

# COOK ISLANDS HERALD

9 April 2014 \$2 (incl VAT)

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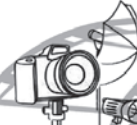
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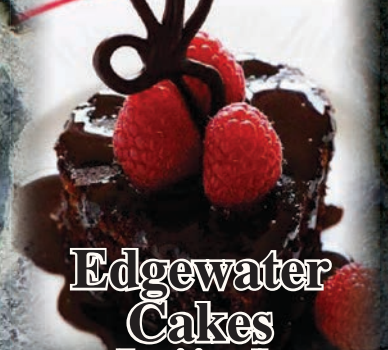
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**16 18 27 28 29 32** **2**

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Drawn: 5/4/14 Draw num: 3413

**1 22 24 29 36 39** **6 45**

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**6 12 18 19 24 25 35** **23 31**

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# Brown's scoffing demonstrates a few loose screws

One thing's for sure, the Minister of Finance Mark Brown loves to hear the sound of his own voice to the detriment he is becoming a contradiction of his own confession. In this unprecedented age of evolving digital technology, social media expansion has simplified capturing voice and images and storage capacity to the extent public personalities can be scrutinised like never before.

In this context memory recall is an affordable reality that can become a haunting threat to those who need to be calculating and prudent with what comes out of their mouth. With this in mind Brown will be held to ransom and snared by the words of his own mouth. Political advertising that reminds a candidate what they said past tense can easily cripple one's chances of success if exploited by a switched on public relations hireling.

Brown's untidy and arrogant use of rhetoric will be the ruin of a political career that promised so much, his heartless soul is reflected by his harsh attitude and comments about and to the elderly who have pleaded with him to lift the burden of back taxes.

Brown's recent comments about purchasing the New Zealand Telecom's majority shareholding through the Cook Islands National Superannuation Fund (CINSF) were careless and shallow again reflecting a rattling brain and an inner self lacking mature substance.

Premature media comments by Brown dismissing the potential investment value to the nation by purchasing options by Telecom NZ did nothing but undermined the confidence of the highly skilled local TCI workers. To suggest a one hundred percent local ownership of TCI would become a liability was nothing but a slap



Mark Brown

in the face of all bar three of the 120 TCI staff.

For years TCI has been a successful operation despite nearly a hundred percent staff of locals, a fact lost on Brown. Ignored as part of the TCI matrix, Brown and Neves made numerous media comments that hurt and confused TCI staff. The proposed shedding of staff by the likely new owners Digicel was seen by Neves as a cure for inefficiency rather than understanding the multi located company had a central business model that substituted management duplication.

Because Brown and Neves were overcome with the prospect of a quick \$7 million for the sale of 20 percent of the local shareholding, money overshadowed the fact Cook Island workers and the welfare of their families, not to mention the landowners gave them a right to be part of a sale process. Instead they were purposefully overlooked and shut out of any participation let alone knowledge of the proceedings.

Just as dumb was Brown's illogical response in a Parliamentary question time last week when he verbally lambasted Cook Islanders for being wealthy and interested in

local investment opportunities. If he had any sense of morality those who Brown highly offended ought to be publically apologised to in the next sitting of the House.

It is absolutely scandalous that the heartless Brown has failed to support and ensure the well being of Cook Islanders, this alone should be one reason he is dumped by the voters at the next elections.

Any suggestions the sale would be subject to local intervention or objection fired the retaliation of Brown and Neves. When BTIB chairman George Pitt publically reminded those involved in the pre sale negotiations BTIB required compliance conditions to be met by both foreign parties he was promptly sacked for incompetence and misconduct.

As it has turned out Telecom NZ is advertising for local interested buyers and Digicel has conceded to applying for a Foreign Enterprise Registration contrary to what Neves and Brown had advised them.

The next move for BTIB is to extend the advertising period for TNZ to three months or for the same duration it took Digicel to complete their due diligence. (About six months) This will give a realistic lead time for

local investors to prepare a way forward. The advertising period may be intervened by Cabinet when in fact it is a Board decision to do or not to.

To say the CINSF is out of bounds to local investments is further evidence Brown lacks innovation and is visionless for the pursuit of forward solutions. The fund is protected from political looters but approached in a genuine manner the possibilities exist.

First Neves must be removed as the acting Chairman for he is against local investment in TCI, then the existing Board can approach the fund managers Aon Hewitt NZ and the Public Trust in Wellington and seek advice or a request to do due diligence as to the viability of increasing local ownership of TCI. How hard is that?

With more than \$70 million in the CINSF, local investments if they stack up must be given some consideration. Another consideration is that the Government on behalf of local investors be they rich or poor purchase the 20 percent sold to Telecom NZ in 1996/97. This would cost within the vicinity of \$7 million which is permissible by law for CINSF to do so.

When the Cook Islands sold 20 percent to TNZ the agreement included the Cook Islands right to buy back those shares. This may be a way to regain the majority shareholding that can be the initial step in a gradual one hundred percent buy out process.

Brown's failure to even try to secure the gilt edge investment of TCI which would preserve local jobs and build independence is a shameful disgrace of political ineptness and characteristic of the CIP trait of big talk but small on delivery.

If there is a seminar for political speech therapy, Brown needs to enrol before he drowns himself in words of stupidity. - George Pitt

# A classless society no more

By Charles Pitt

**D**id you notice the worried looks on the faces of the CIP leadership at parliament last Wednesday when facing the anger from Grey Power members who marched on parliament?

That worry is very real because the realization of the capacity for Grey Power members, especially the staunch CIP Grey Power lot, to alter voting patterns at the next general election, is beginning to bite home.

The PM will not want to be remembered as the leader of a one term government. The DPM can see his chances of becoming PM slipping away. It is rumoured that Finance Minister Brown, thanks to the folly of Neves/ Haigh and Webb, has already lost Takuvaine. When his own support office CEO drags his finger across the front of his throat in response to a query about Brown's chances, you know the game's lost.

Taxing the NZ pension was political suicide. That's why previous PMs and also CIP's Sir Geoffrey Henry refused to do this. As predicted, the whole exercise has turned to custard with Cabinet sitting by watching MFEM officials flounder about in the dark.

Cabinet, which should have provided stronger and clearer leadership, can hardly pass the buck to public servants who believed they were only doing their jobs.

Now those officials are under severe pressure and it is only going to increase. The great pity is that some of these officials may feel compelled to walk away. A few days ago Neves was summoned to Cabinet and asked to give a good reason why his contract (expiring at the end of June) should be rolled over. Tax collector Haigh is on very shaky ground. MFEM economist Webb's

credibility will increasingly come under scrutiny.

The tax review and the taxing of the NZ and also local pensions is explained away by Brown as an attempt to create a more level playing field, give a helping hand up to those on lesser incomes, to create more fairness in the tax system.

While the intention on the part of the Minister may have been to help those less well off, it has not come across that way. In essence the review has been a "top down" exercise where highly paid ex-pat public servants and private sector businessmen are telling the lower classes this is what you are going to get. In this country, changes to the tax system have usually been a "bottom up" affair. Remits for tax changes come up from the Punas to the political party's central committee for discussion and endorsement at conference. Any recommended tax changes are then put to the wider public at the time of the general election.

The current tax changes come at the expense of forever changing the fabric of our culture and in doing so, the very essence and nature of what being a Cook Islander is all about, the face we present to the world. Sir Geoffrey Henry and previous leaders knew what being a Cook Islander was all about. They did not alienate the elderly.

Minister Brown's constant reference to the less fortunate has negative rather than positive connotations. He is lumping a section of society into an identifiable group and in time this group will resent being regarded as welfare "cases." Resentment also because many of these people will have spent a long life working and paying taxes and now they are being regarded as "second class" citizens.

Unlike overseas societies,

Cook Islands society has always been a "flat-line society" where everyone regardless of wealth or social standing is equal, considered equal and sit down at the same table. You won't see this in many other countries. It is what makes the Cook Islands unique. In other countries, the likes of Trevor Clark travel in a limo, only eat at the finest restaurants, have body guards and don't talk to poor people. Here, anyone can stop Trevor in the street and talk to him.

We have been the ultimate example of what a classless society is all about but now thanks to the expatriate mob in MFEM who lack all sense of cultural sensitivity- that is changing.

The Cook Islands is being turned into a society of "haves" and "have nots."

The "have nots" can now be identified by way of an RMD-Revenue Management Division- serial number and the level of their handouts. (When the local pension was non-taxable, there was no need for pensioners to have an RMD number).

Not only that, there is the emotional stigma of being told by government that based on income, you are part of a lesser sub group. It is economic apartheid.

Neves, Haig and co may not worry. Their high, out of place salaries will see them right. Neves is on around \$300,000. Haigh receives around \$100,000. Webb, despite his lack of real experience, is rumoured to be on \$90,000. (\$40,000 from the CI government and \$50,000 chipped in by NZ).



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# More backflips by Puna and Brown



PM Henry Puna - In Heather's line of sight.

**C**ook Islands Party sidekicks Prime Minister Henry Puna and his confidant Minister of Finance Mark Brown unashamedly continue to perform the most undisciplined and erratic political acrobatics before an unimpressed audience within the CIP and the general public.

Last week Brown did a monster back flip regarding Telecom, after weeks of public comments the Cook Islands 40 percent shares in Telecom Cook Islands were open to offers from Digicel. Brown denies the shares were ever on the table for sale. Just more lies after media reports to the contrary.

Brown who is well and truly under the influence of neneva Neves was becoming just as stressed out and panicky about the empty coffers at Treasury that they both jumped without hesitation into the insistence of a quick sale of the local TCI shares to Digicel.

Under pressure from the public at large and his peers who had been vigorously lobbied by their constituencies, Brown crumbled and pretended he had never entertained the remotest view the local shares were for sale. Oblivious to the comments he says from one day to the next, Brown's recorded

double standards will come back to haunt him during the next general election campaign.

