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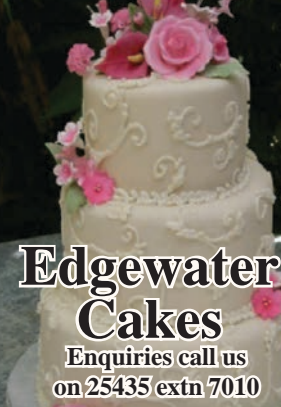
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# Neves' under arm exhibition of coveteous a desperate grasp to save face

Looking down the barrel of a looming fiscal disaster that will expose his incompetence and failure to create an economic platform of potential prosperity for the Cook Islands, the Financial Secretary Richard 'neneva' Neves has sunk to a depth of desperation that has no moral boundary.

After exhausting every avenue to extract monies under the guise of tax reforms to prop up a self indulgent CIP government on an uncontrollable speeding train to financial ruin Neves had come to a dead end of resources until he stumbled over the Cook Islands National Superannuation Fund.

After the chairman John Kenning resigned, Minister Mark Brown appointed Neves as the acting Chairman while a replacement was advertised for. Once exposed to the inner workings of the CINSF Neves could not constrain himself from the newly discovered Aladdin's cave of treasures. Instead of committing himself to correcting the flaws of the CINSF to guarantee the investor's contributions, Neves has embarked on a covetous cupidity to be able to have legal access to the \$75 million pool of contributions from employers and employees. Without a doubt Neves is the wolf in sheep's clothing seeking to devour the riches of the CINSF fold.

When the vacancy on the CINSF Board was filled Neves continued as acting Chairman despite not being required. This anomaly is a conflict of interest but is supported by Neves' soul mate Kim Saunders from Crown Law. Neves should have voluntary stood down once the Board had its full complement. Neves continued involvement is manipulative and serves his and Minister Brown's self interests of averting a financial crisis rather than the protective interests of the contributors.

Every country that has some form of compulsion to workers to contribute towards their retirement like a superannuation fund has some form of insurance plan, some form of underwrite or some form of guarantee, but not the Cook Islands.

The Crown is advocating that this compulsion to take money is a tax and therefore legitimate and does not come under the ambit of Article 40 of the Constitution; "No Property to be taken compulsorily without compensation".

The CIP Government led by Richard Neves, his legal side kick Kim Saunders and the Minister of Finance Mark Brown are saying that as it is a tax then there is no need for compensation under the Cook Islands Constitution.

Understood to be political tampering proof by Law the CINSF is being viewed by the Neves' blow torch as being a tax that can be at the disposal of the government. In theory, they could if so inclined take this money and pay off the Chinese loan if push came to shove. Most people who have contributed to this fund naïvely thought that this money was untouchable as far as being able to be applied for such an activity but it appears that Government thinks not and that it is theirs to do with as they wish.

Desperate to prove his point Neves, backed by the pro government Kim Saunders from Crown Law have engaged an expat lawyer Mike Ruffin for a second engagement of at a cost to the tax payer of \$110,000. Ruffin's previous representation cost the Country \$60,000.

Another loss by Ruffin will incur legal costs payable to local lawyer Tim Arnold at the taxpayer's expense. The CIP government's endorsement of Neves' trail blazing efforts of covetous greed against the people is a clear indication Henry Puna and company has



Richard Neves - coveting Superfunds

no connection to the people beyond themselves. This wastage of public funds is immoral, irreprehensible and a serious blight on the CIP government to the point they have not earned another term to govern.

This is going to be a very expensive lesson and if the Government loses which it is likely to do, will end up costing the taxpayer all a heavy packet. It will ultimately mean that a redraft of the legislation would be required in Parliament, the place where it started and where it could easily and quickly have been fixed with a whole lot less expense. This recommendation was prescribed in the Chief Justice Weston's submission after the first Court case in January 2014.

Where in the CIP 2014 Election Pledge document does it say the CIP are pledging to be positioned to legally grab your superannuation contributions like we raided the pensioner bank accounts, not only that, but for the real hidden agenda reason of the Crown's appeal, to confiscate land and resources without owners being compensated?

In 1996 when the economy over heated and virtually collapsed, the very desperate CIP government unapologetically plundered every government piggy bank till there was absolutely nothing left. Among the victims was the Workers Compensation Fund, a collective contribution from employers. \$1.6 million was removed by the government from the fund being administered by the Ministry of Trade Labour and Transport. The hostile reaction by the Chamber of Commerce was arrogantly ignored and to this date the money has never been replaced.

Let's also be reminded the Secretary of the TLT Ministry at the time was Henry Puna, are we heading in the same direction under this CIP government?

Whatever happens, this money held in the superannuation fund must remain sacrosanct where it remains well managed and untouchable by politicians or government bureaucrats who have all power but no accountability for their actions.

- George Pitt

# Where Chinese diplomacy has gone astray

By Charles Pitt

There's a big gap in China's diplomatic relations with the Cook Islands.

The Chinese probably are aware of it but simply do not know what to do to plug it.

While China's connectivity at the diplomatic level with our top political brass is firmly established and cordial, this connectivity does not extend to the common people in Cook Island's society. As a result the common people still regard China's presence and future intentions with some suspicion.

Our top political brass are making no efforts either to translate China's intentions into acceptable assurances for a skeptical public. All the public see are happy smiling officials coming and going from meetings with no clear explanations as to what it is our officials are committing our country to.

If the Chinese are sitting back and expecting our government to smooth things away with the public they are mistaken.

In past articles on this topic I have encouraged the Chinese to adopt a strategy for getting their messages across to the general public. Don't sit back and wait for our government to do it because they won't. Clearly in dealing with the Cook Islands the Chinese need a dual policy. One for our government, one for our people.

The reason for a dual policy is because the Chinese need to consider how they are going to overcome public concern at the level of secrecy surrounding their intentions. Indeed both China and our government should re-visit the "government to government" One China Policy document signed on 25 July 1997 in Wellington, NZ, which sets out in very general terms China's intentions for the Cook Islands. While in the document China pledges to "support our efforts to achieve, in full, our objectives

in the areas of social, economic and cultural development", to date, no specifics or mechanism or framework have been agreed upon as to how this will be done. However, it appears support actions are to be processed through our government and not by direct inter-action with ordinary people or the private sector.

It is not clear what the term "support" means. Does it refer to technical expertise, funding or capacity building?

Other pledges in the document are:

1.To establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level. (This is yet to be done on our side).

2.To develop friendly relations and co-operation.

3.Have mutual respect for State sovereignty and territorial integrity.

4.Mutual non-aggression.

5.Non-interference with each other's internal affairs.

6.Equality and mutual benefit.

7.Peaceful co-existence.

These pledges are mostly standard jargon and practice in international diplomatic circles but the question is, what effect if any do these pledges have when it comes to relations and commercial dealings and interests between the Chinese private sector and our local private sector?

When Chinese business interests look to establishing a commercial activity in the Cook Islands, should the BTIB being a government agency, have some regard to the points 1 to 7 above?

The Chinese government should also expect their citizens to behave within the spirit of any government level agreements.

The Cook Islands should be of special interest to China because it is one resource rich area (fish/sea bed minerals) in which China currently has

no significant presence. The Chinese may have to wait until after 2020 when the sea bed mineral sector is expected to pick up. Although the Chinese have been well established in our close neighbor Tahiti and Samoa and Fiji for over 100 years the Cook Islands continues to elude them. Chinese officials arriving here will see no proliferation of Chinese businesses or people or tourists.

