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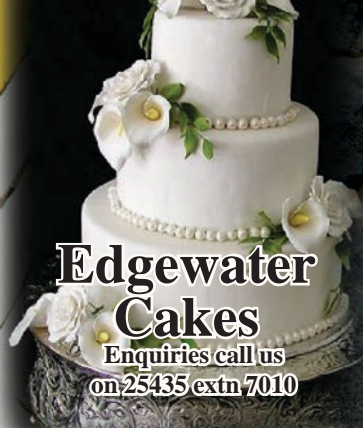
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There is a difference claims Brown - trust vision not dreams

Takuvaine's Cook Islands Party candidate Mark Brown refutes a media report the Democratic Party and the CIP are no different despite the wide public perception they are so similar they may as well be one in the same.

Without knowing the policy outcomes of the DP, Brown suggests once both Parties publish their manifestos and policy statements it will be clear there will be recognisable differences. Brown rejects the CIP are sitting on the policy fence waiting to see what unfolds from the Demo camp. "We are the government, it's up to the opposition to demonstrate their differences, the onus is on them to offer an alternative."

Brown said, "our position is living, not motionless like the dithering Demos, you can listen to them all day but you won't hear anything, the CIP are highly visible, the whole gambit, the good bad and the ugly. What you see is what you get, you can trust that, not invisibility and unseen words. As it is said, actions speak louder than words."

The CIP like the light, to date we've installed more than 300 additional street lights on Rarotonga with another \$40,000 installation at the Punanga Nui Market once the elections are over. The DP like the secretness of the dark, the CIP have brought Rarotonga out of the darkness literally and by transparent disclosure. The fundamental difference is for the money we spend there is benefit evidence of expenditure; we make no secret of what we do.

"We aren't into making promises that can't be fulfilled, the CIP have progressively delivered accomplishments that are an economic embarrassment to the DP because our achievements were on their wish



Mark Brown

list of dreams that were talked about but never implemented due to their dithering deferral mentality. Rasmussen and his peers are mystified by the CIP's ability to physically turn their verbal dreams into reality.

Another big difference to the discerning masses, the Demos are dreamers and the CIP are visionaries."

"If Wilkie Rasmussen and his Demo colleagues didn't shroud their transactions in secrecy we

would of never had to be enduring the fiscal pain of their wasteful TOAGATE legacy to the tune of \$100,000 a month for eight years, that's \$4,100 per day of public money signed away to subsidies

a private company in one mad moment of fiscal lunacy."

"There should be a big sign outside Porter's group of expanding businesses saying, ASSHAMEABLY SPONSORED BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY," chided

irreversible concrete," claimed Brown.

The DP leadership currently are manipulating the democratic rights of their members by charading their leadership factions by dodging a Party

conference. Despite the logistic challenges the CIP are having a pre election Conference, another defining difference is we are open to the direction of our members, even for the content of the conference.

It's no secret the Demos are being suppressant to avoid the inevitable challenges to leadership and positions at all levels. Whether we like it or not, the Rarotonga constituents are wanting a Rarotonga based Prime Minister, even the street polls indicate that.

Brown.

"That's a huge philosophical difference between us, the CIP do things in the light, public opinion can intercept an openly evolving roll out before anything is set in

It's no secret the Demos are being suppressant to avoid the inevitable challenges to leadership and positions at all levels. Whether we like it or not, the Rarotonga constituents are

wanting a Rarotonga based Prime Minister, even the street polls indicate that.

“Rasmussen’s electoral pitch among the Penrhyn voters is he will be the first Penrhyn Prime Minister if they vote him in is a figment in his imagination, his self enriching dreams don’t hold any water on Rarotonga.” said Brown, “if Wilkie was brave enough to put his leadership on the table at a pre election conference he would be replaced,” predicted Brown. “He is and was only meant to be a care taker leader to be endorsed or replaced at a Party conference but he and Eddie have manipulated their way clear of being challenged knowing their tenure ship is very fragile.”

The Demos simply cannot stomach the political pain where as the CIP can and have. There is no gain without pain except when it comes to the dysfunctional activities of the Democratic Party who have caused a lot of pain with their scandalous TOAGATE, so much so, that after eight years and \$12 million of pain there won’t even be one centimetre of gain.

Collectively there has been pain by the decisive direction we’ve had no choice but to take to remodel an infrastructure and economy decimated by the deferral policy of the previous Democratic Party that included Rasmussen as the Minister of Finance. “The clarity of our virtual renovation of the core pillars of the economy have been blurred disproportionately by a few influenced and driven by the jealous Opposition.”

“After our season of enduring the pain we are on the brink of enjoying the gains that will eventually become visible to all,” said Brown who also added he sometimes questioned himself on the public pain threshold as a result of the unwavering tough calls he believed would pay dividends long term. When it came to political popularity or pain Brown said he accepted he had to do what was right for the country and chose that which would future tense earn the trust of the voters at large. “Trust has to be earned, popularity can be bought with cheap promises,

”said Brown, “hard decisions are painful and they don’t make politicians popular but I believe it eventually builds trust with the electorate.”

Brown claims the CIP inherited a crawling economy that was at risk of stagnating. “Infrastructure renovation was crucial to stimulating the economy was recognised by the Demos but their serious self preservation of political survival preoccupied their energies, their internal factional squabbles distracted them from delivering national priorities.

Brown said until an investment attracting infrastructure was in place revenue substitution had to be identified and this was implemented through a widely misunderstood tax reform, which has caused the CIP significant political pain and a measure of displeasure of some sectors of the public, combined with smart and innovative financing partnerships with development agencies.

“Of course a tax based economy is painful and not the first choice by any means, money could not be plucked out of thin air, it had to come from somewhere tangible till we can shift to a more productive and development driven economy that has an infrastructure base to launch from, that’s what we are on the brink of, another term in government and that trust will be repaid many times over.”

Brown said in clarifying a popular misinterpreted outer island issue re transport and depopulation, “while many complain of the shipping and air service to the outer islands, the real problem has been the failure of the DP to maintain or develop the infrastructure to sustain both services.

It’s the government who invest in the infrastructure to attract the private sector investment in the businesses of transporting services. For years these requests from the outer islands and the likes of Tapi Taio and Air Rarotonga have been falling on the deaf ears of the Demos.”

“The private sector have repeatedly said provide quality infrastructure like safe harbours

and airports and we’ll invest in the means to service these islands, and that’s what the CIP have been doing despite the scarcity of funds. It’s the lack of private sector incentives to invest in the out of sight out of mind islands that has kept our island fragmented, hopefully the CIP commitment to infrastructure development will close the gap of separation and isolation in the neglected efforts of nation building.”

As the Minister for Telecommunications Brown said he was encouraged by the telecom installations in the outer islands that continued to narrow the digital gap between them and the technology available on Rarotonga. The investment in the outer islands is not about a profitable commercial return, it’s about closing the gaps of isolation and separation between us. “Health and Education are hugely supported by internet access and I must commend the former Minister of Education Teina

Bishop for personally accessing donated computers and other digital equipment for outer island students.”

From a panoramic perspective, Brown said a lot has been done with little despite the misguided taunts from the Opposition who expect to be handed the keys to the Treasury while the stupidity of their TOAGATE scandal still burns hot in the memory of every tax payer. “It’s about trust and the dithering Demos haven’t earned it by a country mile.”

“A vote for the CIP is a smart investment for a better future,” echoed Brown

He said all he could hope for is that the public will recognise the sincerity of the tough decisions made and trust the CIP to deliver the gains. “It’s like child birth, enjoyment is birthed by endurance, a mother accepts and tolerates the pain but when she sees the gain in her arms the pain becomes a distant memory,” concluded Brown. Next week final interview. - George Pitt

The changing landscapes of elections

Political rallies draw meager crowds due to treating scare

Political candidates are either becoming more conscious of the offences listed in the Electoral Act or they are simply becoming stingy penny pinchers. From a voter's point of view it's news of the worst kind. Electioneering every four years or shorter when a snap election is called by the Prime Minister is welcomed with great expectation of festivities.

Since the introduction of Self Government, Cook Islanders have celebrated political campaigning with feasting, drinking and merry making on a grand scale. Every eligible voter had something to sell to the political hopefuls, their vote on polling day. Cook Islanders over the years became skilled promise makers assuring every standing candidate not only of their vote but in addition all those who lived under their roof, it was a desirable commodity to tease and exploit the canvassing candidate with.

Many a time losing candidates would be despondent and emotionally deflated, mystified why for all the promises of votes, they lost.

Over the years of general elections Cook Islanders have developed a traditional and cultural passage of right, the right to enjoy being bribed, treated and saturated with inflated promises. With campaigns being judged by the generosity of feasting and entertainment, intangible policies and principles were meaningless rhetoric that few comprehended. People reminiscent more about the number of pigs killed for the occasion and the chance to eat lamb chops, a rarity at the best of times. The younger ones who tagged along got to eat ice cream and drink Vaioara, wow; elections were like a multiple of Christmases.

The big plus of course was there were two candidates after your vote and whoever else you

could sway; this meant there was robust competition for your vote through your stomach.

Not only was there plenty food to consume but you could fill up the plastic bags you brought and your carry bags with food to take home to share with the rest of the family or eat the next morning.

Separate Party rallies held on the same night would have the political spies and feast scavengers attending both meetings. The huddled talk in the constituency the next day revolved around reports of both events with notes being compared and tea leaf type predictions of polling day

Separate Party rallies held on the same night would have the political spies and feast scavengers attending both meetings. The huddled talk in the constituency the next day revolved around reports of both events with notes being compared and tea leaf type predictions of polling day out comes.

out comes. Just another tradition ritual that had its place in the scheme of things.

Are we being coned by a new breed of candidate who just isn't financially positioned to appreciate their voters in the traditional and customary manner? Is the Electoral Act being used as an excuse, for if one is invited to attend a meeting to hear exaggerated promises that no one believes will be delivered, they are traditionally compensated for their time with a customary meal, the more elaborate and quantity of the food and drink the greater the appreciation shown by the host?

And what could be criminally wrong with that? Any Cook Islander would insist its good manners to feed invited guests. In the Cook Islands a gathering or

meeting traditional begins with a prayer and concludes with a meal. To deny a Cook Islander being fed after attending a meeting is a denial of a fundamental right and must be challenged and protected by an Act of parliament.

What is the difference between securing a potential voter's endorsement whether it is through a series of entertainment, feasting and drinking or by way of seductive promises of intent. Through the stomach or the mind, does it really matter, every opportunity must be permissible? To feel wanted and appreciated every

in most cases food is now being sold as a fund raiser exercise with alcoholic beverages being disguised as bring your own.

If the Deputy Prime Minister Teariki Heather decides to buck the no food trend and holds a rally, the superficial cost of a plate of food will be more than worth it for the corned beef ribs, highly recommended and absolutely superb even if you have to sit through an hour of political speeches. It may pay to phone through to his permanent chef at T&M Heather Ltd to find out if it will be on the menu.

Is a unique tradition and way of life that is momentary revived every four or so years in parallel conjunction with electioneering under threat of extinction? Some would say the perpetrators of this intent are cash strapped political candidates who are more comfortable with foreign values than preserving and perpetuating socially interactive occasions that cement our way of life and define who we are.

