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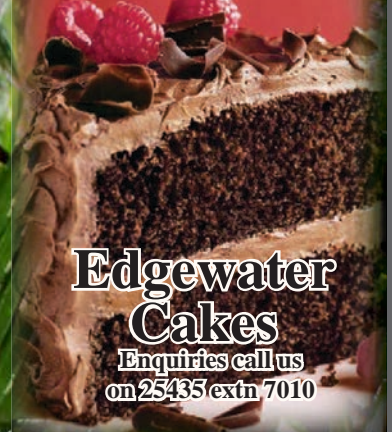
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Pension Tax illegal, deductions must stop immediately

Caught with his pants well and truly down, the embarrassed and cornered Financial Secretary Richard Neneva Neves is retaliating against the naked truth by lying through his teeth. How many times must Neves be exposed as being without a question of doubt out of his depth and incompetent in matters of sovereign fiscal responsibility before the Public Service Commissioner Russell Thomas immediately suspends Neves and orders a full inquiry to the illegal activities being perpetrated by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management?

Highly paid expats should not be exempt from being disciplined, reprimanded and held accountable for their misconduct especially at the detriment of Cook Islanders. Neves is not above the law but continues to show defiant contempt and gross disrespect not only for our Constitution but also to anyone who has the intelligence and political will to question him.

There is not a week that passes where Neves struts his stuff beyond the boundaries of his brief as the Financial Secretary. Never before has anyone in his position performed with such political bravado or have been given the free rein and sanction to do so. How the PSC Russell Thomas can idly sit by and witness the disgraceful fiscal atrocities by Neves is beyond comprehension.

A few weeks ago Thomas flexed his authoritative muscle and dumped a two week without pay suspension on the Infrastructure Cook Islands secretary Mac Mokoroa for the feeble excuse he had offended a PSC staff member in a heated disagreeable discussion. But when it comes to expat Neves,

half the Nation is offended by the Fin Sec's high handed bombastic mannerism and the chicken liver Thomas gives him a pat on the back stamp of approval.

In response to the inquisitive businessman John Scott who presents well researched and credible information for public consumption through the print media the cornered Neves has come out fighting for his political life and professional reputation which in recent months has been tarnished beyond reflection.

Neves' answer to his illegal taxing of local pensions is evident his stress levels are close to bursting under the self inflicted pressure of repeatedly being exposed, right now Neves

Neves' statement "Pensioners were given a choice to pay along the way or pay it at the end," (CINews 24/6/14) is more than an afterthought quote to cover his tracks, it's a lie.

is naked unable to find cover for his fiscal deficiencies and litany of half truths, white lies and political bluff.

Neves has well and truly cracked under the relentless pressure from the likes of James Beer, John Scott, the Grey Power to come clean and deliver the economic rainbow he has promised. Neves no longer answers the critical reviews by the CI Herald commentators because his responses have further exposed more layers of his hidden agendas and intentions, in other words he has no answers that lessen the heat he is in.

Neves vitriolic dissection of the character of John Scott is a public disgrace by a wounded bull of the worst kind. Neves at

\$300,000 a year is the highest paid public servant in the Cook Islands and must exhibit the highest standards of customer service. His public assassination of a member of the public who in the interests of Cook Islanders simply raised questions concerning his management of MFEM warrants immediate attention by the PSC.

Rather than provide intellectually sound answers and respond to the relevant issues of public concern raised by Scott, Neves in all his arrogant glory launched an offensive barrage of accumulated insults to discredit Scott only for it to backfire discrediting himself and reveal the self exalted Fin Sec is

on the brink of an emotional and mental explosion.

In his public media release on Tuesday 24 June, Neves rants and raves about his version of Nenevanomics to exonerate himself above the proven Scott who has practised business and survived in the micro economy of Rarotonga for more than 40 years. If anyone has no economic credibility it is the nonsensical Neneva Neves who lives in the artificial fat cat world of lavish excesses.

Neves spits out more twists and turns than the highway to Taihape in his muddled mumbo jumbo attempt to reconcile his tormented mind to his incompetent attempts to gee up an economy of failure. Rather than accept defeat with honour

and move on, Neves holds tight to his justification he deserves an extension to his contract. Neves fabrication of the local pension tax is consistent with his previous attempts to bluff his way, but an intolerant public is serving Neves notice his juvenile performance must come to an abrupt end.

Neves' statement "*Pensioners were given a choice to pay along the way or pay it at the end,*" (CINews 24/6/14) is more than an afterthought quote to cover his tracks, it's a lie. Pensioners were given the choice of filling out a form with your tax id number for a tax assessment or be taxed at the higher level. Before the Pension Tax could be legitimised in Parliament the PM called a snap election.

Tinkering on the brink of a serious financial disaster detrimental to the CIP's chances of being re elected Neves was sanctioned by Cabinet to stall a fiscal blow out and collapse of the economy by implementing the pension tax in the pretence it was legal. Every Pensioner now has the option of not being taxed along the way, and every pensioner should instruct the Ministry of Internal Affairs to act immediately on that request. Refunds should also be requested and an immediate payout issued.

The legal ramifications of Neves directive to illegally tax local pensioners are serious and a pending Police complaint may cast a net that ropes in the entire cabinet resulting in each along with Neves being convicted and liable for restitution.

How refreshing the discarded Teina Bishop has been for announcing the One Cook Islands Movement's policy of the Cook Islands becoming tax free for all pensions payable here.

-George Pitt

Is government condoning a corrupt practice?

By Charles Pitt

In Tuesday's CI News, Richard Neves emotive letter in response to John Scott's letter is of great interest. Scott challenged the legality of the tax on pensions as such a tax had no basis in law.

Neves response seems to indicate MFEM are aware the deductions of tax from the local and NZ pensions may be illegal but he indicates that when the CIP government gets re-elected the draft bills introduced into the House back in March making this tax legal, will be passed retrospectively.

This raises the question, has Cabinet and MFEM knowingly implicated themselves in what could be construed as a corrupt practice?

There are unconfirmed reports that pensioners may choose not to have their pensions taxed at source but must fill in a form at the Ministry of Internal Affairs. When was this put into effect? There is no record of any public announcement via the media on this point or any letters notifying each affected pensioner. Why must a form be filled in if the deductions have no basis in law? Why has this option appeared? These are questions an individual may have to answer before a court of law if a case against the tax proceeds.

Neves seems to have no regard to the possibility the CIP may lose the election. The Democratic Party has already indicated it will abolish the tax on the local pension if

it becomes government in which event, will pensioners receive an actual cash refund or a credit against their tax return? What then for Neves and co? Will a Demo government look for heads to roll?

In applying the tax before the law is amended, it could be said the CIP government is being reckless. In any other country people would be hauled before the courts.

If MFEM had acted on an interpretation delivered by Crown Law, it must be flimsy to the point that amendments to the Income Tax Act are required to as Neves puts it, to make it absolutely clear tax may be deducted from the pensions. The fact government has not released the legal opinions sought by MFEM must mean they potentially could expose the government to challenge in a court of law.

Government is proceeding possibly because it knows few individuals would have the financial means to bring government before the courts to account.

Should the Democratic Party win the election, and their promise to establish a Commission of Inquiry into Corruption is fulfilled, those responsible for this allegedly illegal taxation on the pensions including those who aided and abetted the taxation may well be issued with warrants to appear before the Commission to answer corruption charges.


Wilkie Rasmussen is talking

about introducing legislation to strengthen enforcement against corruption. Could we see the Commission being given the power to bring prosecution actions. The Crimes Act should also be amended to enable the courts to impose mandatory prison terms for those found guilty of corruption on a grand scale.