When Atiu Member of Parliament Nandi Glassie broke the news Atiu was in line for a serious development makeover which included the island's airport \$4 million upgrade it sent shock waves through the CIP government because Glassie had jumped the gun committing the government to funds they didn't have or weren't appropriated in the current budget.

Whether Glassie had done this intentionally or not the CIP Government reluctantly had to move in that direction to save face with Atiu. It was from the sale of the locally owned TCI shares the Atiu development was to be funded. Glassie began to filter this information to his supporters who had begun to question him if he was politicking for votes, Glassie gave the assurance Government would have the funds sooner than later.

With a shrinking majority Glassie's faux pas had to be absorbed by the CIP to keep the appearances of a united front. Brown's reverse somersault leaves Glassie with a major loss of face with his Island's two constituencies. The \$4 million airport upgrade to buy the single



Mark Brown - Backflip has let Nandi Glassie down.

seat of Atiu is just another failure of the CIP government.

Expecting their introduction of political reform would be implemented before the next general election, the CIP were counting on Glassie to win the sole seat in Atiu thus the proposal of development projects of \$6 million that the exuberant Glassie could not publically suppress until the funds had been confirmed. After blowing his horn before the bread was cooked Glassie will have to do some high value ten out of ten back flipping of his own to keep his election hopes alive.

Puna's about face reverse gear display was very public at Monday night's (8th April) CIP Central Committee meeting. Puna was put in his place over his improper previous announcement there would be no Party Conference till after the next General Elections. Since that announcement there has been a growing undercurrent of dissent with Puna's dictatorial leadership.

Long time Party supporter and former Secretary General Temu Okotai had written a letter to the daily news condemning Puna's deferral of a Party Conference for another year violating the treasured Party Constitution on at least four counts. Delegates

attending the meeting left with a sense of achievement that they redefined some of the Party values desecrated by the current crop of politicians. It now appears Puna has conceded to convening a Party Conference either before or after this year's Maire Nui Constitution Celebrations.

Puna took the opportunity to lash out at Okotai insisting such matters should not be paraded for public consumption. If it wasn't for the bold approach by Okotai nothing would have changed. A Party Conference will test Puna's leadership to the limit and he knows it.

This news is most welcoming by the DPM Teariki Heather who has been waiting for the opportunity to challenge Puna for the CIP leadership. At Sir Geoffrey's funeral Puna quietly threatened to destroy Heather's political career if he dared challenge his leadership, the next conference will see the opposite. Heather now has a time frame and a defined lead time to lure supporters to his side, with his lucrative Te Mato Vai project contracts Heather could simply buy the endorsement of his peers who would reciprocate their support for his sponsorship of their election campaigns.

- George Pitt

# Petition group grieved by lost opportunity

After months of preparing then the laborious task of gathering signatures for the Petition Te Mato Vai, the petition spokes person James Thomson said they are in doubt about the manner in which the Parliamentary due process was executed by those they put their faith in. "Our collective faith was put in a few Members of Parliament to take the Petition TMV to its next level but the lack of attention to details has rendered the tabled petition to a shelf somewhere collecting dust."

Thomson is doubtful the lost opportunity can be retrieved. "The Parliamentary Standing Orders are very specific and it is unclear why they were not adhered to," said Thomson. "Being a rare event, petitions being tabled in the House needed to be prepared for and processed diligently by whoever was tabling the Petition."

Thomson said he was unaware of the schedule for the day in the House and he was at the USP studying at the time it was being tabled by the Leader of the Opposition Wilkie Rasmussen. Some of the petition co-ordinators were disappointed they were not advised of the timing so they could be present in the

public gallery when it was tabled.

"We assumed we would be notified," but when asked by who Thomson said "We should have sorted that detail so we really can't point the finger on that one."

Thomson said after checking his mobile he noticed there were many missed calls and texts with queries about what had not happened in the House. "I

work through," said Thomson who has since received advice on the Standing Orders and the due process for tabling Petitions in Parliament.

After Rasmussen had moved for the 11 point English and Maori Petition to be read it was seconded by Smiley Heather then there was an intervention by the Speaker Nicky Rattle for a break then the reading after that. After the House

Rasmussen to request the Government to appoint a select committee.

One political observer said the inexperience of the Deputy Clerk and the Speaker contributed to the incomplete due process for tabling a Petition. With the Petition TMV not in the Government's interest they had no intention of intervening to assist with the due process claimed Thomson.

Thomson said the Petition Committee were exchanging views and information with the view of getting the Petition read in the House but was at a loss as to what else could be done.

Thomson said, "The Petition TMV was never meant to be a political statement but one lesson that has come out of the Petition is there are a lot of aggravated voters who are not convinced the CIP government is doing the right thing and this concern could be an influencing factor how people vote in the next General Elections."

"Initially there were 2039 signatures that we took to Parliament. We added an additional 400 signatures the next day. However that was reduced to 1946 after a review by Parliamentary staff," concluded Thomson.

- George Pitt

*"I was rather shocked when I was able to put the puzzle together because many were critical of Rasmussen's failure to have the Petition read and his failure to move a motion for government to form a select committee to review the petition then report back to the House."*

was rather shocked when I was able to put the puzzle together because many were critical of Rasmussen's failure to have the Petition read and his failure to move a motion for government to form a select committee to review the petition then report back to the House."

"We had high expectations but when reality kicks in it really tests our character."

"There were a lot of disgruntled views that I had to

was reconvened there was no reading of the Petition, "None of our team who were listening to the radio broadcast heard why the reading did not proceed."

Thomson said this meant none of the outer islands got the opportunity to hear what the details of the petition are which was a moral blow to their hard working team.

Thomson said he is yet to get an explanation as to why there was no motion by


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## Our Frontpage model



Our frontpage model this weeks front-page model is 26 year old Ashleigh Wihongi. Ashleigh is a stay at home mum and has two beautiful children; her daughter goes to Avatea Primary and her son is being looked after by her at home. Check out our website [www.ciherald.co.ck](http://www.ciherald.co.ck) and facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ciherald](http://www.facebook.com/ciherald)

## Strong stand for equality by Cooks at UN

Cook Islands has reaffirmed a strong commitment to equality measures at the UN's Commission on Population and Development meeting as an important way to bring health and sustainability benefits to all Cooks residents.

In his official Cook Islands country statement, Health Minister Nandi Glassie told the UN member delegates that the Cooks had made significant progress on universal primary education; promoting gender equality & empowerment of women; reducing child mortality; improving maternal health; and combating HIV.

"But Non Communicable Disease is our biggest issue - the Government is committed to combating this epidemic through legislative reform, health policy and programming and promotion of healthy lifestyles," Minister Glassie said.

The 14 Pacific nations present at the CPD UN meeting chose Minister Glassie to deliver a united Pacific Countries Statement to the UN.

Minister Glassie, in the united Pacific Countries Statement said: "We reaffirm our commitment to addressing

vulnerability to climate change as one of the most critical issues of our national security and survival and further commit to the cross-cutting nature of population issues, globalization and environmental degradation."

Gender equality and women's rights were strongly supported by all Pacific countries.

"We would like to see that there is strengthened protection for girls and young women, including enhancing access to education, including comprehensive sexuality education and ensuring their access to sexual and reproductive health information and services," Minister Nandi said.

Pacific countries at the UN also wanted full equal rights for asylum seekers.

"We are committed to applying a human rights-based approach to the issues of internally displaced persons, refugees and asylum seekers in the Pacific," said Minister Glassie.

Minister Glassie is joined in the Cooks delegation for the week-long CPD meeting by Opposition MP Tangata Vavia.

*Country statement can be found on page eleven.*

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# DPM Heather under the spot light over Te Mato Vai contracts

It seems as long as the Deputy Prime Minister Teariki Heather is willing to splash out on free beer and lavish banquets of food, his fellow MPs have given him free passage to indulge all he likes in matters of the Te Mato Vai projects. Perceptions of glaring potential conflicts of interest are quickly over looked by a compromising Cook Islands Party Executive and Caucus who see Heather as their financial life line and major sponsor of the CIP campaign expenses.

The latest interest in Heather's TMV conflict of interest surfaced this week concerning the tendering process (which closed on Monday 8) for contracts issued by the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) and his company T&M Heather Ltd.

Recently after CCECC advertised for expressions of interest for Te Mato Vai work under their supervision a group of local contractors led by S&T Contractors as the lead tenderer have bid in competition to T&M Heather Ltd. S&T Contractors have carried out major water works contracts for the former government Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning, (MOIP) their highly qualified engineer has work for many years on major projects in the Cook Islands.

The recent notoriety regarding T&M Heater Ltd getting the vast majority of work has led to much media commentary with many people convinced the calling for prices is simply playing to the gallery as a facade while the actual tender has already been promised to Teariki Heather's company as was unwittingly signalled by a CCECC member last October.

Since Heather has been Minister of Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) it would appear many contracts awarded to T&M Heather Ltd were slightly below the \$30,000 threshold to avoid advertising the contestable tendering process. Some contracts awarded were over the



DPM Teariki Heather

threshold and never advertised. The Minister concerned appears to consider that he is bullet proof and his political elevation to DPM only confirms what many people assume, that what is good for the country is only good if T&M Heather Ltd and the Minister benefits.

It will be of great interest to hear what the outcome is over this ongoing saga as the five contractors who will be sub tendering to the lead contractor S&T Contractors are families predominantly domiciled in Puaikura and many have historical links to the CIP.

Should T&M Heather Ltd be awarded this multimillion dollar contract it will be no surprise to those who claim the outcome is preordained. While the DPM Heather's business benefits at the expense of others that could well sow seeds of discontent and the loss of long term CIP die hard supporters thus pushing the CIP government into irrevocable political damage.

While the DPM has shown himself to be active in the community for many years and he prides himself in promoting

his physical contributions often comparing them to those by others, we cannot excuse ourselves from asking the question; long term who has really benefited from his actions? The public at large, the people of Puaikura or Teariki and his immediate family?