These Elections may be remembered for the meanness of heart and the lack of cultural generosity much to the disappointment of those who will miss the social warmth and adrenalin of engagement from preparing food to serving it with boastful smiles, eating together then cleaning up after the crowd has dispersed.

Lost will be the gratifying sense of belonging to a committee of foot soldiers who willingly participate in voluntary service to hear their winning candidate one day extend them greetings via the live radio broadcast of parliament on Radio Cook Islands. The pride and thrill drawn as a result of their role in one of their own being elevated to a Member of Parliament will be no longer but further erased by the proliferation of electoral petitions. How sad. - George Pitt

four years is fabricated into the psyche of indigenous locals, to enforce legalised restrictions on the principle of political exchange is a resented challenge to a traditional right of the people at large.

Many Cook Islanders feel it is their inheritable right at election campaigns to be wooed, enticed, promised, treated or bribed in exchange for their precious vote. A new interpretation of the Electoral Act is being accepted is fashioned from the signals being radiated from the imported Judges presiding over petition cases.

The net result of the absence of food after a political rally will be the poor attendance. Not good news either for the village retailers. Those brave enough to continue with the traditional feasting will draw the crowds,

Wichman completes Sea Bed Minerals internship

Sea Bed Minerals Commissioner, Paul Lynch reports that Cook Islander Marino Wichman has completed a 3 month fully funded Technical Internship in SOPAC, Suva, Fiji from February to May 2014.

He graduated last year from Otago University. His capping ceremony was on 3 May in Otago on his way back from Fiji.

His Degree is a Bachelor of Applied Science, majoring in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Geography.

Marino is now undertaking short term placement in the SBMA assisting with our short term GIS needs, resource and EEZ mapping and data base.

He is undertaking some GIS work now alongside our Natural Resource Advisor, Darryl Thorburn, again here with the SBM Authority after completing the SOPAC Technical Internship in Fiji.

Sea Bed Minerals Commissioner Paul Lynch thanks everyone at SPC/SOPAC involved in this excellent Internship for Marino. He learnt a lot and is going to be a great Cook Islands Technical resource person going forward.

Background details

The objective of the SPC-EU Deep Sea Minerals (DSM) Project is to strengthen the system of governance and capacity of Pacific ACP States in

the sustainable management of their deep sea mineral resources through the development and implementation of sound and regionally integrated legal, fiscal and environmental frameworks, improved human and technical capacity and effective monitoring systems.

Under the Capacity Building component (i.e. Key Result Area 3), the project has developed and implemented a suitable training programme that caters for both the common knowledge gaps and the specific needs of each Pacific ACP States. Special emphasis is placed on the training of individuals to undergo appropriate trainings on any particular deep sea minerals topic that is of national and/or personal interest. In this case, Mr Marino Wichman was nominated by the government of Cook Islands through the CI Seabed Minerals Authority (SBMA) to be trained in the field of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and data management at the SOPAC Division Office in Suva Fiji.

Marino represents the country's future aspirations in this new extractive industry and was exposed to specialist expertise and knowhow. It is hoped Marino will effectively contribute to the needs of the Authority in managing the Cook Islands seabed minerals

estate.

Objective of the Placement:

A recent GIS graduate from Otago University in New Zealand Marino was identified by the CI SBMA for this placement specifically to be trained on practical GIS applications and work with GIS and IT staff that can support and offer insight on data management and database development for the CI deep sea minerals spatial data.

Scope of Work:

Marino worked closely with the DSM Project as well as the GIS Team at the SOPAC Division for the duration of his training. The training was conducted by the SOPAC Division Staff with specific emphasis on GIS mapping and minerals data management.

There were two major deliverables under this placement:

1. Create maps to show various geological, chemical, biological and economic parameters;
2. Develop a plan for how the Authority is to manage its data needs and develop protocols, that is:
 - The process of accepting and releasing data;
 - Consider which systems would work best for the Authority, that is, should the Authority be a standalone or if there are any benefits for linking



Marino Wichman into a regional data storage system (considering costs, data backup etc);

- Type of software: proprietary off the shelf or open source software;
- Hardware: what would be the Authority's needs – short – middle term;
- HR needs and systems.

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Letters to the Editor

Coward or crooked cop

Another Letter CI NEWS refused to print

Dear Editor,
Referring to the letters by the Integrity Police in the CI News, I am somewhat concerned, that the writer in his letter of 15th May, has lied and made changes to his original letter to mislead the public. He also made false accusations against CIFA and its officials by saying that the football clubs have no rules and regulations at all. You know, editor there was no such comments made.

Editor, please stop pretending that you are neutral and unbiased. By allowing personal attacks and slurs on CIFA and its officials while the writer remains anonymous, you are encouraging this cowardly behaviour.

If this obnoxious letter writer remains anonymous, how can we tell if he is not a former sacked employee of CIFA using your newspaper as a means to get even. Please release his name, then it is on record so others can react appropriately.

This coward calls himself the Integrity Police, if he has integrity why not publish his identity?

*This person is simply a crooked cop.
Striker (Name and address supplied)*



Six months and still waiting

Another Letter CI NEWS refused to print

Dear Editor,
Half the \$60,000 given to Netball Cook Islands by Finance Minister Mark Brown last Monday rightfully belonged to six Grey Power members, \$30,000 stolen by the CIP Government and for six long months now, still not reimbursed. If the Minister could proudly hand out the envelope to beaming netball officials with no strings attached, why wasn't he able to do the same to the stolen money? Why is a special law needed by the Government to reimburse the \$30,000 when none was required to break into people's bank accounts? Grey Power went on the warpath to Parliament (the second time) to demand instant reimbursement on 3rd April. On the 14th on the verge of enacting a law to abolish back tax and reimburse the money Parliament disintegrated!

Without mentioning names, the six victims are; an 83 year old Mama \$3012 taken; six months lost interest (approx \$75). An 81 year old Papa \$7,780 (\$195). A 75 year old widow \$4888 (\$120). A 76 year old Mama \$4888 (\$120) An 80 year old Mama from Mauke \$5,000 (\$125) A 75 year old Papa \$5,000 (\$125)

According to Richard Neves, Financial Secretary these six pensioners were targeted out of the 256 total recipients because the Tax Department have information they have ample funds in their bank accounts.

Editor, I do not understand the term 'Caretaker Government' and its ramifications. But when the CIP Government went through the throes of dissolution (self destruction) on April 14th rendering them to a Caretaker Government status, does the Minister of Finance Mark Brown still have the mandate to give away large sums of money? He's done the same thing before, \$60,000 to finance Cook Is League to the World Cup in England last year.

Finally, thank you to 'Concerned Taxpayer' writer in Saturday's newspaper (CI News). You have a genuine concern for our plight. God Bless! Grey Power, one voice one choice.

Dennis Tunui Turangi

Remember this story? It appeared in the CI Times issue 382 on 14 January 2011

Pearl Industry gets \$3 million, farmers raise concerns with PM

By Charles Pitt

On Wednesday 12 January 2011 at 10.15am 16 Manihiki pearl farmers met with Prime Minister Henry Puna to discuss issues between Government and the pearl farmers to improve the status of the industry and look at ways of improving production and working relationships within the industry itself.

Also in attendance were Pearl Authority CEO George Ellis and Ministry of Marine Resources Secretary Ben Ponia.

The PM announced that the NZ Govt had agreed to provide \$NZ3m to assist the pearl farmers of which \$2m would be for production and technical support for the farmers and \$1m for the Pearl Authority (CIPA) for Marketing and Promotion Strategies.

The farmers were very receptive to this announcement provided initial potential remedies to a number of concerns raised previously by the farmers themselves to Govt would be addressed at this meeting.

While this was good news for the farmers, the PM called for the farmers themselves to be honest and to work collectively in what is often regarded as a very competitive and tireless industry and there was a need to change attitudes within the farmers themselves.

Co-operation was now needed among farmers to assist Govt determine how these funds are to be spent. The \$2m would be placed with a local bank (BCI) to which farmers could access funds by way of concessionary loans to assist with purchasing of equipment, training, sales and technical support.

Government officials are still mapping out a process as to how the funds are to be distributed and to look at ways that would reduce the pressure on the farmers but at the same time, improve the production and value

of the pearls themselves. It was important that the funds are spent wisely as this will determine any future funding requests by donors.

In terms of marketing, CIPA advised that the first marketing agent from Europe is now on board (Holland) and this is seen as a positive step forward in the marketing of Cook Islands pearls.

A number of other issues were raised and discussed.

Urgent need for floats

The Mayor of Manihiki advised that the Manihiki Pearl Farmers Association MPFA have floats and ropes still available for purchase on island but they have been bypassed because of this internal attitude amongst the farmers themselves. He was of the view that it was time to amalgamate and support each other. It was agreed that farmers advise MMR officials after this meeting of their requirements so that orders can be placed as soon as possible and arrangements made for shipping and transport to Manihiki.

Involvement of Ministry of Marine Resources MMR with harvesting and technical support for the farmers.

Ben Ponia Secretary for MMR confirmed that they are already involved and that they are presently undertaking surveys to determine how best to assist farmers to identify their resource requirements. The PM added that the system is already in place and that the process for disbursement of the funds is currently being negotiated between MMR and CIPA. Discussions are underway with BCI to determine realistic loan percentages to assist farmers access the concessionary loans. PM advised that the completion of the Project Documentation for this should be done this week.

Maintaining a Revolving Fund.

CIPA advised the industry is at rock bottom and that the concept of converting these funds into a revolving fund

was to ensure that if it works, production would increase. He stressed this was not a grant and that access to the funds had to be determined carefully for everyone to benefit. The Mayor advised that the MPFA already has a revolving fund in existence which started 2 years ago with \$25k provided through MMR. Today, this fund has increased to \$70k. MPFA also have 1000 floats available for purchase therefore farmers are encouraged to purchase these floats first (\$17 each) before ordering anymore.

Identification of Niche Markets.

CIPA were encouraged to expand their networks to ensure exposure to sell Cook Islands pearls. While other jurisdictions like Japan, Tahiti and Europe have increased production, it was important that CIPA pursue vigorously ways and means to market, promote and sell our pearls.

Undertaking Assessments to determine current and future needs of farmers. MMR advise that this work is in progress and that they will be visiting Manihiki in the very near future to finalize qualitative assessments to assist with identification of technical as well as individual resource requirements of farmers.

Appointment of Administration Officer for Farmers.

This was considered essential to co-ordinate the requirements and functions of CIPA, the community and the farmers especially in Manihiki. This at least will provide a person or point of contact to assist farmers with advice such as filling out forms, taxation matters, information exchange etc. CIPA acknowledged the request and will look into it.

Better Business Planning and Support for Farmers.

A request was submitted to Govt to consider initiating an assistance package that would involve training farmers in;

business planning, production, developing marketing strategies (short, medium and long term), costings and gradings, information sharing, and survival techniques in the industry, It was also suggested that CIPA tap into brokerage markets that would allow or enable farmers to tap into those markets.

Development of a Short Term Marketing Strategy.

This was considered essential given the struggles experienced by farmers with production, sales and marketing and basically day to day survival in the industry. CIPA acknowledged these concerns but it was important to face reality at this time because of global impacts within the industry and the price value of pearls today. MMR confirmed that it is their intention to establish a Business Advisory Service in Manihiki which would address some of these concerns.

