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# Forward Pledge meaningless and illusionary

## *Public sector downsizing non negotiable*

The Cook Islands Party campaign Pledge document is a self gratifying series of statements that fails miserably to stimulate intelligent interest in attracting the middle masses to bother to leave the comfort of their homes to vote for them on the 9 July.

Incapable of producing a campaign manifesto of tangible outcomes the Pledge publication lacks serious economic substance and promotes a forward movement while shackled to the self praise of overstated claims of past achievements that were mostly Democratic Party initiatives and innovations. As a marketing tool the Pledge document is a shambles. Going forward based upon the past doesn't grip an undecided mind to buy into the CIP agenda, generalised statements are like the Democratic bill boards, they have no detail of the how to. This is best described as a driver looking in the rear view mirror while driving the car.

It is always easier to talk about the past, a trait that has dominated the psyche of the CIP since the passing away of their great founding leader Sir Albert Henry. The CIP virtually live in the past tense when what matters most to people is the present, we live in the moment of the now. The CIP dare not state the present because their present situation forced the impulsive CIP leader Henry Puna and his jittery Caucus to panic and call a snap election.

Their self indulgent past achievements are a marketing diversion propagated by the CIP spin doctors who have no idea of the grass roots plights and expectations. The Pledge document is a desperate attempt to divert public attention from the real economic and social issues that have provoked an unprecedented public commotion and dissension in response to the CIP's dismissive attitude to Grey Power's tax concerns, the Te Mato Vai costs, Telecom's share sale, VAT increase, Government charges and fee increases issues

and the list goes on, only the converted dwindling CIP faithful will bother to read the Pledge document with questionable comprehension.

Where is the Maori copy? That's how much Puna and company have thought the propaganda through. The pledges are in English but all the speeches are delivered in Maori.

When the unpopular Puna announced the snap election, he said the main reason was because of the need to prepare for the 50 years of Self Governing celebrations in 2015, yet for such

as precipitous and terrifying. Every New Zealand pension recipient has a bounty of back tax on their head, created out of nothing by Puna's desperate tax men driven by orders from Cabinet to find more money rather than reduce the budget by five percent.

Where are the pledges to continue the sale of national assets? Neves' and co's plan to sell Te Aponga after Telecom Cook Islands fails to get a mention, neither does the Airport privatisation plan. Like 2010 the CIP has a private

a celebration of Dependence on foreign funding and foreign expat workers who are creaming the Country while qualified Cook Islanders have to go overseas to have their skills appreciated. Never in the history of self government has the Cook Islands been so infested with foreign workers, businesses and debt.

Thankfully the voters have their wits about them or else this CIP government will catapult us back to the heart break of 1996. Taking us forward to a disastrous past is the outcome of the sloppy CIP Pledges.

CIP pledges in the past have failed to deliver, for the business community the 2012 pledge to reduce the cost of business was quickly undone by introducing measures to increase the cost of doing business further stifling the potential to drive the economy upward. An expat dominated cocktail attending Chamber of Commerce suffered in silence rather than risk retributions by speaking out against government's harsh condescending treatment of the commercial sector.

The frothy Pledge document has steered clear of and pledges that would challenge the mediocrity mindset of the upper level of the public service. The Pledge document is marginal and mediocre which is a reflection of the calibre of administration the CIP government is, hardly recommended voting for unless mediocrity is the object of desire.

The final page lists the exaggerated chest beating achievements of the CIP and the last one regarding Te Aponga is found listed further up the page. It's that lack of attention to detail that questions the cognitive stability of the distracted CIP, who at the slightest flicker are gorged by their consuming impulses.

It's no wonder Teina Bishop jumped the sinking CIP vaka, abandoning the dingo culture of mindless confrontational entanglement before he got trapped by conformity to the stupidity of Puna's 'Faulty Tower' legacy.

- George Pitt

*Puna fails to address the fact the budget is predicted to be in deficit for the next three years, his flawed introduction can be best described as being a mix of political and economic gibberish that offers no confidence to the many struggling business there is hope the economy will improve.*

an important reason there isn't any reference to the celebrations in the Pledge document.

Puna fails to address the fact the budget is predicted to be in deficit for the next three years, his flawed introduction can be best described as being a mix of political and economic gibberish that offers no confidence to the many struggling business there is hope the economy will improve.

A CIP induced spectre is haunting the Cook Islands: the spectre of an ageing society. Whereas once the prospect of retirement and old age was viewed as a time of comfort and security, for many it is now seen

agenda that is too politically risky to disclose unless they win, thankfully they won't.

Every local pensioner is no better off despite the slight of hand illusionary \$50 increase because of the hike in VAT and the pension now a taxable income, how punishing for the aged outer islanders who don't have the option of emigrating. The pensioners are about to launch a ghost of their own to haunt the CIP out of existence on July 9.

Puna's big talk on celebrating 50 years of self government is just that, big talk. The CIP has failed miserably to become more independent, next year will be

# Keeping national assets in local hands

By Charles Pitt

The argument over whether Cook Islanders should buy shares in Telecom, is becoming not so much a matter concerning profit and loss on the share value but one of retaining an important national asset in Cook Islands hands.

In other countries when national assets are privatized, as was the case when the NZ government floated shares in Air NZ in 1980. Shares came on the market at over \$3 but later dropped to below \$3 as competition with other airlines grew.

Could a model similar to the Air NZ one work here? The

Cook Islands government take a 60% share with the remaining 40% sold off to resident Cook Islanders in \$1,000 parcels. That way, Cook Islanders living overseas could invest in their own country via Telecom. With no stockbroker in this country, some separate body would need to be set up to handle the sale of shares should Cook Islanders wish to dispose of their shares.

In any case, in a deregulated market, it's expected Telecom's share value may drop as it did in the case of Air NZ however the return should be more than one would expect from a local bank. Also those investing in shares should understand that the movement in share value is

cyclical.

From the tone of the comments in email messages Mike Tavioni has been receiving from Cook Islanders in Australia and NZ, one senses a genuine concern that Telecom should be in Cook Islands hands not foreigner's hands.

Although Tavioni floated the notion a local should have only one share valued at \$1,000, many Cook Islanders overseas were prepared to contribute much more. It demonstrates that the concerns over foreign ownership run deep. Although these Cook Islanders may have lived a great many years overseas, their concerns for what happens "back home" remain very strong.

Even if Tavioni's bid fails he has achieved one notable success and that is to expose the depth

of feeling among Cook Islanders overseas regarding foreign ownership of our important national assets.

Bill Carruthers rightly points out, the telecommunications industry is changing rapidly and around the world costs are coming down with competitors able to become established quite cheaply.

He also points out it is important to have a partner who is familiar with the industry and one that has deep pockets or access cheap finance.

If locals want to own Telecom outright, they will face many challenges including competition from others.

This is not to say that locals could not step up to the plate with the assistance of a major overseas partner or financial backer.

## Unity not possible if elderly, women and youth alienated

By Charles Pitt

Following the general election on 9 July the prediction emerging is that neither of the two main political parties will win outright.

Expected to hold the balance of power is the One Cook Islands Movement for the simple reason its prime policy objective is unity. When a nation is united, great things can be achieved.

The Cook Islands Party (CIP) has in its current term, alienated the elderly, the women and the youth through unpopular and unnecessary tax measures, its failure to address key women's issues like disparity in earnings (lack of equal pay) and household incomes (below the national average required to cope with the cost of living) and alienation of the youth through lack of effective employment and educational policies.

The CIP have also failed to recognize that allowing locals to purchase some shares in Telecom will generate a feeling of unity especially among those Cook Islanders living overseas. Opportunities like this do not present themselves often.

The Democratic Party has simply been asleep.

The CIP has torn its founding

principles of inclusiveness to shreds. People have been left off the Vaka. Like the great Chinese Emperors of old, the current leadership believes political history begins with them. The real CIP leaders, Papa Albert and Sir Geoffrey Henry, have been dumped on the scrap heap of history.

Since the last election in 2010, some 1,200 young people will have left High School. Some will have gone overseas for further education or to seek employment. The majority, around 900-1,000, will have remained and many will now be eligible to vote. When it comes to voting, many young people will follow their parents or elders and vote accordingly. However, it is quite likely some may choose to vote for a candidate or Party which will do something for the youth. Not promises but actual action.

At this present time many youth, especially in Tupapa/Maraerenga, will recognize that it is only the One Cook Islands Movement that will ensure their voice is heard.

Unity provides a solid foundation and any house not built upon a solid foundation will topple over.