The difficulty in bringing charges against individuals within government or a government agency is that the "systemic failure" argument could be a defence.


A Commission would have to consider what checks and balances existed, were they applied, what followed. The ultimate check and balance was Cabinet. Cabinet could have stopped the application of the tax until the amendments were passed. Because Cabinet did not do so, begs the question, why?

With Cabinet condoning the allegedly illegal tax, all agencies "down the line" had few options but to follow Cabinet's lead and implement the tax.



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CIP critical of kiddie politicking by Demos



In the absence of the Prime Minister Henry Puna the Cook Islands Party's campaign front man Mark Brown has taken exception to the politicising of children by the Democratic Party for Electioneering.

"The use of children in their political campaign TV commercials by the Democratic Party to paint a bleak, scary and false picture of our national debt position is shameful and deceitful," protests Brown who also claims the Demos are obviously trying to use emotion to swing voters by having children recite a script about the amount of national debt the crown holds.

"This political stunt is unprecedented and falls short of moral decency, the kids are being exploited and used for nothing more than a mouthpiece for Democratic Party political propaganda. What makes it especially shameful is having the

children say things out of context in a way that deceives the viewer on the true situation regarding national debt."

Brown raises the question of how can primary school children know anything about debt to GDP ratios or what differentiates good debt from bad debt?

"The Demos conveniently say nothing about the most recent ADB, IMF and Standard and Poors reports on how well the Cook Islands are performing in terms of our debt management and improved debt resilience measures that the government has recently put in place."

Brown said the commercial is also a slap in the face for the team of university educated and qualified Cook Islanders who work in the budget team of MFEM. "These are the real young people who have the right to say what they think about our national debt position because they analyze the reports and

write our own reports in their specialized field of national finance. I challenge anyone to talk to our team of young Cook Islanders such as Lavina Tama, Krsytina Tatuava, Angelia Williams, Edward Parker and numerous other qualified staff who work on these issues every day."

Rather than resorting to under arm kiddie politicking Brown says, "Don't patronize our young people with emotive and misleading ads, stick to the truth."

"Is it that bad in the Demo camp their adult candidates are incapable of speaking for themselves? It has finally dawned on the Demo campaign spin doctors their cartoon ads were a big failure so now they are using children, what next?" asks Brown, "maybe in their final act of desperation they will call upon Mr Ed the talking horse."

According to his Ministry support office, this CIP

government under Finance Minister Brown has made all debt information clearly and freely available to the general public for the first time. All debt schedules are updated and published quarterly and made available on line on the MFEM website for anyone to scrutinize, something that was never available from the previous Demo government. Debt is inevitable for all countries. Just as one cannot build a house without borrowing, a country cannot build itself up without borrowing.

In response to Brown's local CITV news rebuttal comments on the kiddie commercial, the Democratic Party has fired back with the screening of a second one featuring children. Brown said he would not give oxygen to the continued amateur antics that reflect the distorted mentality within the Demo's campaign engine room.

-George Pitt

Concerned citizens to mount media anti corruption campaign

A group of concerned individuals are about to launch a media campaign of anti corruption and abuses of power by our politicians and government officials. This offensive initiative is birthed out of a sheer frustration and fed up grievances with the soft peddling stance by the public watch dogs and the political culture of turning a blind eye to the blatant disregard for serious breaches of the Parliamentarian's Code of Conduct in their Standing Orders.

Top of the list is the conflicts of interest by the Deputy Prime Minister Teariki Heather and his prominent influential role in the \$64 million Te Mato Vai project. DPM Heather as the Minister of Infrastructure Cook Islands is the driving force behind TMV and his company T&M Heather Ltd is the biggest financial recipient of the Project through the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation's \$24 million component. Contracts for the New Zealand and Cook Islands components are yet to be finalised and

T&M Heather Ltd are likely bidders.

The sheer audacity of Heather's refusal to step aside of ICI has so tainted the CIP's reputation many long term members will cheer when Nooroa Baker wins the Akaoa seat. Without the political protection, Heather will be defenceless in the wrath of an unforgiving public who will demand a full Commission of Inquiry into his dealings with CCECC.

One of the group said the general election presents an opportunity for the public to rid politics of personalities who have demonstrated self enriching and self serving practises. While there has been a lot of whispers and anti corrupt talking behind closed doors, there was no action that tested the behaviour of political corruption with the exception of the Police complaint laid by a concerned member of the public against the Aitutaki MP Minister Teina Bishop.

Bewildered at the failure of any of the watch dog institutions to take the initiative and investigate

or at the very least ask questions, the anti corruption group have decided enough is enough and rather than wait for the election outcome, a strategic intervention campaign to determine a desired result is a better approach.

Like the lesson learnt from the Grey Power's people verses the CIP government protests, decisive and assertive action is a better option that waiting for something to happen, the People Against Corruption's (PAC) media approach is confrontational and will impact the senses.

Unlike the Grey Power and TMV Petitioners, PAC activists believe they can deliver a challenging message while maintaining their anonymity for the obvious reason Teariki Heather is retaliatory and vindictive. The ferocity of the intensity of greed has seared the consciousness of one too many politician and their excessively over paid unproductive puppet officials who by their sins of omission have embraced the corruption of their masters with protective fervour.

The biggest hurdle to cleaning the political slate is the apathetic acceptance of the silent majority the present order of governance is the normal, this is our biggest challenge acknowledge PAC. This election is a rare opportunity for the masses to register their protest we deserve better from our politicians.

"We have been lied to more than once too often by this government, our concerns are dismissively swept aside by a Prime Minister who is more concerned with jet setting and globetrotting rather than improving the plight of the struggling people, we have witnessed the unthinkable prolonged cruelty to our elderly people, over taxed families unwillingly are still leaving to be able to get better paid jobs overseas just to keep their homes from the Bank's clutches and in the meantime the likes of DPM Heather is given free rein to enrich himself in unprecedented measures."

Voters will be challenged to register their protest to end political corruption on 9 July 2014. - George Pitt

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Commonwealth Secretariat reviews effectiveness of sea bed minerals support

Joel Burman (Programme Officer, Governance and Institutional Development Division, Commonwealth Secretariat) has been in Rarotonga this week. It is his second visit to review progress.

In good news for the Cook Islands, the Commonwealth Secretariat recently extended its support for a further 2 years to the Cook Islands Government, via the Seabed Minerals Authority, through the provision of funding for the continued Technical Assistance and services of the in country, minerals expert, Mr Darryl Thorburn. The Commonwealth Secretariat project seeks to continue to strengthen Cook Islands capacities for the sustainable management and intelligent development of the potential of its national deep seabed mineral resources.

Mr. Burman is visiting to meet with key national stakeholders, in part to review the effectiveness of the funding and technical assistance provided by Commonwealth Secretariat to the Cook Islands Government. This support has been given in the form of providing an in-country technical assistance being an expert Natural Resource Advisor, who is Mr. Darryl Thorburn. Mr Thorburn has been serving in the SBM authority since 2012. His work is to assist in the steady development progress of the Cook Islands Seabed Minerals



Minister for Seabed Minerals, Hon. Mark Brown presenting Mr. Joel Burman with a Cook Islands Manganese Nodule cube in appreciation for the support given by the Commonwealth Secretariat to development of the Cook Islands Seabed Minerals sector.

sector. Seabed Minerals development remains a key priority of Government, since the Seabed Minerals Act was passed by the previous Government in 2009.

On day one of his visit, Minister Brown met with Mr Burman and indicated that the steady development of our national SBM sector, with this support from Commonwealth Secretariat, is proceeding very well, and in line with Commonwealth Secretariat and the Government's expectations.