Bulk Material Purchasing to Assist Farmers.

MMR advised that a further \$75k will be provided to assist farmers with their bulk purchasing requirements. He reminded the meeting that this will only apply to existing farmers and will not include new farmers. As this includes purchase such as floats and ropes, it was important to get this information to MMR today so that proper costings and shipment can be arranged.

In concluding, the PM acknowledged the input and presence of those in attendance. He encouraged the farmers to look at the future of pearl farmers in 2 ways;

- Strictly as a business and
- Lifestyle

It was important to take these two factors into consideration because the approach taken by people in Rarotonga is different to those actually living on Manihiki. It was time to give some thought to these 2 matters and to take the positives out of the discussions.



Congratulations to Mrs Raiata Heather

Our woman of the Month this month, Mrs. Raiata Heather nee Uea was born and raised on Atiu. Her father is Uea Mitiau of Atiu and her mother is Tiki Terangi Tavai of Atiu and Tahiti. She has 8 brothers and 7 sisters and is married to the late George Rongoi Heather of Arorangi with 5 beautiful children, 9 lovely grandchildren and 3 precious great grandchildren. With a very Christian oriented background, she has a number of church involvements:

- In 1980, she represented Arorangi Sunday School group to New Zealand to raise fund for the construction of the Arorangi, Calvary Sunday School Hall.
- 1984, she attended the Cook Islands Girls Brigade camp in Aitutaki
- 1985, she attended the camp in Mangaia and Porirua, New Zealand camp.
- 1987, she had the opportunity to accompany the Rarotonga CICC group to Prairie Bible College's Canada 100th year birthday anniversary under Reverend lotia as the team leader.
- 1991, joined the Pokoinu Nikao Ekalesia team to New Zealand and Australia.
- 1993, attended the 100 years birthday

anniversary of the Girls Brigade Dublin, Ireland.

Her passion all these years has been in the nursing field. In the 1970s she became a member of the Cook Islands Nurses Association and in 1989 assisted them with the registration of the Cook Islands nurses as well as the graduation of the nurses who passed their training. After her good work in that field, she became the President of the Cook Islands Nurses Association in 1992 and a dedicated committee member on the CI Nursing Council. In 1990 she represented the CI Nurses Association to the South Pacific Nurses Forum in NZ before attending the one in Australia in 1998 and Samoa in 2006. During her term as the Chief Public Health Nurse from 2002 to 2009 she worked closely with the CI Child Welfare Association and was a judge to the Rarotonga and National Baby Show. Mama Rai then became the Vice President for the CI Child Welfare in 2000.

MY PASSION IS NURSING:

Her nursing practices continued from:

- 1967, as a General Nurse in Rarotonga and Outer Islands,
- 1970, a Staff Nurse



Mrs Raiata Heather - Woman of the Month of May

at the Atiu hospital and continued at the Rarotonga hospital.

- In 1985, she was appointed as Senior Staff Nurse at the Rarotonga hospital,
- 1986 she worked as Midwife at the Maternity Ward at Rarotonga hospital.
- In 1991 was

appointed as a Afternoon and Night Supervisor working at the Rarotonga hospital

- 1992 promoted Charge Nurse Medical ward Rarotonga hospital,
- 1995 Nurse practitioner practice services Rarotonga Hospital and the community,
- 2001- 2010 Chief

2014 Woman of the Month Sponsors:

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15. International Olympic Committee - Olympic Solidarity.
16. CISNOC - Women in sport Commission/WOM Organising Committee

Public Health Nurse, Public Health Nursing at the Public Health Department Rarotonga

• In 2008 she was Awarded long service Recognition, for 43years service in nursing by the Ministry of Health

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

• In 1999, she was a member of the Cook Islands Workers Association, National Women Association and CIANGO

• Treasurer for the Arorangi Child Welfare committee as in the 1980s.

• She was on the PTA committee for Arorangi School

• A judge for the Arorangi school speech contest,

• She was in the Committee of the Disability Organisation and Proxy for the Atiu community and volunteered for

- o Rep Are Pa Metua,
- o Mental Health,
- o Are Patunga
- o Te Kainga
- o Punanga Tauturu

services,

- o Member of the Red Cross Association Rarotonga,
- o Ruaau beautification group,

- o Rep for Puaikura Oranga Meitaki group
- o Committee for the Arorangi community Neighbourhood Watch.

AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS:

• In 1963 at the age of 16 years old, she was given a Nursing Scholarship to study nursing in Rarotonga.

• By 1966 she graduated as a Staff Nurse from the Cook Islands Nursing School which was a three years study program.

• She was also fortunate to attain some academic papers from the University of the South Pacific

(USP), Rarotonga Cook Islands as follows:

- o 1982 Preliminary English,
- o 1989 Communication Study Skills
- o 1992 Advanced Management Study.

• In 1986, she was given a Scholarship to study Midwifery in Suva Fiji for six month and passed a Certificate of a Fiji Registered Midwife,

• 1989 award as a Cook Islands Registered Nurse Certificate,

• 1994 - 1995 Advanced Diploma in Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner study in Samoa for a year and half and pass the Certificate

• 2002 Community Health Administration Course a month study in Okinawa, Japan and pass the certificate.

Our woman of the month attended and participated in the following workshops:

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS):

• In 1990, she attended the Family Planning workshop in Tonga

• In 1995, Care and Support of Aids People workshop in Australia

• In 1997, Negotiation in Leadership held in Fiji

• 1998, Nursing Managers Meeting in Victoria Melbourne. She was also the coordinator for the Negotiation in Leadership workshop for Cook Islands Nurses held at the Rarotonga Resort hotel.

• In 2002, she attended the Pac Elf for Filariasis meeting in, Fiji,

• In 2003 she participated in the Planning/ Policy workshop in, Fiji,

• In 2005 she participated in the Reproductive Health Management workshop in Fiji and the 1st JPIPS Expanded

Program Immunization Regional Training workshop in Fiji.

• In 2006, she coordinated the (JPIP) Expanded Program Immunization National workshop on Rarotonga for Nursing Students, Outer Islands and Rarotonga Nurses, attended the PIPS Expanded Immunization Program workshop in Fiji, the Reproductive health management and the Adolescence Health workshop held in Fiji as well

• In 2007 she attended the Regional Reproductive health consultant meeting in Fiji.

• In 2009 she coordinated again the National Expanded Program Immunization training workshop for Rarotonga and Outer Islands and attended the training workshop on Community based Rehabilitation in Manila, Philippines.

• In 2010 she attended the Family planning quality care management workshop in Fiji.

• In 2011 she attended the International Plan Parenthood Federation (IPPF) Regional meeting in Malaysia, before celebrating the IPPF 60th Birthday Anniversary in South Africa

• Last year she attended the IPPF Regional meeting held in Denpasar, Bali.

In the sports field, during her youth, Mama Rai used to

play netball for the village of Tengtangi in Atiu and proves to still have that youth, but playing in the Golden Oldies netball. "I have represented the Cook Islands Golden Oldies Netball team to the Golden Oldies Netball festival in San Diego, USA in 2013 and now preparing for the next festival in Hobart, Australia in 2015," she says.

After all these years of hard work and service to our community, she retired from her much loved nursing career in 2010 however is currently working as a nurse reliever at MOH and the CI Family Welfare Clinic. She is also a part time caregiver for Mrs. Niotangi Heather and the current President for the Vaine Auro Golden Oldies group. Its as if she never retired!

"Last and not the least, I wish to acknowledge again my heavenly Father for his guidance and directions. I feel my family and I have been blessed. I also wish to acknowledge the most important people who had a great influence in my success for their great support, patience, perseverance and assistance. To them I dedicate this award to. To my co-workers in Nursing, to the MOH, to my friends, to my organisations, the Cook Islands Nurses Association the Cook Islands Family Welfare and the Vaine Auro Golden Oldies Group Arorangi, thank you for your support."

CLOSING VERSE:

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and of a sound mind. Kare oki ite ngakau kope ta Te Atua i oronga mai no tatou; Te ngakau maroiroi ra, e te aroa e te ngakau akono Meitaki.

NZ Aid funds Cook Islands PM's pearl farm

By *Briqitte Masters*

The Cook Islands Prime Minister Henry Puna is set to get an estimated \$116,000 worth of equipment and loan funding from NZAid for his pearl farm in Manihiki, despite an apparent conflict of interest.

The payment is part of a Grant Funding Arrangement (GFA) signed between the Cook Islands and New Zealand in 2013, which gave \$1.7 million to the Cook Islands as part of the Pearl Revitalisation Project.

A requirement of the GFA was that all conflicts of interest were to be declared to the New Zealand Government. However, Mr Puna's involvement in his pearl farm was not.

According to a document supplied by the Cook Islands' Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) in Rarotonga, Mr Puna put in a request for a \$38,000 boat, an \$18,000 outboard motor and \$30,000 worth of building material to upgrade his seeding house.

The document shows the equipment Mr Puna requested was worth more than twice as much as that asked for by most other pearl farmers. He also requested \$18,393.75 as part of an emergency float loan.

Financial secretary of the Cook Islands Ministry of Finance and Economic Development Richard Neve says the final list of equipment was approved by the Manihiki Pearl Farmers Association (MPFA), which 23 of 24 pearl farmers are members of – including Mr Puna.

"This equipment has been put out in a series of public tenders ... endorsed by MPFA, and procured by MFED."

Mr Neve disputed that Mr Puna will be receiving over \$100,000 worth of financial support, but the document provided by MMR says otherwise.

The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) said in response to an Official Information Act request that Mr

Puna was not on the list of those declared to have a conflict of interest.

Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully says it is well known that Mr Puna's family is involved in pearl farming.

"The Ministry has robust procedures for managing conflict of interests and I have not been presented with any information suggesting that they have not operated properly in relation to the pearl project."

Mr McCully visited the country in 2011 to personally approve the NZAid funding with Mr Puna, and other Cook Islands delegates, on Cook Islands Pearl Day.

Both MFAT and Mr Puna's media advisor Trevor Pitt said the Prime Minister had advocated for NZAid funding to support the industry and his constituency.

"The Prime Minister and the rest of the cabinet provide the political will," Mr Pitt says. "So they make the decision, 'yes we want NZAid money for pearl farming' then it's up to the government agencies to get the ball rolling."

Mr Pitt says Mr Puna has not had any involvement in his pearl farm since becoming leader in 2010, but might be preparing for when he leaves parliament.

Leader of the Opposition in the Cook Islands Wilkie Rasmussem says Mr Puna is abusing his power.

"He should not be receiving such favours ... The more productive farmers that are doing more toiling everyday over there do not get the upper hand that they need."

The grant has angered the New Zealand Taxpayers' Union, which says New Zealand taxes should not be supporting Mr Puna's private business.

"New Zealand taxpayers will not be impressed that their aid money appears to be feathering the nests of the Cook Island oligarchy," says Executive Director Jordan Williams.



Cook Islands PM Henry Puna (AAP file)

Mr Williams also says NZAid is supposed to help those most in need, and the grant to Mr Puna raises serious questions.

"The Cooks have a long history of corruption, why on Earth wasn't MFAT making sure proper process was being followed?"