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# CIP going forward with Nenevanomics

## *Public sector downsizing non negotiable*

Financial Secretary Richard Neneva Neves' required by law within 14 days of an Election announcement 'Pre Election Economic and Fiscal Update' can be taken with a grain of salt. Neves by way of his political meddling and smooching has politicized the high office of Financial Secretary to the point there are no degrees of separation but a blurred gap between the position and his close attachment and relations with his political masters.

Neves is the most trust deficient of any person who has held the post of FINSEC to the point the position is thin on public respect and is integrity compromised. Left unchecked by a lazy Cook Islands Party void of sovereign responsibility, Neves has led an insubordinate expat dominated bureaucratic revolt of cultural insensitive taxing and hardship that has reduced a CIP government of promise to a one term political embarrassment.

Neves inconsistent fiscal reporting has been an accounting embarrassment of juvenile economic forecasting. His reports have been void of cohesive transparency but manufactured to suit the political climate of the moment.

The accumulative net results of the CIP's annual budgets are the hallmarks of amateurism that have been masked and talked up despite the reality the Cook Islands is facing a serious economic decline. The known reality is there is no more sources whereby Neves can impose an increase or an extraction of taxes. All stones have been turned and bleed to the maximum.

Neves soft line prediction there will be a budget deficit for the next three years is a complete turnaround from the pre announcement economic boasting by himself and the Minister of Finance Mark Brown.

Where is the evidence the nation's finances are in good shape and the surpluses in hand? Were we being lied to? This facet is no stranger to the CIP who have in past Party Conferences blatantly lied to their members with falsely fabricated financial statements to conceal the huge debts the CIP were in.

One damaging fact the CIP cannot fudge or conceal is the true fiscal state of the country has been progressively forwarded by future accounting; this projection of shortfalls is diluted in the appropriations by elaborate smudging and cross referencing

Whoever becomes the government on July 9 will face the non negotiable position of reducing the bloated public service of over 1,800 then have to brace themselves for the backlash from sacked workers who will most likely join the exodus. Fiscal survival will be only be achievable if jobs are shed and the CIP know it.

A smart new administration will begin by reducing the number of obesely paid expats and offering redundancy packages for voluntary early retirement for over 60 year olds. Natural retrenchment can be adopted and the Te Mato Vai

chose to embark on jet setting all over the globe for reasons of no relevance to improving the promised quality of life for all. Remember their well preached 'no one in the tribe will be left out.' phrase?

Neves has been the evidential revelation that Henry Puna is the worst leader of either Party to have had the privilege of being the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands. After Puna has been tossed out of office by his own constituency of Manihiki he will be quickly forgotten and mentally erased by the masses with the events that were rumoured about his private life being the talk of those who bother to recall his being in office. There will be no history books that will publish more than one paragraph to record Puna's disastrous political legacy.

The distracted Puna's abdication of his leadership responsibilities to the expat bureaucrats led people to call the former New Zealand High Commission John Carter the Prime Minister and now that has been Neves' description because Puna has repeatedly stated Neves has the 'power'.

Rather than cut their ties with Neves, the CIP has secretly extended his contract to avoid a public backlash at the polls for another six months till the end of 2014. In the meantime Neves will continue to fabricate a CIP user friendly nenevanomics budget then complete his term indoctrinating Garth Henderson who is now on shore waiting in the wings.

The CIP had no legal mandate to extend Neves' contract which should have been advertised and contested. Crown Law's Kim Saunders and Public Service Commissioner Russell Thomas who are avid fans of Neves, recommended his continuance thus they must be decisively shown the door once Government changes.

- George Pitt

*Warned in 2011 the Public Service could not be sustained, the CIP has continued the reckless spending of money on non essential items and the expensive addiction to international travel.*

of the figures. The eventual result inevitable is the brick wall halts the movement.

Warned in 2011 the Public Service could not be sustained, the CIP has continued the reckless spending of money on non essential items and the expensive addiction to international travel. Neves' attempts to curb the political thirst for more fiscal indulgences was rebuked by Cabinet which kept pushing the brick wall experience further into the future. Told to find the money Neves took the easy route of increasing taxes and government service fees.

The CIP took no responsibility for where the money came from nor did Puna care if it meant pensioners were cruelly treated to extract funds to keep his wasteful political lifestyle intact.

contractors may be able to soften the transition of public servants to the private sector.

Public sector reform can yield a savings of up to \$10 million and more after the Ministerial budgets and wasteful squandering are slashed.

Under the heading 'Priority Considerations' on page 14 of The Cook Islands Party's 2010 campaign manifesto, it stated "Although our intention is to streamline our Public Service in the future,"

Even before the CIP became the Government in 2010 they knew the Public Service was unsustainably top heavy creating an imbalance and lean in the economy. The 2011 Economic Task Force made specific reference to the situation but the over confident CIP Government in its victorious euphoria arrogance



# CIP challenge Demos to debate

The Cook Islands Party has thrown down a challenge to the Democratic Party and other parties to take part in a televised debate in the lead-up to the election. The debate to be aired on Cook Islands Television and broadcast live on Radio Cook Islands to the Outer Islands would focus on policies and issues, and presided over by an agreed moderator.

The CIP has asked CITV to work out costs and details for arranging the debate for simulcast. Staging the event will likely solicit a shared cost between the debating parties.

However, the CIP hierarchy says the Demos should be "prepared to put their money where their mouth is" on campaign issues and policies. They have issued the challenge based on the CIP Government's record and the



party's intent to keep up the momentum on progressive change and beneficial results.

CITV says time will be required for organising the event and participants would need to be

prepped. The suggested timing has been earmarked for two weeks before the national vote on 9 July.



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*Our frontpage model is 21 year old Frances Carroll. Frances is an art student from the US, visiting her sister "Yogi" Maya. She enjoys being on island time and doing yoga on the beach! This is her 2nd visit to the rock and looks forward to returning in the future. Check out our website [www.ciherald.co.ck](http://www.ciherald.co.ck) and facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ciherald](http://www.facebook.com/ciherald)*

# PM accessed a loan not grant money

The Prime Minister is disappointed by misleading headlines and stories in the Cook Islands News over his pearl farm operation.

The Prime Minister had not received a pearl grant but was part of the Manihiki farmers' group, which had access to loan funding, three years ago. In January 2011, farm owners expressed a need for immediate help with new floats. As one of the larger farm owners, the PM was part of the collective under that original loan arrangement for emergency floats.

The PM has not been engaged in any pearl funding process or been aware of the loan arrangement evolving into a grant, two years later. He has not dealt with the Cook Islands Pearl Authority

about farming or been involved with CIPA's role in the funding arrangements.

Two weeks ago at the Pearl Forum in Manihiki, the PM was made aware of money owing when an invoice was produced by CIPA. The Pearl Authority and MFEM's Development Cooperation Division only reconciled the funding payments two weeks ago and many farmers have only recently been made aware of the outstanding monies.

The PM left work on his farm at the end of 2010 having won the General Election and assuming the Prime Ministership. One person was left to oversee it up until about 20 months ago when that person left Manihiki. The farm exists. There are shells on lines in the lagoon. The PM has not been actively farming since becoming PM.



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# Last Saturday's Investitures at Avana



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Pig's head for Manavaroa to bite ear



# Korean Ambassador to send more Korean TV dramas for CITV

By Charles Pitt

Last Thursday, visiting Korean Ambassador to the Cook Islands, Park Yongkyu made a courtesy call to CITV where he spent over an hour being shown through the building and discussing the exchange of television programmes.

The Ambassador advised that he would be arranging for CITV to receive more of the Korean soaps that have become popular here with women viewers. He also undertook to forward some short documentaries on Korean life and culture.

Pitt Media Group Director Shona Pitt presented the Ambassador with copies of her cooking programme "A taste of Cooks" and the Ambassador presented her and fellow Director Charles Pitt with small gifts.

Shona's cooking programme has featured on other TV stations in the Pacific Region and also Sky TV. Cook Islanders have reported seeing her programme on Sky TV in the UK and in Asia.

The Ambassador was surprised that CITV received no funding by way of government grants



PMG Director Shona Pitt and Korean Ambassador Yongkyu with a copy of the Herald

or funds from licensing. It was explained that CITV's funding was derived entirely from TV commercials.

The Ambassador was also

surprised that the Herald had a Cook Islander in Seoul who sent articles on Korean life and culture. The correspondent, Mata Rakanui is Professor of

English at a University in Seoul. The Ambassador said it was most likely Cook Islanders in Korea were recorded as New Zealanders on account of their passports.