The Cook Islands special relationship with NZ is a very strong bond and the Chinese must be wracking their brains as to how to make some inroads into the Cook Islands. They have tried through providing new buildings, soft funded projects and cultural

and sporting exchanges but NZ is not about to give up their long established advantage over the Cooks as evidenced by their participation in the \$70 million water project. Australia (where many Cook Islanders have now settled) is even playing a de-facto part through its implant, the Financial Secretary Neves who has one wary eye on the debt level which is helping to keep Chinese offers of big, soft loans, at bay.

For the moment then, Chinese relations with the Cooks will continue to stumble along at the government level with the common people still unclear about what the relationship or the nature of it, means for them.



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You can implement a couple of simple ideas to save on your bills, such as making sure you only fill your kettle with the amount of water you need, and always using the kettle and not the oven-top element to boil water.

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# Takuvaine Demos chide Brown for exaggerating

Members of the Takuvaine/Tutakimoa Democratic Party are annoyed at the exaggerated claims the CIP candidate Mark Brown makes in his coloured "go forward" campaign pamphlet. The fold up pamphlet has three headings listing completed Village projects, National achievements and youth employment.

Brown they say, promised in 2010 on Television free water tanks for all households but once elected began to cut corners and the "free" became a subsidised tank and "all" household became some households if met the criteria. Under National achievements the pamphlet states "water tank subsidy of \$3M for all households."

"This is simply not true," complained a Demo critic, "Brown is playing on the ignorance of the little people who will think because it is in writing it must be true."

Brown lists "First Dame of the Cook Islands Dame Margaret Karika Ariki," as a Completed Village Project. "Karika Ariki is a person not a project and how can she be a project of the CIP, she deserved that award because of herself not the CIP Government, what a ridiculous claim to make."

Another huge misleading exaggeration is "Over 100 new streetlights," refute the Demos. "If that is the case Takuvaine and Tutakimoa would be lit up like a Christmas tree every night." "It was George Maggie who organised the installation of the street lights and there was only 38 not more than 100."

"The new water pipes installed for Avarua." This is not a village project but part of the island's infrastructure upgrade initiated by the Democratic Party before Brown's time as well as the tree

cutting program that has been selectively done. What about the Clinic Brown promised for Takuvaine?

The so called \$80,000 for the road side cleaning isn't a village project to be claimed by the CIP, it is an ongoing island program paid for by the taxpayers. The important village projects like the Takuvaine sports field and the clubhouse were primary supported by loans from active Democratic Party members.

Remaining repairs to the club house and netball court are still outstanding with the netball court in a state of disrepair. "Brown can hardly claim any credit for the work completed on the sports field or the club house," stated an angry Demo member. "Look at the Takuvaine meeting house, Brown makes more claims but it will be upgraded by an India Grant Fund."

"The baby bonus of \$1000 can hardly be called a success; it was a bribe for votes that is supposed to halt depopulation but hasn't worked. The CIP have failed miserably to halt the outflow of Cook Island people because of the poor economic policies of their administration, that's one of their many achievements."

Under the heading of "National Achievements" Brown lists "Reduction in interest rates for borrowing." Instead, Brown should list the businesses that have closed and the weekly mortgage defaults on homes due to the interest rates being so high.

During the last four years Brown has done nothing to create jobs for the youth who have steadily migrated to Brisbane to work in the Meat Industry. The Eco Tour business have been talked about four years ago but nothing has eventuated. As the Minister of Finance Brown has been well



Mark Brown - Exaggerating claims to win votes?

placed with his influence and contacts to make things happen, but sadly he isn't a person who knows how to make things happen, just a lot of talk. Brown is now talking about training the youth, just another pie in the sky blah, blah, blah. Instead of using some of his Ministry Support budget to employ a youth worker, Brown has stacked his ministry staff with family members and CIP officials.

"When we look at Tupapa's George Maggie who is an ordinary MP and how much he has done with only a few resources and hardly any access to money, our member Brown is a Minister with many staff and funds at his

disposal and very little apart from talk has eventuated."

"Brown has spent more time visiting the bush beer schools and pandering the drinkers than spending his efforts in developing the youth and helping with their needs."

Brown's critics claim under his watch he has been more preoccupied with travelling overseas than visiting his own constituency members, "Brown's involvement and achievements in the constituency is virtually nonexistent therefore he has had to stretch his imagination and exaggerate the misleading comments in his pamphlet."

- George Pitt

## POLITICAL COMMENT

# The 2014 Campaign: Emotions vs Technicalities

Overseas visitors sometimes ask locals what the difference is between our two major political parties. The truth is that there is no real difference. There is no philosophical difference between the Cook Islands Party (CIP) and the Democratic Party – particularly in the way that major parties in say, Australia, Britain, or the United States are characterised. There is no Left. There is no Right Wing. There are no Liberals. There are no Conservatives. There are no Socialists.

Our parties do not have an established philosophical divide but have a common desire to demonstrate a high degree of social responsibility. And that social conscience is tempered by the need to encourage private enterprise as much as possible.

These two areas alone provide real tensions for our elected policy-makers. They present fertile ground for constant bickering over who did what, and where the resources need to go, in order to provide the best social care, and the right conditions for economic growth. Basically, politicians from both sides want to make everyone in the community happy while also reaping the benefits of private sector growth.

The latter of course is absolutely vital to driving the economy, and to securing the tax base for government services.

Although the distinctions in political philosophy are absent, it is evident that the 2014 General Election is revealing a marked difference in the approach to campaigning.

Here is the difference. As the incumbent government, the CIP is required to stand by its record of achievements over the past few years. This is quite understandable but it also helps show that the CIP election campaign is a technical one. The current government has a long list of results that it needs to promote and reiterate to the electorate. These are largely technically-driven explanations that say: 'This is what we have done. These are the benefits of what we have done'.

The Demos on the other hand, do not have the luxury of a list of achievements. They do, however, have a list of complaints. The Demo campaign is therefore at the emotional end of the spectrum – an approach that pushes the emotional buttons to argue against what the government has done or point out what it has failed to do. And here is the problem with this type of

campaign: it leans heavily toward the negative. The emphasis is on pulling the other side down – an all too easy tactic. What is more difficult is promoting what you're going to do about it.

Unfortunately for the Demos, the solutions are not forthcoming. There is no great departure from the general principle of trying to 'do the right thing'. What we do see is a reliance on the 'tax issue' as the backbone of the anti-CIP campaign, a weak initiative to "review" certain developments, and lots of emotive language to restore integrity into governance. The Demos clearly want to cash in on controversy. Robbing the elderly! Conflict of interest! Too much travel! Every opportunity to link the CIP with controversy will be taken in this 2014 battle.

To arm itself for the fight, the Democratic Party has tried to put up a credible face of attack with a comprehensive manifesto of party policies. Ordinarily, this would be a commendable start. But we are in extraordinary times. As we have already experienced with the 2006 Snap Election, a shortened timeframe of campaigning does not lend itself to delving deeply into the policies of the parties. There is no time to put a comprehensive blueprint together. There is no

time to analyse effectively the projected outcomes of policy approaches. There is no time for messages to sink in.

Or even time to show that you really have done your homework. A glaring example is the failure to explain where the Democratic Party is going to find the \$8 million it will cost to reverse the VAT increase of 2.5%. Lack of thought and intelligence to provide alternatives to what the current government has done is not inspiring.