"Economic development is roads and infrastructure, grants to private businesses and payouts to politicians are not."

It has also emerged Mr Puna's pearl farm, A7 Holdings, may have been operating despite being deregistered by the Companies Office in November after failing to pay its annual fee.

If a company continues trading after being struck off it can be brought before the court.

A Cook Island source says Mr Puna's medium-sized pearl farm is currently operating but there is no one on site and there are only oysters seeding in the water getting ready for harvesting.

An employee from the Cook Island Companies Office, who does not wish to be named, says it does not follow up to see if companies are operating after they have been struck off.

"We don't check, we are too kind to our people and we give them all the time in the world to re-register."

Cook Island ministers are supposed to make declarations of interest upon election including financial stakes in any company, partnership or unincorporated body.

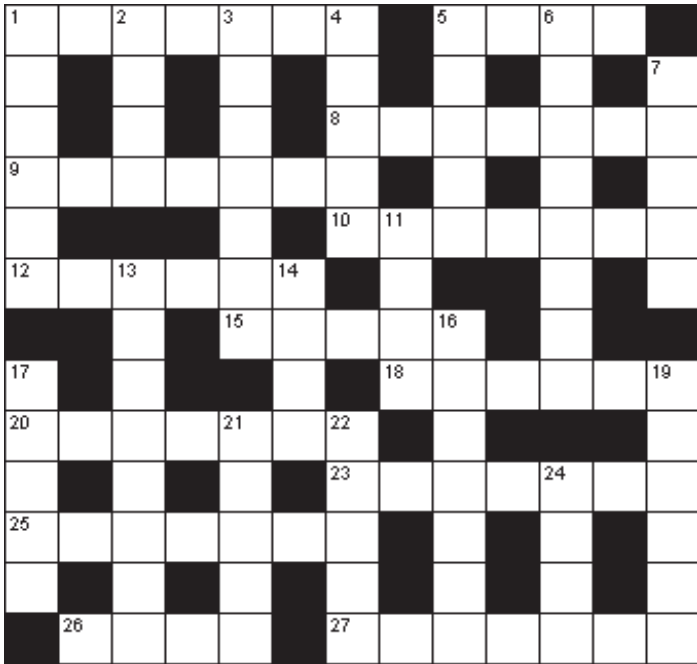
The Prime Minister should have lodged his interest with the Clerk of Parliament John Tangi in the Cook Islands, who has twice refused to tell 3 News under Official Information Act requests whether or not Mr Puna disclosed his pearl farm when he was sworn into office in 2010.

The 2005 Civil List Act states no MP shall enter into any transaction whereby the private pecuniary interest may come into conflict with his or her public duty.

The equipment requested by all pearl farmers, including Mr Puna, has been purchased and is due to be delivered to Manihiki sometime in the coming months.

Mr Puna has turned down repeated requests for comment.

CROSSWORD



Across

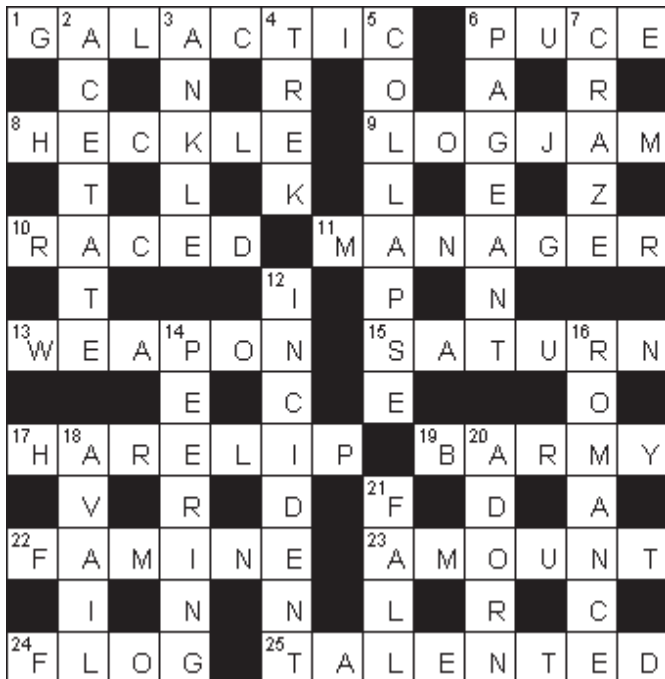
- 1. Wave riders
- 5. Restraint
- 8. Marine crustacean
- 9. Moment
- 10. Small common brownish bird
- 12. Internal part of poultry
- 15. Impertinent
- 18. Abduct
- 20. Postmortem examination
- 23. Capital of Georgia
- 25. Incomplete
- 26. Visage
- 27. Listener

3. Angers

- 4. Old sailors
- 5. Venomous snake
- 6. Member of a Rotary Club
- 7. Muscular strength
- 11. Select
- 13. One-celled organisms
- 14. Makes brown
- 16. Ceded
- 17. Downy
- 19. Actor
- 21. Composure
- 22. Seaport in the Crimea
- 24. Resting place

Down

- 1. Slender cord
- 2. Clarets



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Bluetooth wireless technology is built into billions of products, from cars and mobile phones to medical devices and computers and even forks and toothbrushes. Bluetooth technology allows you to share voice, data, music, photos, videos and other information wirelessly between paired devices.

The name "Bluetooth" comes from the 10th century Danish King Harald Blåtand or Harold Bluetooth in English. King Blåtand helped unite warring factions in parts of what are now Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Similarly, Bluetooth technology was created as an open standard to allow connectivity and collaboration between disparate products and industries.

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Response by Richard Neves, Secretary of Finance to TV3 item on PM and NZ Pearl Farming grant by Brigitte Marsters *see page 10*

The economic prospects in the northern group of islands in the Cook Islands are difficult, the tyranny of remoteness, vulnerability and the lack of economic opportunity are continual issues faced daily by the people of the Northern Cook Islands, these are a people in need. The Executive Director of the New Zealand Tax Payers Association Mr Jordan Williams, has outlandishly referred to these people as elite oligarchs without having set foot on the islands of Manihiki to understand their issues and needs.

The pearl industry is seen as a sector (particularly in Manihiki where there is a natural comparative advantage) where some investments could be made to try and return it back to a position where it could rebound back to somewhere near the type of returns that were being experienced in the early 2000's and become economically viable. I would urge those who are interested a more detailed overview of the economics of the industry is provided in budget documentation contained on the Cook Islands Ministry of Finance website, Mr Williams is more than welcome to do some research of his own.

It is for the reason of improving the economic sustainability of the Cook Islands that the New Zealand Government has worked with the Cook Islands for some time to improve the economic potential of pearl farming in Manihiki, during this time both parties have been in power.

Initially a grant funding agreement (GFA) between the Cook Islands and New Zealand to revitalise the pearl industry was signed in June 2011 for \$3 million. The initial research for this initiative was built on a five year institutional strengthening investment (2005-2010) into the Ministry of Marine Resources funded by New Zealand (\$5 million) and a 2010 scoping mission to Manihiki by the Cook Islands Ministry of Marine Resources and the New Zealand

High Commission in Rarotonga, well before the current Government was elected.

The revitalisation of the pearl industry has been a priority through the last two Cook Islands National Development Plans. No additional New Zealand grant funds have been allocated to the revitalisation program since the 2011 agreement although the programme approach was revised in 2013 and funding reduced after a joint review between New Zealand and the Cook Islands. On 9 July 2013 the Governments of New Zealand and the Cook Islands signed a GFA of \$1.777 million towards revitalisation of the pearl industry in the Cook Islands, well below the initial \$3 million which

by the Manihiki Pearl Farmers Association (MPFA) of which 23 out of 24 farmers are a member (the remaining one is retiring) to assist the farmers with the development of realistic and viable business plans and comprehending what their needs are moving into the future.

This overall process was managed by the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) who led the consultations and developed individual farm needs which were assessed against the developed business plans and historical farm records held by the Ministry. All MPFA members, including the Prime Minister, who is an established farmer, were entitled to make proposals for materials as long

conditions which are required.

The MMR and MPFA have an in depth knowledge of existing farm operations and the technology needed to transition to more profitable modes of operation and provide for the potential to expand qualitative production. The Manihiki Island Government (MIG) has also been consulted to ensure farmer compliance with licensing (a maximum farming area) which forms part of the criteria for eligibility listed in the NZ funding agreement.

The eligible farmers are required to sign an agreement with the MIG and/or the MMR whereby they will agree to aim towards achieving production targets outlined in their business plans, comply with pearl industry seeding and reporting systems which are managed by the MMR to comply with monitoring and evaluation of industry performance and submit tax returns. The actual equipment ordered by farmers has been agreed in a dialogue between farmers and representatives of the MPFA. The purchase of the equipment has been put out in a series of public tenders, all except for two have now been finalised. The equipment list was endorsed by the MPFA, and procured by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management.

All members of the MPFA will benefit from the scheme and the equipment list was finalised late in 2013, with tenders being let shortly thereafter. It was expected that pearl farmers would receive their equipment in the latter part of the first quarter of 2014, but there have been logistical difficulties to getting this equipment to Manihiki due to irregular transport links, however, MFEM has worked hard to get the equipment up to Manihiki as soon as possible.

The list of allocated equipment will be published once all equipment has been purchased and allocated to the farmers on Manihiki. At this point in time the only items which have been

The pearl industry is seen as a sector (particularly in Manihiki where there is a natural comparative advantage) where some investments could be made to try and return it back to a position where it could rebound back to somewhere near the type of returns that were being experienced in the early 2000's and become economically viable.

was programmed for the activity.

The GFA covers off three major components. A subsidy of 80 per cent (of the total landed value of) for the purchase of equipment and materials, a lagoon assessment and clean up (if required) and assistance with monitoring and evaluation. In terms of assisting farmers with the purchase of equipment and materials a process was led

as they met criteria set within the funding agreement. These were that, firstly, a farmer must be an active farmer. Secondly, the farmer must be a member of the MPFA who has achieved a harvest in the last twelve months and produced more than 500 pearls per annum for at least the previous two years, and finally, be a current permit holder complying with all the relevant

distributed to farmers are nuclei to seed the oysters due to the natural cyclical timelines which farmers work towards. Some activity is happening with boat repairs but these are not funded through New Zealand assistance, this has been provided through India and the Cook Islands Government. There have been some new boats which will be provided under the New Zealand assistance, work on these has not commenced, they are standard generic design.

Part of the GFA conditions are that farmers will be required to repay 20 per cent of the total landed value of the equipment over a period of three years into a revolving fund which will be managed MIC to fund ongoing pearl revitalisation activities. In 2010, following a visit to Manihiki by the Cook Islands Pearl Authority (CIPA) and MMR to carry out the annual lagoon benchmark survey to estimate future harvests of pearls. At that stage it became clear that a severe shortage of floats was threatening to sink (and destroy) a number of young oysters (spats) collector lines to the bottom of the lagoon, this was a threat to overall lagoon quality as well as the livelihoods of a number of farmers.

MMR, assisted by the MPFA prepared and finalized a list of farmers and floats requirements to salvage the situation and CIPA purchased 7,000 floats which were shipped in late February 2011. Ten farmers purchased an additional 6,500 floats under an emergency loan program established by CIPA which was then covered by the current GFA. A total of \$113,784 was at that stage borrowed by ten farmers, 80 per cent of these loans were then converted to grants. The farmers in receipt of those initial loans are required to repay 20 per cent back by the time of the next harvest in October 2014.