Koropuka Rangatira Tutara in action



# Cooks and Samoa join forces for Operation Tui Moana

A team of Ministry of Marine Resources Fishery Officers and Cook Islands Maritime Police took part in a successful regional maritime surveillance operation this month.

Operation TuiMoana 14 was a major multi-national monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) operation conducted over a two-week period.

The Cook Islands and Samoa joined forces in the spirit of the Niue Treaty and Subsidiary Agreements (NTSA) to enable Cook Islands officers to join the crew of Samoa's patrol boat as authorized officers.

The Niue Treaty on Cooperation in Fisheries Surveillance and Law Enforcement enables co-operative surveillance and enforcement operations, and the sharing of fisheries data and intelligence. This allows them to conduct fisheries law enforcement operations in each other's Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ), and enhances the ability of Parties to the Treaty to enforce their laws by pooling their resources.

Operation TuiMoana14 covered the EEZs of six countries – the Cooks, Niue, Tonga, Samoa, Tokelau, and Tuvalu.

Fisheries Officer Trinilobe Kea and Police Maritime Officer Senior Sergeant John Teaurima joined the crew of Samoa patrol boat Nafanua during the operation, becoming authorized officers for boarding and inspection purposes. The Nafanua carried out surveillance activities within the Cook Islands EEZ.

Kea said the Nafanua spent six days at sea in the waters of the northern group where they boarded and inspected four fishing vessels.

"The vessels were found to be complying with all the license conditions and the crew onboard was very co-operative with the boarding team. We look for compliance with regulations and check fishing equipment. It



A Cook Islands boarding team in action on the water during one of the regional maritime surveillance operations.

was a first to work with the crew onboard the Samoan patrol boat and it was a great experience to be part of this operation," said Kea.

In addition to the Nafanua, other sea assets involved in the operation included Tuvalu patrol boat TeMataili, and Tonga's two patrol boats Pangai and Neiafu. The Quadrilateral Defence Forces (QUAD) – New Zealand, Australia, France, and the US – also contributed several sea and air assets to support TuiMoana.

US Coast Guard Washington and Walnut joined French Navy vessels Vendemaire and La Glorieuse on the water, while air assets included a USCG C130 Hercules, a RNZAF P3 Orion, two French Airforce Guardian aircraft, and a Royal Australian Airforce P3 Orion. MMR VMS Compliance/Data Analyst Latishia Maui joined the French Guardian 2 as an air rider during surveillance in the Cook Islands.

Cook Islands Police Maritime Division (PMD) officer Constable Barnabas Henry was a sea rider aboard the USCG Washington during the operation, with the USCG covering his travel to Hawaii to join the crew.

TuiMoana was co-ordinated by the FFA (Forum

Fisheries Agency) Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre, at the FFA regional headquarters in Honiara, Solomon Islands, in co-operation with the national headquarters of each of the six nations. MMR fishery officer Saiasi Sarau, PMD officer Senior Sergeant Tuariki Henry, and Te Kukupa navigation officer sergeant Marvin Tairi manned the national HQ during the operation, while PMD officer patrol boat Commander, Inspector Tepaki Baxter, helped man the surveillance centre in Honiara.

Henry said his day to day role for TuiMoana included producing the operation's situation report and also monitoring the VMS (vessel monitoring system).

"The operation has brought benefit to the PMD and the nation as a whole by a way of putting pressure on fishing fleets out at sea, letting them know that we are watching them. From our perspective, even though Te Kukupa didn't go out to sea during the op, working together with the Samoan patrol boat, USCG and the French to utilize this platform to patrol our EEZ was a successful approach to this operation," said Henry.

Director Offshore Fisheries

Andrew Jones said the aims of the operation included furthering regional maritime surveillance co-operation and to build co-operation under the NTSA.

"The benefits include the operation being a deterrent against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, possible infringements and fines, and the strengthening relationships between neighbouring countries," said Jones.

Te Kukupa was not used in the operation due to current issues with the vessel, but it has been part of previous TuiMoana operations.

"Unfortunately, the Cook Islands patrol boat Te Kukupa has had some technical issues and is due to go to Australia in September for six months for a complete refit," Jones said.

All flight paths and sea patrols were predetermined before the operation began.

Aerial surveillance in the Cooks EEZ was concentrated on the eastern high seas pocket and the central Cook Islands waters, while the sea surface operations were concentrated in the northern islands.

The Cook Islands takes part in five other regional operations similar to TuiMoana each year.



# NZAid rules need to change - Greens

By Brigitte Masters

**T**he Green Party says the Government need to change its procurement rules around dealing with NZAid money.

Earlier this week 3 News revealed Cook Islands Prime Minister Henry Puna is set to receive an estimated \$116,000 worth of equipment and loan funding from NZAid for his pearl farm in Manihiki, despite an apparent conflict of interest.

New Zealand Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully then released a statement saying the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) monitors all aid expenditure to ensure spending is consistent with contractual arrangements and provides value for money for New Zealand taxpayers.

Mr McCully said the Ministry adheres to all procurement rules – but that's not good enough for the Greens.

"If the Minister is saying this fiasco fits within all the rules then we clearly need to change the rules," says MP Jan Logie.

"Our ODA spending has been increasingly compromised under National. It has increasingly focused on infrastructure projects and economic development projects. While doing this it has failed to implement the correct checks and balances that would make certain money is not going to those at the top."

The matter was brought to light by a document from the Cook Islands' Ministry of Marine Resources in



Rarotonga, which showed Mr Puna was requesting a \$38,000 boat, an \$18,000 outboard motor and \$30,000 worth of building material to upgrade the seeding house on his pearl farm.

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.

The Cook Islands government guaranteed it had no conflicts of interest when entering into the arrangement, and that if any arose they would be declared. Mr Puna and his pearl farm were not on the declaration

list, according to information requested under the Official Information Act.

Cook Islands Financial Secretary Richard Neves signed the GFA document on behalf of the Cook Islands government with the knowledge that Puna owned a pearl farm and met the guidelines for funding.

Ms Logie says the grant indicates a systemic failure that needs to be addressed.

"The example of the Prime Minister getting 'aid' for his boat and pearl farming business shows National's trickle-down policies now extend to our overseas aid budget. The emphasis is increasingly on the

promotion of 'NZ Inc' rather than the genuine needs of the populations we are supposedly trying to assist."

"MFAT and McCully need to turn their boat around and focus on community needs assessments, and collaborative development with a particular focus on empowering women in the Pacific which we know has one of the best economic and social development returns," she says.

Mr Puna's office has not responded to 3 News' interview requests today. However, his advisor said in an interview with the Cook Islands News that he "no idea" about the allegations against the Prime Minister.



# Stop using the Pearl Revitalisation Project as a political football

By Temu Okotai

**M**uch has been written in the last week about the assistance given to the pearl industry as nothing more than a means for the Prime Minister to line his own pocket by getting free NZAID money for his farm. Some even went as far as to suggest that he is not a pearl farmer. If this is indeed the case what is Henry Puna going to do with the hundreds of floats he is getting? Hang them around his home in Manihiki as decorations?

At the onset, let me declare my interest in this topic. I own one of the large operating pearl farms in Manihiki. I have also been intimately involved in the preparation of this project and therefore feel I can speak with confidence about the details and the honest efforts by many including, the Prime Minister, in trying to get this project off the ground. Lastly, I am a staunch CIP supporter but my reason for writing this letter is to ask all concerned to please keep politics out of this project!

As background, the black pearl industry in this country reached its highest point in the late 90's when nearly 300 farms operated, mainly in Manihiki with a few in Penhryn and Rakahanga. The industry then achieved annual export earnings of \$18m and the population of Manihiki grew from just under 300 to nearly 800. In year 2000 the Manihiki lagoon was struck by a virus that devastated its oyster population. This was followed soon after by the collapse of world prices for black pearl (average prices dropped from around \$50 per piece to under \$15 and after more than a decade prices have stayed at these low levels).

Meanwhile, production costs especially for isolated places like Manihiki, continue to increase unabated. Today there are only 23 operating pearl farms in the Cook Islands and all are in Manihiki. Annual export earning has been estimated at \$400,000 (four hundred thousand dollars) two years ago. The population of Manihiki is now just under 300 again. This is the background from



Fellow Manihiki Pearl Farmers Henry Puna and Temu Okotai

which the NZAID Revitalization Pearl Project was developed.

When government secured money from NZAID for the revitalization of the pearl industry the Prime Minister announced this to pearl farmers and the media over two years ago. Therefore, for some, to keep focusing on a statement from the PM's office that the Prime Minister knew nothing about the project is nothing more than an attempt to build a conspiracy or corruption theory. I am sure the statement from the PM's office was directed at the lack of intimate knowledge and involvement of the Prime Minister in the detailed preparation of the project.

