about the rest!

Clubs could do well to go that extra mile and provide seating, shelter and food but at the very least – A SMILE..... because a SMILE COSTS YOU NOTHING..... *So says SIMON the SEATLESS*

Scores Last Week Game 8

Eels **20** Panthers **18**
Bulldogs **24** Warriors **25**
Bears v Sea Eagles (Did Not Play)
BYE - Sharks

Draw Wk 9 Sat March 22

Bulldogs v Sharks,
Temurimotia Pk
Panthers v Warriors,
Victoria Pk
Sea Eagles v Eels,
Nukupure Pk
BYE – Bears

**ADVERTISE WITH THE
COOK ISLANDS HERALD**

A premier rugby league game in Arorangi was not played over the weekend because of the lack of officials at the venue. Rumours of a referees boycott had been circling since the Wednesday.

Brian Morgan reports on

What SHAUN & SIMI Says.....

REFS PLAN B

As a invite guest into the lion dens for the emergency convened Cook Islands Rugby League Referees Association (CIRLRA) meeting I count the number of those in attendance as I approach there gathering. A weary eye yet not confrontational one is beamed my way as I meet and greet the referee members present. Ten in total have attended with 2 proxy's given before hand it is stated. CIRLRA President Shaun Willis gets Simi to open the meeting with a pure and they quickly deal with the business at hand

Special Agenda

- Nominate a new Appointments director
- Plan B if appointment not accepted by CIRL

John Whitta is appointed CIRLRA Referees Games Allocation director and readily accepts the role. Discussion about how and who he is to work with is resolved and a resolution is moved to forward his appointment to the CIRL committee. The referees conduct at this meeting is in a cool and calm manner, Very little emotion is apparent Im here to get their side of the events which it has only been rumoured and hearsay stories so far. It quickly becomes apparent that a long historical path of THINGS has happened that has lead to the current situation. What is THIS situation you might ask – NO games played in Arorangi – Bears v Sea Eagles (Reserves and Prem grade) WHY? – Lack of refs

at venue.

The CIRLRA referees association is upset that an official from the CIRL, Mr Taua Benioni (CIRL Games director) has come along and is now making the referees appointments – NOT the CIRLRA referees association.. According to President Shaun Willis no other sports body similar to theirs has this situation in their code. At a recent club delegates meeting it was noted that 1 club (Warriors) supported the refs to continue with the job, 4 clubs (Sea Eagles, Eels, Panthers & Bulldogs) supported Taua Benioni to take over the job, and 2 were absent from that meeting (Arorangi & Sharks). Benioni was elected by the meeting and his first effort in the refs allocations was last weekend.

The CIRLRA referees new stances is that they are prepared to work with Mr Benioni and have made efforts to rectify the situation by appointing Mr Whitta. According to them, Mr Benioni's actions say quite clearly he is not prepared to work with them. They have formulated a Plan B that in the event of Mr Whittas name not been accepted by CIRL, the referees association members, who unanimously supported this line of action at last nights meeting, will all take up alternative sports and leisure activities instead this league season.

A letter of the motions was to be delivered this morning to the CIRL management.

Knowing the personalities involved **WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN?????**



Sean Willis

Week 9 *Who they picked!*

- Mr "X"**
Sharks, Warriors, Sea Eagles
- Lawless**
Bulldogs, Panthers, Sea Eagles
- Grocers Review**
Bulldogs, Panthers, Eels
- Queen Bee**
Sea Eagles
- Jaoa**
Bulldogs, Panthers, Sea Eagles
- Vailima**
Bulldogs, Panthers, Eels
- OZ**
Bulldogs, Panthers, Eels
- Tattos R Me**
Bulldogs, Panthers, Eels
- Randwick Kingfisher**
Bulldogs, Panthers, Eels
- Son of Able**
Bulldogs, Panthers, Eels
- Boogies Heros**
Sharks, Warriors, Eels

Food Festival!

By Norma Ngatamariki

What's up, y'all! This week, my article is solely based on the Tereora College Food Festival which will be at the Te Atakura Grounds (you know, across from Telecom). It starts at 7:30 in the morning and goes all the way to 2:00 in the afternoon. Whoop dee do! I'm not all that pumped up for the early start, but as for the selling food part, I'm all for it. The school has taken the initiative because Tereora needs more resources for the students as well as the staff. By writing this article, I'm giving the school free advertising, so I'm contributing in a way (Pfft).