Brigitte Masters has alleged that the Prime Minister will be in receipt of \$116,000 worth of equipment, Ms Masters has been previously advised that MFEM are not in a position to ascertain final allocations to farmers and that it would be deceptive to provide an estimate when

two contracts for the supply of equipment remain to be finalised (domestic shipping and outboard motors), and final allocations have not been made.

Once the equipment has been distributed MFEM will publish the details around the allocation of the equipment and material. The MIC will be responsible for dispersal and 20 per cent of the value must be recovered by the MIC from the farmers. These funds will then be utilised on an ongoing basis for ongoing stores or another purpose which is consistent with the overall principles of the activity.

The alleged quote from Mr William Jordan's is completely unfounded and offensive to those in the Cook Islands Ministry of Finance who have worked hard with the Government of New Zealand to ensure that value for money and transparency are achieved in the procurement process. Mr Jordan or who ever has advised him should take the time to look at indicators around the management of public finances in the Cook Islands.

Whilst some may be able to draw lines of inference around conflicts of interest, all sides have been acutely aware that the Prime Minister is a pearl farmer and that he will receive equipment just as the other 22 eligible farmers will. It is for that reason alone, that we have gone over and beyond what is normally required in these processes, particularly in regard to publishing what each particular farmer will receive.

As far as I am aware apart from advocating on behalf of the constituency of Manihiki and his industry the Prime Minister has removed himself from the immediate process of negotiating details around the GFA and overall processes.

Finally, The Cook Islands has lodged a complaint with Massey University into Brigitte Masters who obtained information on the basis of doing research on 'Fishing Culture - Employment and Environment in the South Pacific', I for one have not seen any such research, and look forward to Brigitte's contribution.

Letter to the Editor

Rules govern not opinions

Another Letter CI NEWS refused to print

Dear Editor,
I refer to the letter published in your newspaper (CI News) on May 15 2014 under the heading "What is CIFA's true state of health?"

I know CIFA indicated they will not respond to letters written under pseudonyms, it did not occur to me that you would publish a letter so patently defamatory and untrue, particularly given the writer has already had a fair airing of his views.

The "Integrity Police" condemns Oceania Football for banning the 'brave few' from the game but only a week before had written that CIFA should be audited by OFC, which it is.

The writer says Mr Harmon is on record as saying, "the football clubs have no rules and regulations at all". There is no record of Mr. Harmon saying this nor could there be. It is the rules which have got him to the position he holds and left 'Integrity Police out in the cold. It is the rules which have led to the banning of three people from the game which 'Integrity Police' should appeal within the football judicial system but have chosen not to. Why?

"Integrity Police" is aggrieved because democratic elections have not gone his way. He is bitter with the Oceania Football Confederation and the Cook Islands Football Association.

The time is long overdue for 'Integrity Police' to leave football and find a sport where he will be welcome, if there is one.

Neutral Observer
(Name & Address Supplied)

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Opinion ...

Sale of “Telecom New Zealand” shares ...

Why this “Kiwi Company” really wants out of Telecom Cook Islands!

I can be a real sceptic sometimes.

And in regard to the “Telecom Sale Saga”, a number of questions arise depending upon ones perspective of what is really going on.

The big question for me is quite simple and it is this : Why does Telecom New Zealand want to sell out its 60% shareholding in Telecom Cook Islands?

There is no secret that Telecom Cook Islands has been a very profitable business over recent years. It has been suggested in recent times that the Cook Islands Government share of profits, by way of dividends, has been about \$2 million dollars a year for their 40% shareholding.

If that is the case, then Telecom New Zealand’s share of the profits for their 60% shareholding would have been about \$3 million dollars a year. That is clear profit after all costs, expenses and taxes have been paid.

So the question is asked once again : Why does Telecom New Zealand want to sell their 60% shareholding in a company that has a proven track record of great profitability?

And secondly, why would Telecom New Zealand want to sell-off their 60% shareholding in a company that has the monopoly over the telecommunications industry in the Cook Islands? They have it all. No competition. No competing interests. They can do what they like and they can charge us (the consumers) what they like.

We, the people of the Cook Islands, have no where else to turn for our internet, mobile phone or other telecommunication facilities because Telecom New Zealand dictates the policies. They set the rates and in view of their monopolistic situation, the people in the Cook Islands have to accept “take it or leave it” prices because we have no other option.

Much is being made, night after night on television, as to how Telecom Cook Islands has been upgraded and had its services expanded to be of a world class standard.

Telecom Cook Islands, under the control, management and direction of Telecom New Zealand, continue to “crow”, “boast” and “inform” they have recently spent millions of dollars improving and upgrading telecommunications facilities in the Cook Islands, while at the same time, returning a very healthy profit to its two principle shareholders.

One could say all this development in capital infrastructure has been done to improve the asset base of Telecom Cook Islands and to improve the value of the company and therefore its share value and sale price. But I’m not convinced the corporate world works that way.

It is my view that all these recent developments had been in the pipe-line for some considerable time. They had been planned and set in place long before Telecom New Zealand “got the itch” to sell and bail out of Telecom Cook Islands.

The sceptic in me is now very sceptical.

So I will ... “cut to the chase”.

I think the “real reason” Telecom New Zealand wants to sell its 60% shareholding in Telecom Cook Islands is because of the intention of the



Cook Islands Government to deregulate our telecommunications industry and to allow at least one other telecommunications operation to be established here in direct competition to Telecom Cook Islands.

I am aware that appropriate legislation for deregulation is almost complete. This will be available to the new Government after the 9th July General Election should they wish to introduce such a Bill into Parliament.

The C.I.P. has made it clear it is their policy to deregulate the telecommunications industry in the Cook Islands. I have been informed that the Democratic Party also supports this initiative. So deregulation will eventually happen no matter which political party wins the next election.

Once the Cook Islands telecommunications industry has been deregulated, then the value of Telecom News Zealand’s 60% shareholding will drop in value by several million dollars.

Telecom New Zealand currently have their 60% shareholding for sale at \$23 million dollars. This is based on value of assets, proven profitability over several years and based upon a MONOPOLY SITUATION here in the Cook Islands.

After deregulation, Telecom New Zealand will have no influence, and certainly no control over any other telecommunications company or company’s, which the Cook Islands Government may allow into the country to setup operations in direct competition to Telecom Cook Islands.

Competition will ultimately lead to a significant drop in turnover, which will then lead to a drop in annual profits, which in turn will lead to a devaluing of the share-value of Telecom New Zealand’s 60% shareholding.

So what Telecom New Zealand is doing is to try and sell-off their 60% shareholding to Digicel for \$23 million dollars before deregulation happens and before the value of that 60% shareholding drops by several million dollars.

Digicel has apparently asked Government for a 3 year moratorium period before deregulating the telecommunications industry. The C.I.P. Government has already said “no” to this proposal. Unless there is a moratorium period agreed to, I cannot see Digicel going ahead with their purchase offer.

The day after deregulation comes into force, then Telecom Cook Islands shares will start dropping in value. And they will continue to drop depending upon who comes into the market and to what extent any new communications company is able to make inroads, or market share, into Telecom Cook Islands and their various operations.

And so this, in my opinion, is the “real reason” why Telecom New Zealand wants to bail out of Telecom Cook Islands.

They want out with the best possible price they can get before the Cook Islands telecommunications industry is deregulated by way of Parliamentary legislation.

Now having said all that ... I have a friendly word of advice to Mike Tavioni, William Framhein, Brian Baudinet (all whom I know) and others who may be trying to put together various proposals to purchase parts of Telecom New Zealand’s 60% shareholding and it is this : the asking price at present is based upon a MONOPOLY SITUATION.

But once legislation for deregulation comes into force, the value of those Telecom Cook Islands shares will drop substantially.

I think you fellows should pause for a moment ... step back and consider what the situation will be after the Government has deregulated the telecommunications industry in the Cook Islands.

Because once that has occurred, the most significant thing to happen to Telecom Cook Islands is that the value of their shares will drop.

How far will they drop?

How far is the length of a piece of string?

Howard Henry

TE REO MAORI KŪKI AIRANI



Tātā'ia e Ruteru Taripo

Kia Orāna kōtou katoatoa i tēia mata'iti ōu, rua tauatini mā ta'i-ngauru mā toru (2013). Te irinaki nei au ē, e kua mataora tikāi ta kōtou Kirītimiti ē te maara nei rāi iā tātou te akakoroanga tikāi ō tēia rā. Ē pērā katoa, i roto i te tuātau ōrotē, tē pāpū nei ē, kua mataora rāi te reira na roto i te au tū angaanga tāokotai, raverave ma te inangaro tikāi, ki te pae i tā tātou au tamariki, tō tātou ngā metua, akaperepere, vouvou, kōpū-tangata, taeake ē pērā katoa tā tātou au manu i te ngutuare.

Nō reira, e mea tau rāi kia rauka iā tātou katoatoa i te akameitaki atu i tō tātou Metua Tapu i te rangi teitei no tei tiaki mai, pāruru mai ē kua arataki mai rāi aia iā tātou na roto i te mataiti 2012, ē kua akatae mai iā tātou ki roto i tēia mataiti 2013.

Tei ā tātou rāi oki i te ākono i tō tātou au oraanga, tō tātou enua, tō tātou ao-nātura ē te katoaanga e koropini nei iā tātou ē tā tātou e umuumu nei nō teiane i ē nō āpōpō.

No reira, kia mataora, kia manuia ē kia riro tēia mataiti ōu ēi mataiti meitaki atu nō tātou katoatoa.

Au Kupu no te 'akamata'anga o tēia Mata'iti 'Ōu

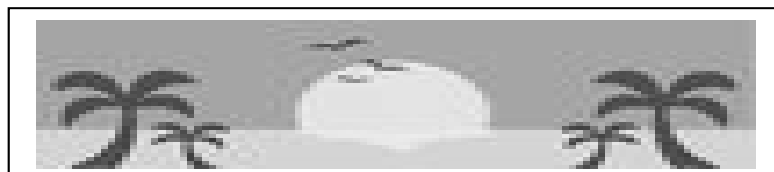
Words for the beginning of this New Year

kupu
tākiato
tākiato kōrero
mata'iti 'ōu
'anga'anga tā'okota'i
raverave ma te inangaro tikāi
'akaperepere
vouvou
tā tātou au tamariki
tō tātou ngā metua
to tātou Metua Tapu i te rangi teitei
pāruru
arataki
ao-nātura
mata'iti meitaki, mata'iti mataora

word
phrase
sentence
new year
working together
doing (the duty, job) with real love
loved, treasured one
grandparent (Nga-pu-toru dialect)
our children
our parents
our Heavenly Father
protect, shelter
lead, guide
environment (natural)
good year, happy year

Au Tākiato Kōrero Māori (Māori sentences)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Ka inangaro au kia mataora tikāi tēia Mata'iti 'Ōu | 1. I want this New Year to be a happy one. |
| 2. Kia 'anga'anga tā'okota'i tātou i teia Mata'iti 'Ōu | 2. Let us work together this New Year. |
| 3. 'Ākono i tā'au au tamariki. | 3. Look after your children. |
| 4. 'Ākono i tō'ou ngā metua 'ē pērā 'iā vouvou. | 4. Look after your parents and also granny. |
| 5. 'Akaari i tō'ou inangaro ki tō'ou kōpu-tangata. | 5. Show your love and care to your family. |
| 6. 'Ākono i tō tātou `enua | 6. Take care of our island. |
| 7. 'Ākono 'iā kōtou katoatoa 'ē kia manuia | 7. Look after yourselves and good luck. |



Irai's deco Art: depicting the present and future through ribbons

By Charles Pitt

Irai Wilkin has made a successful transition from weaving with the traditional materials pandanus and rito to producing remarkable contemporary works of art constructed of weaved coloured ribbons inter-connected, overlaid and integrated with threads and embroidery.