The Revitalization Pearl project has two phases. The first part is to increase the volume and quality of pearls to a level that would make it feasible to launch viable marketing initiatives internationally. The second part of the project was to develop strategies to improve prices to make pearl farming profitable and sustainable. Early last year the New Zealand High Commissioner John Carter, decided that NZAID would direct is assistance to the production side of the industry. This decision was made after

NZAID nearly cancelled the project because of the lack of progress in the preparation of the project up to the end of 2012.

At the request of pearl farmers, who volunteered to do the leg work to get this project on track quickly, the High Commissioner not only changed his mind but gave his time and active support to work with members of the Manihiki Pearl Farmers Association(MPFA) to this end. Since then, all who have worked on this project know how closely involved John Carter was in this project until he left his post to return to NZ. In fact, I know how disappointed he was that the original schedule we set to have all the material for this project landed in Manihiki before his final departure for NZ last July, was not met.

The MPFA involvement in the pearl project started with the assembling of material and equipment list farmers needed to increase pearl production and quality. All farmers were contacted directly as well as in MPFA group meetings to explain these objectives and to ask them to submit pearl material and equipment supplies they needed for the rejuvenation of their respective farm businesses. These

requests were to be supported by business plans. I personally worked with most farmers to firstly prepare a five year business plan which are then translated into their material and equipment needs.

The submission for material and equipment were then submitted to a vetting committee in Manihiki made up of the chairman of MPFA, Kora Kora, a rep of the Manihiki Island Council, Councillor John McLeod and the senior Marine officer in Manihiki, Tangi Napara. Each farmer's order was checked against what is known about the size of each farm, its existing state and its projected growth targets for the next five years. Each approved farmer's list was consolidated in to a total order of material and equipment which was approved by the High Commissioner before the government tender process kicked in. The Manihiki Island Council is designated as the receiver and distributor of material to farmers according to approved lists set last year.

The eligibility criteria for farms to be included in this project were set by the MPFA, the NZ High Commission and Marine Resources. Eligible farms were

*continued next page*





2010 Puna tending to his pearl farm prior to the General Elections

deemed as active farms. In total, 23 active farms were identified but only 22 wanted to be included in the project and one chose not to participate because of ill health. Throughout this process Henry Puna's farm was treated the same as all other farms. A few farms like mine had some work to do to meet a few eligibility criteria but these are compliance issues that needed time and ongoing work to be achieved. I personally helped Henry and Akaiti's farm submission to the vetting committee but I worked on this with Akaiti. I knew and appreciated the Prime Minister's care to distant himself from these detailed dealings with his farm.

At the same time, the MPFA have on a few occasions approached our MP, who is of course the Prime Minister, to help lobby government agencies for aspects of the project we felt needed adjustments. These included the choice of suppliers whom farmers have confidence in the quality of their equipment over other suppliers. Such request for help had never been for the specific benefit of the Prime minister's farm.

It should be noted that we have CIP and DEMO pearl farmers and in fact the current candidate for the DEMO is receiving similar assistant to that of the PM's farm. I am mentioning this because I am

sure that all pearl farmers have no wish to bring political arguments and finger pointing in to this pearl industry project we all support. It should also be noted that farmers are required to pay 20% of the landed value of these material. The inclusion of Puna's farm in this project is because he has

*The eligibility criteria for farms to be included in this project were set by the MPFA, the NZ High Commission and Marine Resources. Eligible farms were deemed as active farms. In total, 23 active farms were identified but only 22 wanted to be included in the project and one chose not to participate because of ill health.*

developed one of the biggest pearl farms in Manihiki since more than a decade ago. The fact that work on his farm has slowed down in the last two years is understandable when he is preoccupied with his job as Prime Minister but his farm still has a lot of oysters waiting to

be converted in to pearls and the current pearl rejuvenation project will assist his and all other pearl farms in Manihiki in achieving this.

Last year, a Masters woman from NZ went around the beach asking questions about the pearl Project under the guise of a research project but it was obvious that

reputation of the Cook Islands and The Prime minister. Masters behaviour plus those who love the sensational without checking the facts, must share the blame for this reprehensible act.

I challenge Masters and other corruption theorists on this project to show that they did not set out with a bias objective against the Prime Minister. Pearl farmers and the former High Commissioner put a lot of time, effort and thought in trying to use NZ government's assistance properly to rejuvenate our industry. Master's and others attempt to denigrate those efforts into corruption allegation against the Prime Minister is reprehensible and you should apologise to the people of this country for the damage and injustice you have accorded them here and in the New Zealand media

For government, thought and urgency should be given to setting up or strengthening an entity such as PERCA or the ombudsman to be able to investigate quickly and effective any complaint of conflict of interest in government. Perceptions of conflict of interest, whether real or imaged, In a small place like the Cooks Islands is inevitable and there should be an office anyone can direct their concern of this nature to for proper investigation.

- Temu Okotai



## Replacement of ring mains progress

10

The \$23 million upgrade to Rarotonga's water system ring mains began on Monday 14 April 2014. The project is part of Te Mato Vai – the \$60 million Cook Islands water partnership with the New Zealand government and The People's Republic of China. Government is embarking on the project with the goal of delivering a reliable supply of safe drinking water to all properties connected to the existing water network by 2016.

### What is happening and when?

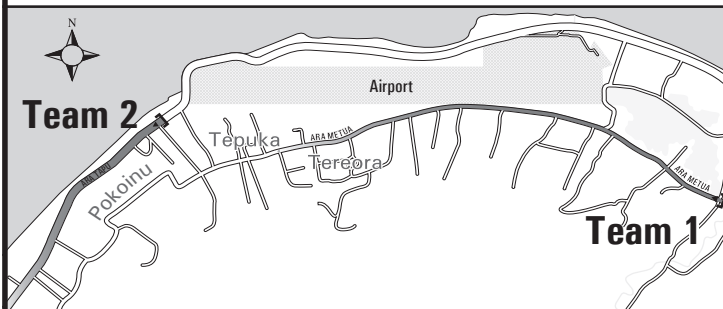
We are upgrading the existing water supply network for all of Rarotonga along both the inner and outer ring roads or loop roads as they are sometimes referred to.

The Ara Metua (inner ring road) work crew **Team 1** started from the Avatiu Road intersection and will continue in a West direction passing through Tereora, Tepuka and Pokoinu during the month of June.

The Ara Tapu (outer ring road) work crew **Team 2** will start from Pokoinu Street, Nikao and will progress in a South-West or anti-clockwise direction. **Team 2** is scheduled to commence work on Wednesday 4 June. **Teams 1 and 2** will be working from **7am – 6pm Monday to Saturday**.

### How will this affect me?

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



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

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

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



The Cook Islands Water Partnership with the People's Republic of China and New Zealand



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# TE REO MAORI



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

Some Wise Sayings of our Ancestors

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

### Tātā`ia e Ruteria Taripo

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

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

**Kano e, kanokano atu ki te paerangi**

Move, and move onward steadily to the horizon

**Kaura! Kaura! Kaura tapu vananga**

Reveal! Reveal the sacred teaching

**E ra kurakura teia, kua nakenakea mai**

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

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

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

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

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

**`Ei tō rima rāi te rapa i tō `Oe.**

In your hands is the blade of your oar

**Korokoromaki, E aruaru mārie atu rāi**

Persevere and strive on relentlessly

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

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

**E kariko pao ngatā**

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

A very stubborn person

**Moemoeā panako**

The small fish which never properly goes to sleep

Be wary, watchful, wide awake, hard to beat

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

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

Go slowly and be careful so you may live longer



# Social activities

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

It's early summer here and the temperature is steadily climbing higher each day. Today, we packed all our winter beddings and clothing into storage. I was having the urge to have some moinatai and fish today so I went out shopping. I was feeling lucky for scoring 2 good sized fish and half a taro for 38 RMB. Well, the taro was maki so I had to settle for potatoes instead. Dinner was delicious, fried fish with onions, garlic and tomatoes with steamed vegetables and moinatai. It's a good feast to begin summer but I would trade it for some rukau and reef fish from home any time.

This column will give you a glimpse of the social activities we have experienced here. Traditionally, Chinese drink wine and liquor only when eating. They believe that alcohol should be consumed slowly to enhance the taste of food. Drinking in China has long been associated with establishing new friendship or personal, political or business relationships. Most if not all Chinese deals are sealed by wining and dining. They do not do the few drinks after work before everyone departs for their own homes but they would do drinks over dinner before everyone departs for their homes.