As part of this visit, Mr. Burman has a busy schedule of relevant stakeholder meetings with MFEM, MFAI, BTIB, NES,

PSC, CIIC, CLO, NZHC and NGOs to determine-

- perceptions of the progress of development of potential SBM activities in the Cook Islands;
- the anticipated role/impact of potential SBM activities generally within the Cook Islands from their respective positions and operations;
- integrating assistance with development partners
- progress made with the relevant SBM legal, technical, economic, social and environmental assessments
- the need for the "meshing" of potential SBM activities with other marine activities in our EEZ.

- any developmental needs that are not presently being met either by domestic or external partner resources,
- what developmental priorities for Cook Islands entities may exist now and in the future.

Speaking with the Herald on Wednesday morning, Burman said he had had positive feedback from the stakeholders he had met so far.

He said he has been made aware that there is keen public interest in how sea bed mining will interact with societal, cultural and environmental concerns.

Burman expects to make a further visit to review progress.

Observations from the Pre election economic and fiscal update (PEEFU) document

Auckland Consulate General Manukau City had a fit out, it's now mentioned as part of almost \$1 million dollars in savings of capital expenditure.

The savings to the CI Tax payer for Aunty Rosie Blake's office is \$8,000 but the Herald is yet to determine how much was actually spent.

As T&M Heather were seen doing the cleanup of Avatea School and may have been involved in the cleanup of Nukutere College after the fire, it is assumed that all the \$297,000 was given to The Minister Of Infrastructure Teariki Heather's company T&M. Not a bad sum for the removal of tin and some concrete, to build a decent 4 bedroom home that would take several weeks or several months to build it would cost about \$300,000

There was \$25,000 spent

on the ongoing work of the Infrastructure Committee, unless this was actual real production and not a whole lot of talking and paper work then it may be justified, but we know it's not because a committee doing ongoing work, it would not be digging holes or repairing pipes but writing up more reports and paying more consultants.

\$254,000 on Tourism trade shows, but it says this has been offset by tourism trading revenue; however we don't know if all of it has been offset or whether this was an expense that was paid out of the Tourism account and then reimbursed by participants attending the trade show. Can Agriculture get this kind of deal, where they get the government to buy equipment for farmers to the tune of \$250,000 like repairing to NZ standards the treatment plant at the Airport to allow growers to

export their paw paw, then allow for trading revenue to pay it back interest free? Because isn't that what is happening now?

There was an Airport Authority \$50,000 payment, what was this for? We can only speculate. Airport Auth gets its own income, makes its own trading revenue, even repays its loans from the Crown that goes into the Govt account. Was this for the new flash white truck or was this the salary for the interim Chief Fire Officer assistant and trainer for the current Chief Fire Officer?

One of the best so far, how about \$1000 per page for a total of approximately 25 pages to assist MFEM prepare a policy document regarding Government ownership of Telecom Cook Islands. Who did the paper? Was it Richard Neves? MFEM staff? This \$25,000 sounds a bit rich, and it probably is, especially when

it cost \$15,000 to run the Police Women's Conference on Rarotonga recently.

Remember the Pacific Leaders Conference in May? The one that happened as quickly as it ended. Not sure what came of that, but a total \$35,000 was used up on that occasion. About the same cost as the money raided from Grey Power Members bank accounts just before Christmas.

ICI upgrades cost the tax payer \$30,000, this being spent on T&M Heathers Ltd workers to rebuild a wall and paint it. Whatever happened to all the ICI staff? There are block layers there and plenty of hands available to clean things up, to get T&M Heather staff in really makes one wonder whether the total is just to get beneath the threshold of the \$30,000 to avoid going to tender, wouldn't be the first time this has happened.

- George Pitt

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Complaint laid with Police over Pension Tax

The following written complaint has been laid with Police alleging illegal deductions of tax from the local old age pension.

To: Cook Islands Police Department
Attention: **Commissioner of Police**
Mr Maara Tetava.

Date: 24th June 2014

Dear Commissioner of Police - Mr Maara Tetava.

Re: Illegal deductions of my pension by Internal Affairs and Ministry of Finance and Economic Management.

Pursuant to Section 244 of the Crimes Act 1969, I formally make complaint against the Financial Secretary Mr Richard Neves on the illegal deductions made by Internal Affairs from my fortnightly pension payments.

You may be wondering as to why Mr Neves and not The Secretary of Internal Affairs - Bredina Drollet, on account it is Mr Neves who has the overall responsibility of issuing the orders and it is therefore Mr Neves who is illegally making deductions from my pension.

In December 2013, it was passed in Parliament to lift the exemption on welfare payments for pensioners. This then allowed pensions to be taxed at the end of each reporting year when the return was filed.

On the 31st March 2014, a further amendment to the Income Tax Act was brought to Parliament, this was an amendment to permit the deductions at source payment or at each time payment was made. This amendment was not passed and even though prior to the 31st March several commentators had expressed their displeasure that the process to deduct twice a month was illegal, Internal Affairs continued with the source deduction on the premise that the new Income Tax Amendment would retroactively annul any deductions made in advance of the passing of the amendment. All this of course was not possible as Parliament was dissolved and there being no other way to fix this. The principled thing for the Financial Secretary Mr Neves to do, would have been to advise Internal Affairs to immediately halt all deductions, but continued it has.

I should point out however that the Government in seeking an amendment to the Income Tax Act may not have had its way in Parliament as you will no doubt be aware, there existed considerable disunity over this issue and that Parliament dissolved as a result of it.

It is on this basis and my contention that the deductions from my pension have been made illegally, I should be receiving \$250.00 per fortnight but instead I am receiving \$175 per fortnight. If this was sanctioned by cabinet then my complaint includes each one as well as Mr Neves

Mr Neves asserts in his letter to the daily paper - Cook Islands News - dated 24th June 2014, that the tax choice is that of pensioners. I quote from this publication...*"But when to pay is their choice. All people have to do is make a choice to either pay it along the way, or pay it at the end."*

I was never given this choice and having spoken to many other pensioners who have confirmed this was never an option offered them. Evidently an interview with Mr Neves on Matariki FM where there is recordings to this effect show conclusively that his version of options has changed from what it was in today's paper to what it was in February 2014.

Sincerely

George Pitt

Tupapa cc Mark Brown, Audit Office, Ombudsman, PSC, Internal Affairs.



Congratulations to Mrs Juliana Teinakore Etches

The Woman of the Month for the month of June is Juliana Teinakore Etches, more commonly known as Teina Etches or 'Mrs Etches'. Mrs Etches is married to Peter Etches and together they have 7 children, 15 grandchildren and 1 great-grand child; all of whom she is very close to.

She has a very thriving educational history. Etches was in a special accelerate class in Form 2 at Avarua School and Nikao School in 1958, "Selected students of high academic abilities were chosen to attend this class from all over Rarotonga. The class was composited with Form 2 on a trial basis taken by a teacher from New Zealand, Mrs Beverly Muir. This class was shifted during the later part of the year to Nikao School used as an observation and practical class for a refresher course for teachers on Rarotonga and from the Northern and Southern Group Islands of the Cook Islands." she says.

She then attended Tereora College from 1959 to 1963, majoring mainly in English. At the end of 1963 she received her New Zealand Scholarship and then went on to attend 6th form in NZ at Wairarapa College Masterton in 1964, where she received her NZ Endorsed Certificate.