From a solid grounding in traditional arts and crafts which began when she was young with tuition from her mother, Ngatuaine Alapai Okotai in Manihiki, she has progressed to producing contemporary works reflecting today's world in terms of technology and environment.

Her works are intricate and textured and most importantly, evolving as technology evolves. There is nothing superficial about Irai's art forms. She is in touch with the world and the environment and like serious artists, she challenges the viewer not just to look but to examine the placement of the various elements, the textures, the patterns. A discerning follower of art will see and interpret deeper meanings. Art has a way of speaking to serious followers and revealing the unexpected.

Dedicated artists will tell you they have moments when the subconscious mind takes over and guides the hand.

She expresses the inner states of equipment used in the business world through a combination of coloured ribbons and threads and embroidery. Her works depict computers and micro-chips. They even predict the demise of the laptop computer as we know it.

Irai also produces other items such as Post Cards, Christmas Cards and Table Mats under the trade name



Irai's Deco Art. Her Postcards can be purchased from the Bounty Bookshop and Island Craft. The proceeds from sales are donated to Punanga Tauturu. She has published a book "Polynesian

Ribbon Woven Art" which is at the USP library and the Cook Islands Library and Museum. She donated a copy to Nukutere College where she also taught ribbon art to students.

Like all professional artists, Irai is deeply passionate about her art form and she wishes to pass on her knowledge to a younger generation. She is available to teach ribbon art at schools.



How to earn the respect of others

Part 1

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

The purpose of this Article is to encourage us with our attitude and behaviour especially during these political campaign period leading to the General Election on 9th July. Some people in the community are not getting the respect they should get from others simply because of their attitude and behaviour. Yet they wanted people to respect them. Let us look at what the Bible say on 'How to Earn the Respect of Others'. Proverbs 22v.1 reads "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favour rather than silver and gold." It is in our nature to want to be respected by others, to be valued as important by others, to have a good reputation! The key to good reputation is character! Reputation is what people say about you. Character is what you really are in the inside! The Bible says that 'man looks at the outward appearance of a person, but God looks at the heart!' Our character produces respect.

The question is "What Character or Behaviour, produces respect?" The Book of Proverbs says...Speak with Integrity / Honesty; Serve with Intensity / COMPASSION; Share with Generosity; Succeed in Humility.

If we manage to do the first 3, then we will be able to succeed with the last one. For this Article I will speak on the first 2 points. Let us look at Point 1 SPEAKING WITH INTEGRITY / HONESTY Integrity means "If you say Yes! it means Yes!" "No! means No!" Proverbs 17v.7 (GN) reads "Respected people do not tell lies." People of

integrity don't lie. Jesus said that "He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life". God does not lie. Remember also that Satan is the 'father of lies'! Proverbs 25v.15 (GN) reads "Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of gifts he does not give."

Are you a person who promises something and doesn't keep it? Let us look at some illustrations! "Don't worry, I'll return it as soon as I'm finish with it!" "I'll pay you back next fortnight!" "When I get my raise in salary I'll start tithing!" The great Napoleon Bonaparte of France said "Promise anything, but deliver nothing!" Proverbs 10v.9 (GN) reads "The man of integrity walks securely." In other words "Reliability" produces "Stability". Let us evaluate ourselves on Integrity!. "How honest am I with my wife?" "How honest am I with my husband?" "How about children with their parents?" "How about us with God?" Proverbs 27v.21 reads "The person's reputation can be tested." Test yourself on Integrity! Point 2 SERVE WITH INTENSITY This means having the desire to help others, be interested in serving others, be enthusiastic about doing good, and in serving God. Proverbs 14v.22 (GN) reads "You will earn the trust and respect of others if you work for good." If you do good you will gain the respect of others. Jesus said "If you want to be great, learn to be the servant of others!" Jesus said "I come to serve and not to be served!" Mother Theresa (in India) once said that "It's not what you do that matters, but how much

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



love we put in it!" The Apostle Paul said in Colossians 3v.23 "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." I believe that wherever we are, whatever we do, God put us there for His purposes. And that is why Paul said "...whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." (Colossians 3v.23) – serving with INTENSITY! Proverbs

11v.27 (GN) reads "If your goals are good, you will be respected." I also believe that there is no such thing as 'great people', they're just 'ordinary people' committed to 'great purposes!' It is my prayer that you will find this Article of Encouragement helpful and useful in your life. May you have an enjoyable and a God blessed week. Te Atua te aroa.

New Hope Church

Parekura Conference Centre

Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you

Sunday at 10.30am

Week 17 Fantasy Odds on who might Score the LAST TRY

Bulldog	Price	Panthers	Price
Tevita Masima	\$3	Amenayasi Aroi	\$3
Vatu Sika	\$8	Reben Barare	\$5
Kaliova Malibu	\$10	Seruvi Ralulu	\$3
Teariki Tou	\$15	Teina Savage	\$8
Timothy Tangirere	\$8	Lui Moemai	\$8
Teariki Piri	\$10	Tyson Ooariki	\$10
Mana Ngauu	\$5	Joe Vedaukula	\$3
Ozwell Tunupoupou	\$20	Marouna Ioane	\$20
		Junior Kirikava	\$11
Salafi Tovio	\$25	Kore Hermann	\$20
Andrew Teoa	\$20	Moti Saamu	\$15
Roman Hifo	\$8	Aseli Manuquila	\$8
Sai Nagi	\$3	Papamama Pokino	\$12
Devon Mitchell	\$5	Ngatiati Rimamotu	\$20
Travel Tou	\$12	Saula Lotawa	\$20
Travel Tylor	\$15	Ngatamaine Rongo	\$8
Vian Rea	\$15	Olaf Rasmussen	\$9
Any Other	\$8	Any Other	\$8

New fantasy odds on who will SCORE the LAST TRY of the PREM game. This will give tipsters and fanatical league followers more options when going to a LOCAL league game. Follow your teams' fortunes every week on the Fantasy Odds score board.

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

Avatiu Eels club will win ALL this weeks Grand Finals – 5 grades, 5 teams, 5 Avatiu winners

IS IT TRUE

This weeks "Man in Pink" was only rated #5 by the old referee's administration.

IS IT TRUE

Imported Samoan players have ruined it for others. Harder conditions will be imposed by immigration to ensure better behaviour and swifter deportation against law breakers.

IS IT TRUE

A club has found a new way how NOT to pay entry fee into the BCI – Get changed outside the ground then run in just before kick off bamboozling gate official and NOT paying.

IS IT TRUE

People turned their TV's on when they heard the Matmans mic was turned off.

Official Draw

Draw Wk 17 Grand Finals

SAT 23RD MAY BCI STADIUM, NIKAO

11.30 am	U12 Mod League Kuki Tag
12.00pm	U14 Eels v U14 Bulldogs
1.00pm	U16 Panthers v U16 Eels
2.00 pm	U19 Bears v U19 Eels
3.30pm	Res Sea Eagles v Res Eels
5.00pm	U9 Mini League Kuki Tag
5.30pm	Prem Eels v Prem Panthers

Simple Simon says....

BCI Sterile Venue

In what appeared as two teams devoid of ideas on how to win the game one has to ask " IS the season TOO long?" It didn't help that the sterile atmosphere within the BCI venue only emphasised the lack of entertainment that was to unfold that day. Surely the organisers of the MOST popular sport on the island can engage someone, anyone, to do something to get the crowd on their feet. Too much dependence by the MC's to keep the scores updated to the crowd but that can only be done when someone scores.

The performance of the Bulldogs on this day needs to be examined. They missed the distribution skills of Mana Ngauu, they missed the quick darting runs from the play the ball area of an enthusiastic dummy half. They missed the control and direction of a general who could grab the game by the throat and control it. They needed someone who could marshal his forwards and position them to take the ball up in regular succession. They missed the venom and sting in the tackle that the local followers had come accustomed to but didn't see on Saturday. We missed all of this plus more.

The organisers of the competition need to take responsibility for this. From the basics of a manned scoreboard to match officials get it more right than wrong. The only thing that one can take from last Saturdays Bulldogs v Panthers semi final premier game isthe Panthers won setting up a repeat of last years final – Eels v Panthers.

Too many sports are prepared to take your money and assume you will be happy with whatever transpires. I can't wait for one sport to look outside the square and promote themselves truly giving better value for your money. Why can't you make coming to a league game a weekly entertainment experience, one where when you arrive you feel welcomed, while you are there you are excited then when you leave you can't stop talking about the experiences on and off the field you have had.

Food for thought for the thoughtless.

So says SimonSimon the Tick Tocker

Opinion...

Eels Win Grand Finals

The Eels will win the grand final and here is why.

A week off has enabled them to patch up any injury worries they might have had. While in the opposition camp the steady list of the walking wounded keeps mounting to a point where 2nd or even 3rd tier options are now being considered or worst injured players having to take to the field.

The Eels will win the grand final ...

because unlike their opponents winning that has been their single focus for the last 16 weeks – to avenger the loses from last years grand final that still runs deep. While the opposition focus has been to survive each week and sudden death games the order of the day for a long time now. They have survived but at a price and now the cracks are beginning to show.

The Eels will win the grand final....

because in their coaching staff they have instilled a mentality no other club displays. Some call it arrogance some call it disdain but to the converted Avatiu followers it is called BELIEF. A feeling of belief that when called upon enables his followers to do many extraordinary things..... such is the power of Belief.

The Eels will win the grand finals.....

because they are a team of players who dazzle together....not a player in of team who he only dazzles.

The Eels win the grand finals

because there are too many because(s).

Because of their coaches, because of their players and because of their loyal supporters.... Avatiu will win the Grand Finals.

May God have mercy on those who dare stand in the Avatiu way.

Who Played Well

Panthers –, Joe V, Tyson Ooariki, Moti Saamu.

Bulldogs – Sai Nagi, Roman Hifo, Vatu Sika.

Half time –Bulldogs 10 Panthers 8

Full time Score –Panthers 32 Bulldogs 10

Txt Winners Wk # 15

Rangi Luke - T-shirt
Jeff the Ref - Karaoke Hire
Born a Kingfisher - Meat Pack

Week 17 Who they picked!

U19 Bear v Eels, Res Sea Eagle v Eels, Prem Eels v Panther.