The CIP's efforts to inspire have all been condensed into this shortened campaign. This has already been acknowledged by limiting the party's policy platform to a 'pledge' rather than a manifesto. There is a concentrated, compacted effort to "keep up a momentum of progress of achieving results and delivering benefits". The crux of the message is to stay the course of positive change. Don't try to fix what is not broken. Don't change course mid-stream. Don't let the good works unravel.

The remaining campaign time will be a decision on whether voters are swayed by the Demo's emotional rants or the CIP's technical explanations about what is good for the country.

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## News Briefs

### Drinking water at Punanga Nui Market

After months of planning, Rotaract Rarotonga is happy to announce that a drinking water fountain has now been established at the Punanga Nui market playground. The installment took place last week Friday, with the help of PTS Plumbing for installation and filter system costs and Andy Olah of Timberland for timber. Pauline Dean of Rotaract Rarotonga says they are now organizing a sign to be put up before they conduct a handing over ceremony to Elma McBirney, caretaker and manager of the Punanga Nui market. The drinking water fountain is situated at the far side of the playground, closer to the daycare and is strictly a water drinking fountain for the kids, not a water refill station. Dean says they will be looking at establishing another one closer to the entrance of the playground, depending on the underground water piping. *—By Te Riu Woonton*

### Bone Surgeon visit

The Ministry of Health has confirmed a scheduled visit for the bone surgeon from the 16th – 26th June. Members of the public who are experiencing symptoms or diseases such as, fractures, arthritis and joint problems to visit the Outpatient Doctor at the Rarotonga Hospital from Monday to Friday between 8am – 4pm. Patients will be screened and prioritized for specialist appointments. *—By Tereapii Turepu*

### Development coaching for local rugby coaches

The Auckland Rugby Union Development Coach Shane King will be in Rarotonga this week with the focus on working with local Club coaches as they prepare for the Rugby 15's kick-off this weekend.

King will also visit Tereora College, and will be working with the U15 & U17 Tereora College Boys & Girls 7's teams.

King has previously coached the North Harbour ITM Cup Provincial team and is also currently a NZ School boys selector. *—By Tereapii Turepu*



One Cook Islands Movement at lunch at the Samade in Aitutaki last Sunday celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Cook Islands Party,(L to R) Teina Bishop MP, George Maggie MP, George Turia OCIM President and Charles Pitt OCIM Patron.

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9:00am – noon and 2:00pm – 5:00pm

**Tuesday 24 June**  
9:00am – noon and 2:00pm – 5:00pm

**Thursday 26 June**  
9:00am – noon and 2:00pm – 5:00pm

**Friday 27 June**  
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# DPM Heather answers critics with more lies



DPM Teariki Heather

The Deputy Prime Minister Teariki Heather is under pressure to respond to the mounting criticism of his Te Mato Vai conflicts of interest and growing intensity of public perception of corruption levelled at him. Behind his back his fellow CIP candidates are beginning to grumble they are being tainted by association and his defence of silence is having a negative impact on their chances of being elected.

Comments the DPM is overbearing and his growing tendency to dominate the CIP media aspect of their campaign are beginning to break the surface. Heather is engraving his political antics deep into his critic's notebooks, there is an increasing resentment matched by shallow smiles of pleasantries.

Last Friday on the CIP live Radio Cook Islands broadcast DPM Heather began to answer his critics with more sweeping misleading comments, at least shifting his emphasis of viciously attacking his critics Heather has begun to address the issues but unwisely coached by his media advisor Ben Mose to bend his public statements beyond the

truth.

One glaring statement that cannot go uncontested was in the context of the reconstruction of the damaged roads, a topic Heather has ducked and dodged for months. Heather made no reference to the Avarua City Project road reconstruction; instead he mocked the media reports saying how can the roads be reconstructed when the pipes haven't been all laid?

The \$6 million City Project road reconstruction has been in a stop start suspension for a year while DPM Heather manipulates the process for reasons now becoming clearly prompted by self interests. Government officials including the "Yes Minister" Infrastructure Committee are left to fend for their Minister Heather to the point they are tired of becoming the scapegoats for Heather's blatant tampering with the due processes to complete the City Project work.

A bouquet of technical excuses for the delays and interventions by Heather have been used to smoke screen the DPM's highly questionable interferences within the Infrastructure Cook Islands Ministry. In the midst of the tendering process taking its course Heather intervened putting a halt to any bidder being formalised.

The tender format had to undergo changes at the instructions of Minister Heather. The road sealing contract had attracted the attention of some visiting contractors from Samoa who were initially here to scope work related to the Te Mato Vai intakes. Suddenly the closed contract for the road reconstruction changes from being closed to an open tender. Being a closed contract, it is restricted to local contractors; an open one allows contractors from anywhere to bid for the work.

Talk of the tender documents being redone to ensure the inclusion of quality clauses is debateable because standards lesser to those of NZ and Australia are being inserted. T&M Heather Ltd cannot make the high quality aggregate according to NZ requirements. The sealing process uses an emulsion that is 65% residual bitumen for a quality and lengthy shelf life but the changes allow a lesser quality of 60 to 55% that is imported from Fiji to be used giving a shortened life to the road.

DPM Heather must be confronted with the question of why the contract has to be an open one when every cent payable needs to be retained within our own stagnant economy? Why can't the specification of quality used on the completed section of road at Nikao be duplicated as is for the Avarua section? If the Nikao section is satisfactory why can't the same local contracts complete the rest of the road reconstruction? What guarantees do we have an overseas contract can do any better when the price has already been gauged?

Has DPM Heather struck a "Backdoor Chinese deal" with the Samoan Company interested in the road works? Why has DPM Heather interfered with the tendering process and gone on the record to refuse Triad any more contracts despite the fact they are the only contractor who can do hot mix sealing?

Why has DPM Heather intervened and decided the hot mix road finish will end at Tupapa and the rest of the island will get a chip seal finish? What prompted this change? Is this change self serving Mr Heather? Why on earth does it take months to reword a few sentences in the template of the tender document?

Rather than be honest with himself and give truthful responses to these questions, the self enriching Heather juggles his whims and fancies, boasting about his humble Christian character while the frustrated residents and road users within the Project City boundaries must put up with substandard roads.

When the question of a foreign company getting the \$6 million City Project road reconstruction was put to the Minister of Finance Mark Brown he was adamant the Tender will go to a local business. The BTIB would also be a stumbling block for a foreign company to be permitted to carry out the contract while it was a job well within the capability of a local company to do.

Brown also went on the record to say that despite the published Te Mato Vai media release stating the remaining reconstruction of the main road would be a chip seal finish that is in correct. Brown category stated the main road will be completed with a hot mix finish of the highest standard giving Rarotonga a long term solution and relief from the constant nuisance of reoccurring pot holes.

Credit to Brown, who has broken the cone of silence to anything contravening the activities of DPM Heather. Minister Heather can take the option of hastily withdrawing himself from his City Project road reconstruction interfering and at best excuse himself from an embarrassing loosing entanglement with Brown.

While the Samoans are likely to make Heather a generous expression of appreciation for a lucrative multimillion dollar contract, Triad will continue to irritate because they will never entertain the thought of scratching the greedy DPM Heather's monetary itch.

- George Pitt





## Scoping study of recreational area begins

*CITV News* : The reclaimed land in the front of the Punanga Nui is to get a breath of fresh air. Two architect/designers were here over the weekend to scope out the area and to see what sort of recreational environment could be created there.