From 1965 to 1966, Mrs Etches was employed as a Student Teacher at the Wellington Teachers Training College in NZ. As a student teacher she had to take Credit Studies, plan and practice lessons, do lesson observations and reports in schools in the Wellington Board area. "I chose during the second year to specialize in the junior area of the school from New Entrants to Standard 1. I enjoyed working in the grassroots level and marveled

that I could actually have the skill to work with young children and start them off to learn to read and write," she says. In 1967 she was a Probation assistant at Newton School in Wellington, "I was directly responsible to the Supervisor of Junior Classes to plan and implement programmes to cater for the wide range of abilities and needs of my class," she says. This then led her to receive her New Zealand Trained Teachers Certificate upon completion of her Probation Assistant year.

In 1968 she was appointed as a lecturer at the Cook Islands Teachers College in Nikao, which is now the present site of Avatea Primary School. She was also appointed as a classroom teacher at Nikao Side School up until it became Avatea School.

From 1977 to 1997 she was appointed as a Supervisor of Junior Classes, this was the first time the position had been taken over by a Cook Islander as expatriates from New Zealand were usually recruited for that particular position.

In 1997 she became Deputy Principal for Avatea Primary School and filled in the role as acting principal for the school when Principal Dan Turua resigned. She retired from her principal duties at Avatea in 2008.

Aside from her Occupation and Education history, she has been very fond of sports and excelled in Athletics since Grade 4. She always participated in College 'A' Grade Softball and Volleyball events along with College track and field events and netball.

From 1980 to 1989 she was the President for the Matavera Tennis Club and in 1983 she was National Secretary for the Cook Islands Tennis Association.

Her community involvements have gone as far back as 1968, where she was Secretary for the Matavera Youth Club until 1969 before moving onto President for the youth club in 1970, for 4 years. During those years she was a delegate for the Matavera Youth Club to the Cook Islands National Youth Council.

From 1989 to 1992 she was Secretary for the Cook Islands Ecumenical Women's Group and President, Matavera Catholic Women's League

From 1979 to 1992 she was leader of the Avatea School Culture Team and in 1984 led the culture team for a two week Educational Tour of the North Island of New Zealand.

Mrs Etches was appointed as President of the Cook Islands Public Service Association and President of the Cook Islands Workers Association from 1997 to 1998 and represented CIANGO at the Forum for Non Governmental Organizations in 1999.

She was a committee member for Tereora College from 2000 to 2001 and with such an experienced background in education services, was nominated for the Cook Islands National Woman of the year award for education in 2001.

She was also a judge for the Cook Islands Maire Maeva Nui Cultural Celebrations and Te Mire Atu in 2011 and 2013.

Mrs Etches has played a major role over the year at the Cook Islands Teachers Institute, where she was a founding member of the Institute in 1978.

She was a Founding Committee Member for the the Council of Pacific Teachers Organisation (CPTO) to set up and form a separate constitution to enable the women

to have a separate group within the Organization to give women more voice and more chance to get on the Executive Council. In 1989 she was a delegate to CPTO and to the World Organisation of the Teaching Profession (WOTP) in Melbourne, Australia.

In 1994 Etches represented CITI at the World Conference for Teachers and CPTO in Zimbabwe. CPTO was then changed to Council of Pacific Education (COPE). "I became one of the Vice-Presidents for COPE, a position I held until I retired. The WOTP was renamed Education International (EI)", she says. IN 1998 she represented CITI at the COPE and EI in Washington, USA.

From 1994 – 1998 she was President of CITI for 5 consecutive years." Prior to these yearly appointments I was a representative for Primary and Pre-School for over 6 years."

From 2005 to 2006 she became Vice-President of CITI, before fulfilling role as President in 2007.

These days, Etches is a member of the Ooa Fabric and Fibre Sewing Group affiliated to the National Council of Women (NCW). She was nominated as a Vice-President for the NCW for the Northern Group but due to unforeseen circumstances she now holds the title of Assistant Secretary. "I am one of the representatives for NCW on the ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL INC (RSC). I have represented NCW at various workshops and meetings including a major Ministry of Justice workshop on the Bill for Violence against Women Children and Youth."

Mrs Etches Woman of the Month Dinner Awards evening is held tonight at 6.30pm at the Aquarius Hotel where she will be joined by her family, friends and supporters.

2014 Woman of the Month Sponsors:

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9. Martha Makimare - Tivaivai Sponsorship
10. Aquarius Hotels / Voucher
11. Lydia Sijp – Foot Massage/ Pedicure Session
12. The Flametree Restaurant/Dinner Voucher
13. ANZ Bank/Sponsors Trophy
14. Aunty Kafo- Kafoteria Café – lunch for 2
15. International Olympic Committee - Olympic Solidarity.
16. CISNOC - Women in sport Commission/WOM Organising Committee

Tax changes

1. Changes to the Departure Tax Regulations

The Executive Council yesterday passed changes to the Departure Tax Regulations, which will exempt passengers on cruise vessels who are in the Cook Islands from paying Departure Tax. The Honourable Mark Brown, Minister of Finance outlined that he was pleased to see the issue of passengers, who had been in the Cook Islands for longer than 24 hours being liable for departure tax, now cleared up. From 17 June 2014 the following people will be exempt from paying Departure Tax:

- passengers or crew members of a cruise vessel that arrives in the Cook Islands, on the condition that he/she departs the Cook Islands for another country on the same vessel;
- passengers or crew members of a commercial vessel that arrives in the Cook Islands, on the condition that the vessel remains

in the Cook Islands for 72 hours or less and he/she departs the Cook Islands for another country on the same vessel; and

- a person on a vessel that arrives in the Cook Islands directly at Suvarrow Island, on the condition that the vessel does not land on any other island in the Cook Islands and he/she departs the Cook Islands directly from Suvarrow Island on the same vessel.

The changes were also supported by the Leader of the Opposition, Wilkie Rasmussen, who did not object to the changes being made.

2. New Income Tax Regulations

The Government has introduced new Income Tax Regulations to deal with transfer pricing which will apply from 1 July 2014.

The transfer pricing regulations are used to attribute a multinational corporation's

income that is earned partly in the Cook Islands, and partly in another country. In terms of the Cook Islands, the need for these regulations predominantly aims to compliment the changes to the Income Tax Act in relation to seabed mining.

The Regulations prescribe how taxpayers treat transactions between associated entities across jurisdictions and are to be applied in a manner consistent with the arm's length principle in Article 9 of the OECD Model Tax Convention on Income and Capital, and the OECD Transfer Pricing Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and Tax Administrations. The application of the "arm's length principle" is the international consensus on transfer pricing, the valuation for tax purposes, of cross-border transactions between associated enterprises.

When a person enters into a transaction to which the

Regulations apply, the taxpayer must determine its income and expenditures resulting from the transaction in a manner that is consistent with the arm's length principle. If a person does not comply with this requirement, the Collector may make such adjustments as necessary to ensure that the income and expenditures of the taxpayer resulting from the transaction are consistent with the arm's length principle.

The "arm's length principle", in relation to a cross-border transaction, means that the results of the transaction are consistent with the results that would have been realised in a transaction between independent persons dealing under the same or similar conditions.

The regulations will come into effect from 1 July 2014. The Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Wilkie Rasmussen did not object to the regulations being enacted.

Fund to manage public sector debt

Expressions of Interest To provide services related to the Cook Islands Loan Repayment Fund.

The Cook Islands Loan Repayment Fund Act 2014 will come into effect from 1 July 2014, the Act which creates a Loan Repayment Fund will be the central tool used by MFEM to manage all public sector debt moving forward. The initial deposit into the fund will be from the current Loan Reserves which have accumulated from State Owned Enterprises paying back loans taken out on their behalf by the Crown.