The students were told a month in advance that a Food Festival would be given the green light. My awesome Anau class had made the decision to sell desserts and sweets on the day. We even wanted to do a Gaming Arena because

it was out of the ordinary and fun for the class to do. Just to give you a heads up, we will be selling chocolate fudge, snowballs (the best), coconut ice, cookies, cupcakes, hokey pokey and heaps of other treats for those with a sweet tooth. We'll definitely be the greatest dessert stall in the entire food festival (no joke).

Besides desserts, there will also be umu and barbeque food. I believe that there will be a stall selling Mexican food (I don't want to be a traitor to my class, but I'm definitely going to check out the Mexican food stall). Knowing my family, they will all be rushing to the umu food (they have island appetites), so Dean and I (Dean is my partner in crime) will be marketing our stall to the best of our abilities. Watch out for two bright yellow people (Ikurangi represent!)

The preparation for this Food

Festival has not been without mishaps. People were running around last minute, begging their parents for some kind of help. I asked my mum for fruits and she agreed to pick them (only because the fruits were free) but my fabulous friend Dean went ahead and asked his mother for a sponsorship from Westpac. Yay! The sponsorship pack included cute, little piggy banks and squeeze toys. Thank you Westpac! You guys were a great help with our stall. We will be cooking up our yummy desserts pretty soon, so be prepared for a mouthful of "amazingness".

So let me just take a second to talk about the umu food. It will be delicious and for all you true-hearted 100% islanders, make sure to come out and check out the mouth-watering, tender, succulent, mind-blowing awesomeness which is the umu



food. Even for those who don't really prefer the island food, come for the experience you will never forget in trying the local cuisine. Come with empty stomachs, full wallets and an open-mind and support the school event of the year – The Tereora College Food Festival, KIA TOA!

Year of the 96'

By Nadia George

It's finally here, the year of the 96's. I'm not sure if you've heard of this expression before, but all it means, is that everyone who was born in the year 1996 finally gets to turn the big ONE-EIGHT! It's one of the many milestones in a person's life where they really begin to transform from adolescence into adulthood. Thirteen marks the change from child to teen, sixteen marks the year of finally being able to drive legally, without the ever-present fear of being pulled over by the PoPo. Then there's eight-teen!

When most people finally hit this age, they tend to think more about partying 'til the breaking dawn'. No more warming the rocks outside of Rehab, but instead join in on all the ruckus that goes on at the hottest club on the island. "Sammy J come back please". Don't get me wrong, all that stuff sounds exciting, but to be completely honest, I'm not

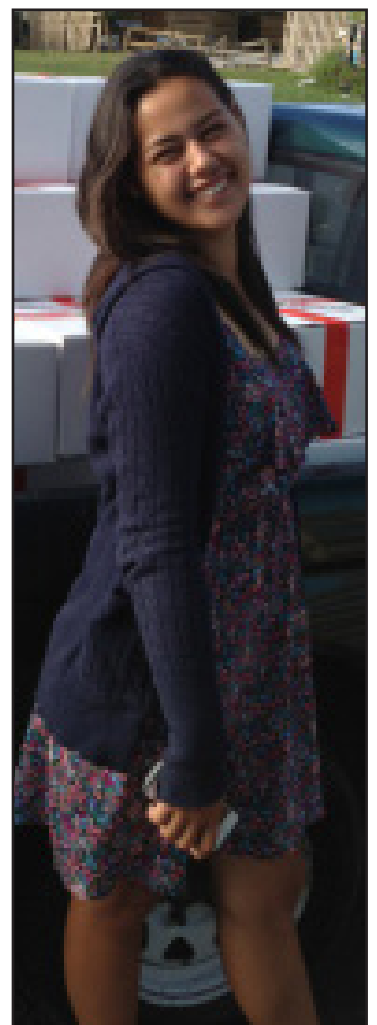
that excited about it anymore. I mean yeah it has its perks, but when I think about it. Like really think about it. I realize that it's just another year of me growing older. And unlike most teens nowadays, id like to hold onto my youthful-ness for as long as possible. A couple of my friends has already hit eighteen and ill soon be next.