When drinking, Chinese often have toasts or play games. The goal is not to get drunk. Typically, Chinese do not frequent western-style bars although more enjoy the western way of drinking of spirits and shots. At a friendly meal or dinner party, the host is permitted to merely sip his or her drink – or not drink at all – in order to stay sober and properly manage the party. Hosts may also choose to join his or her guests in drinking if they are still able to take care of the “hosting” duties.

Ganbei is a popular term in China which means ‘empty your glass’ or ‘bottoms up’ which is equivalent to the western “cheers”. Guest may respond to the host by calling



Square dancing

for a ganbei. Of course, if the host or some other party member proposes a ‘sip’ toast, anyone in the party can still go ‘bottoms up’. When toasted, it is especially polite to follow suit, usually during meal times. Drinking in China expresses interest or pleasure for the dinner party but also demonstrates prowess.

When you toast, it is common not to raise your glass above or higher than the other person as a gesture of respect to the other person. Indeed, amongst the Chinese, when toasting if you have a higher or lower social rank, the position of your glass will change. For example, if you are toasting your boss, then your glass will be lower when touching the boss's glass. Most Chinese will put themselves as equal or lower social rank as a sign of welcome and respect.

I prefer the tumunu etiquette where everyone is racing to get drunk especially the barman. I am pretty sure that uncle John Tearetoa and his Rainforest crew in Aitutaki will find the Chinese way of drinking too nonsensical and dreary.

The night clubs open till about 5am and can be very costly. A bottle of Heineken will be the cheapest beer selling for about 40 RMB while spirits are sold at about 50 RMB a glass. You need to have a lot of money if you want to make a night out of your going out. There is only

1 western style pub (like Trader Jacks) where u can go for a drink after work. This bar is owned and operated by an Australian man and his Chinese wife. The bar opens at 5pm and closes when everyone goes home around 5am. Nightclubs though, do not open till 8pm.

Other social activities include square dancing and aerobics but a slower version of the pumping aerobics back at home. The square dancing is a very fascinating activity for me. The people that do square dancing are normally from the age of 40 to 80 year olds. The slow aerobics though are popular amongst the women even though I see some men doing the slow aerobics every once in awhile. It is amazing how they maximize on any space to conduct their evening activities. They would use any big parking lot, big garden square and open concrete spaces in front of large city buildings.

I've noticed that these are the same people that bring their children or grandchildren to the same space for skating lessons from 5-6 pm and thereafter have square dancing or slow aerobics. Most square dancing and slow aerobics are conducted from around 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The Chinese know how to make use of any given space because of their population and their small apartments. I would imagine that if the

Chinese lived somewhere like Raro, they would be using the car-park of the courthouse and Trader Jacks car park to do their slow aerobics and/or their square dancing. They would all be dancing to their own beats simultaneously.

I guess this is also a reason why most Chinese eat at restaurants and street vendors instead of their own small apartments because of the lack of space. Movie goers are many because the only other activity for the younger people to indulge themselves in would be night clubbing and the Karaoke bar (commonly referred to as KTV). Well – the movie costs are very expensive here in China compared to England and America. I understand from my other foreign friends that the costs of the movies are 300% more than what is paid in England, the States and even at the Empire Theater – while most of the movies are in Chinese language the English movies have subtitle in Chinese. Other social activities that are frequented by Chinese of every age are table tennis games at gyms or community fitness centres, basketball and soccer for younger adults and gambling (despite being illegal) for both men and women who are between the ages of 40 to 90 years.

Until our next Column, Ganbei to you all



# How to earn the respect of others

Part 2

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

In Part 1 of this two Part article of Encouragement I stated that some people in society are not getting the respect that they expect to get from others because of their attitude. Yet they wanted people to respect them. In Part 1, the key to good reputation is character! Reputation is what people say about you. Character is what you really are in the inside! Our character produces respect.

The question is "What Character or Behaviour, produces respect?" The Book of Proverbs says that we are to speak with Integrity / HONESTY; and to serve with Intensity / COMPASSION; and to share with Generosity; and in our successes we are to remain HUMBLE. In Part 1 the first two Points I mentioned were, Point 1, SPEAKING WITH INTEGRITY or HONESTY according to Proverbs 17v.7 (GN) "Respected people do not tell lies."

Furthermore, Proverbs 10v.9 (GN) reads "The man of integrity walks securely." In other words, integrity or honesty produces reliability and stability. Point 2, SERVING WITH INTENSITY/ COMPASSION This means desiring to help others, serving others, doing good, and 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. The Apostle Paul said in Colossians 3v.23 "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." Proverbs 11v.27 (GN) reads "If your goals are good, you will

be respected." Point 3 is SHARING WITH GENEROSITY. People who are respected are 'Generous people!' Psalm 112v.9 (GN) reads "He who gives generously to the needy and shows kindness will be powerful and respected." There are two kinds of people, there are the "takers" and there are the "givers". Proverbs 11v.25 reads "A generous man will prosper, and he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." Point 4 is "in all of our successes we are to remain 'Humble'. In other words SUCCEEDING IN HUMILITY. Proverbs 29v.23 (GN) reads "Arrogance will bring your downfall, but if you are humble, you will be respected." In I Peter 5v.5 it reads "...to clothe yourself with humility." Arrogant attitude turns people off! But humility attracts them! Humility does not mean ignoring the successes in your life, it just means sharing the credit, acknowledge the contribution made by others, your wife; your children, the family, your friends! Above all, we must realize that so much of what we have was because of Gods intervention! Proverbs 3v.5-6 reads "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your path." Proverbs 10v.7 (GN) reads "Good people will be remembered as a blessing, but the wicked will soon be forgotten." The question is "What do you want to be remembered for in life?" "How about your parents?" "your children?" "your friends?" Do you want others to remember you as an

## Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



"uncaring person?" or "A quick tempered person?" The good type response would be something like... "My wife is a caring person!" or "She's a great mum!" or "He's a great dad!" and so on. Romans 8v.29 tells us that God purposed for our lives to be more like Christ. Romans 12v.2 reads "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Jesus is our model. Speak with Integrity & Honesty; Serve with Intensity; Share with Generosity; Succeed with Humility. May this Article be an Encouragement to you from this time onward and may you have a God blessed week. Te Atua te arua!

## New Hope Church

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# Nikao Girl Guides celebrate special events

**N**ikao Girl Guides Company was first established on the 15th November 1955 by the late Marguerite Story.

One lady who is still in the movement since her first debut in guiding is Ms Pani Ben in Titikaveka, who has been a National Training Adviser, Chief Commissioner, Outer Island Commissioner and other national post for many years.

Monday 26th May 2014 at 5.00pm saw 3 beautiful Brownies, 2 Girl Guides and 4 Rangers enrolled as a Guide member for Nikao Girl Guides Company by their newly elected Girl Guide Captain, Mrs Teio Kea.

Senior Rangers from Mangaia, Ms Moeroa Atariki and Ms June Punua from Atiu was promoted to Young Leaders while they are schooling here on the main island.

Mrs Teio Kea was ordained as the Nikao Girl Guides Company new Captain on Sunday 11th May 2014 during a Uniform Organization Church parade by the Nikao CICC Ekalesia Pastor, Rev Aratangi Aratangi along with the Boys Brigade new Captain, Mr Saunaki Rasmussen.

Kea said it is going to be a challenge for me; however it is my prayer to ask the Lord to give me the wisdom, knowledge and strength to carry my post as the new Captain.

Kea starting her guiding journey on the island of Atiu in the CICC Ekalesia and then to Avarua Girl Guides Company. Since reciting to Tepuka, kua joint the Nikao Girl Guides Company in the earlier 2000 as a Leader and this the new Captain.

It has been a part of our plan for quite a while to enroll our girls.

We thanked our supporters and committees for supporting us in this special program.

We acknowledged the presences of our Papa Orometua and Mama Orometua for their words of encouragement.

This is special events was witness by many from various groups. Especially the girl's parents and families.





50 years ago this week ...

## Extract from : **“The Rise of the Cook Islands Party”** by David Stone.

The Journal of the Polynesian Society, Volume 74, No 1, 1965.

A typical meeting attended by the writer was that held on 23 May 1964 in the Sunday School Hall at Nikao, at which attendance was about forty.

Mr Henry began by tracing the general history of the Cook Islands since the arrival of the Europeans. He appeared here to be interested mainly in establishing in the minds of his audience the chronological sequence of historical periods and events - the Missionary Period, the British Protectorate, the Annexation to New Zealand, the 1915 Cook Islands Act and the main post-world War II constitutional landmarks. He briefly explained the nature of each in turn, but rather conspicuously passed quickly over the Missionary Period as one he would rather not discuss.