Ministry of Finance and Economic Management has sought expressions of interest from all local banks in the Cook Islands to assist the Ministry with the management of the Loan Repayment Fund over a contractual period of four years.

The expressions of interest will assist MFEM to finalise the tender specifications which will then be put out to the market in the Cook Islands in late July 2013.

The 2014 Pre Election Economic and Fiscal Update (PEFU) outlined

that total gross debt (including the full amount associated with Te Mato Vai, which has not been fully drawn down) of the Cook Islands was \$106.8 million (26.4 per cent of GDP).

Against this debt were loan reserves of \$16.8 as at 31 March 2014 (4.1 per cent of GDP), representing a total net debt position of \$89.9 million (22.2 per cent of GDP).

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Points to note

- Correct – The fund applies only to loans and not 'other liabilities'
- Interest on the fund – there's an expression of interest out there for financial institutions to bid for managing this fund which MFEM will soon release as

a tender this week. MFEM does not think there will be a problem with MFEM reporting on the interest the successful bidder will apply.

- Ports Loan – all terms and conditions given to government was passed on to Ports with government only as 'a guarantor' with same interest rates and repayment terms. The loan is about 4% interest and this is directly passed on to Ports.

- Loan fund bill – the loan bill recommended a few things before a loan could be taken – one, a sustainability analysis (if SOE can pay given forecasted cash flow) two, government to charge at least 1% on top for 'risk factor' as being a guarantor. If the SOE cannot pay, government will have to honour the agreement.

- The non-loan liabilities are usually covered by appropriations (putting aside money as part of the Budget allocations) or contingent liabilities (liabilities we may need to pay in future but it is not certain, so are acknowledged but not appropriated)

Mauke embraces One Cook Islands Movement launch



Early tea - check out the crays

A new style of campaigning was launched in support of Mauke's One Cook Islands candidate Nane Williams last Friday evening. The launch was focused on her bid to win the seat in Mauke from sitting Cook Islands Party candidate Tai Tura.

Friday 20 June 2014 saw a large contingent of One Cook Islands Movement Inc officials and supporters fly in to Mauke from Rarotonga and Aitutaki to support OCIM candidate Nane Williams in her official campaign launch which was held in the old cargo shed opposite the wharf.

On Friday's flight to Mauke were OCIM leader Aitutaki MP Teina Bishop, Tupapa Maraerenga MP and OCIM candidate George Maggie and his campaign team, OCIM President George Turia and OCIM National Patron Charles

Pitt. The evening was filled with a celebratory atmosphere with dance performances by the talented Mauke Youth Group. Special mention must be made of their lead female dancer whose dance movements were graceful and expressive reminding one of the style of champion Uirangi Bishop. Ru and his band also travelled from Rarotonga and got the crowd going with some old Mauke favourites.

Nane's campaign Manager and MC for the evening, Frances Taoro did an excellent job of introducing guest speakers Teina Bishop and George Maggie who spoke in support of Nane Williams.

The turnout was excellent and it was good to see people from both the DEMO and CIP camps who came along to hear Nane speak and to present her views on issues of

importance to Mauke, says an OCI spokesperson. It was also an excellent opportunity for people to hear first hand the reasons why George Maggie was sacked from the CIP and the inevitable dissolution of Parliament.

As for the future for Mauke, Nane explained that she intends to revisit major infrastructure projects especially the roads, telecommunications, energy, housing and agriculture. Special attention will also be given to raising the status of women, tourism initiatives to boost the economy and enhancing the development of Mauke Island crafts.

"While the CIP government sings it praises about their achievements for Mauke, the reality is that previous MP's have done very little to boost Mauke's failing economy and have neglected issues such as the roads and housing"

stated Nane. "I'm committed to changing that and to see Mauke better resourced to encourage its population to return home to support tourism and employment opportunities."

Many people spoken to on the night claim they are tired of voting for either of the 2 major political parties. OCI's smallness is attractive and they have taken a positive approach to this election by not criticizing either of the political parties which is good and refreshing. This type of campaigning is appealing and it includes everybody.

Credit must go to Nane's campaign team and supporters for the well organized event which included the raffle draw.

The general consensus was that it was time for change and judging by the reaction from the crowd, this could very well be Nane's time come 9 July.

OCIM team to Mauke



The OCIM salute



OCIM in the Air



Frances



Crowd moves in



Kids in action

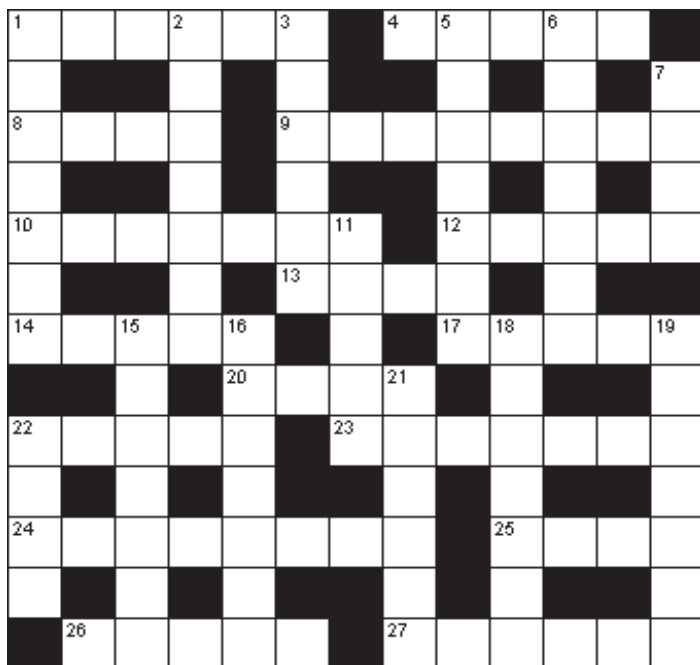


Nane in full flight

OCIM team to Mauke



CROSSWORD

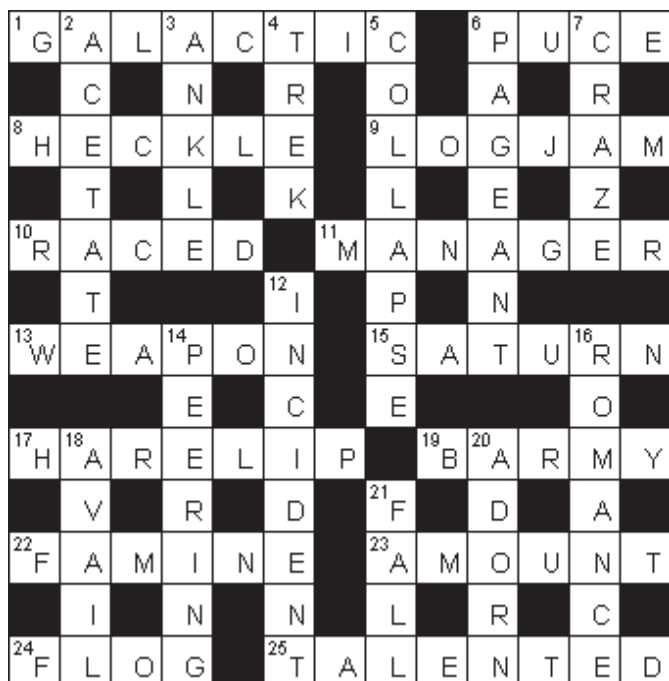


Across

- 1. Period of the year (6)
- 4. Eject (5)
- 8. Fly (4)
- 9. Diminish (8)
- 10. Betrothed (7)
- 12. Worry or cause anxiety in a persistent way (3,2)
- 13. Separate by a sieve (4)
- 14. Seductively beautiful woman (5)
- 17. Fenced areas (5)
- 20. Exude slowly (4)
- 22. Wharves (5)
- 23. Longed for (7)
- 24. Tubular pasta (8)
- 25. Dell (4)
- 26. Gel (5)
- 27. Souvenirs (6)

Down

- 1. Nuns (7)
- 2. Superficial area (7)
- 3. Pokes gently (6)
- 5. Kind or sort (7)
- 6. Division of a book (7)
- 7. Incline (4)
- 11. Giddy (5)
- 15. Adapt for new use (7)
- 16. Opening of the nose (7)
- 18. A coming (7)
- 19. Makes sorrowful (7)
- 21. Weirder (6)
- 22. Dulls (4)



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INTERNET Tips to manage your Data Usage

Keep your system free of malware
There are types of malware out there that can steal bandwidth or data. It's best to have your defences up and scan your system at least once a week with a couple of recommended programs.