Richard Smith, a landscape architect and skatepark designer from New Zealand, who is a skater himself and has designed 40 skateparks in New Zealand is one of the designers of the study. "We want to create a recreational environment for everyone to enjoy, where they can come together and have an awesome time."

Bernard Wind the other designer, Rarotongan born from Ngati Karika, says that he is "thrilled to be part of this project, to work on a scheme that will benefit young people, and to create a node to

bring young people together." Wind who is an architect says that he has been looking for a way to bring his skills back so that they could benefit the Cook Islands people and this is an opportunity to do that. He believes he has a good sense of what can be done here given that he is a local.

Nothing is set in concrete as this stage, the pair are just looking at what kind of scheme could benefit the area. The project will take several stages. The design process alone could take up to 6 months as there are a lot of things that need to be negotiated. Wind says it's "not a straightforward thing, getting the participation of other stakeholders and having the time to have their thoughts and input into it". So at this stage it is very difficult to say how long it will take before we will be able to skate and enjoy this space.



### CITV News Brief: PICP WAN Conference opens

The Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police Women's Advisory Network conference begun on Tuesday 17/6/14. 60 participants from 22 countries from all over the Pacific are here to share their experience and ideas to lead change in the Pacific police.



### CITV News Brief: \$30,000 Worth of Dental Resources

Long time visitors Dr Leichter and Dr Murray are back again with over \$30,000 dollars worth of dental resources and students to help improve the oral care around the island's schools and clinics. They begun their school visits last week.

## CISNOC News Briefs

### Cook Islands National Sports Awards

The event has been scheduled for the 29th June 2014 at the Edgewater Resort, unfortunately it has been difficult to have a guest speaker this year, the majority of those people contacted by CISNOC are not available, due to their own commitments in sports. This is the case each year, trying to tie down a guest speaker. However we have been in talks with Air New Zealand as to organise and have someone set for next year's Awards. Tickets for the event are available at CISNOC office, Ph 24095. Also CISNOC would like to thank you the trophy sponsors and donor for their support, also to the Edgewater Resort, Air New Zealand and Polynesian Rentals as major sponsors for the event, meitaki maata.

### Olympic Day

The Olympic Day is 23rd June 2014, the Athletes Commission who are in full swing of things in organising events through next week, like the annual Olympic Day Fun Run which will start at 5pm, opposite the Banana Court. The Outer Islands will also be part of this annual event, where each Island will be starting according to the main start of the Fun Run here on Rarotonga. Also as part of the Olympic Day Celebrations, Wayne Robati of the Athletes Commission has been going through the Primary School promoting a drawing competition, which pictures will be hung up and advertised next week with the winner also being announced of the competition.

To finish off the Olympic Week, the Athletes Commission in Partnership with a few Agencies will be conducting a Sports Lunch hours in front of the Banana Court, having the road closed off from the ANZ Bank to the bridge in front of the Banana Court. Sports which will be played during that hour are Touch Rugby, Cricket, Netball, Park Volleyball, Golf and a few more, the Athletes Commission are asking for all to come on down and join them on Friday 27th June from 12noon to 1pm, in front of the Banana Court.

### Manea Games

Robert Graham, Secretary General of CISNOC will be travelling to Mauke tomorrow Wednesday 18th June for a visit and meet with the Mauke Sports Association and the Manea Games Organising Committee regarding the upcoming Manea Games scheduled for October 2014. The games competition schedule has been set from the 6th to the 17th October 2014, with the following sports, Athletics, Darts, Cricket, Football, Table Tennis, Tennis, Touch Rugby, Rugby 7s and Netball. Also as part of the games Traditional Games will also be competed, which has been since the games start back in 1998. This will be the second time the Island of Mauke has hosted these games, with some 700 participants attending the games, reports are that the Island is ready to host them in October this year.

*Meitaki Maata e Kia Manuia  
Robert Graham, Secretary General*

## Letter to the Editor

### Cost of Demo promises

Dear Editor  
Like some other readers, I too have read the Demo Manifesto. But I'm afraid to say it is complete rubbish and a recipe for a mammoth disaster of epic proportions.

Reversing the VAT increase alone will cost the taxpayers of our country a total of \$8 million. That's how much the VAT increase of 2.5% netted. That's how much has to be gained from somewhere else if the VAT is taken back to where it was at 12.5%.

The Demo Party has not answered this question of where the \$8 million is going to come from. I don't expect them to take the food out of the mouths of the people who received welfare benefits, or cut the jobs of those who got more money from the reduction of tax rates. Half of the \$8 million is paying for the higher welfare bill, the other half is going to salaries and wages.

So where does your money come from Wilkie and Co.? Answer that question please and you might start sounding like you know something. Right now, you have no answers.

*Signed  
Wise-up*

### May 2014 tourist numbers highest May on record

Visitor arrivals in May 2014 grew by 519 (5.4 per cent growth) as compared to May 2013.

At 10,074, visitor arrivals in May were the highest for any May on record, and are consistent with the trend in recent months of continued growth.

So far in the 2013-14 financial year, visitor arrivals have increased by 1.7 per cent compared to 2012 13, with only one more month to go. This is consistent with the Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Update, which estimated 1.7 per cent growth for the 2013-14 year.

"Growth in visitor arrivals so far this calendar year has improved markedly from the performance in early 2013. In the last 11 months (the 2013-14 financial year) 8 months have been the highest seasonal totals on record." said MEFM Economic Advisor James Webb. "To put May 2014 in context, 2007 was the first year that the Cook Islands received more than 10,000 visitors in a month (a July). It wasn't until 2009 that another month broke the 10,000 mark. In 2013-14 so far, 7 months have had arrivals above 10,000 with June still to come."-MFEM release

**EAT LESS**

**MOVE MORE**

HEART FOUNDATION

# Bishop's campaign launch well received



Crowd goes for the food

*By Charles Pitt*

**O**n Monday evening in downtown Aitutaki Teina Bishop, former Cook Islands Party (CIP) Minister and now One Cook Islands Movement Inc (OCIM) candidate for Arutanga-Reureu-Nikaupara, launched his election campaign before a large crowd.

The event was held in the Admin area of the Civic Centre.

The launch was a truly community affair, combined with a market day with food sales and raffles. A band, Tiraa and Bobby, along with two teams of drummers, kept everyone entertained as did Teina who sang several songs including the "old" CIP anthem, the Demo party anthem and the One Cook

Islands Movement Inc anthem.

Copies of the Movement's policy document were for sale to the public for \$5. There were only three speakers, Bishop, Tupapa/Maraerenga MP and OCIM candidate George Maggie and the Chairman of Bishop's committee, Papa Taamoia Taamoia.

During the occasion, Bishop celebrated his 15 years of representing his electorate in parliament with three birthday cakes one for each area. A woman from each area blew out one candle on each cake. Bishop also told the crowd that the previous day, Sunday 15 June 2014, marked the 50th anniversary of the CIP.

The closing prayer was said by Rev Moana Toroma of the Arutanga CICC.



Maggie and Bishop give the OCIM salute



The Bishop girls, Tania, Annie, Maria



Mamas get ready to blow the candles out



Maggie multi-tasking



88FM in musician's corner



Where do I sign up?