DPM Heather has fervently denied he has no conflicts of interest despite the Code of Conduct for Parliamentarians. Rather than distance himself honourably from the obvious public perception he is too close to TMV not to have many potential conflicts of interest the blinded Heather also venomously denies any favourable commercial collaborating with CCECC or insider trading as the Minister of ICI, the driving mechanism for TMV. While Heather transmits the impression he is above the law and answerable to no one but himself and his family he fails to read the signal his end will be a tragedy politically and personally.

The very fact Heather's company T&M Heather Ltd had bid for the multimillion dollar CCECC contracts is evidence he has a conflict of interest because

he is a direct beneficiary of the transaction.

DPM Heather as the overseer of the biggest project ever undertaken in the Cook Islands is also potentially the biggest financial beneficiary (Up to \$12 million) how neither he nor his political colleagues let alone the Project Steering Committee of eminent members, Crown Law, Audit Office and PERC can see the obvious is a serious breach of our nation's integrity and moral values. It is deplorable and a disgrace so many have seared their conscious by choosing to turn a blind eye instead of insisting the principles of good governance we claim to subscribe to are upheld and practised.

If Heather's company is awarded the contract, suspicions he has compromised his integrity and mislead the country will be clarified and the people will vote accordingly.

I call upon the DPM Heather yet again to answer my questions requested in this publication to him in a manner which will set the general public's mind at rest as well as his conscious. -George Pitt



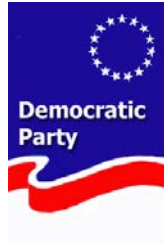
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## BTIB Business Support Programme for market vendors Training Programme.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>21 April</p> <p><b>EASTER MONDAY</b></p>	<p>22 April</p> <p><u>Opening:</u> <b>BASIC CASH BOOK</b> 9.00am onwards Punanganui Rotunda 14 vendors</p>	<p>23 April</p> <p><b>BASIC CASH BOOK</b> 9.00am onwards Punanganui Rotunda 17 vendors</p>	<p>24 April</p> <p><b>BUSINESS PLAN</b> <b>SESSION 1: 9.00am(14)</b> <b>SESSION 2: 1.00PM(15)</b> Punanganui Rotunda</p>	<p>25 April</p> <p><b>ANZAC DAY</b></p>
<p>28 April</p> <p><b>BASIC COMPUTING</b> BTIB Training room 1030 – 12noon 7 vendors</p>	<p>29 April</p> <p><b>BASIC COMPUTING</b> BTIB Training room 4.30pm – 6.00pm 8 vendors</p>	<p>30 April</p> <p><b>BASIC COMPUTING</b> BTIB Training room 1030 – 12noon 8 vendors</p>	<p>01 May</p> <p><b>BAT TRAINING</b> BTIB training room 9.00am – 12noon 8 vendors</p>	<p>02 May</p> <p><b>BAT TRAINING</b> BTIB training room 9.00am – 12noon 8 vendors</p>
<p>05 May</p> <p><b>BAT TRAINING</b> BTIB training room 9.00am – 12noon 9 vendors</p>	<p>06 May</p> <p><b>INLAND REVENUE-TAXATION</b> 9.00am onwards New Hope Church 33 vendors</p>	<p>07 May</p> <p><b>BANK OF THE COOK ISLANDS</b> 9.00am onwards New Hope Church 26 vendors</p>	<p>08 May</p> <p><b>J &amp; J TUMUTOA LTD</b> Accounting services 9.00am onwards New Hope Church 32 vendors</p>	<p>09 May</p> <p><b>CLOSING:</b> Presentation of merits &amp; future direction for vendors</p>



# Can you read between the ~~Lines~~ LIES?

## R.I.P Term of C.I.P Madness.

This is what they said:

### **THERE WILL NOT BE AN INCREASE IN VAT. YEAH RIGHT!**

The purpose for the increase is for tax payers to fund the PM and his Cabinet travel extravagances.

### **WE WILL REFUND THE PENSIONER MONEY. YEAH RIGHT!**

The latest back tracking proves it was wrong from the beginning, what other reason is there?

### **THERE WILL BE NO MORE WITH HOLDING TAX AFTER 2 YEARS. YEAH RIGHT!**

We'll just change its name and still tax interest on savings.

### **NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN THE T&MV? YEAH RIGHT!**

70 million dollars worth of pipe dreams.

### **'WE WILL NOT TAX OUR LOCAL PENSIONS'. YEAH RIGHT!**

We'll just give on one hand and TAX more from the other.

### **SHOW US THE MANDATE TO SELL TCI SHARES?**

You have none! Make 1 of your election platforms the sale then lets see if the electorates buy it.

### **PM - EXECUTIVE DECISION...**

Over rides Local and International Law, permits Chinese Shark finning. The PM just opened the door for further breaches!

### **MARK BROWN'S ANSWER TO LOWERING LIVING COSTS -**

Reduces import levies on local production, for over seas JOBS creation. Driving depopulation further. Then he back tracks?

Are there further back tracks around the corner?

### **NANDI GLASSIE - 'CIP ARE DOING A GREAT JOB'. - YEAH RIGHT!**

So Nandi, explain why 750 Cookies left in December?

**3 CONSECUTIVE YEARS** of annual budget deficits.

**3 CONSECUTIVE YEARS** of debt increases,

**3 CONSECUTIVE YEARS** of population loss.

**END IT NOW! RESIGN,** give the mandate back to the people!

# Commission on Population and Development

*Statement by Hon Nandi Glassie  
(Summary)*

I am honored to deliver the Cook Islands country statement at this Commission on Population and Development 47th Session.

Cook Islands was committed to the ICPD Programme of Action in 1994 and is committed to a progressive and a forward looking agenda from this 47th session of CPD. Last year, we endorsed, along with other Pacific Island Countries, the 18 elements of the Moana Declaration – a declaration looking at progressing ICPD in the 21st century for the benefit of all persons living in our countries. The key elements of the ICPD are being addressed in Cook Islands through its embedding in our own National Development Plan and National programmes. The ICPD review undertaken in 2012 revealed that we have made significant progress in key areas of population and development but gaps remain that require further attention.

The net outflow of residents, over the past ten years to New Zealand has been significant. Outer island development is a challenge, exacerbated by steady outer island population decline, particularly of young adults seeking tertiary education and employment, resulting in an aged population. Approximately 12 percent of the population in Cook Islands is 60 years and older. Thus, our key population concerns revolve around a declining population and ageing. We would like to see repopulation and are putting in place strategies and incentives to attract Cook Islanders back to the Cook Islands.

My country is on track to achieving the MDGs and key elements of ICPD; particularly those related to universal primary education; promoting gender equality & empowerment of women; reducing child mortality; improving maternal health; and combating HIV. No maternal death has been reported since 1991 and we have 100 percent of births attended by skilled birth attendants and 100 percent antenatal coverage. The infant mortality of 5.8 and under five mortality rate of 7 are among the lowest in the world. Rates of teenage fertility rate have been reduced by a quarter since 1990-1998 figures were recorded. The contraceptive prevalence rate is

48%.

Non-Communicable Disease is our most serious health concern. Government is committed to combating this epidemic through legislative reform, health policy and programming and promotion of healthy lifestyles.

Our National Sustainable Development Plan includes key elements of ICPD. A Family Law Bill was passed in 2010 and the Cook Islands National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment & Strategic Plan of Action (2011 - 2016) is being implemented. The National Health Strategy (2012-2016), also contains key elements of ICPD, including maternal health, family planning, sexual and reproductive health, including for adolescents. A national population policy is being developed with a focus on repopulation. The National Human Resources Development Plan has a focus on Youth employment. Women have been consistently represented in Parliament, but at a much lower level than men; three women sit in Parliament today. Cook Islands Government would like to see more women in parliament and are exploring means for increased women participation in the highest level of national decision making. While women are also playing an increasing role in business and the economy, they are the backbone of our families and communities. Cook Islands acceded to CEDAW in 2006.

We in the Cook Islands believe that we can maintain our cultural values and traditional identity, which are compatible with the rights of individuals, as outlined in the Human Rights Declaration.

We recognise persons of different sexual orientation and gender identity as equal to mainstream gender identities. We are progressive in ensuring our children are exposed to comprehensive sexuality education, so as to allow them to exercise their rights, of course with parental guidance, and to be able to protect themselves to reach their full potential. We are cognizant that young people are exposed to social media, as never before and, now more than ever, we need to ensure that they receive full benefits of knowledge and evidence regarding healthy behavior - including sexual

behaviour, healthy nutrition, physical exercise and mental health - as well as receive the maximum opportunities for education and employment. We would like to ensure our girls remain in school, that they are educated to the full extent as are our boys, and that they are empowered to navigate their lives being able to achieve their dreams.

My delegation strongly endorses the outcome statement of the 6th Asia and Pacific Population Conference of 2013 and the findings and recommendations of the ICPD Beyond 2014 review.

At the Sixth APPC, Cook Islands was one of 12 sovereign Pacific nations, a sub-region which has some of the most vulnerable populations, to support ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights for all our people, without discrimination on the basis of age, sex, gender identity or sexual orientation, economic status, religion, ethnicity.

We committed to addressing the cross-cutting nature of population issues, vulnerability to climate change, globalisation and environmental degradation.

We committed to increasing women's and young people's participation in decision making and in political, social and economic processes at all levels.

We want to see that there is increased support and protection for girls and young women, including enhancing access to education and comprehensive mechanisms for ensuring their access to sexual and productive information and services.

We support inclusive sustainable development strategies, and intend to respond to specific needs of persons with disabilities, vulnerable and marginalized groups.

We endorse the prioritisation of couples and individuals' access to contraception and information to make free and informed decisions about the number and timing of children;

Results of studies on Gender Based Violence reveal high levels of violence in all forms against women and girls. We recommend an integrated response to gender-based violence in all sexual and reproductive health programmes and services; We intend to prioritise adolescent and sexual reproductive health and rights, including through comprehensive

sexuality education, and establish accessible SRH and mental health services for youth in schools and other educational institutions, youth organizations, faith based organisations and communities, ensuring their meaningful participation.