1. Daniel R – U19 Bears, Res Eels, Prem Panthers
2. Grocers Review – Bears, Eels, Panthers
3. Da Spot – Bears, Sea Eagles, Eel
4. Zumba's Frankie – Bears, Sea Eagles, Panthers
5. A.W.R - Bears, Sea Eagles, Eel
6. Boogies Hero's - Bears, Sea Eagles, Eel
7. Rupe the Sparky – Bears, Sea Eagles, Eel
8. Noo – Eels, Eels, Eels
9. Henry Hoff – Bears, Sea Eagles, Panthers
10. CITV's Nga – Bears, Sea Eagles, Panthers
11. Moari Halston – Bears, Sea Eagles, Panthers
12. The General –, Bears, Eels Eels
13. The Corporal – Bears, Sea Eagles, Eel
14. The Sargent - Bears, Sea Eagles, Panther
15. The Cook – Bears, Eels, Eel
16. Fijian in Paradise – Bears, Eels, Panther
17. Anthony Brown – Bears, Sea Eagles, Eel
18. Teacher Rima – Bears, Sea Eagles, Panther
19. Simi's Back – Bears, Eels, Eel
20. Sean Willis – Bears, Sea Eagles, Eel
21. League Fan – Bears, Sea Eagles, Panthers
22. Stair Case Sisi – Bears, Sea Eagles, Panther
23. G+S Fred – Eels, Eels, Eels
24. Naked Chef – Bears, Sea Eagles, Panthers
25. Dawn Crummer – Bears, Eels, Eels
26. Salsa's Chefs Terry – Bears, Eels, Panthers
27. Andy Kapi – Eels, Eels, Eels
28. Lydia the Barman – Bears, Sea Eagles, Panthers
29. Café Jirahs Tama - Bears, Sea Eagles, Eels
30. Jeff the Ref – Bears, Sea Eagles, Eels
31. 10 cent Aussie – Bears, Sea Eagles, Eel
32. Miss "M" – Bears, Sea Eagles, Panthers
33. Pumpkin Eater - Bears, Sea Eagles, Panthers
34. Born a Kingfisher – Bears, Sea Eagles, eels
35. Hurricane lam I – Eels, Eels, Eels
36. Hot Eyes – Eels, Sea Eagles, Eels
37. K Corner – Eels, Eels, Eels
38. Smith Family – Eels, Bears, Eels
39. Tania's Clan – Eels, Eels, Panthers
40. Kikau Broom Maker – Bears, Eels, Panthers

PRIZE - 1 x FREE t-shirt, 1 x Karaoke hire & 1 x Meat pack for person who correctly picks 3 winners from this weeks draw.

Conditions apply - If more than 1 winner – draw from a hat.

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

GAME
OF THE
WEEK

REPLAY
5PM SUN ON
CITY



VS



BCI Stadium, 5.30pm Saturday 24 May

watch on: www.youtube.com/brianthematman

RaroShack



Printers
Inks
Toners

Security Cameras & Systems installed

Phone: 20500 Mobile: 55009

Food!

By Norma Ngatamariki

Food! Glorious food! It's something that we all can't live without. It's just a necessary part of life. I see teens lining up at the tuck shop every day, flashing that cash (You know. Bringing fifty bucks to buy a single chicken roll. Just the norms). Food is just another random topic that I love with a passion, so I thought what the heck. Teens love food and I'm a teen. We, Cook Islanders, don't suffer from eating disorders (like anorexia or bulimia) because we live and breathe food. In a nutshell, I'm just gonna talk about food.

I like eating food. Who doesn't? I'll be honest. I like getting take outs (Sea Salt on Tuesdays for their mini Aussie burgers and Palace on Wednesdays, for their \$3.50 burgers. So that's my eating schedule sussed for the week)

But I haven't forgotten my "healthy regime". But honestly, though. A burger is \$3.50 and a cucumber is \$7.00 (and that's the cheapest by far). You wonder why the obesity rate in the Cook Islands is so high. Then there's the food at the functions. You've got the traditional stuff like chop suey, mayonnaise, pork and chicken (Yum!) or seafood (uhm...not really my thing) and then you've got the desserts like cake, donuts (Lol. It's a must at local function) and, if you're lucky, there'll be a bomb Alaska.

As kids, we basically ate whatever was given to us, whether it was fruits or vegetables. We had no say in the matter. Now that we're all grown up, we are more aware of what we put into our mouths. Junk food is a real tempting option. We know that it makes us fat, gives us rotting teeth and all that other bad stuff.

Does that stop us from eating it? Nope. We just keep eating those chips and fizzy drinks. I reckon it's all down to laziness; we know that lunch costs heaps and making lunch at home is way cheaper, it's just that we're too lazy (or we think that we're too bossy to make lunch)

I'm always looking at the people who get the chicken katsu plate at the Tereora College canteen. I'm thinking to myself, Are you seriously gonna get full on that? Then I look down at what I've got: a cheese bread, chicken roll and a bottle of lime-flavoured Vaiora. Not the healthiest combination. I got out of that tuck shop line as quick as I could. I gotta say I felt really guilty after that. But, as a teen, junk food tastes really good. We don't actually think about the bad stuff until it happens to us.

In the end, it all comes down



to the choices we make. We choose to eat that delicious Dairy Milk chocolate bar, the shopkeeper doesn't force us to buy it. We choose to buy lunch and not make it. We like some foods and we hate others. Fight for food! (Just thought I'd end it with something random)

You've gotta have a goal

By Nadia George

My year so far has been a mixture of highs and lows with lots of bumps in the road along the way. But what else should someone expect from his or her final year of T.C? I had started this year out on a high, having completed my goals list for things I wanted to achieve this year. One that is possible, realistic and attainable. Apparently 'to become a billionaire', isn't a sufficient answer anymore. I guess teachers got sick of seeing that so they threw in those two words, 'attainable and realistic'.

My goals for this year were pretty simple, consisting of:

1. Becoming a student leader (tick),
2. Wining some wood (trophies),
3. Passing level 3 with an excellence endorsement.

Mr. Haque always says something like, "you've got to have goals because it gives you something to work towards".

Which is what motivated me to do this. I had done the same sort of thing last year in year twelve and am happy to say that I had achieved...most of them. Oh well, better some rather than none.

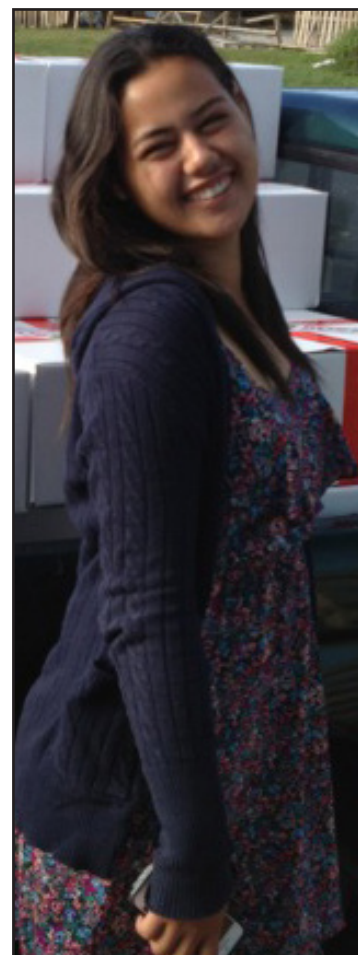
So this year I decided to take a page out of last years book and do it again because if it had worked so well the last time, then the magic should still be there, hopefully. I've learnt from 2013, that its good to keep referring back to those goals as the year drags on, to remind you of what the year is all about, which is achieving those goals. I've recently discovered that I work well when I have goals set out. It motivates and drives me to do better. But I've also found that being humble goes hand in hand with the hard work that goes into achieving those goals. A friend once told me that "its always best to be humble. Arrogance gets you nowhere but being humble takes you a long way". Being humble

keeps you focused and when you're focused and determined, you can make the impossible, possible. Or so I like to believe.

Yes, having goals set out is a good source of motivation but my main source comes from those who doubt me. Which is something I'm sure we can all agree on. Throughout this year I've been pushed and stepped on, but each time I've been knocked down, I come back stronger. Getting back up is part of life; everyone likes to say that God never gives you things you can't handle. Which is true.

Always remember that when you've hit rock bottom, the only place you can go from there is up. I will continue to push through the negativity in life, I will continue to strive and achieve my goals in life, and no matter how long or how hard they may be. Like my friend Dean Tangata always says, "I can't give up now, cos' I've got too many people to prove wrong".

What are your goals for 2014?



Daily dribble's etioa Edrey let a story on the front page go uncorrected till it was pointed out by the Red Rooster's advisor of corrections. The story said the Bulldozer DPH call me Heta had flown to Pukapuka on a \$22,000 ICI funded charter to check out the airport when he didn't go at all. Written in advance of the trip the preordained secret plan was executed after an early morning reader confirmed the story had been printed. Insiders said Heta gave up his seat for the Pukapuka MP to fly home to campaign, naughty CIP tricksters.



Word is the Wales had prepared a mighty feast-fit for a King, King Heta but it all fell flat when Lassarow stepped off the silver bird! The Wales were not impressed!



Despite public servants who are funded by the taxpayers being instructed by the politicians to write the policy statements for the CIP the Public Service Commission claims of no such knowledge of something not even kept a secret. Handpicked by his SDA mate Eney Elvis after he begged for the job, Russell isn't likely to cross paths with his boss. The PSC claims he sent out a memo and the rules regarding public servants engaging in politicking during working hours. Why doesn't he stop turning a blind eye and get his oversized work force off their bums checking a few computers at random?



The daily's Edrey could make a good CIP Executive because he likes making up rules he breaks the next day. After reminding potential letter writers their opinions are limited to 300 words he



publishes lengthy 500 plus word letters as he sees fit much to the irritation of those who faithfully follow the etior's rules. Now he has been forced by the owner to reinstate the smoke signal gossip section but with a new set of moralistic rules which no doubt he will violate within days.



Speaking about rule benders, no sooner had the Bulldozer call me DPM Heta erected his political trinity billboard it literally collapsed at the first scrum. Divine intervention sent it crashing to the ground and his injured pride saw him withdraw from a tax funded trip to Pukapuka. Rumour has it Doreen Bogg took up the spare seat at the invitation of the CIP unity committee to bring the spirit of piri to the politically divided far north.



Some die hard CIP supporters are fuming over the appointment of another expat to a Board position. One angry CIP refuses to buy another plate of food or Party raffle ticket in protest the faithful keep getting overlooked. The fact the expat was already on a well paid Board didn't go down well either. Two Board appointments! Big Red says don't blame

the expat, Board appointments are not self appointments, they are done by a Minister in collaboration and the approval of the rest of Cabinet.



Oliver Twist certainly got the bums rush when he dared to ask for more! Same with the water project's media gurus! The whisper is they only want another \$200,000! What happened to the \$200,000 they were allocated? MFEM does not have any spare dosh. And what say ye neneva? Neneva is said to be going neneva over this new development.

And the whisper chooks is that the Kiwi High Commissars are asking our government to front up with our share of the dosh for the big water project!



Isn't it great to see more Cookie graduates! One concern for our small nation is the dominance of graduates in the Arts and in fields where few jobs exist back home! With big scientific and technical developments predicted in sectors such as Environment, Marine and Sea Bed Minerals, we need to start churning out more of our own engineers, scientists and technicians. Otherwise we will be forced to employ ex-pats by the

dozen in the future! And that won't be cheap!