The speaker then compared the systems of Government that had been experienced in the Cook Islands, well illustrated with charts; the traditional system of Ariki, Mataiapo, Rangatira and iti-tangata; the Federal Council of the 1890s' in which each island was represented on the basis of local custom; the system of Resident Commissioner and Resident Agents; the present system of Resident Commissioner, Executive Committee and Legislative Assembly; and finally the cabinet system of Self-Government to be introduced in 1965.

His approach here was mainly an explanatory one, although he tended to take the line that after a period of over sixty years during most of which the people had been ruled from above by a paternalistic Administration, they were at last being allowed to return to the position of 1895, when control was in the hands of representatives of the people. In this regard Mr Henry was referring to the Federal Parliament of the Cook Islands as established by Frederick Moss during the period of the British Protectorate.

Mr Henry turned next to education.

Again with the use of charts, he outlined the history of education in the territory, beginning with the two old colleges at Aaura (Aitutaki) and Tereora (Rarotonga). He spoke regretfully of their being closed down in the early years of New Zealand Administration, and then described their eventual replacement by Government Primary Schools.

He commented in particular on what he called the education gap between the closing of the colleges and the opening of the new Tereora College nearly fifty years later, pointing out that for much of the intervening period the highest education available in the territory was to Grade 4-5 level, that is, about Standard 3 in a current New Zealand Primary School. He then expressed satisfaction at the recent rise in education levels.

From Education, Mr Henry turned to finance, and again by charts and tables, outlined the pattern of Government expenditure and income.

He particularly drew attention to three points :

1. The steady rise in expenditure, the bulk of which was taken up by education, health and public works;
2. The gap between this expenditure and the revenue raised locally, which was filled by the New Zealand subsidy amounting to about NZPounds 750,000 annually;
3. The nature of direct and indirect taxes which make up a modest proportion of the total revenue (the rest being mainly from goods and services).

He pointed out the desirability of reducing the extent of financial dependence on New Zealand, but showed that this could only be done by an increase in production, which would thereby increase incomes and, accordingly, the amount that could be raised by taxation.

Turning to trade, the speaker analysed the Territory's exports and imports by value and products. He illustrated the trade deficit of some NZPounds 220,000, what products the Territory was selling overseas and what its main categories of imports were.

He pointed out the continuing rise in imports and advocated an effort to expand overseas markets by finding out what other countries wanted from the Cook Islands.

Finally, Mr Henry dealt with land.

He showed first of all by charts how the land of each island in the Territory had been officially classified as usable and non-usable, and the area making up each category.

Stressing the importance of making more use of all land, he dwelt on what he believed to be a general feeling of uncertainty which had arisen from the activities of the Land Court.

The present system and its administration had grown away from the traditional custom and were not understood by the people.

On the other hand, if an attempt was made to revive the traditional social structure of the people, the land question, both its tenure and use, might be more easily dealt with.

Questions which followed at the Nikao meeting included the subject of the method of electing (and removing) the Premier, and indirect taxation.

Two others of interest were :

1. "Where do the Ariki fit into the coming system of Self-Government?" Mr Henry pointed out that there was no specific place for the Ariki as such, in a political system of a parliamentary democracy. However, they did have a place and a function to fulfil. The restoration of the Ariki and through them, of the traditional communal system, would inject a helpful measure of cohesion and purpose into the lives of the people. It was something that was understood and would help bridge the gap between tradition and the new political system being introduced.



**Albert Henry**

2. "With reference to that you have spoken about, what are your solutions to the problems raised?"

To this very pertinent question, Mr Henry, with amusement and aplomb, told his questioner that she would have to wait, as the time was not yet ripe for him to give out his ideas. The reason for this was because others might seize his ideas and then claim them as their own.

On this note the meeting concluded.

A few things stand out in the writer's over-all impression. Mr Henry managed successfully to combine the function of politician and teacher.

His address was virtually an adult education tutorial, but there was no doubting his political impact.

As far as his audience was concerned, he was someone who understood the technicalities of modern government, finance and trade, and was able to help "them" to understand.

At the same time, he also understood the things they "did" know about and which concerned them - their traditions.

There was very little acrimony in Mr Henry's address. He did make reference to what he termed monopolies in the local trading stores and in the marketing of the Territory's produce, which he held to be contributing factors to the present economic conditions, but he did not dwell on them.

He drew attention to what he called the mistakes of the past, but mainly to emphasise that they should learn from them.

"We know the mistakes of the past," he concluded. "It is our job to see that they are not repeated in the future."

- Notes :
1. This meeting attended by David Stone was conducted in Maori. The person who sat with him and translated the proceedings was Mrs Marguerite Story. This was one of many meetings held by Albert Henry around Rarotonga during May-early June 1964.
  2. As of 23 May 1964, it was common knowledge on Rarotonga that Albert Henry was going to form a political party. It was accepted by his supporters that this would happen when "Albert was ready to do so". The timing was completely up to him. And the name of this political party would be? : No one knew! : "But it will be Albert's choice ... what ever name he wanted - is the name that it will be."

*Howard Henry*



# Just do it!

By Norma Ngatamariki

The majority of teenagers these days like to leave things to the last minute (take it from somebody who knows from experience) because they think they have more important things to do, like catching up episodes from your latest television series (Guilty). Believe it or not, this isn't laziness although some people beg to differ. It's called procrastinating, a fancy word that I learnt in Year 9, courtesy of my English teacher at the time. We keep on putting things off until the day before something is due. Assessments are a classic example.

According to Woman's Day, procrastinating is just part of human nature. Procrastinators fear failure but by leaving things to the last minute, they could actually fail. Take me, for instance. When I'm given an assessment that's due in four weeks later, I don't do it until the very last week. Not only do I realise that I actually needed those extra three weeks, but the added stress of completing other

assessments starts to kick in. When I first started the assessment, I was all like, Yay! It's not due in for another four weeks! I don't need to do it now. Nek minnit...

Another reason why teenagers seem to procrastinate is they feel overwhelmed by the task. We feel as if we can't do it even though we haven't even started anything. Sometimes, people keep putting off exercise because the idea of getting fit and healthy seems impossible to achieve (I actually think that this is just being plain lazy). I believe that if we make a start on a goal, whether it be an academic, social, cultural or sports one, then it would be way easier to pull off, rather than just thinking that we can't do it. Here a few useful tip for the usual procrastinator:

You need to understand why you procrastinate. Sometimes, your parents can be a real pain in the...neck. They'll start to ask you really annoying questions like, why did you get a low Merit and not a high one? (To which

you might reply, because my teacher doesn't know what he's doing) How come you didn't go to training at the field? (Uhm, because I was working instead?) It just makes you want to rebel against them and you end up doing the opposite thing. But keep this in mind: they're only doing it for your own good. They want you to be successful in life, that's all. I mean, they don't have to be breathing down your neck 24/7. They just need to give you a push in the right direction.

Don't aim for real perfection. You'll be setting yourself up for disappointment. I mean, there's nothing wrong with aiming sky-high but make sure that whatever it is your aiming for is realistic. A goal like, I'm gonna be an astronaut in two weeks just doesn't cut it. Then, you'll just procrastinate for the rest of your life. Also, there's no such thing as getting in the right mood. You will be waiting for a very long time. Just motivate yourself, get up and do it! You can



break down the task into even smaller tasks. If you just say, I want to lose 40kgs, it'll look too hard. But if you put it in a much easier way, like I want to lose 2kgs each day for a duration of three weeks it will be more manageable. Also, reward yourself along the way. You deserve a tiny treat.

## 2048

By Nadia George

Since I finally got my Samsung galaxy repaired, I have recently become addicted to two 'Cray Cray' games over these past two weeks.

Last week was 'Don't tap the white tile'. Which is a game that is not nearly as frustrating and impossible to play as flappy bird, but still exasperatingly thrilling all in the same. On this game there are five different modes you can set it to with different skill levels that are included in the package. But my personal favorite is 'Arcade Mode' because the tiles move by themselves. I mean honestly, ain't nobody got time to be making the tiles move on your own.

The objective of the game in this mode is that one must attempt to get the highest score by tapping as many black tiles as you can before you inevitably tap a white one out of panic when the tiles eventually speed up! My personal best is a mere

249, with others getting as much as two thousand. "Game freaks". Since my friend Otea shattered my high score, I had banned everyone and anyone from playing the games on my phone. I mean its one thing to play the games on my phone, but it another to completely beat my own personal best just for kicks! That's just plain rude.