The second drum team-young talent



Community spirit

# Aitutaki scenes



The Hospital



The Port



Downtown



Sailing Club



Hollywood entrance



The Crusher

# Bishop Cruises Aitutaki



The boat at the Samade



Setting off



Crew shore duty, One Foot Island, Clemments and Mata prepare lunch



Crewman John on the Barbie, lunch on One Foot Island



One Foot Island shop and Post Office



At One Foot Island



Bishop Cruises crew member Mata shows tourists the large fruit of a Pandanus tree on Akaiami island in Aitutaki during a cruise to One Foot Island last Monday.

## Number plate that got stolen: DABOSS

Last week, owner of the personalised number plate DABOSS Clem and Vicki Fortes reported their number plate stolen off the back of the wife's truck. They sought to ask people on Facebook for help.

According to Clem's facebook page, he was "pretty sure a local wouldn't take it cause they can't be seen with it. Picking it was a trophy seeking visitor that watched the AB verses Eng game at the Ale House in Kavera." And so he asked, "if you work at Airport Security can you keep an eye out for it when you x-ray the luggage."

The number plate has turned up on facebook. According to Clem, "my number plate has ended up with a guy called Jeremy Campion [a visitor]. Can you believe he posted this picture to his FB page - then he sent a like to one of the fishing charters on Rarotonga and they



Chris Hanley with the stolen number plate

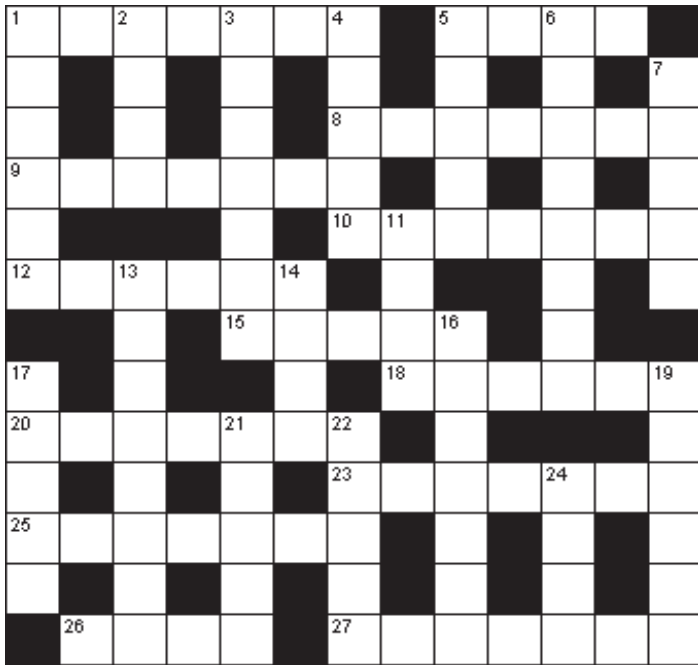
forwarded it to me. I am hoping that everyone that sees this can share it so that the news gets around that Jeremy Campion is

not a very straight up guy." Since then another visitor has taken a photo with the number plate, a man called Chris Hanley,

according to his Facebook page. The photo was taken here in Rarotonga in Villa 19 at the Edgewater.



# CROSSWORD



**Across**

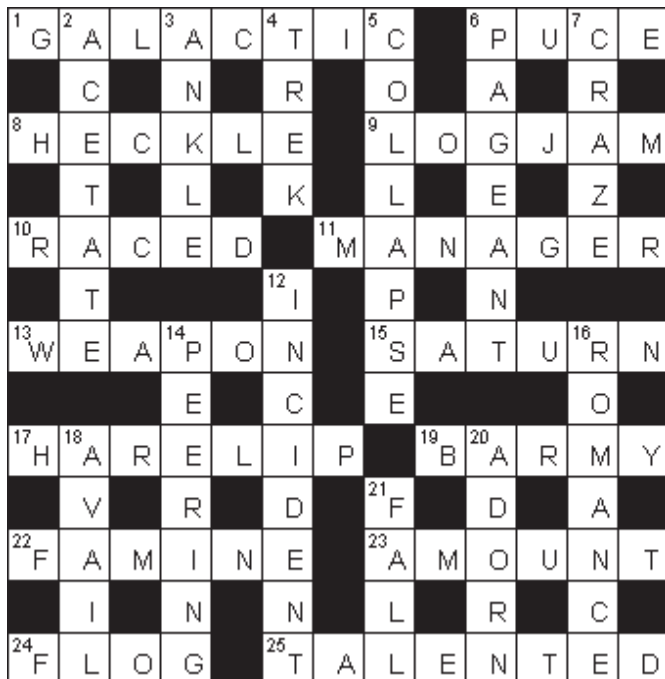
- 1. Having stripes (7)
- 5. Of like kind (4)
- 8. Person who sells saddlery (7)
- 9. Function (7)
- 10. Energetic (7)
- 12. Collect (6)
- 15. Arranges (5)
- 18. Faculties (6)
- 20. Sandy shores (7)
- 23. Fur hunter (7)
- 25. Foreknow (7)
- 26. Covetousness (4)
- 27. Mistrust (7)

**Down**

- 3. Fuss (7)
- 4. Gave a measured amount (5)
- 5. Republic in NE Africa (5)
- 6. Discoverer of America (8)
- 7. Dress (5)
- 11. Tibetan oxen (4)
- 13. Preliminary test (5,3)
- 14. Charge per unit (4)
- 16. Governing bodies (7)
- 17. Behind (5)
- 19. Shoot forth (6)
- 21. Hurried (5)
- 22. Simmers (5)
- 24. Attitude (4)

**Across**

- 1. Powerful (6)
- 2. Tear down (4)



## The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

Phone 24979 Email: sales@thecomputerman.co.ck

### INTERNET Tips to manage your Data Usage

So you want to watch your data consumption. What can you do to make certain that you make it through the month without going outside of your allocated amount and paying ridiculous out-of-bundle (OOB) rates, or having to top up with more data that will cost more outside of a package deal?

•Curb your surfing habits

You can't go random surfing all the time, every day. You'll have to save that sort of thing for once a week or the end of the month. Just be mindful not to leave it until the very last minute if you're on a package where unused data doesn't roll over at the end of the month to the next month – if you lose it, that's wasted money. That data then gets resold to someone else.

•Avoid flash, graphics, and ad-intensive websites

Some websites are built with a lot of images and ads, too. This causes the page to take longer to load, and will eat up data quickly. YouTube is a prime example of such a website. You can literally go through gigabytes of data in a short amount of time.

•Stop page loading

Some websites like Tumblr can eat up data if you don't actually physically click on the stop loading icon, which is usually somewhere at the top, over to the right, next to the URL bar. As long as you have links that will lead you to the resources on the site that you need, you can just follow those. If the buttons you need to press rely on scripts to load or to be enabled (a pain if you have NoScript running), then you'll have to load the page again anyway. Some sites will just resume loading or refreshing no matter how many times you click stop, or when you get to the bottom of the screen, particularly with sites like Facebook, tumblr, Twitter and Flickr, it scrolls automatically to allow for more results. NoScript, another Firefox addon, can stop this from occurring.

### WHAT'S NEW INSTORE



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# TE REO MĀORI

*Tātā`ia e Rutera Taripo*

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

Some Wise Sayings of our Ancestors

Kia Orāna, tēia `akaou tēta`i au Kōrero Pakari tei vai`o `ia mai e tō tātou pā-metua kia vai mā`eu`eu `ua nā tātou i te tā`anga`anga `anga ma te inangaro `ē pērā katoa kia parau `T`T`ē te vanavana i te tuatua i tō tātou Reo mānea, te reo o tō tātou tupuna-vaine. No reira, tautā, tautā, tautā `uātu rāi. Pēnei tēnā tei ia koe. 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. Kia Upokotū `uātu rāi.