Turn off automatic updating of programs
Many programs have by default an option that will allow them to automatically check for and even download updates. Some check once a month; others every day. To save on data, you can disable the automatic updating process. You can then check manually every now and again, at your leisure. Manual checks can often be more accurate than automatic checks anyway – several automatic updaters belonging to software I use personally don't notify you of new versions when they are live.

Turn off automatic backups
Some devices by default have automatic backup enabled, where your data is backed up to a remote site. This is called "Cloud storage". Some internet security programs or other software may have this feature too. Unless you want this to take place, make sure to disable it if it is on by default, or just leave it off.

Disconnect when not actively using the internet
Always make sure to disconnect from the internet when not actually using it for anything. Just because broadband is sometimes misleadingly referred to as an "always-on" connection, doesn't mean you should treat it this way.

Check your smart phone's settings
The iPhone is known to use up data, or airtime if you don't have a data bundle – so you'll pay out of bundle rates. Some have supplied tips that you can use to stop the data from being used, such as turning on Airplane mode, turning off Wi-Fi and notifications, or turning the phone off completely. But others say that none of it will help seeing as the iPhone sends information to Apple, and you can't opt out. One of the chief culprits other than notifications seems to be the weather app that automatically updates. Some smart phones you can opt out and other smart phones don't seem to do this at all

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TE REO MAORI KŪKI AIRANI



Tātā'ia e Ruteru Taripo

Kia Orāna kōtou kātoatoa i tēia mata'iti ōu, rua tauatini mā ta'i-ngauru mā toru (2013). Te irinaki nei au ē, e kua mataora tikāi ta kōtou Kirītimiti ē te maara nei rāi iā tātou te akakoroanga tikāi ō tēia rā. Ē pērā katoa, i roto i te tuātau ōrotē, tē pāpū nei ē, kua mataora rāi te reira na roto i te au tū angaanga tāokotai, raverave ma te inangaro tikāi, ki te pae i tā tātou au tamariki, tō tātou ngā metua, akaperepere, vouvou, kōpū-tangata, taeake ē pērā katoa tā tātou au manu i te ngutuare. Nō reira, e mea tau rāi kia rauka iā tātou kātoatoa i te akameitaki atu i tō tātou Metua Tapu i te rangi teitei no tei tiaki mai, pāruru mai ē kua arataki mai rāi aia iā tātou na roto i te mataiti 2012, ē kua akatae mai iā tātou ki roto i tēia mataiti 2013.

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

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

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

Words for the beginning of this New Year

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

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

Au Tākiato Kōrero Māori (Māori sentences)

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



Pepe-a gift from God

By Charles Pitt

The famous Cook Island singer Pepe Tetua Iro Terei fondly known as Pepe, passed away on Sunday 8 June 2014 at 6.40pm. She was 81 years old.

Pepe achieved fame when she became the first Cook Islands singer to be recorded by Viking records in New Zealand. Her wonderful voice and husband Sonny's masterful compilation of the backing music, saw Pepe rise to number 2 in the music charts, second only to the American hit artist Connie Francis.

Recently, long time friend Bishop Tutai Pere of the Apostolic Church, delivered an emotional and glowing tribute of Pepe and also Sonny, in a television programme.

Bishop Pere recalled how Pepe and Sonny adopted the Pere's second to last (of 7 children) daughter. Some years earlier, Pepe's daughter died at birth. That child was given the name Moana and Sonny composed a moving song to her. Pepe's adopted daughter Miriam, has two young children of her own, Josh and Daniel.

Bishop Pere fondly recalled how Pepe and Sonny after returning to live in the Cook Islands, gave their lives to God in 1988 and supported him with gospel songs and music during his travels for the CICC Church especially to the outer islands.

Bishop Pere said it was Pepe and Sonny who won the competition to come up with a name for the Patrol Boat, calling it Te Kukupa. Sonny composed a song for the boat. On the 21st anniversary of the Patrol Boat, Pepe sang that song at the wharf. It was her last performance. Sonny passed away on 25th November 2009.

Bishop Pere called Pepe's passing as the end of an era, of a girl of the Cook Islands. He thanked God for gifting such a lady.

Bishop Pere has had Raro records compile some CDs of Pepe's songs and he is taking these to Australia when he leaves early Thursday morning.

It is rare that a such a wonderful voice as Pepe's comes along which is why Bishop Pere described her as a gift from God.



Pepe and Sonny with daughter Miriam



Pepe with grandsons Daniel and Joshua

Remembering Pepe and the Rarotongans



News Briefs *By TeRiu Woonton*

CICC workshops

The Konitara Ekalesia are conducting a workshop meeting this evening at 6pm at the Arorangi CICC Hall which will be led by Rev. Vaka Ngaro and Ekalesia legal advisor Iaveta Short on the Growth of the Church and the History of the Church. Earlier in March this year, the Konitara held sessions on the topic 'Same sex marriage' and 'Healing' in the village Nikao. Next month, there will be a Topic on Baptism, led by Rev Vaka Ngaro and Rev Mata Makara will lead the workshop on 'Tithes'. These will be held at the Sinai Hall. The last set of workshops to be conducted in Ngatangia in September will be based on Faith, led by Rev Vaka Ngaro and Rev Aratangi will continue his session on Healing.