While 14 Pacific countries took part in the ICPD Global Review Processes and took note of significant progress in many areas, much remains to be done.

We commit to scaling-up national efforts to halt the spread of STIs and HIV, and meet the goal of ensuring universal access to HIV education, prevention, treatment, care and support, free of discrimination; including removing legal and policy barriers that impede access for key affected populations.

We recognise the heightened social and economic risk factors for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) confronting the peoples of the Pacific, and recommend key actions to strengthening prevention and control of these disease which have significant impact on Pacific populations.

In addressing the unprecedented pace of population ageing in some Pacific nations, we commit to preparing for its social and economic implications for individuals, families, societies and the Pacific community.

We recognise that the issues surrounding internal and external migration, urbanisation and urban growth in the Pacific is critical so that the growing number of urban residents, including the poor, have secure access to land, housing, water, sanitation, energy and transport, as well as health, education and other essential services; address the root causes of migration and poverty.

In our official delegation are Hon Tangata Vavia, John Tangi, the Clerk of our Parliament and also the representative Cook Islands Family Welfare Association and John Hyde of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development. We want to see the commitments of the APPC carried through not only into this CPD but into the Post 2015 global process.

This Session needs to build on the progress achieved in the regional Sixth APPC with stronger commitments to end inequalities.

## Political Reform ...

Should **Palmerston** have its own MP?

With a "Political Reform Package" finally getting tabled in Parliament last week, I take some comfort in the fact that we are at least moving forward in the right direction.

Under the present "Package Proposal", Aitutaki would reduce from 3 seats in Parliament to 2 while both Mangaia and Atiu will reduce to one seat each. This in turn, will reduce the number of member's in Parliament from 24 to 20.

Last week I wrote about Takutea and Suvarrow. This week I want to talk about Palmerston.

In particular, I ask the questions : Should Palmerston have its own seat in the House? Should the people of Palmerston have their own Member of Parliament?

Like all the other sister islands in the group, Palmerston has a unique geographical location and so has definite borders with a specific land area and a permanent resident population.

It has its own mayor, island councilors, and an established form of "Island Government" no different to any of the other sister islands.

Palmerston has its own infrastructure with various government agencies related to education, health, marine resources, internal affairs and so on.

With the regular export of parrot fish to Rarotonga in recent times, the domestic economy of Palmerston is doing quite well. Better than most sister islands.

So in regard to the political, economic and social structures of the island, Palmerston is no different to that of Rakahanga, Mitiaro, Manihiki or Penrhyn.

Palmerston also has its own unique dialect of language. It has its own unique form of traditional culture. It has its own unique "ethnic entity" that is clearly distinctive to that of Palmerston alone.

Just like all the other "sister islands" of the Cook Islands, Palmerston stands side-by-side to each and every one of them with equal relevance and equal importance within the framework of the Cook Islands.

But Palmerston has one disadvantage when compared to all the other inhabited islands of the Cook Islands.

This is because Palmerston does not have . . . "political equality".

Palmerston has traditionally been part of the Avatiu Constituency. So the questions are asked once again : Should Palmerston have its own seat in the House? Should the people of Palmerston have their own Member of Parliament?

Going back many years, Captain James Cook came upon this island on Thursday 16 June 1774. He was travelling from Raiatea to Tonga during his 2nd Voyage to the South Pacific. Even though it was uninhabited, Cook

named this island "Palmerston" after Lord Palmerston who was the First Lord of the British Admiralty.

No attempt was made for any crew to land. And no attempt was made by Cook to claim or annex this island for Great Britain. He simply gave the island its name and then sailed on past.

James Cook returned to Palmerston 3 years later on 14 April 1777. He then went ashore and so stepped foot on Palmerston. Of all the islands Cook visited in the group that now carries his name, Palmerston was the only island he physically stepped ashore on.

Writing in his Journal of that time, Cook wrote : "Why did nature conceal such a beautiful place so far away from mankind and civilisation."

The next European to apparently reach Palmerston was Captain Edward Edwards on board the "Pandora" in May 1791.

Following the "Mutiny of the Bounty" near Tonga on 28 April 1789 and Captain Bligh's epic journey to return to England, the British Admiralty sent Captain Edwards to roam the South Sea's in search of the mutineers. He found some of them on Tahiti and while sailing westward he called at Palmerston only to find there were no mutineers living there.

The first European settlement on Palmerston happened on 15 July 1811 when an Australian trader called Simon Lord had a group of about a dozen workers placed there to collect beche-de-mer (a type of sea-slug) which fetched very good prices in China. That enterprise failed and the men left there ended up almost killing each other into extinction.

A number of other European attempts were made to establish a commercial settlement to collect beche-de-mer and/or make coconut oil. But they all failed for various reasons.

William Richard Marsters, originally from England, first put in an appearance when he jumped from a whaling ship to land on Penrhyn in 1850 . . . a few years before the arrival of Christianity. He was 29 years of age.

What happened to him next is subject to various version of events.

According to Ned Marsters many years later, his grandfather (William Marsters) left Penrhyn with his wife from that island and went to Samoa. Her name was Sarah Akakaingaro.

They later returned to Penrhyn and then travelled to Manihiki to recruit labourers which William Marsters then took to Suvarrow to work under contract to the trader John Brander of Tahiti. This contract was to collect beche-de-mar and to make coconut oil.

It was during this time that William Marsters took a 2nd wife. Her name was Tepou Tinioi and she was from Manihiki. Apparently, Tepou was a cousin to Sarah Akakaingaro.

This enterprise on Suvarrow failed and so Trader Brander sent William Marsters and his family to Manuae to try the same thing. This enterprise also failed and so William Marsters and his family secured passage and went to Aitutaki.

There he met a Portugese man from Goa (on the west coast of India) called Jean Baptiste (John) Fernandez who had since taken an Aitutaki wife. Her name was Matavia. William Marsters had known Fernandez from several years previous when they had both worked together on a whaling ship.

The two men then teamed up and so their combined families were taken to Palmerston by captain Hart on board the "Aorai". This vessel being owned by John Brander and so the two men and their families were going to work there for this trader of Tahiti.

William Marsters and his family landed at Palmerston on 8 July 1863. This being the date included on the "Aorai" ship's log by Captain Hart from that time.

However, Fernandez did not remain on Palmerston and so left the island only to be drowned one night in the Avatiu Harbour at Rarotonga sometime later.

Back on Palmerston William Marsters set about establishing his settlement with 3 women who now constituted to be his 3 wives. One was from Penrhyn, a 2nd was from Manihiki and the 3rd was from Aitutaki. Each of them subsequently had several children.

There was also a 4th wife of William Marsters. But I am not sure how she fits into this historical picture. But her name was Arehata and together they had a daughter called Ritia. She later married William Ford who was a trader on Penrhyn. Ritia Marsters is therefore the mother of the Ford Family of this island.

From a legal point of view, as it related to International law at this time, Palmerston was neither annexed nor claimed by any metropolitan power. It was totally free and under no political control of any government.

The first attempt to place an ownership over Palmerston happened in 1867.

This came from John Lavington Evans, who came from I know not where. He applied to the British Government, through the British High Commissioner for the Western Pacific in Fiji, for a license (and therefore British protection) to cultivate Palmerston for a period of 7 years. This license was granted that same year on the strength of Evan's statement that Palmerston was uninhabited.

Evans never attempted to use this license. But the granting of this license to Evans did become the first formal claim to Palmerston by the British Government.

The next significant development came in



William Marsters Senior with some of his family and descendants

1887. By this time John Brander had died and his widow had married another trader on Tahiti called Mr Darsie. This person then wrote to William Marsters claiming ownership of Palmerston on behalf of his wife and told him that if he and his family did not leave, then Darsie would request the French Government of Tahiti to send a warship and have them all evicted.

So William Marsters wrote to the British High Commissioner in Fiji requesting he be granted a license to occupy Palmerston. In doing this, he was requesting British protection so a French warship could not come and evict he and his family. It was in this letter that William Marsters wrote : "Palmerston is the only home my children has ever had."

Given the Evans license had lapsed, a temporary license was then issued to William Marsters by the British High Commissioner to the Western Pacific which therefore brought an end to any claim Darsie/Mrs Brander may have had.

This was later upgraded to a full "Occupation License" from the British High Commissioner in 1892.

William Marsters apparently had 17 children from his various wives and died at Palmerston on 22 May 1899. He left behind a legacy of little money but strong ideals and Christian principles among all his descendants. From his children came at least 54 grandchildren and by the 7th generation of today, they number well over 1000 and are scattered all over the world as being descendants from William Richard Marsters.

Upon his death William Marsters was succeeded by William Marsters Junior as "Head of the Family" on Palmerston.

Throughout my years of research, I have not found any documentation to confirm when, or if, the British Government ever annexed or

placed a Protectorate Status over Palmerston. I don't think they ever did.

By 11 June 1901, Great Britain had annexed all the inhabited islands in the present day Cook Islands with the exception of Palmerston. On this day in Wellington, Great Britain formally withdrew all these annexation provisions. And so the Annexation Laws recently passed by the New Zealand Parliament came into force. In this way New Zealand therefore took control of the Cook Islands as a colonial territory.

Palmerston was included in this group as a result of the British High Commissioner for the Western Pacific in Fiji granting William Marsters an "Occupation License" back in 1892.

And so Palmerston became part of the Cook Islands and from this point on was administered by the Resident Commissioner of the Cook Islands who was based on Rarotonga.

This came to an end on 4 August 1965 when the Cook Islands obtained Self-Government by which time Palmerston had been included within the Avatiu Constituency.

A second "Political Reform" option for consideration . . . should Palmerston be represented in the "House of Ariki"?

According to the Cook Islands Constitution Act 1965, the "House of Ariki" is to be made up of six Ariki from Rarotonga and one Ariki from each of the inhabited outer islands with the exception of Palmerston.

"Oh no!" I hear someone whisper. "Palmerston never ever had an Ariki?"

Correct . . . but they had a King instead. His name was William Richard Marsters.