### Kia mau te Selenga, Kia mau te napenga

Hold on to your identity, hold on to your heritage

### Me mawutu, ka tungakilu Me waletiko ka wakayapi

Me kite koe i toou kāpua`anga e toa koe

### Kia `aite taku ki te pē`au ō te tavake, i te akatika`anga i tō tātou rere`anga ki Avaiki

Let us be like the wings of the white tropic bird coordinating our flight home.  
[Let us be in harmony]

### Kōkiri kai ate

A small fish which eats its own liver  
A person who is always angry and who does not try to get rid of it  
Hot temper

### Kia pupuru ō vaevae, kia mokorā ō kakī

Your legs like the *pupuru* and your neck like the ducks  
Be wise, be steady and cool/ Stand firmly and be alert

### A te kerearako `ua koe

You are like a kerearako. You are a big talker  
A person who makes a lot of noise

### Akara ka ve`u te punā vai

Be careful or the clear pool might become dirty  
Be careful that your cleverness does not turn into foolishness

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

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

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

### Tāupeupe te `uru... – e A-Tangaroa

Display thy glorious feathers – oh A-Tangaroa

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

I am the setting sun, you are the rising sun  
An older person advising a young person to learn as much as he can, the future is in his hands.

### Tātakitaki mai ana i to `ina ki te `Are Karioi ei kai-monomono no tō`ou tuātau

# How to enjoy life

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

The purpose of this Article is to encourage you to live a positive life that you ought to be living in. In the Bible in Mark 16v.1-8 is an interesting short story. But for the purpose of this Article I want to focus on v.4 which reads "But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away – for it was very large." The question is "Who put the stone there in the first place?" The answer is "Man put it there!" The second question is "Who rolled away the stone?" In Matthew 28v.2 it reads "...an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door." This is the background to this story. I will talk on the Saving Power of God in relation to the "Tomb" where our Lord Jesus Christ was laid to rest and the "Stone" that was blocking the entrance, and how this relate to our lives.

The environment inside the "Tomb" was that – the air was stale, dusty and it was 'still' – nothing moves; it was dark! What "Stone" is keeping the stale and dusty air in your life; or the life of people that you know of? Outside the "Tomb", the air is fresh, cool, and clean; there is light and life. When the "Stone was Rolled Away" the stale and dusty air flowed out; and the fresh and clean air flowed in! When that Stone was rolled away Light and Life entered the Tomb!

How's your "Tomb" today! What "Stones" are there in your life that are blocking that door from allowing the old stale, dusty air

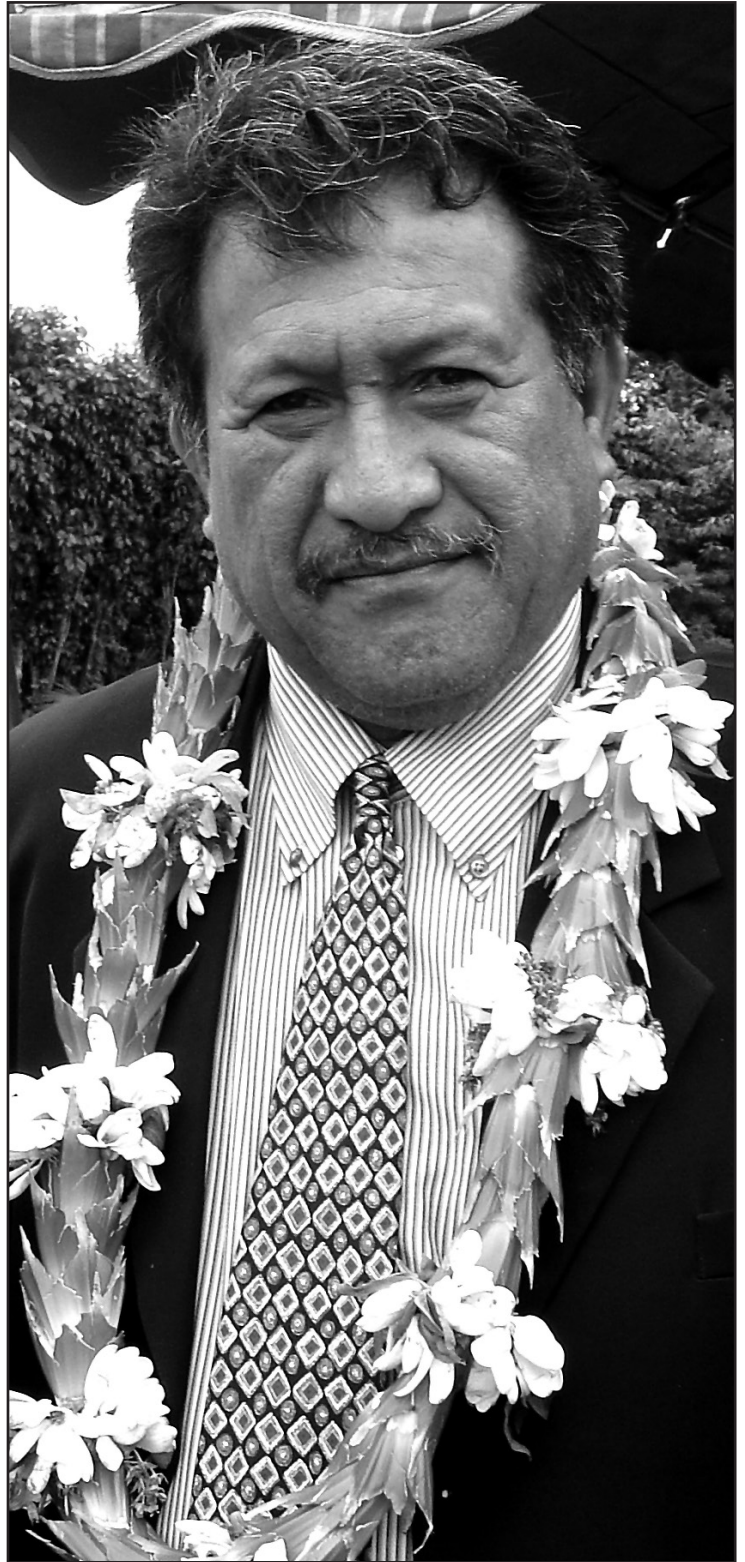
flowing out, and allowing the fresh, clean air flowing in, and also the light and life coming into your life! Your hurts; the things that weighs you down; or things that bothers you each day; even your personal pains from your past, these causes "Stones" in your life. They bring about... "Stone of Bitterness" Hebrews 12v.15 (CEV) read "...Don't let anyone become bitter and cause trouble for the rest of you." This means that "...the root of bitterness defiles many." There is also the "Stone of Anger" Proverbs 19v.19 (CEV) read "People with bad tempers are always in trouble, and they need help over and over again." James 1v.20 (CEV) read "If you are angry, you can not do any of the good things that God wants done." There is also the "Stone of Jealousy" Proverbs 14v.30 (GNB) reads "Peace of mind makes the body healthy, but jealousy is like a cancer." Proverbs 27v.4 (GNB) read "Anger is cruel and destructive, but it is nothing compared to jealousy."