Last week Saturday, my cousin Anau celebrated his big ONE-EIGHT in style. With a big fierce and flossy, birthday bash, to celebrate his coming of age. Neither win nor rain could stop us from celebrating. Mami, Anau and I, spent hours in the cold rain getting everything done for that night and I'm happy to say that it all paid off, the set up was spectacular. Lights streamed all around us, the food was delicious and the company was great! Everyone got their 'crunk on', with people even going as far as twerking upside down on the sides of the walls. We all danced the night away, with my fellow columnist, Norma,

going all out on her hair, make up and outfit. Even going as far as strutting a pair of fairly high heels! Norma if you're reading this...you go girl, Sha-fierce! To my cousin Anau, happy belated birthday, youre finally eighteen, but feeling nineteen and acting like you're twenty-one! Unfortunately, I wont be able to celebrate my birthday in style. Instead I'll be getting some much needed retail therapy in Auckland after my weekend camp for Rotary. But hey, thank God for another blissful year!


For many of us ninety-sixers, this'll be our final year of high school, then some may go on to Universities, others, to another country for better opportunities. So what we got to focus on is the 'right now' factor. It's a new year, a new you and a brand new slate, filled with brand new opportunities. So here's to all the ninety-sixers out there, make it count guys. Two thousand and fourteen, come at me brah.


#ninety-six #hashtags.




There are a couple of issues the Te Mato Vai crowd are not being transparent about. Firstly, what is the hook supposed to signify? It's more NZ Maori rather than Cook Islands Maori, and did Deric Wolf design it? If not who did and lastly why was a non local chosen to carve it and secondly, how much was he paid? Let's not dawdle on the answer, somebody out there must know. 




The new Edrey at the daily dribble can't seem to make up his overheated brain, ignoring advice to keep a hat on to stop the hot sun frying his brain, a few days after the fresh editor's repetitious reiteration reminder that letters more than 300 words won't be published he did just that with Tim Tepaki's letter of Tribute for Ariki Tamatoa which was over 550 words long. Not only that, what's happened to the smoke signal gossip section? Word is the unconnected reporters are using it to get story leads. If the Edrey isn't using the public contributions he should publish a statement of termination, too much sun on the uncovered head Edrey, and no charge for the advice. 


No one must have been more surprised than the Heathers T&M when they didn't get a major cut of the Airport solar panel installation contract with Andersons. One of their Directors didn't make a secret of them going to be the contractor, talk about blowing the horn. 


News from the CIP National HQ (golf club) is a long standing member is getting the run around treatment from the members. Unable to score a Government appointment to a Board like his insistent brother Mike, Stuart Henry stood for every position at the golf club


but didn't get voted for a single one of them. There could be an opening at the Punanga Nui Market; they are looking for volunteers to join their beautification committee. 

A family who had been waiting for some time to get a male puppy as a pet where delighted to have friends drop off last week, one exactly as required. Even with the assurance he runs out side to do his peeing, only trouble is the owners were bewildered when the new arrival began running inside to do his peeing and did a huge number two right on the door step. It must be a dog thing about staking out his territory, let's hope he doesn't grow up, run away from home and join the roving mob of dogs that delight in biting tourists. 


What a shame we have a softly, softly lala for a PM, where is the warrior to stand up and be counted even if it is against the Chinese? The saga of the shark fin violation and the revelation Elvis Puna was instrumental in letting them off the hook is nothing more than conceding to fears of the super power despite our tough laws against harvesting shark fins. Now the precedent has been set watch for others to


follow suit because we are easy beats that can be walked over. 

Looks like the daily dribble doesn't know what news is more important. In Saturday's edition the biggest political reform in nearly fifty years and the PM Puna's print media release was buried on page eight and a photo of him and story of him planting a tree was the major news breaking event on the front page. How jolly impressive. As to the use of the word "sod," was it referring to the PM or the dirt? When the government changes they will be all pulled out and new ones planted by the new PM and his C Team. 