Oh well, since my complete and utter failure at 'don't tap the white the white tile', I have now moved on to a new game for this week, my new addiction being the frustratingly insatiable game 2048.

Recently released on apple and android devices, the game has been quickly appraised by my peers and friends inside and outside of school. The game is set as a five by five tile grid where you must move the tiles in any which direction, adding together the tiles that have the same amount on them. For example: only the number two tiles can be added together

creating a number four tile, then that four can be matched with another four to make eight and so on and so forth until you have made a tile consisting of the 2048 amount. Only catch is that when you move one tile all the tiles move in that same direction and each time a tile is shifted another tile is added onto the grid. You must then try to create 2048 without the grid filling up because once you're out of moves...game over. It's a lot harder than I make it out to be. It actually took me a couple days to figure out how the game actually works but I got there in the end.

Gone are the days of four pics, one word or temple run and subway surfer. 2048 is where it's at now. But then again, that's how it always is. One game will soon replace another until we all eventually get sick of them and crave for something new, fresh and exciting! What will be the next 2048, only time will tell.



One timer Elvis Enery's pearl farming free handouts from NZ aid started with a front page daily dribble story stated he didn't know about the fund even though he instigated it. No apology for that fat lie when the next day a different story emerged indicating he knew about it and Elvis said his wife was taking care of the business, then Neneva Neves oversteps the public service mark without a pip squeak from the deaf and blind Russell Thomas and gets involved defending the PM. Talk about Neves becoming a CIP spin doctor. And that's not the end of the story Elvis did get a loan come grant of nearly \$20,000 and he can't remember. In the midst of everything the spin doctors have laid a complaint with Massey University over the writer's corruption story. Will we ever find out the truth? Remember when we were young we were warned of doing a male activity because you would go blind and lose your memory, maybe another medical referral to NZ to check out the possibility of Alzheimer's.

The political briefs in the daily were so brief it briefed itself out of existence only to be replaced by a sanitized watered down smoke column that's lost its way.

After a week of political launches the talk of the chicken coup is the poor turn outs and the inflated attendance figures. The CIP's national Friday night campaign launch in Bulldozer's Aroa Nui Hall was poorly attended with some claiming there was 400 but that was probably feet counting as one who bothered to count said 150 was more like it. Radio listeners had to put up with the boring cheer leading of call me DPM's special piri advisor Boring Doggs and tag teamster Ben

Mose's exaggerated radio commentary. The biggest support group came from Atiu to support the Vaine toa super 24 hour princess Rosy.

Despite the CIIC chairman Dashingwood warning the CIP and Demos not to use government premises and equipment for electioneering, neither is taking much notice and is in contempt, so much for breaking the rules. Monday night both Parties flashed their arrogance and were using tax funded premises to meet at. And they both say we are not the same. Both are as bad as each other and are fortunate there isn't a third party alternative to register a protest vote. Better still boycott the polling booths on 9 July.

One upset MP who challenged a radio report of how few turned up to his political launch claimed there was more there than the report stated but when he was asked to give the right head count so a correction could be announced he refused to do so. Hearing isn't good enough you have to see it before you report believable events.

Oh dear chooks! The much heralded Project City water project which

was completed just before Te Mato Vai began, could be coming unstuck thanks to the modern technology applied by the Water Boys. On the road leading down to Telecom, there is a leak which crops up regularly and always in the same spot. The Water Boys come along and apply the old Boy Scout rubber bicycle tube remedy. Why not fix the leak permanently with a proper device? Is that too hard?

Tricky Dickie's contract due to expire in July, has been extended to September chooks. This is so he can work his magic juju on the next Budget document and bring the new FinSec up to speed. Whisper is the PSC declined to extend Dickie's contract another two years.

And a further whisper is that the PSC has declined a request from a high flying middle Mandarin for permission to work from jolly Parea for six months. The PSC has approved one month and that's it.

Word is the Korean Diplomat is a tad surprised that a loaf of bread costs over \$5 in our shops! He was also unaware our dearly beloved comrades from the Land of the Great

Wall erected some of our major state buildings.

More word concerning our dearly beloved comrades from the northern parts is that they are sick and tired of our piddly under \$100 million government contracts and want something much more substantial. Could they be eyeing up the \$300 million plus private sector project sitting in the wings awaiting funding approval? Sadly this project cannot access the \$1 billion Chinese grant because that grant is for infrastructure projects undertaken by the private sector and not tourism related projects.

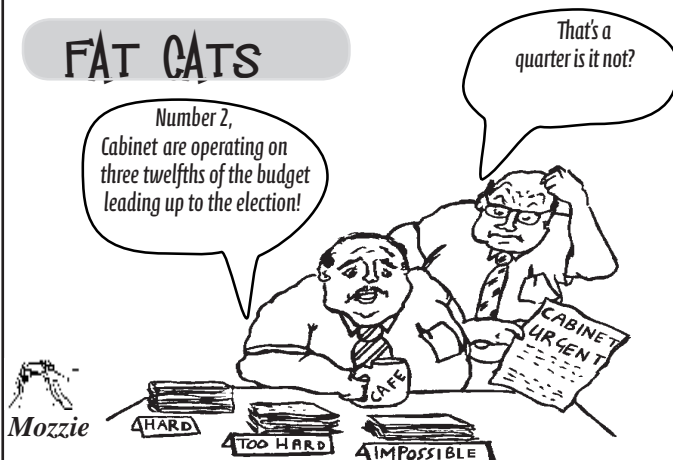
What's going on with the miracle product Te Tika? After a launch with a boom and a bang and a flood of novelty money, all seems to have gone quiet. Are the spirits at work because a medicinal element has been commercialized?

Woe the Cook Islands rugby team! According to One TVNZ news, the Fijians are calling up their big guns from NZ rugby. One of their powerhouse wingers playing in the Super group who was on the verge of All Black selection, is being called into the Fijian team. Woe! Woe! Woe!

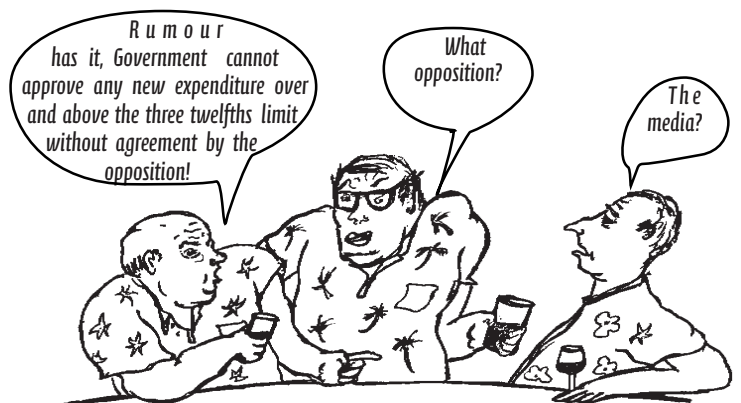
Yes we can beat the Fijian rugby team and gain our rightful place in the World Rugby Cup if our forwards were 140kg, able to run as fast as a centre and are seven feet tall. Our backs would need to be able to run 100m in 10 seconds flat, have glue like palms, be 120kg and stand six feet five inches tall.



## FAT CATS



## COCONUT ROUNDTABLE





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for further information.

# News Briefs By TeRiu Woonton

## 2km of pipe laid

While Te Mato Vai is making good progress on their water ring main works, there are a few issues that the workers are getting frustrated with. Firstly, the safety cones are being kicked or taken off site during the night. Miki Schmitt, TMV Project Manager says this is a real concern as those driving in the night may drive into holes or drenches if the safety cones are not up. Secondly, he says drivers are still speeding through the construction site during their working hours. Schmitt says it is very frustrating when people don't obey the signs as it creates a safety issue not only for the public but for the workers too. The designated speed limit for the area they are working in is 20km, those who are in a rush are encouraged to use the main road. They have laid just under 2km of piping just under a month and are progressing towards Arorangi. The workers are currently doing work on the back road outside Manea Foods in Nikao, so those travelling that way are asked to be mindful and obey the signs.

## World Tobacco Day

This week the Ministry of Health is commemorating World Tobacco Day, which is initially held on Saturday 31st May through a series of awareness campaigns. Prior to World Tobacco Day, Maina Tairi Mataio, Health Promotion Officer of the Public Health started a Quit Smoking programme at the end of February. To date she has more than 50 clients and 8 of them have quit smoking after a month of being in the programme. Patches, gum and lozenges are provided to her clients and while treatment and products are free she encourages her clients to take the programme seriously.