Jesus said in John 14v.6 (NKJV) "I am the way, the truth, and the life..." Therefore, receive Him as Lord and Saviour of our life! I John 5v.12 (NKJV) read "He who has the Son has life, he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." Therefore I encourage you to put your total Trust and Faith in Jesus. This has worked for me and I know that it will also work for you.

Our reading in Mark 16v.4 read "...they saw that the stone had been rolled away – for it was very large."

## Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



Do you have a "very large stone" in your life? Jesus said in Mark 10v.27 (NKJV) "With men it is impossible, but not with God, for with God all things are possible."

It is my prayer that this Article of Encouragement will help you in your life and for you to enjoy life in a positive and useful way. May God bless you.

# Culture Time!

By *Norma Ngatamariki*

Hello, people! Yet another school week has passed (Can you believe that we're already in our seventh week of school?). This week, the Tereora College Intercultural Competition is going down on Thursday so it will be an intense battle between the four Houses: Te Kou, Ikurangi, Te Manga and Maungaroa. The week before, it was a competition of weaving and coconut husking. Now it's gonna be Ute and String band, so there will be a lot going on vocally. I'm really excited about this Competition in particular because I've always wanted to be in a Ute. And now, I have the opportunity.

My fellow Anau Leader, Nurse and our Head of Anau, Mr Paio composed the Ute for Ikurangi. We had our very first practice session last week

Thursday during the Anau time. I was keen for the Ute. I just love the way the women yell and screech their hearts out when they hit the stage and when the boys go "lahaha!" in their deepest voices. Man, I really wanted to be part of that! When I heard our Ute for the first time, I was amazed. Because it was amazing and it had potential.

Most of the Ute group was made up of Year 9 students because they were more enthusiastic about the whole thing. I found it a bit sad that almost none of the seniors wanted to join. I mean, c'mon guys, it's our last year at Tereora. I wanted to leave behind a legacy where I would be remembered as the girl who joined that Ute. But hey, I'm not going to force them or judge their decision. I was worried about how much time we had to practice before

the actual thing happened but I still believed that Ikurangi would kick butt on the day! Also, there has to be a maximum of 30 people on the stage. 27 school students and 3 papa'a teachers. This should be an interesting show.

The few seniors who did join the Ute (which was me and six others) had to make up the actions to go with our Ute. After a few epic failures, we managed to get something together. To me, it looked pretty good and I was proud that I had contributed to this. We planned to present it to the whole Ute group on Wednesday when the Year 9 students' will all be here after their school trip.

So, yeah. Since I first came to Tereora, I have never participated in any of the school's cultural performances. I was too shy and too timid. But ain't nobody got time for that now. Besides,



it's kind of expected for me to do something, as I am an Anau Leader and I want to live up to those expectations. It would be nice if we did win the Competition but if we didn't, I don't mind. At least I can say that my House joined and put our all into it.

# Scholarship Buzz

By *Nadia George*

It's been two torturous weeks of waiting, interviews and two very important letters that had me split between tears of joy and tears of failure. But I've finally done it ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, or more importantly, mum and dad, I've made it on the 2014 priority list for scholarships! Yay me!

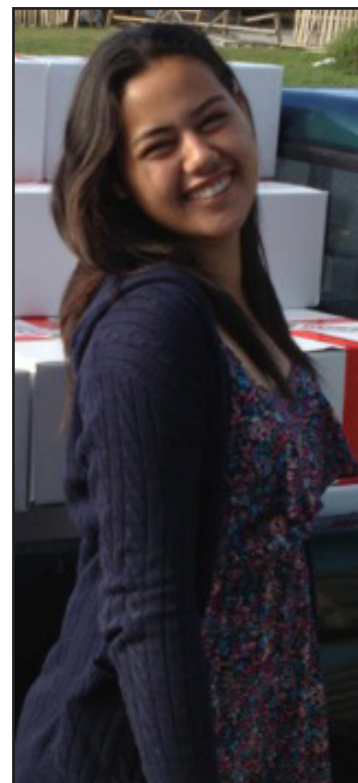
The stress filled weeks began when I received my first congratulatory letter, confirming that I had made it on the short list for this year. The letter was followed by phase two of the selection process, with everyone on that special list having to go through a one on one interview with the selection panel. One of the freakiest things I'd ever did, tbh. My nerves were defiantly wracking, and I couldn't stop shaking. I was in complete melt down mode. The normally cool,

calm and collective Nadia George was nowhere to be seen. I tried my best to power through it all, even went as far as putting together a shot video presentation for the panelists. It was all over in less than twenty minutes and I left the conference room feeling unsure about what had just happened, constantly questioning myself about the answers I had given them, but needless to say that I was released that it was all over.

Then came Friday when all the anxiety and panic had been swept away from me in a quick cool rush, once I had finally built up the courage to open the final letter that every applicant had received that day. For some of us, it meant that we were one step closer to the grand prize of a scholarship; to others it meant that their chances were getting slimmer and for the rest, it was the end of the road. I'm not one to handle

rejection to well, my eyes were burning and tears pricked at the corners, threatening to come flooding out.

It took several people to pressure me into opening my envelope before I finally did it. I had initially planned on opening it at home, with in the confines and comfort of my own room, but my friends and teachers were very persuasive and so I thought what the heck and slowly tore it open. Holding the letter in my hand I couldn't bare to read it. Who knew that, that moment would be so suspenseful? But you can imagine just how thrilled I was (more shocked than thrilled actually) when it said id been put on the priority list. It was a real "OMG" moment for me really. I arrived to school on Monday morning and got a lot of awkward hugs from teachers and the odd "congratulations" here and there. I'm trying to be really casual about the



whole thing because not everything is set in stone but hey only time will tell. Now all the hard work begins. All the praise be to God.

The Demo's deferral mentality has caught them out again. When the campaign started they stated their high ground stance of a clean campaign, none of this under the belly blows stuff. Well how long did that political naivety promoted by the conductor Drolley last? Plastered on our TV screens is the Demo corruption commercial that targets One Cook Islands leader the visionary Teina Bishop while at the same time the Demo President Willis is courting him in case he is needed for a coalition government. Word is Willis has promised two Cabinet position if OCI are needed.



When the Aitutaki Demos heard the self promoting Mr "I" Drolley was planning to visit them to assist with their campaigning word was quickly sent back to HQ to stay put. Drolley's best contribution is to buy some raffle tickets and stay away as far as possible. The Demos have finally woken up Drolley is their biggest liability who cannot explain what has he been doing to campaign ready the Party over the last four years. He couldn't even prepare a membership form or a membership card or even basic instructions of how to select a winning candidate let alone train volunteers for the campaign.



Word is the lawyer politician era is coming to a close. Both leaders Rasmussen and Puna are predicted to lose their seats. Big Norm and Mona loane are also in the firing line leaving no more lawyers in the house. In 2010 we saw the end of the doctors now it's the lawyers turn.



Watch them all desperately resort to petitions when their numbers fall short.



If the Akaoa Demo Nooroa Chopper Baker gets his way he's going to start saving public money by chopping off the excess expenditure like all the tax funded vehicles. Even MPs will have to use their own transport or catch a shared vehicle. There will be one exception with a GA number plate and that will be for his friend from back in the day, the Tupapa MP, George (Maggie) Angene.



Notice at the end of call me DPM Bulldozer Heta's campaign TV commercial he says vote for the CIP and he will help us and he will protect us. What is he going to protect us from? And how does he plan to help us? Arorangi has forever had a serious water supply problem and Heta has been in government for ten years and the water problem has got worse, help, more like Heta helps himself and protects himself through his greedy conflicts of interest and double dealing, what a space cadet, maybe he can protect us from the Demo Aliens?