He was the "King of Palmerston" and so he ruled that island as if he was an Ariki. And so did his selected descendants who succeeded him as "Head of the Family" in the years after his death to this very day.

So the question is repeated : Should

the "Marsters Clan" of Palmerston, as descended from William Richard Marsters, be represented by one of their choice in the "House of Ariki"?

For this to happen, there needs to be an amendment to Part 1, Clause 8 of the Cook Islands Constitution Act 1965 as this relates to the membership of the "House of Ariki".

. . . a Political Reform option to ponder.

Going back to questions I posed earlier : Should Palmerston have its own seat in the House? Should the people of Palmerston have their own Member of Parliament?

There is no denying that Palmerston qualifies to have its own Member of Parliament based upon geographical location, ethnic identity, present day economic and social circumstances on the island. No one can argue about that.

The only aspect of Political Reform that could be standing in the way to prevent "political equality" for Palmerston and getting its own Member of Parliament, could be the number of people living on the island and the number of residents who qualify to be on the Electoral Roll.

Rakahanga only had 59 people on the Electoral Roll for the 2010 General Election. No one is suggesting that Political Reform should see Rakahanga amalgamated with another constituency.

The general consensus is that Rakahanga fully deserves to have its own voice in Parliament.

But what about Palmerston?

Should the people of this island also be accorded the same rights and political representation in Parliament as the people of Rakahanga, Mitiaro, Manihiki or Penrhyn? All with relatively small populations.

Should Palmerston have their own Member of Parliament?

Maybe this is something to think about?

- Howard Henry

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### 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](mailto: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.

## The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

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### PRINTER INK Cartridges

Be skeptical of low-cartridge warnings. Warnings that a given color cartridge is running low and needs to be replaced often start well before the ink level is actually a problem. The accuracy of such warnings can vary greatly between printer brands and models, and you don't want to waste ink and money by replacing the cartridges too soon. In time you'll learn whether your printer's warnings are dire or premature. Until then, don't rush to replace a cartridge, unless you notice degradation in the output quality or if you are starting a large and vital print job.



Take care of your ink and toner. With older ink cartridges, particulates may come out of solution and clog the nozzles. To prevent this, don't overstock on ink cartridges so they extend past their "use by" date. Also, match cartridge capacity to how much you actually print, to avoid having large-capacity cartridges languish beyond their time. (It's also a good idea to regularly clean the nozzles—your printer should have a setting that will clean the nozzles and print out a test sheet.)



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# Beach Day Out music festival a family affair



On Sundays and Public Holidays throughout the year, the most natural thing for locals to do is pack up a picnic, throw the kids, family and friends into the truck and head to the beach.

The Beach Day Out music festival concept is based on this culture and designed to create a relaxed, family friendly and fun atmosphere.

This coming Easter Weekend on Good Friday the 18th April 2014 the festival will be staged for the sixth time once again at the Safari Tours beach site in Nikao.

Organiser Mark Franklin is continually striving to enhance the festival environment and the variety and quality of acts to take the stage. "Every year becomes improved because you learn from the previous years and the commitment of musicians, entertainers and support crew grows."

This year has an extremely experienced support crew consisting of Lincoln Mail as sound technician, Mo Newport as stage manager and lighting, Henry Ahfoo Taripo is the festival master of ceremonies and Marama will ensure sound continuity as DJ. It is planned to video record the event to enable video sales.

There will be a designated children's area with amusements, face painting, ice cream vendors, lollies and other goodies for sale and then of course is the sea and beach.

A wide variety of food stalls will be operating for the duration of the festival all of which allows mum and dad to sit back and relax in an idyllic setting and enjoy the eight hours variety of entertainment that has been programmed. There are no alcohol sales so BYO chilly bin and refreshments.

This 2014 festival will see around 40 professional Cook Islands musicians appearing



Scene from last year's Beach Day Out

in the 20 acts scheduled to perform.

The biggest variety of entertainment ever seen at a Beach Day Out event has been arranged with virtually every Cook Islands performing musician contributing. Besides both papa'a and local bands, duets and solo performers there will also be dance and a Hupa fitness demonstration to encourage audience participation.

There are still some acts being sought and Mark says he would not be surprised if there were a few special surprises.

He explained "This all really started when I was playing regularly at Trader Jacks and Jack agreed to let me celebrate my 50th birthday upstairs in the restaurant on Sunday the 21st December 2008. We put in a huge stage, big p.a, lights and had five or six bands perform. It was a lot of fun to have all of these musicians socialising and performing together so the following Easter Weekend we

had the first Beach Day Out on the beach at home in Nikao with musicians, family and friends".

Following a doubling of numbers attending for the first three years the private home was no longer appropriate and the festival was shifted 300 metres up the road to the Safari Tours beach site where it has continued to grow but still maintain a family friendly theme.

The original inspiration for the festival at Trader Jacks returns this year with Rosa making a corporate group booking for their staff.

The Whatever Bar did the same last year as a team bonding exercise and set up a tent in their own corporate hospitality area. The atmosphere of the day can be seen in the photographs behind the Whatever Bar.

This is a feature that Mark wants to encourage pointing out that Good Friday is a public holiday and therefore a perfect opportunity for management of businesses who are closed for the day to reward and meet with

staff in a fantastic environment. Special discounts are being offered for bookings of groups with 20 or more.

He is expecting a big crowd this year and to ensure the day remains incident free, security will be on site and a clockwise around the island shuttle service has been arranged with Rehab to use their party bus to get people to and from the festival safely without the risk of drink driving.

Special packages are available for return travel from anywhere around the island to and from the event together with an entry ticket for only \$25.00 by contacting Rehab on ph 29 700 or 55 517.

Ticket sales are also available from Boogies Burger Bar in the Banana Court or The Café in the Beachcomber complex at \$10.00 prior to the event, gate sales on the day will be available for \$15.00.

Any queries about the Beach Day out can be directed to Mark Franklin on Mobile: 74364 or Email: frankoraro@yahoo.com

## Fantasy Odds on who will WIN League Premier FINAL

Team	Date	Date
	<b>Apri 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Apri 11<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Eels</b>	\$7	\$4
<b>Bulldogs</b>	\$7	\$7
<b>Panthers</b>	\$9	\$7
<b>Sea Eagles</b>	\$20	\$30
<b>Bears</b>	\$20	\$10
<b>Warriors</b>	\$40	\$40
<b>Sharks</b>	\$50	\$70

**T**he Sharks have a near impossible chance to make the top 4. Bears, Sea Eagles and the Warriors are the most likely to figure. The Bears new odds reflect their solid performance against the Bulldogs and Sea Eagles while the top 3 teams seem to have been sorted.

*The Fantasy Odds column is a hypothetical scenario based on the writers opinion. This is NOT real.*

## RUGBY LEAGUE.. IS IT TRUE?

### IS IT TRUE

Arorangi's Norm (Eat Raw Meat) is a true club supporter – He choose his POD winner from the losing team, His team the Cowboys

### IS IT TRUE

The Sharks will win another game soon. Left to play are – Sea Eagles, Bears, Warriors, or Eels

### IS IT TRUE

Eels claim they will beat the Panthers by 13+ points this weekend

### IS IT TRUE

Eels have a secret executive group that meet every Sunday at the Avatiu wharf after church.

### IS IT TRUE

NEW Rule -9.1 (a) Dropped balls are now a "PLAY ON" but only when a visiting referee officiates.

### IS IT TRUE

A shop keeper had a jar full of jelly beans on his counter with a sign that says "Guess How Many Inside – Clue – Arthur Pickering's age

### IS IT TRUE

Bulldogs Arthur Pickering will retire from his water boy duties to keep his 100% success rate in tact.

### IS IT TRUE

Mana, Son of Mona, of the family Ngaau, missed only 1 kick from 7 over the weekend.

### IS IT TRUE

The CIP party are thinking about aligning with the CIRC referees Assn to gain experience on what's it like to be fired.



## Simple Simon says.... Bulldogs Roman ... is worth Two men...

**R**oman Hifo is worth his weight in gold. The defensive effort of this player for the Bulldogs last week against the Bears at Raemaru Park was easily the most impressive. In one set of 6 tackles Hifo made 4 of these and proceeded to chase the kicker and disrupt his clearing kick. His powerful defensive effort reminded Bear players, whom may have contemplated running close to the rucks, to think again because this tackling machine was making a statement. Hifo possessed a short kicking game that on several occasions turned clearing kicks into attacking passes and he was not shy in taking the ball up when his options closed. Roman Hifo was probably the most influential player on the field with his clean distributions from the halves and hard tackling on defense. Both teams produced DEAD EYE DICK kickers Arorangi's Basil Matapo and Titikavekas Mana Ngaau. This helped the score line remain close thru out the game and the spectators glued to there seats. A fair crowd attended the start of the game which was the only game played at Raemaru Park on the day. The crowd picked up throughout the day and squeezed in together as intermit rain fell on and off during the match. Conditions were fine and ball control excellent on two occasions rewarding Arorangi hooker Turori Matutu with tries. The youthful Bears pack made good ground thru John Vano and Phillip Taio while in the Bulldogs Sai Lagi playing in the forwards was not as effective as when in the backs. Lloyd Matapo was always honest with his bullocking Bulldog runs while the "Prince Soon To Be A King" chimed in regularly to add his weight into the fray. Making his debut on the sideline running the water, Ageless Arthur Pickering from the Bulldogs, had plenty of advice for the officials of the match. Rumour has it that with Pickering's 100% success rate he might retire from doing the water to ensure he keeps his record in tact..