Food sales to pay off hostel costs

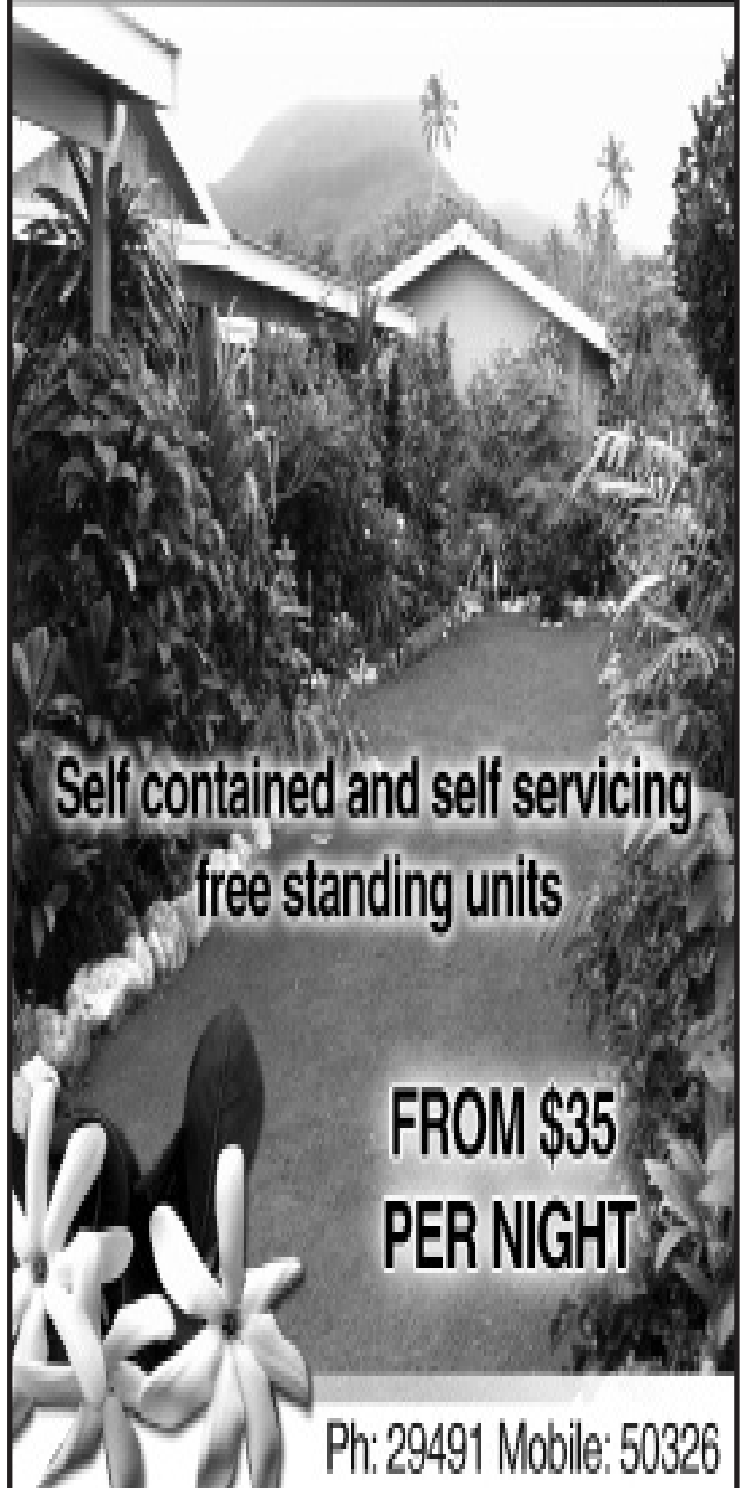
While the Pukapuka Hostel is complete and accommodating the Pukapuka Community both here and overseas, Poila Poila, president of the Pukapuka Community says they have a bit of outstanding accounts to pay off, which they hope to pay off as soon as possible. "For the past 2 weeks, we have been selling plates of food at the Hostel to assist us with our payments and it's always a good turnout. We start selling early in the morning and food will be finished right after 8am" says Poila. The next sale of BBQ chops, chicken, rice, kuru, taro and potato salad will be held this Friday the 27th of June at the Hostel. They will be selling food every fortnight Friday and the variety of food will change over the weeks to come. The target amount they hope to raise is \$90,000. Those willing to support and buy a plate, can pre-order by calling the Hostel on 27222.

Counselling course available

Punanga Tauturu will be hosting a Solution Focused Counseling Course for the 3rd time now for those who are interested in counseling, youth work, and the support network. Sheldon Ramer, psychotherapist who has been working with Punanga Tauturu is the course trainer and will run through courses such as 'The Art of Counseling', Finding and Identifying your inner strength, learning to identify the real problem and solutions. Rebeka Buchanan, Violence against women coordinator says last year they had a turnout of about 30 participants and this year they are looking for more. The courses are set to take place on Monday the 30th of June for 6x weeks- once a week from the hours of 6pm to 9pm. The registration fee is \$60 per person, which covers refreshments and course resources. Those interested in enrolling can contact Rebeka on 21133

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How to make successful decisions

Part 1

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

The purpose of this article is to assist you in making wise, sound and successful decisions that will benefit you, your family or your household. Success is largely a matter of making good decisions. The problem is, with every decision there is an element of risk "Did I do the right thing?" "Did I make the right choice?" "Was it the wise thing to do?"

The Apostle Paul was a professional at decision making and also at taking risks. Acts 15v.26 reads "Barnabas and Paul are men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Because he took risks he accomplished amazing things in life. Many of us have great dreams. Dream to begin a business, to start a new career, to go back to school and get a degree, . But we're afraid to get started because of the "risks" involved. For this article I want us to look from the Book of Proverbs at eight principles, eight steps, or lessons on How To Make Successful Decisions.. This article (Part 1) will cover 4 of these principles or lessons, and next week's article (Part 2) will cover the other 4.

STEP ONE: PRAY FOR GUIDANCE—this is the Principle of Inspiration (motivation or encouragement) Proverbs 28v.26 (Living Bible) "A man is foolish to trust himself. But those who use God's wisdom are safe." Don't just depend on your own opinion. Proverbs 2v.6 "It is the Lord who gives wisdom." You start in any decision making by getting God's perspective. How does He see it? The Bible says there is a way that seems right to us but it messes us

up; it ends in death. James 1v.5 says, "If any man lacks wisdom let him ask God" and he went on to say that, "...the reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask God for it." (James 4v.2[c])

STEP TWO: GET THE FACTS. Proverbs 13v.16 "Every prudent (wise; careful) man acts out of knowledge." Don't make a decision out of ignorance. Find out all you can to help you decide. Don't assume that what people say is true. Proverbs 18v.13 reads "What a shame -- how stupid -- to decide before knowing the facts!" Think before you act. Proverbs 23v.23 reads "Get the facts at any price" When in doubt, check it out. Whatever it takes! Find out the facts! before you get started. The Bible says knowledge is more important than strength.

STEP THREE: ASK FOR ADVICE Talk to somebody who has already taken the risk. Proverbs 24v.6 "The more advice you get, the more likely you are to win." Proverbs 20v.18 reads "Get good advice and you will succeed." Learn from the experiences of others. Proverbs 20v.5 reads "Counsel in the heart of man is like a deep well but a man of understanding will draw it out." You can learn from anybody if you learn to draw it out by asking the right questions. Proverbs 18v.15 reads "The intelligent man is always open to new ideas. In fact, he looks for them!"

STEP FOUR: SET YOUR GOAL Proverbs 17v.24 (GN) "An intelligent man aims at wise actions, but a fool starts off in many directions." Do you know anybody like that? You cannot chase two

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



chickens at the same time. You've got to select. In life, if we want to succeed we need to be clear in our minds what to do. Make our "Goals" clear. We need to have a clear cut purpose. Never take a risk simply to prove ourselves. If you're going to make a decision, you've got to know what you're aiming for.

"An intelligent person aims

at wise actions but a fool starts off in many directions." Remember 1) Pray for guidance, 2) Get the facts right, 3) Ask for advice from experience people, and 4) Set your goals. I hope you will find these 4 steps or lessons useful in making successful decisions in your life. May you have a God blessed week. Te Atua te aroa.

Dragon's Den and a Birthday Party

By Norma Ngatamariki

Okay, people. I have loads to talk about because heaps of things were going on for me last week. On Thursday last week, the Young Enterprise Scheme held a Dragon's Den at the Crown Beach Resort. It was a very formal event, with the New Zealand High Commissioner, Joanna Kempers and the Secretary of Education, Sharyn Paio being two of the four judges. My awesome team, Te Pare Kura, have taken the initiative to sell trendy Bucket Hats with traditional Cook Island designs imprinted on them. All we had to do was present our pitch to the judges' panel and hopefully, win some seriously-needed cash.