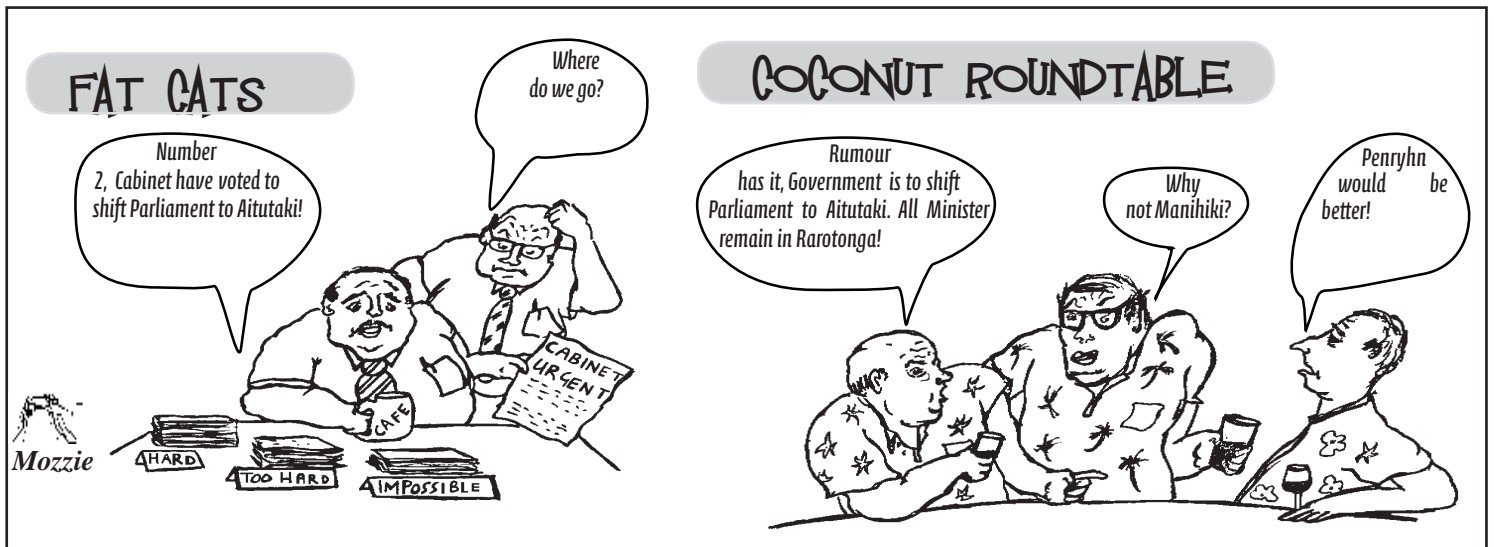
How many more Commissioners do we need? Do they really need to have such a grandiose title to keep an eye on commercial consumption, what is the Price Tribunal for? No wonder the public service is bloated and out of control or is it a manufactured job that is advertised but already ear marked for someone, let's hope it's not going to be another over paid expat friend of the neneva fella. 

Instead of boasting about having a \$4 million dollar surplus the wimpy Finance Minister Brown should walk the talk and

fix the two arson destroyed schools that are now becoming a frustration for parents who have had to resort to fundraising. Talk, talk, and talk, it costs nothing and it's becoming Brown's silly answer to every real problem. How about dipping into the \$4 million and pay Arama for all those tanks he has installed, just who is doing the subsidising? It isn't Brown's boring lot, only capable of gas bagging, blah, blah and more blah, blah. 

The President of the Price Tribunal failed to make one admission as to why our fuel rates are one of the highest in the Pacific. He conveniently points the finger at the retailer for their 28 cents per litre but hides the fact the real culprit is the greedy government who get 50 cents a litre. That's a lot of half dollars neneva Neves won't be getting when we go 100 percent solar. 

The uninspiring tyrant Puna the doesn't care for pensioners PM had a gibberish blast at a story run last week in the most popular news paper (this one of course) while talking his usual rubbish on Radio Cook Islands. He claimed all's well with him and the Chinese and the story was nonsense. Well one question for Puna, what happened to the cancellation of the China/Cook Island/NZ presentation by China at a very high powered conference in Mexico? Explain that one Puna. You can't embarrass the Chinese and expect to get away with it, explain, and explain that one Puna. Stop using the Pitt Media to mislead the people; if you can't tell the truth don't waste the people's time. Why didn't you talk about why you are frightened to have a CIP conference?