*So Says Simon ...*

## Scores Last Week Game 10

### Fri 4th April

Panthers 40 Sharks 20  
Warriors 10 Eels 26  
Bears 22 Bulldogs 28  
BYE – Sea Eagles

## Draw Wk 11

### Fri April 11th

Sharks v Sea Eagles,  
Arutanga Park, 5pm  
**Sat 12th April**  
Eels v Bears,  
Avatiu Field, 4.30pm  
Bulldogs v Panthers,  
Temurimotia Park, 4.30pm  
**BYE – Warriors**

# Chooks that almost got away

In a controversial move bound to turn opponent's heads, there will be no rugby players in the next National Rugby Sevens team. To combat the serious and embarrassing run of failures, it has been decided that the team will instead be made up of several soccer players, some athletic sprinters, some basketball players, two ballet dancers and a couple of shot put athletes. Soccer players because they are very fit and can run all day. Also they have great ball control, can kick further and can side step. Sprinters on the wings and at fullback because they are fast runners. Just give them the ball and enough space to pick up speed. Basketball players because of their accuracy in passing also they will be able to pass the ball from one side of the field to the other with accuracy. Ballet dancers because they can leap high to retrieve the ball at kick offs. Shot putters in the forwards because they have strong upper bodies for the scrums and strong arms for fending off players.

The Department of Silly Trends based in Iowa, USA, has just released data showing the top three silly trends for March 2014. They are; (1) men wearing of sunglasses on their heads,

(2) men wearing panama hats indoors and (3) people wearing base ball caps back to front. The American Medical Association reports 6 men needing surgery to remove sun glasses that had become stuck to their heads after skin on their scalps had grown over the glasses which had been on their heads for an extended period. It seems the men forgot the glasses were there. Why men wear panama hats indoors where there is no direct sunlight is a mystery that is the subject of a PhD study by a scholar at Germany's University of Heidelberg. The wearing of base ball caps back to front defies all known medical science however Zoo Keepers in Iceland have noticed the practice is common among Chimpanzees.

## Local Rugby league Week 12 Games

### Next weeks Games Wk #12

Sharks v Bears,  
Sea Eagles v Warriors,  
Eels v Bulldogs

### Txt Winners Wk # 10

Rob Matapo - T-shirt,  
Sean Willis - Karaoke Hire,  
Naked Chef -- Meat Pack.

Watch the " Game Of The  
Week" replayed on CITV  
Sunday at 5pm (raro time)

[www.youtube.com/  
brianthematman](http://www.youtube.com/brianthematman)

Local league games loaded  
onto YouTube.com every  
Tuesday after the Saturday.

## Week 11 *Who they picked!*

1. **Mr "X"** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Bulldogs
2. **Kia Orana Store** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Bulldogs
3. **Frankie Zumba Queen** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Bulldogs
4. **Kikau Broom Maker** – Sharks, Eels, Panthers
5. **Jeff a Fired Ref** - Sharks, Eels, Panthers
6. **Crazy Supporters Inc** – Sharks, Eels, Bulldogs
7. **Fred of G+S** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Panthers
8. **Antonia Poa** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Bulldogs
9. **Henry Hoff** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Bulldogs
10. **Rehabs Jane** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Bulldogs
11. **Dawn Crummer** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Bulldogs
12. **Paul van Eijk**– Sea Eagles, Eels, Bulldogs
13. **John Arbuttnott** – Sharks, Eels, Bulldogs
14. **Bernie Southpac**– Sea Eagles, Eels, Bulldogs
15. **Miss M** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Bulldogs
16. **Rima Moeaka** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Bulldogs
17. **Mumsey** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Panthers
18. **Fung's Takeaways** - Sea Eagles, Eels, Panthers
19. **Reubin Barere** -- Sea Eagles, Eels, Panthers
20. **Grocers Review** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Bulldogs
21. **Salsa' Chef Terry** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Panthers
22. **Pare Kaveo** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Bulldogs
23. **Makiro Mato** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Panthers
24. **Nga Puna** – Sharks, Eels, Bulldogs
25. **Naked Chef** – Sea Eagles, Bears, Bulldogs
26. **Deli lious Cafe** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Bulldogs
27. **Pam Brider** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Panthers
28. **Sisi Short** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Bulldogs
29. **Sheeny** -Sea Eagles, Eels, Bulldogs
30. **Wayne Robati** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Panthers
31. **Ake Tangapiri** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Bulldog
32. **10 cent Aussie** - Sharks, Eels, Panthers
33. **Sam Kaiporo** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Panthers
34. **Lydia the Barwoman** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Panthers
35. **BCI Stadium Caretaker** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Panthers
36. **Randwick Kingfisher** – Sharks, Eels, Panthers
37. **Women In Love** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Bulldogs
38. **Boogies Hero's** – Sharks, Eels, Bulldogs
39. **Black & White Panther** – Sea Eagles, Eels, Panthers
40. **Junior** – Sharks, Eels, Bulldogs

PRIZE - FREE t-shirt, Karaoke hire & Meat pack for person who correctly picks 3 winners from this weeks draw. Conditions apply - If more than 1 winner – draw 1 from a hat.

**How to Enter** – Txt your picks for next weeks games to Matman - PH 55 921 before Tue 4pm

# A city within a city

*This column is written by  
Tangaroa & Lavi Vakalalabure,  
Cook Island residents who are in  
Jiangsu, China*

I have been planning to write this travel column for the Cook Islands Herald for some time now. First and foremost, China is vast and different in terms of land size, architecture, language and culture.

When I arrived in Nanjing (the capital of the South), it was at night and I did not see much until we went for a walkabout in Nanjing city before heading to Zhenjiang City (final destination). I was at awe at the fusion of the new (modern architecture) and the traditional (the old brick buildings that housed different types of vendors). To my right, I would see the square shaped 30 floored buildings while on my left would be the old canals and river boats! I was overwhelmed with this first sighting of China.

The bullet train ride from Nanjing to Zhenjiang was 20 minutes. My first impression of Jiangsu University (the "University") was that it was so gigantic. The total student population of the University at the campus was 47, 000 as at June 2013; with 500 foreign students. The foreign students are from India, Russia, African countries, European countries, Middle Eastern countries, ASEAN countries and the Cook Islands. There are 26 schools that form the University that covers an area of 1.4 million m2. In terms of accommodation, there are 62 Chinese student apartment buildings (15 – 17 floors high), an overseas apartment building (with 15 floors) and a 14 floor hotel used for visitors to the University. As a former student of the University of the South Pacific, I was impressed with the apartments for the foreign students which had a bed, study table, TV, air conditioning, internet (Wi-Fi), hot water, toilet and shower facilities in each room, while each floor had its own common kitchen and common laundry rooms. I can only leave and enter the apartment building and my

room with the use of the key card. There are approximately 30 students in each floor.

The Chinese tend to eat noodles or baozi (big steamed dumplings) for breakfast – I initially did not like the taste of baozi but like everything that is new, I acquired the taste and enjoy them (every once in a while). Fillings for the baozi include vegetables, chicken, beef, fish or pork. Breakfast is always from 6am to 10am. As a foreigner, I have always had the perception that the Chinese cuisine is healthy but one thing I am certain of now is that the Chinese love their oil! Everything has to be cooked in oil, whether it is fried, barbequed, roasted, stewed or baked – oil needs to be splashed on the food: they love their oil. Despite the amount of oil that is used – they sure know how to use their spices and vary the cooking style of their vegetables! I had a friend from University who has since graduated and now working in Changzhou City (I will be sending you a column soon about our travel holiday to his city). I would often ask that friend, "Jia, what do you call this vegetable?" his answer have always been, "some sort of grass – just eat it". I am now thankful for my friend's response because whatever vegetable I'm eating, it sure does taste delicious. Lunch times are 11am to 2pm while dinner times are from 4pm to 9pm.

One of the staple diets of the Chinese is called fanqie (tomatoes) jidan (eggs). I find this meal an interesting one because you would never find a pacific island home serving this meal. This is normally served with rice and stewed tomatoes with scrambled eggs. I must say – the meal is tasty! Another fascinating thing about the Chinese is that they have their dinner from 4.30pm to 7pm. Thereafter, is exercise time (walking or jogging) before they sleep. We would normally go to the restaurants at 9pm and at one time, the chef asked, "why do you always come late, do you have late dinner in your country?"

I now believe that that is why



Lavi and Tevita Vakalalabure

we pacific islanders are big in structure/ physique (putting it kindly) because we tend to eat very late at night and immediately thereafter, we tend to take our long nightly snooze! There are 18 double storey dining halls within the campus that each can sit approximately 700 people. The dining halls have everything including special restaurants for Muslim patrons and vegetarian patrons.

Since the University tries to ensure the safety of students (and discourage the carriage of large sums of money), everything within the University is paid for with University cash cards (that works like bank debit cards). These cash cards can be used to do ones laundry, use the kitchen stoves, to loan books from the library, to take the University mini buses (9 passenger bus that some students call "the trolley"), to buy food from dining halls, to order food at other restaurants within the University, buying from any of the designer shops of the University, having a haircut at the numerous hair salons, buying shoes from any of the footwear shops on campus and to do any shopping in any of the University Supermarkets.

Other facilities provided for by the University include 5 track

and field stadiums, 2 Tennis Courts, 3 "fake" Sand Beach Volleyball Grounds, skating rink, various outdoor workout parks, gymnasium with weight lifting facilities, numerous basketball courts, a huge table tennis hall, numerous lawn tennis courts, a multifunctional hall, bowling alley, 3 swimming pools, dancing/ ballroom and martial arts room. The University is simply a city within a city because it has anything and everything that you need within the University campus. You cannot feel bored in this place, there is always some organized activity happening on every other day. I got lost a number of times within the Campus, you can't blame me for that, I am used to walking around Takuvaine where the back road meets the main road and not 8 different roads shooting off from the intersection.

As this column is introductory to a bimonthly digest for readers back at home, I hope that the upcoming pieces will be of interest to you. If you are interested in any specific issue or topic, I will be happy to oblige. I

I leave you with these two photos (1) the University "trolley" (2) the 2013 cultural day celebration of the University.

# How God Meet Our Needs His Way

Part 2

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

In Part 1 of this article I was talking of what God expect us to do before He could bless us according to the Bible in Philippians 4v.19 which reads "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Many want to take this promise of God and apply it to their lives while avoiding the conditions in v.14-18.