While members of the public are alarmed the newly laid water pipes along the back road in Atupa are leaking and holes have been dug to locate those leaks, a wily old fox claims it's simply a result of the testing phase which is designed to locate leaks in the system. Sounds plausible but if the jobbie was done according to the book and properly, should there be any leaks at all? And why put pipes in, cover them up then dig the soil up again to fix leaks? Why not test for leaks before refilling the hole with soil? Is that too hard? Why not get things right the first time and save a lot of time correcting things?



A prediction for the outcome of the general election on July 9th. CIP 10 seats, Demos 10 seats, One CI Movement 4 seats. And so say all of us! And so say all of us!

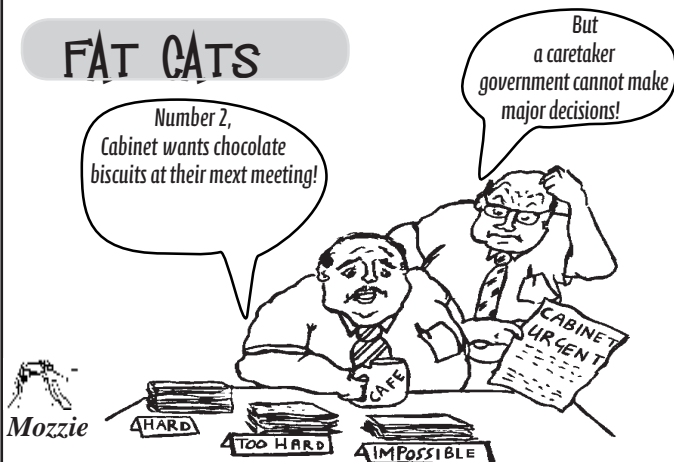


Great signage out west folks. First up is the CIP bill board of their front row followed closely after by the Demos bill board saying Vote Demo! A motorist speeding by and glancing up momentarily, might assume the two are connected, that is, first their faces then their Party! A subliminal message there somewhere? Could be if the signs are too close together!



Oh dear chooks! Avatiu's MP was expecting a bonza crowd at his election launch only to find three old die hards turn up! Never mind was the word! More were on the way! Did they get lost?

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



Te Aponga Uira

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – CORE DRILLING

Te Aponga Uira (TAU) invites expressions of interest from local contractors for the supply of Core Drilling rig, complete with two capable experienced operators, for the purpose of obtaining core samples to determine the ground make-up of its new power house site.

Contractors are requested to submit a list of equipment they have on hand in good working order for the purpose of TAU Geotech engineers ascertaining firstly if such plant and equipment are correct for the project, and secondly additional equipment that maybe required to ensure the drill rig is functional and suitable for the purpose. TAU will provide the on-site engineering supervision for the coring exercise. Digital photos and a video of 720p quality of plant and equipment in operation would suffice for registration of interest.

Scope of Works is available for contractors to review after registration and site visits may be arranged by appointment by contacting TAU Project Manager:

TAU Project Manager
Te Aponga Uira, Rarotonga, Cook Islands
Fax: (682) 21-944
Email: alex.napa@electricity.co.ck

Furthermore, after the registration of Interest and evaluation of the contractor's equipment, TAU would request eligible contractors to submit a quotation for the coring of 5-7 test bore holes which will be identified clearly by TAU Geotech engineers.

Questions to TAU project manager by Monday 26rd May 2014
Close of Expressions of Interest by 30th May 2014



**SUPPORT WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
DAY & NIGHT STALL SPACES AVAILABLE**

When: Wednesday 4th June 2014

Venue: Maire Nui Park

(Opposite Banana Court Complex)

Food, Arts & Crafts and Apparel Vendors Invited!

Reserve a stall now!

Criteria and Registration Forms available

Registrations close Friday 30th May 2014, 3pm.

Contact: BTIB Staff - Eleanor Goodwin, Taimata Allsworth or Lydia Marsh.

Phone: 24-296 or Email: eleanor.goodwin@cookislands.gov.ck for further information.



PUBLIC NOTICE

**TELECOM COOK ISLANDS LIMITED
– EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

TCNZ Cook Islands Limited ("Telecom New Zealand") owns 60% of the shares in Telecom Cook Islands Limited (the "Shares"). It seeks expressions of interest from Cook Islanders and Cook Islands enterprises who may have an interest in acquiring the Shares and can satisfy the matters below.

Please submit your expression of interest to Craig Walton at craig.walton@tnzi.com and hand deliver copy to Tim Arnold, Ingram House, Rarotonga, on or before 10 June 2014. Please note the time frame for expressions of interest has been extended.

Any expressions of interest should provide evidence that:

- you will purchase, own and control the Shares;
- your ownership and control is not in the nature of a nominee, agency or other device for a foreign enterprise;
- you have the financial resources to settle the purchase price of the shares of not less than \$23 million for the Shares; and
- you have the necessary experience of owning and managing significant telecommunications assets and networks.

This notice is intended to comply with the requirements of Cook Islands law that are aimed at affording all local persons and local enterprises an opportunity to participate in the business of Telecom Cook Islands. Cook Islands and New Zealand law forbid the making of a public offer of the Shares and this advertisement is not an offer within the meaning of all applicable laws.

TENDER

EIA STUDY TENDER FOR NEW POWER HOUSE

Te Aponga Uira (TAU) is inviting suitably qualified consultants, companies or joint venture companies to submit a bid to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment study for the purpose of construction of new housing for new generation plant and equipment within the existing Power Station site, Avatiu Valley, Rarotonga.

TAU has developed Request for Proposals Documents and Terms of Reference (TOR) for the associated tasks and now invites interested consultants, companies or joint venture companies to submit their proposal for this assignment.

Tender Documents can be requested and or uplifted from the following contact details:

TAU Project Manager
Te Aponga Uira, Rarotonga, Cook Islands
Fax: (682) 21-944
Email: alex.napa@electricity.co.ck

The proposed timeframes for the bidding process are set out below:

Deadline for submission of questions:
3pm Friday 16th May 2014

Deadline for submission of Proposals:
3pm Friday 23rd May 2014

Notification to preferred Consultant:
Week of 26th May 2014

Contract and budget negotiations:
From the week 26th May 2014

Our house of cards

"...a shameful, abominable, disgrace. No Cook Islands PM would invite an overseas Leader or royalty to go there. Has the PM ever asked himself if overseas Leaders think it odd no Cook Islands Leader has ever invited them to our parliament?"

By Charles Pitt

I've raised it before and I'll keep raising it until I'm blue in the face.

Political reform must be accompanied by parliamentary reform that is underpinned by a new, purpose built parliament building.

The dysfunctional nature of our parliamentary system and our MPs can be attributed in part to the lack of a proper establishment which acts as a solid base and conduit for our democratic system.

The current parliament building, which is supposed to be the embodiment of all that is characteristic of our democratic system, is an old boarding house in Nikao by the beach, originally used as a residence for airport construction workers. Located where it is, it is literally a "House of Cards." At any time during hurricane season, it could fall over.

Without a proper environment in which to conduct the nation's most important business, defective MPs will continue to be moulded and churned out. Rather like a shoe factory moulding and churning out chocolate biscuits. Good to look at and eat but can't be worn on your feet. Totally impractical.

It is intolerable that good, hard working parliamentary staff have to tolerate such poor working conditions. OK during the time of Dickens perhaps but not in the 21st Century. How the staff have tolerated their poor working conditions for so long is a sad indictment on government itself. No MP would want to be based there for any length of time.

Our most important and vital institution is a shameful, abominable, disgrace. No PM would invite an overseas Leader or royalty to go there. Has the PM ever asked himself if overseas Leaders think it odd no Cook Islands Leader has ever

invited them to our parliament? No wonder the official opening of parliament is conducted elsewhere.

An important legacy the NZ administration could have left us when we became self governing, is a proper parliament building. NZ saw the need to build the international airport for us. Perhaps NZ knew back then that as long as we never had a proper parliamentary establishment, we would always be dysfunctional and reliant on NZ- indefinitely. And, with the NZ built airport, the likes of McCully can pop in from time to time to offer sweeteners and drop a million or two to keep us "dazed and confused."

The new parliament building need not be an expensive, flash affair but it needs to be multi-functional and achieve several goals politically and socially.

Having been without a purpose built parliament since self government, we have become accustomed to accepting a "rats and mice" arrangement

which sees parliament holding official openings at the National Auditorium, Cabinet and Caucus meetings being held at the OPM and other important meetings with overseas dignitaries held at local hotels.

Parliament is a place where the affairs of state are focused and concentrated. With all Ministers and MPs in one place, training of new MPs is easier, the public can find and meet with their MP, important documents are kept safe, the public can go to see and hear MPs in session, select committees can meet with the public in attendance.

Few members of the public attend when the House is in session because the number of seats in the public gallery is very limited. There being no press gallery, the media has to sit in the public gallery with no tables for their laptops or writing material.

What is advocated is a building with facilities which when the House is not in session, can be used by the public and

community groups and NGOs for conferences, meetings and celebrations for a fee.

Advocated is a building which has on the ground floor, the main post office and a BCI bank branch (which will attract people daily), a government bookshop to sell government publications, a coffee bar, restaurant, shops and offices the rent from which will assist with the payment and upkeep of the building.

Parliament buildings and grounds should be open to the public and tourists as is the case in NZ and also feature traditional arts and crafts as well as local plants and flowers.

The building should also showcase the very latest technologies in relation to communications, energy, waste management and water supply.

Are we to reach our centenary of self government without a parliament building? What message will that send the world? "Hey, look we did it, and without a parliament building!"

Keys to Food Safety

Food safety is described as the handling, preparation, storage and selling of food in ways that prevent food-borne illness or food poisoning. It simply means that we produce food which is clean, safe, and of good quality and at the same time fit for human consumption.

Food can transmit disease from person to person as well as serve as a growth medium for bacteria that can cause food poisoning. To avoid food poisoning, simply follow these simple rules:

FIVE Keys to Food Safety:



KEEP CLEAN:

- wash hands properly and often when handling food.
- wash hands properly after toilet use.
- wash and clean all surfaces, utensils and equipments used for food preparation.
- protect kitchen areas and food from insects, flies and pests.



COOK FOOD THOROUGHLY:

- cook food thoroughly, especially meat, poultry, eggs and seafood.
- reheat leftover food to 75oC or above before consumption.
- consume cooked food within 2 hours.



SEPARATE RAW FOOD AND READY TO EAT FOOD:

- store ready to eat food at upper compartment to prevent from being contaminated by dripping of raw food.
- for chopping boards, use color codes for meat, vegetables etc.
- cover or wrap food to prevent cross contamination.



KEEP FOOD AT SAFE TEMPERATURE:

- do not leave cooked food at room temperature more than 2 hours.
- keep cold dishes and perishable foods such as meat, milk and egg products in refrigerator below 4oC.
- keep hot food in warmers; 60oC before serving.
- thaw frozen food under refrigeration.



USE SAFE WATER AND RAW MATERIALS:

- select fresh and wholesome foods.
- use clean water to clean raw foods.
- wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly especially if eating raw.
- do not use food beyond its expiry date.

Remember: Food Safety is in Your Hands!

It is our responsibility to ensure that food for sale and consumption is "Safe".