The Comfort of Being In Jesus Christ

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

During these past weeks there has been so many deaths. Loved ones have passed on from this life. Families have been devastated, hurt and grieved for the lost of those so dear to their lives. Their presence in the home environment and in the family will be greatly missed. I Peter 5v.7 read (CEV) "God cares for you, so turn all your worries over to Him." "E uri i to kotou tumatetenga katoa ki runga iaia, koia oki te tiaki mai ia kotou." In Psalm 116v.15 it reads (NKJV) "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." "E mea apinga maata i mua i te aroaro o lehova te mate o tona ra aronga tapu." The question is 'Why is the death of believers in God (or Jesus Christ) precious in His sight?'

(1) Because the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross on Calvary, the blood He shed on that cross to cleanse us of our sins and unrighteous ways has been recognised by the saints of God. The saints believed that Jesus died for them. The same power of God that raised Jesus from the dead will also raise them (saints and believers in Jesus Christ) from the dead in the future. They also believed that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. As such, the saints believed that only through Jesus Christ they will have eternal life.

(2) The saints believed that the positive change in their lives was due to the

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

supernatural and divine work of the Holy Spirit in them after receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour of their lives. II Corinthians 5v.17 reads "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new."

(3) The positive change in a person's life because of Jesus Christ certainly has positive influence on the lives of others. That is why the Psalmist said in Psalm 116v.15 "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." "E mea apinga maata i mua i te aroaro o lehova te mate o tona ra aronga tapu."

Therefore the passing away of a person who have received Jesus as Lord and Saviour of his or her life is not an occasion to be grieved about or to mourn, but rather a moment worthy of celebration and rejoicing because that individual has gone to be with the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said in John 14v.1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled, you believe in God, believe also in Me. in My Fathers house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you, 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."

I encourage those whose loved ones has passed on from this life, if they have received Jesus as Lord and Saviour of their lives then you have nothing to worry about. However if they have not then it can't be helped. Therefore for those who are still alive I encourage you to receive Jesus as Lord and

Saviour of your life while you have the opportunity to do so. If you want help or guidance or advice on this matter I encourage you to give me a ring on 27111 or 54411. Isaiah 55v.6 reads "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near."

May you have a God blessed week.

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.

VACANCY



**2013/2014 NZAID
SHORT TERM TRAINING AWARDS (STTA)**

Employers wishing to develop staff skills through STTA are invited to apply for assistance under the NZID Bilateral Aid training Programme. This can include new short courses and attachments in workplaces or training organizations. We have 4 placements available for this Financial Year.

Studies to complete tertiary certificates and diplomas will not be eligible under this programme.

STTA will not be awarded where the proposed training is available in-country.

For further information and application forms, contact Anna Roi on ph 29357 ext. 245 or email scholarships@education.gov.ck Application forms must be received no later than 12pm Thursday 3rd April 2014.



**MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE COOK ISLANDS
(ICI)**

Request for Quotes– WATSAN Communications Advisor

ICI requests for quotes from suitably qualified, experienced, highly motivated and enthusiastic persons for the position of WATSAN Communications Advisor in its Water, Waste and Sanitation (WATSAN) Unit to coordinate the implementation and delivery of the Communications work stream within the Unit. This is an exciting opportunity to work with a team, tasked with making improvements in infrastructure, policy and practice that will contribute to protecting and enhancing the lagoon and ocean environments around our islands.

WATSAN requires specialist communications advice and assistance in order to complete implementation of critical elements of the Waste Management Initiative (WMI) and the upcoming Sanitation Upgrade Programme (SUP). It proposes to engage the Communications Advisor on a short-term contract in order to provide the required expertise and input.

If you are interested in this position, a copy of the ToR can be provided upon which you will be required to submit as part of your request for quotes, a covering letter and CV along with your proposed quotes to:

Mr Mac Mokoroa
Secretary
Infrastructure Cook Islands
PO Box 102
Rarotonga
Cook Islands

The closing date for request for quotes is 3pm on Friday 4th April 2014

For more information or a copy of the TOR please contact Tangi Taoro by phone on 20-321 or by email at tangi.taoro@ici.gov.ck

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