According to the Cook Islands Population Census, in 2006, 29% of people aged 25 years and over smoked, and in 2011, it decreased to 20%.

## NCEA information meeting

Tereora College will be holding an NCEA information evening this Thursday the 29th of May to help parents and caregivers understand the basics on NCEA. Principal Mr Bali Haque and Assistant Principal Tania Morgan will be covering a number of points, including a presentation on how the grading system works and certificate and course endorsements. The information evening will be held at 5pm in Room 2 at Tereora College.

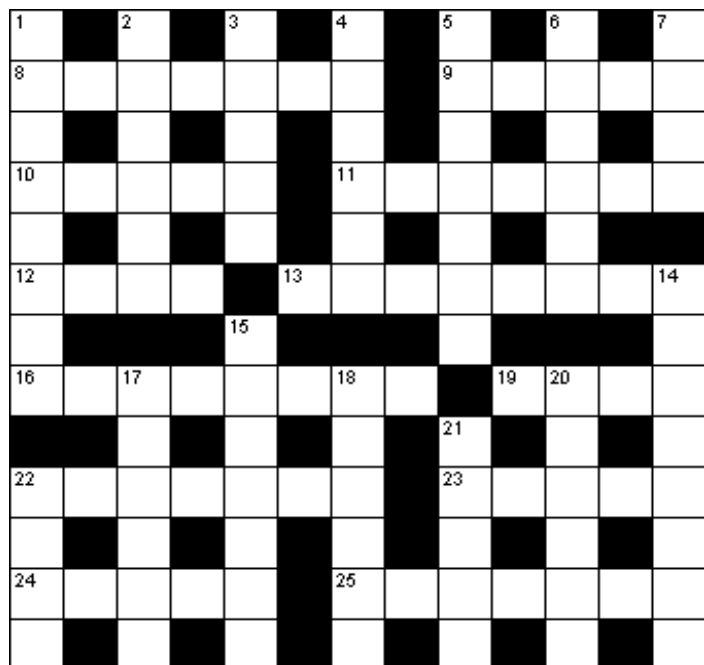
## Stakeholders to meet on NCDs

Ministry of Health recently held a meeting with stakeholders to see how they can all contribute to reducing obesity figures and the number of NCD cases in the Cook Islands. Dr. Fariu of Ministry of Health says they are looking at a number of ways to approach the issue, starting with the community. One suggestion recommended is to eliminate sugary and fatty foods at big kai kais at meetings, church functions and celebrations and keep a healthy menu. Last year 10 men under the age of 60 passed away with NCDs. MOH is currently doing a new STEPS survey and the last STEPS survey which was done in 2003 showed that 80% of those surveyed were obese and 26% of children surveyed were obese.

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## CROSSWORD

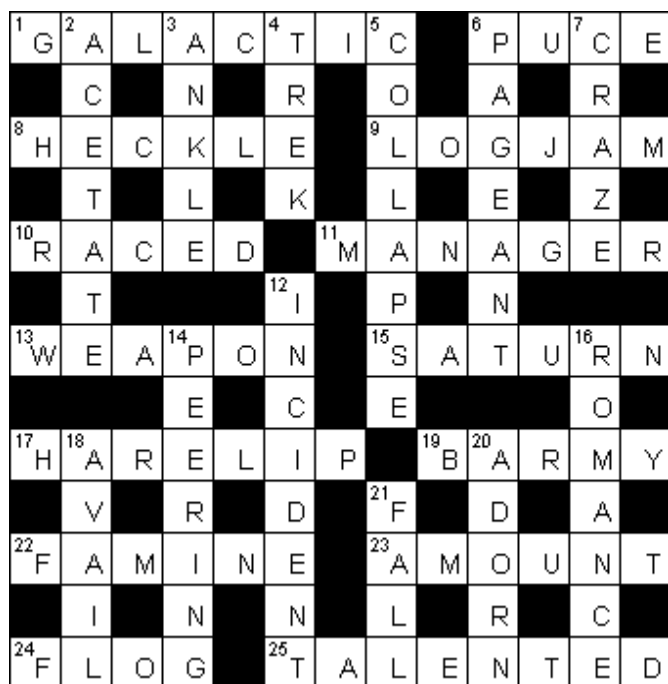


8. Send to school (7)  
 9. Clip wool (5)  
 10. Loose (5)  
 11. Unconscious (7)  
 12. Regretted (4)  
 13. Recurring at intervals (8)  
 16. Safety (8)  
 19. 365 days (4)  
 22. Absence of sound (7)  
 23. Hand operated implements (5)  
 24. Stare angrily (5)  
 25. Speech (7)

5. Mohammedan (7)  
 6. Recompense for hardship (6)  
 7. Authentic (4)  
 14. Baptize (8)  
 15. Device for printing (7)  
 17. Underground room (6)  
 18. Triple (6)  
 20. Second book of the Bible (6)  
 21. Inventory (5)  
 22. Narrative of heroic exploits (4)

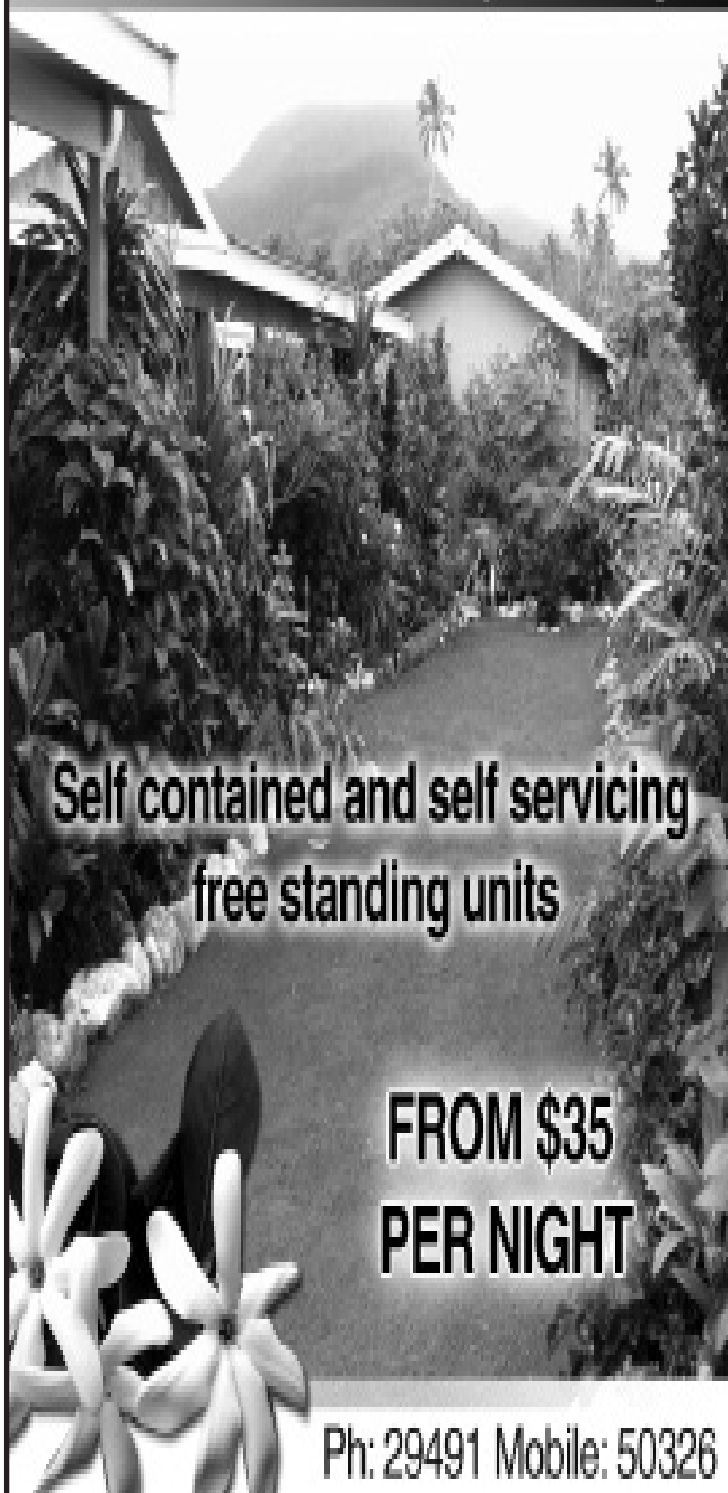
## Down

1. Gauges (8)  
 2. Merciful (6)  
 3. Handkerchief (5)  
 4. To lower (6)



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