When we are generous to others, God will be generous with us. Luke 6v.38, "Give to others, and God will give to you...The measure you use for others is the one God will use for you."

The Apostle Paul gives us three reasons why we should be generous:

1) Our Giving Encourages others. Philippians 4v.14-16 reads "It was good of you to share in my troubles... as you Philippians know, in the early days .... not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only, for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need." The Philippian church was not a wealthy church. Yet they were a generous and a giving church.

2) Our Giving Is An Investment In The Future. In Philippians 4v.17 Paul said "though I appreciate your gifts, what makes me happiest is the well-earned reward you will have because of your kindness." Giving benefits the giver as well as the receiver. I Timothy 6v.18-19 (LB) "...Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven -- it

## Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

is the only safe investment for eternity!"

3) Our Giving is a Sacrifice to God Paul said in v.18 "I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God." When you give generously you become more like Christ! And it pleases God. Jesus said, "In as much as you have done unto the least of these, my brethren, you have done it unto Me." (Matthew 25v.40). We must remember that the condition comes before the promise. The Promise of God in Philippians 4v.19 does not:

1) Include laziness. God expects you to work. This promise is not an invitation to sit with folded hands and say, "I'm just trusting the Lord to provide." He has not promised to meet your needs if you sit around and do nothing. I Thessalonians 3v.10 says that people who are unwilling to work should not be given handouts. "Let him who does not work not eat."

2) Cover all our wants. James 4v.3 reads "You ask for something and when you don't get it's because you're asking with the wrong motive. You just want to consume it on your desires." God has not guaranteed to provide us with all our luxuries. God is interested in having our needs met. If you spend all your money on some unnecessary things and your needs were not met, and you say, "God, Your



promise isn't true!" That's not God's fault. It's your fault! Who knows you might blame the devil! It's not his fault either, it's your fault! What's covered in v.19 are 'All legitimate needs!' If you're a faithful giver you have every right to ask God to meet your financial needs! If you're not a faithful giver you have no right, to ask God to help you. In II Corinthians 9v.6 8 it shows us the condition (man's part) and the promise (God's blessings). "Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give whatever he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver." This is the condition (man's

part). Then the promise (God's blessings) "And God is able to make ALL grace abound to you, so that in ALL things, at ALL times, having ALL that you need, you will abound in EVERY good work." The main lesson is this: If you are a giver, God will take care of your needs. Giving guarantees God's provision. Be a Generous person, helping those in need. The happiest people are the most generous people. The most miserable people are those who are mean! God wants to bless us! Be a faithful giver, and also a generous person with others and watch what God does in your life.

May you find these words encouraging in helping those in need.

God bless, te Atua te aroa!

# Watch that waistline, gurl!

By Norma Ngatamariki

Losing weight is such a bit... mission lol. Some people have it easy and for others... well, let's just say that we try. Losing weight has been on my New Years' Resolution for three years running (and it's not something I'm proud of) but I am determined to make it happen this year! As my fellow colleague Nadia says, it's the "Year of the '96", so I'm gonna shed those kilos! (If you see me eating a donut or something unhealthy, don't hesitate to tell me off) #Confident.

Yeah, I've always been the chubby kid in school. I wasn't the fastest kid around (But did that stop me from running? Nope, it didn't) I use to dread dancing for Parents Day because everyone would see my mini pot belly. I used to look around at all the kids and think to myself, how the heck do these kids stay skinny? They ate more junk food than I did (well, they ate more than me in general) and they still

remained the same size. Then I found out it was because these kids never sat still. They were always running away from something: a kikau or a jandal. Or, they were forever outside playing, rain or shine.

All through Avarua Primary School, I stayed a steady 60 kgs. According to the health experts, I wasn't fat, but I wasn't skinny either (well, obviously). Just a tad bit overweight. One thing that always amazes me is that no one in school ever teased me about my size, so I guess my overall good looks outshined my tubbiness. By the time I reached Tereora College, I didn't really care about my weight. Nobody was paying attention to it, so why should I? Plus, the idols I looked up to (Beyonce, Rebel Wilson) were curvy anyway. I realised that if you had a good personality, people would overlook the fact that you're a bit "large boned". I was comfortable with my size and quite confident about it

too.

Then one day, my outlook on things changed. I was in a clothes store, searching for an outfit. I finally came across this gorgeous-as dress, all lace and blue. I checked the label for the size and saw that it was a 14. I should be able to squeeze into this, I thought to myself (so confidently). I skipped to the changing room and tried it on. Guess what? I was able to fit it (just barely). But when I looked in the mirror, I didn't like what I see. I was beginning to form a muffin top and the sleeves looked as if they were gonna rip any second. It kind of reminded me of that scene in White Chicks, where the cop in disguise tries (and fails) to fit into something that was way too small for him/her. Right then and there, I promised myself that I would change.

Now, if you're confident and happy about your body and you aren't afraid to show it off (no matter what your size)...then good on you. Don't change



anything about yourself. But if you aren't happy with what you're seeing in the mirror in every morning, then don't be afraid to make a change. It's just a matter of getting out there and doing something.

## Ngakau Toa junior fundraisers

By Nadia George

It's been two weeks now since the junior paddlers of local club Ngakau Toa, have set up stalls at both the Punanga nui market, beside Reefside and out the front of the Island Craft town shop.

Last year the junior team of club Ngakau Toa, had competed in the Maevatini races held in Aitutaki where they had achieved some awesome results. This year the team wanted to push it a bit further and have decided to travel all the way to Sydney, Australia to compete in the Trans-Tasman Junior Sprints Regatta, Gubbi Gubbi. And so the aim of the food stalls is to raise funds for the several members that will be flying over to compete in this event, later on in September of this year.

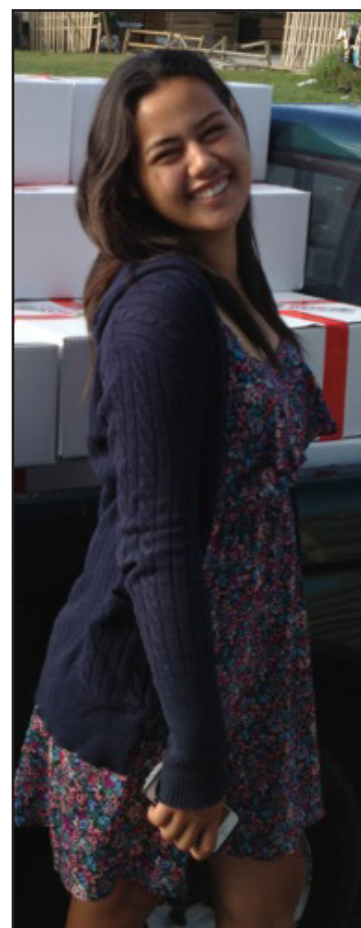
During this trip the junior paddlers will not only be carrying their club's name but will also be representing the Cook Islands in this major event. They will take part in both the V6 and V1

divisions, for the U19 and U16 grades for both boys and girls. And with many of them being first time paddlers, some of the more experienced junior members have been lending a helping hand in mentoring the new comers both on and off the water so they will excel together as a team. With coach Vaea Melvin and Daniel Teheipuarii, upping the anti on trainings for all participants of the regatta comp. Intensity levels are high amongst our junior competitors, pushing them to be able to access their full paddling potential. But they're all eager and determined to continue learning and push one another to become better than they ever were before.

So with not much time left at all, NTV juniors will be holding a series of fundraisers throughout the year to reach their target. Their first official one being the food stalls that I had mentioned earlier. They are offering two food choices of either Sausage sizzles

or pancakes with a selection of toppings for a low low price of \$2. All proceeds go towards the regatta comp. So if ever you're around and see the kids in blue, help out and buy a sausage sizzle or a pancake. Heck, why not buy them both? I did and let me tell you this, it tasted amazing but the best thing about it was this, it was a quick, easy and affordable meal that tastes good too. What more could you ask for?

Their next upcoming fundraiser will be a Junior Run-a-thon starting at 7am sharp this coming Saturday. So ladies and gentlemen and children, don't go spending all that loose change just yet. Why not donate it to an awesome cause such as this. And if you're thinking what I'm thinking B1? Then the answer is yes, both stalls will remain open on Saturday at the two locations. So empty your piggy banks and come one, come all and help support club the junior division of Ngakau Toa Vaka.



There are some serious rumblings going on in the rugby union code over the inability to account for some loot and there are rumours the IRB are going to pull the plug on funding if the accounts aren't put in order.



Heard about the donor funded veggie garden at a particular unnamed primary school? The sacked gardener has disclosed he was instructed to pick the produce after school closed for the day and put it aside for a politician to pick it up for himself before school started. One morning the politician came to pick up the veges only to find there was none. The worker was accused of stealing them then got fired by the very angry boss when in actual fact he got drunk the day before and didn't go to work. He now has put his support behind a prospective opposition candidate. Talk about an angry politician who hasn't read his code of conduct, his name will be disclosed when the campaign kicks in. Then again sacked people can get pretty nasty with gossip.



Almost forgot the silly headline in the daily dribble about our sevens rugby team in Hong Kong, to get excited about bleeding players for the future was pathetic. The fact is they simply can't compete at even the lowest level isn't anything to get excited about so why continuing to embarrass ourselves? The way it was written about coming third sounded good till it meant third in their pool, was a bit rich and an over statement.



Neneva Neves' trip to Wellington with junior Tierney to smooth the way with the Chinese must be one of the stupidest things Elvis has done as the Minita of Foreign Affairs, just shows how out of touch



he is with China protocol. The Chinese will be polite but highly offended tails were dispatched to see them. Sending an Australian wombat to talk to the Chinese Panda on behalf of the Cook Islands is like sending a Taiwanese on their behalf, just more neneva stuff from Puna's administration.



After Parliament last Friday the CIP lot were treated to another feast of curried goat, pork and local cuisine with plenty of green, not veges but bottles by Minita Heta who continues to draw the team to himself. With millions about to flow through the pipe line Heta is celebrating and the insolvent CIP lot are sucking up crossing their fingers Heta will pay the campaign bills.