Maybe as a self confessed Christian he should stop publically saying he hates a certain media reporter. Rise up Akaoa and send Heta to the political scrap heap on 9 July.



In a surprise turn of events, one tourist has struck back at local petty thievery of visitors by doing some petty thieving of his own. Trouble arrived when the thieving tourist posted a pic of himself on facebook holding up the stolen item-the well known number plate from a vehicle owned by a local high flyer! Imagine the local police report. Locals beware of thieving tourists!



Oh dear chooks, Tricky Dickie is at it again! Now he is claiming the format of the Budget documents have been the same for the last 10 years! But, but, but, we have not had booklet three "Capital items" for the last ten years! Only since Tricky Dickie came in! And Dickie's comments about previous Finance Ministers is the sort of talk that can get one "fired!"



The daily dribble still can't quite get their facts right, they listed

Ministers as getting \$85,000 a year when in reality after the tax reforms they are getting \$87,000 not like the local pensioners who used to get \$200 a fortnight then an extra \$50 then a tax reduction of \$75 for a net pension of \$175.



Robbing Peter to pay Paul is the strategy economists apply when there is no economic growth. The money just goes around in circles. What is needed is new money from outside the country. There is a trickle of new money from tourists but not enough to make an impression.



Which agency of the State is going to investigate the septic arrangements at Chinatown at the old Kia Orana Foods Factory site? The septic set up clearly does not comply with the law as it too close to the stream and is prone to flooding in an area well known for flooding. Is it Health? Is it Environment? The public aren't stupid so why the inaction?



Photo on the front page of the log of the vessel SS Daily shows a modern version of a rickshaw in action. Chinese workers transported back to Chinatown sitting in the bucket of a T&M dozer. This is a highly unsafe practice and against the Health and Safety laws administered by Internal Affairs not to mention the road safety laws administered by the Police. Get your act together T&M. Stop this unsafe practice before someone gets hurt.

FAT CATS

Number 2, Cabinet has no quorum this week!

They've managed with just two for the past year!



HARD  
TOO HARD  
IMPOSSIBLE

COCONUT ROUNDTABLE

Rumour has it, Government is running Cabinet on a quorum of just 2 Ministers!

Well there is an election on!

What's that got to do with it?



VACANCIES



**MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS  
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Applications are invited for the position of Disability Programme Research and Communications Officer, in the Disability Division of the Ministry.

Applicants must be self motivated, to compete all required task in a timely manner.

A good knowledge and understanding of Disability Inclusive Development is preferred. Applications close on 13 June 2014 at 4pm. A full job description is available on request.

Please submit a cover letter with CV and references to: Eva Mapu, PO Box 98, Rarotonga, Cook Islands or email: [eva.mapu@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:eva.mapu@cookislands.gov.ck)

PUBLIC NOTICE



In Country Student Assistance Fund (SAF)

The fund is to enable Cook Islands Residents to undertake part secondary education and training while living in the Cook Islands. There are two forms of assistance:

1) PARTIAL REIMBURSEMENT OF TUITION FEES AND TEXT BOOK FEES

(On presentation of receipts & results (of a pass)

- Applicants who are unemployed or whose annual income is below \$15,000 may apply for 75% reimbursement
- Applications whose annual income is over \$15,000 may apply for a 50% reimbursement

2) REQUEST FOR FUNDING DUE TO FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

Funding is available under this scheme for students who are unable to meet the full upfront payment of tuition and prescribed text book fees due to financial hardship.

For further information and application forms, contact Anna Roi on Ph. 29357 or email [scholarships@education.gov.ck](mailto:scholarships@education.gov.ck)

# New Hope Church

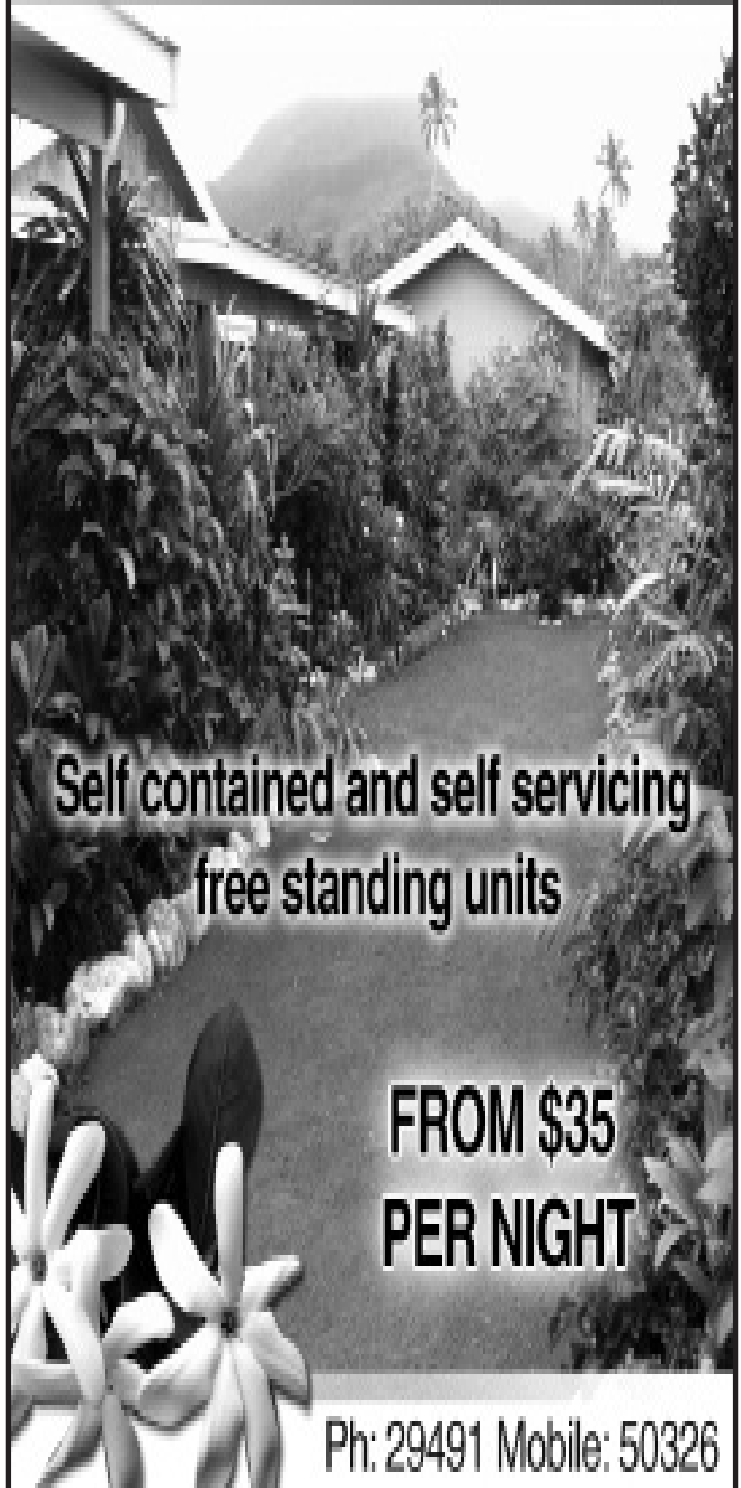
## Parekura Conference Centre

*Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you*

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# Teina Bishop's launch



Chow time



Band members



The Ace TV reporter