It was a right old meeting of hypocrisy in the name of CIP Central Committee. Leader Elvis and President Rau Nga kept over emphasising the selection of candidates had to be done according to the rules of their constitution plus a lot of minor things etc etc. But on the big major issues both hypocrites have their own set of rules. What about the rules concerning the selection of the Matavera candidate? Delegates said they looked and sounded

so stupid.



What about the CIP monster raffle? To be drawn on 30 June, the \$200,000 raffle has only sold \$8000 of tickets. Why bother when Minita Bulldozer Heta is boasting he'll get \$11 million from the Chinese alone for his TMV contracts, CIP members can keep their honestly earned money and Heta can buy the lot and get himself the first prize of another DPM double cab pickup plus the car, the cash prizes and the grass cutters, nothing like being a guaranteed winner.



It's the Cook Islands version of NZ's popular TV show Master Chef. In this case the contestants, and the only contestants, Hen(ry) and Ma(rk), drum up recipes for exotic dishes each week. There was their chilli-hot Taxstew, then their dessert called pension surprise. Their entrée last week called Vai Mato soufflé caused a stir when it suddenly went flat. And there's a problem with some of Hen and Ma's offerings. They are a bit chewy, hard to swallow, leave a bitter taste and cause indigestion! Hen and Ma are working on a new dessert called Bombe A Donor!



The newly formed Cook Islands Operatic

Society has just announced the performers who have successfully auditioned for the main parts in the Society's next production which is based on the adventures of "Robin Hood." The part of King John went to Vark Drown, the Sheriff of Nottingham will be played by Vilchard Heves, the Sheriff's Tax enforcer will be played by Vandrew Faigh. King Richard the Lion Heart (away overseas at the Crusades) will be played by Venry Zuna and Robin Hood will be played by Veina Hishop.



Government has just announced a grant to the Cook Islands Operatic Society of \$250,000 from the Japanese government's Ministry of Culture to help it stage its production of "Robin Hood."



Wondered why James Webb, the MFEM wonder boy economist, commands such a high pay package of \$90,000? Webb skipped primary and secondary school and entered University at the age of 5. By the time Webb was 10 years old he had completed three Masters Degrees and at the age of 12 was awarded a PhD. Webb left University at the age of 18 years after serving as a professor at the school of economics to join the Cook Islands government.



Captain Bark Du Fray of the vessel SS Daily needs to read the ship's log more closely. In Tuesday's log entry, at the back, First Mate MM had recorded the young putter of the shot and discus as having recorded two good throws at the NZ Schools Champs. He threw the shot put 14m and then threw the shot put again 49m for a silver medal. A world record shot put for silver? What was the winning shot put?

## FAT CATS

Number 2, Cabinet has agreed to increase their clothing allowance by 15 per cent!

But VAT has only gone up by 2 per cent!



HARD  
TOO HARD  
IMPOSSIBLE

## COCONUT ROUNDTABLE

Rumour has it, Government wants to increase their clothing allowance by 15 per cent in live with increase in VAT!

VAT only went up by 2 per cent!

But prices went up by 15 per cent!



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



**COOK ISLANDS TOURISM CORPORATION  
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST  
PURCHASE OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

Cook Islands Tourism Corporation seeks to purchase photography to be used for the general promotion of the Cook Islands. This is an ongoing project to reach out to all photographers, both professional and amateur, in the Cook Islands and beyond.

Cook Islands Tourism Corporation will use this photography to reach target audiences in the print and digital space. This includes the outright purchase of imagery for use including (but not limited to) content for online, multimedia, brochures, books, displays and promotional material.

This will form a part of the Corporations asset management programme, photographic library and archival system housed at Head Office, Rarotonga.

Photographers may submit work on any of the following types of photographic categories:

- Destination, Landscape, Scenery & Nature
- Persons, talent, characters, children
- Action & Interaction
- Life style
- Above & Under the Water
- Tourism Themes

Images portraying the Cook Islands stories of:

- Romance (weddings & honeymoons),
- Families,
- Adventure,
- Sister islands,
- Groups/MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Events)

All expressions of interest can be made in writing to [applications@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:applications@cookislands.gov.ck). NO submissions of imagery required at this stage. Cook Islands Tourism Corporation will be in touch to make an appointment with you to discuss the service arrangements and to view the said images. It is a requirement that all work submitted adheres to technical and commercial image control, format and standards set by Cook Islands Tourism Corporation. The work will be accepted on the terms and conditions of Cook Islands Tourism Corporation purchase agreement and sign over of complete Intellectual rights and digital property rights upon purchase of these assets.

For further information please refer to:  
[www.cookislands.travel/photo-services](http://www.cookislands.travel/photo-services)

Deadline for expression of interest is 4pm, 01 May 2014.

**ADVERTISE WITH THE  
COOK ISLANDS HERALD**

PUBLIC NOTICE

15

**Replacement of ring mains  
begins next month**

The \$23 million upgrade to Rarotonga's water system ring mains is scheduled to begin on **Monday 14 April**. The project is part of Te Mato Vai – the \$60 million Cook Islands water partnership with the New Zealand government and The People's Republic of China. Government is embarking on the project with the goal of delivering a reliable supply of safe drinking water to all properties connected to the existing water network by 2016.

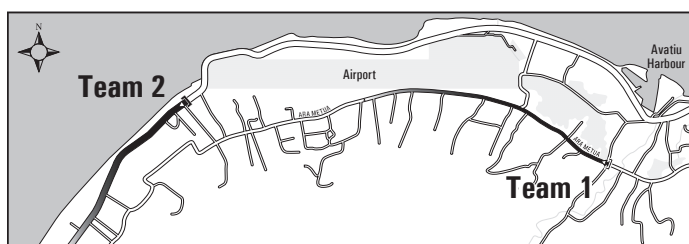
**What is happening and when?**

We are upgrading the existing water supply network for all of Rarotonga along both the inner and outer ring roads or loop roads as they are sometimes referred to. The Ara Metua (inner ring road) work crew **Team 1** will start from the Avatiu Road intersection and progress West finishing at Tiare Village Road, Avatiu/Atupa. **Team 1** will work from **7am – 6pm Monday 14 April to Saturday 24 May**. The Ara Tapu (outer ring road) work crew **Team 2** will start from Pokonui Street, Nikao progressing in a

South-west or anti-clockwise direction. **Team 2** will commence in May.

**How will this affect me?**

Traffic control will be in place during construction. To prevent damage to your vehicles and our work machinery, we ask that you please drive carefully through the worksites, comply with traffic control staff as directed and observe the temporary speed limits. Your safety and the safety of our work crews are of utmost importance. Our goal is that at the end of the day everybody arrives home safely.



Some disruption can be expected due to the nature of the works. For further information on the project please call Infrastructure Cook Islands on 20 321. Alternatively emails can be sent to [Jaewynn@wovenpacific.com](mailto:Jaewynn@wovenpacific.com)

For all site related inquiries please call Nicky Nie of CCECC on 79 519.

Te Mato Vai is a vital component of the Cook Islands National Sustainable Development Plan 2011 – 2015 and complements a range of work underway in the renewable energy, tourism, education, health, transport and economic sectors. All designed to ensure a more prosperous future all Cook Islanders.



TENDER



**PORTS AUTHORITY**

**CIPA-11: STAGE 1: TOILET BLOCK CONSTRUCTION**

The Port Authority and the Aitutaki Island Government seeks tender proposals from reputable contractors for the supply of all materials and construction of a Toilet & Amenities Block in Aitutaki. Tender documents can be collected from the Ports Office in Avatiu or Arutanga upon the payment of a refundable \$150.00 deposit. Tenders will close at 4:00pm on the 28th April 2014 and need to be lodged in the tender box located at the:

Ports Authority Office

Avatiu  
RAROTONGA

For any enquiries please contact Des Eggelton, Project Manager, on Tel 55-020 or email [des@eggelton.co.ck](mailto:des@eggelton.co.ck).

TENDER



**TAU SAFETY PROJECT  
DESIGN AND SPECIFICATION TENDER**

Te Aponga Uira is inviting suitably qualified companies or joint venture companies to submit to (a) conduct a review of, and complete a Fire Safety Assessment of TAU Power Station in the Avatiu Valley, including its Fuel Facility Depot, as well as the Tutakimoa Administration-Network Building assets, and (b) design and specify the fire safety systems for those facilities in order to upgrade the existing systems to meet current Australian and New Zealand standards.

The assignment is to lead to the completion of the Fire Safety Designer's Documentation, including plans and specifications to Australian and New Zealand standards for building consent and construction to mitigate and prevent fire damage for all of TAU's strategic assets forming the Avatiu Valley Power Station and the Tutakimoa Administration-Network Buildings, Rarotonga.

The successful Tenderer will be required to oversee the procurement, acceptance testing, installation, commissioning, and review and certification of as built drawings, for the fire safety system that they have designed and that was approved by TAU. To initiate progress towards the completion of this assignment, TAU has developed Request for Proposals Documents and Term of Reference (TOR) for the associated tasks and now invites interested companies to register their interest in order to submit their proposal for this assignment.

Registration and Tender Document can be requested from the following contact person:

TAU Project Manager  
Te Aponga Uira, Rarotonga, Cook Islands  
Ph: +682 20054  
Fax: +682 21944

Email: alex.napa@electricity.co.ck

The proposed timeframes for the bidding process are set out below in Cook Islands local time:

Deadline for submission of questions:

3pm Thursday 11 April 2014

Deadline for submissions of Proposals:

3pm Thursday 18 April 2014

Notification to preferred Tenderer:

Week of Monday 28 April 2014

Preferred Tenderer negotiations:

From the week 28 April 2014

# New Hope Church

## Parekura Conference Centre

*Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you*

**Sunday at 10.30am**

# EAT LESS

# MOVE MORE

HEART FOUNDATION

PUBLIC NOTICE



**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](mailto: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](mailto:tangi.taoro@ici.gov.ck)