The Business class for Tereora College made a draw for when we would present. Te Pare Kura came in third and we were alright with that. I was really nervous because I had so many

numbers in my pitch that I might forget them all. But in the end, we all did pretty good. When all of the groups had finished their presentations, it was time for the judges to make a decision on who would get the largest amount of cash. Aroma (selling Bath salts) and Uratime (selling Cook Island-style workout DVDs) both got a cash prize of \$250. Now, there was some debate on whether Te Pare Kura or Maine Purotu would get the biggest cash prize of the night, so the NZ High Com (bless her) increased the amount from \$1000 to \$1500. Now, that is a lot of money to give up. My group got \$400 and Maine Purotu got \$600 (congratulations, guys!). Woop woop! Food was served but we realised that it was served in papa'a portions (finger food) so, like any other typical Maori, we headed down to Palace for some real tummy-filling food.

Ah, but the week wasn't over yet. On that Friday, it just happened to be my friend's 18th Birthday (Fly like a legal eagle, Hana! Mwah). She was going to have a little birthday get-together at her house on Saturday and the Kuzzins (Me, Justin and Nga) were all invited to attend. First I had to find a present and with a budget of 50 bucks, that's not very easy to do. Eventually, I found the perfect present for my buddy and bought them without even looking at the price. Luckily enough, it didn't go over \$50.

Straight after work, I came zooming home. I had to drive out all the way to Arorangi from Tupapa, so I was in for a long ride. Fortunately, it didn't rain on me and I arrived to Hana's house, safe and dry. The smell of food had already reached me from the road, so I was looking forward to the night. The minute I drove in, I heard the music pumping,



girls laughing and screaming out my name. "Norma!" Yeah, it was going to be a lively night, I told myself. After a wonderful birthday speech from Hana's dad, we all gathered around and ate the glorious food, courtesy of Aunty Jocelyn and my friends. All in all, it was a great weekend.

The digital age

By Nadia George

In this day and age, it's very rare knowing someone who doesn't spend a decent amount of his or her time online. Whether it is surfing through Google, downloading clips and songs, or my own personal favorite... facebooking. Trust me, everyone's doing it, especially since they now have access to Telecoms new 3G network. But then you gotta worry about them eating up all that credit that you have. Thank goodness I have Wi-Fi at home.

At times I feel like I'm wasting away my youth by sitting online for hours on end looking at the same old boring stuff that some how becomes miraculously more interesting than that piece of homework that I really should do. What I should be doing is getting out there and enjoying this beautiful island while I still can, but instead I remain in my room, closed off from the world and I scroll and

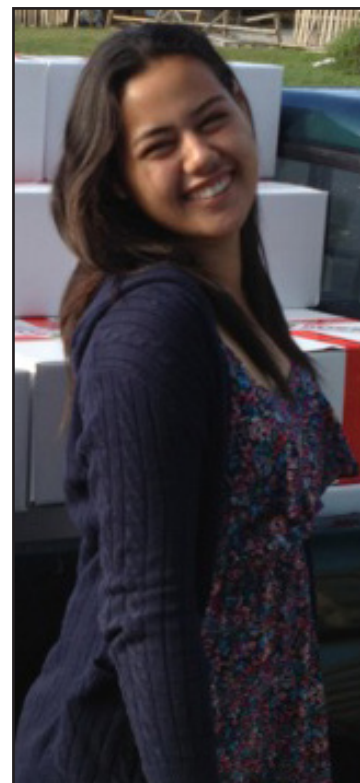
scroll and scroll. I even saw this tumbler photo online a while back and it described Facebook as you an empty refrigerator. You know its empty but you keep checking it anyway. Which is what we all do. Be honest! Don't you love it when you come across those photos that describe the situation you're going through, so perfectly? It's like that one depressing song that everyone can relate too.

Or don't you just love it when you do the casual scrolling through your news feed and you stumble across those conflicting statuses about who did what or the latest updates about the weekend or even, someone else "I'm calling you out" statuses. (Those really make me laugh). So you decide to take a look at the comments and there's a bunch of people throwing comments back and forth about each other. Keyboard Warriors is what they're called. I like to think of myself as a keyboard warrior

sometimes too, but I don't go the extreme like others. Which is really bad I know; cyber bullying is not on guys!

Anyway back to online stuff. Can you imagine what life would be like without the Internet? Think of all the assessments you'd fail because you didn't have Google or Wikipedia to help you out lol. Think of all the songs and videos you'd miss out on. Think of all the people you'd miss speaking to so easily. Can you imagine going back to writing notes to each other; having to wait days, weeks or even months for the mail to come through from that one special person? Torture! We are honestly blessed and privileged to have grown up in this day and age where things are so easy. Life is good and what more could anyone ask for?

Fifty years from now, we'd probably have holographic phones, flying cars or even floating screens. Like the kinds



you see on dystopian films. We live in a world where we have become reliant on technology, what would we do if one day we woke up and it was all gone?

While fat cat Elvis is up north desperately trying to claw his way back into contention the mice he left behind are making every effort to stake their leadership claims. Call me DPM Bulldozer Heta is the everywhere man campaigning for the CIP leadership telling his life story under his mantra, "The Truth and Nothing, But the Truth." Only trouble it was his opponent Nooroa Chopper Baker, who first coined that phrase when he launched his campaign. Talk about stealing someone else's ideas. Not bad for someone who keeps reminding us he is a God fearing Christian.



and cheap deals.

Another government fantasy has been shot down recently. For government to say the priority is infrastructure therefore millions has to be poured into harbour and airport upgrades so the private sector can flourish, is a grim (not Grimm) fairytale. Look at Mauke. Airport and harbour upgraded so where is the development? No sealed roads, no street lights, few tourist villas. What's government's plan for Mauke? More upgrades of the airport and harbour? Mauke was once a flourishing agricultural provider. All that has stopped. Why?

As he drummed up personal support for his leadership of the CIP at the Tupapa rally last week, Mr conflict of interests Heta boasted his Party will win not 17 seats as predicted Mark Brown, but 18, yes 18 seats, therefore bellowed Heta as MP for Tupapa George Maggie looked on, the CIP would not need Bishop or Maggie to be the government, need we require more proof he's a space cadet?

busy contemplating who has the better policies and who might win the great race on 9 July. Our People Our Jobs seems to be the new slogan!

Finance Minister Brown has been lambasting the use of kids in political ads by the Demos regarding repayments of the loans. Brown must remember that with these 30-40 year loans, they will be repaid by future taxpayers, who are the kids of today. The truth is the kids today are more savvy and the CIP are probably upset because they did not think of this strategy first! What government should have done was ensure lessons on "civic" issues are included in schools (like it is in NZ) so kids gain an understanding on how government works, what taxes contribute to and the importance of honouring international agreements. If kids come out of college not understanding these things, whose fault is that?

when the One Cook Islands Movement is about to conduct a campaign launch, the mobile phone service mysteriously goes down. This happened in Aitutaki when Bishop had his launch and again in Mauke when Nane Williams had her launch. Has Telecom Minister Brown been fiddling with the switches? When the CIP have their outer island launches, will the phone service go down? Lets wait and see chooks!

Word is only 50 souls turned up for Nane William's campaign launch in Mauke last Friday night. However, when you look at the TV news footage, it is clearly over 100. And there were more outside looking in. A great turn out for a small island where the roll is only about 185.

This election, there are two things that are going to come full circle and bite Cabinet members on their collective bums. Firstly the tax on the local pension-totally unnecessary. Secondly, the increase in VAT-outer island prices have gone up by more than 2.5% any fool can see that but not MFEM it seems. Outer island pensioners are no better off. For MFEM to say tourists pay some 60% of the VAT, is a misnomer. On any given week, there are some 1800 or less tourists here compared to 15,000 residents. NZ's budget tourists are not spending up large. They are on tight budgets

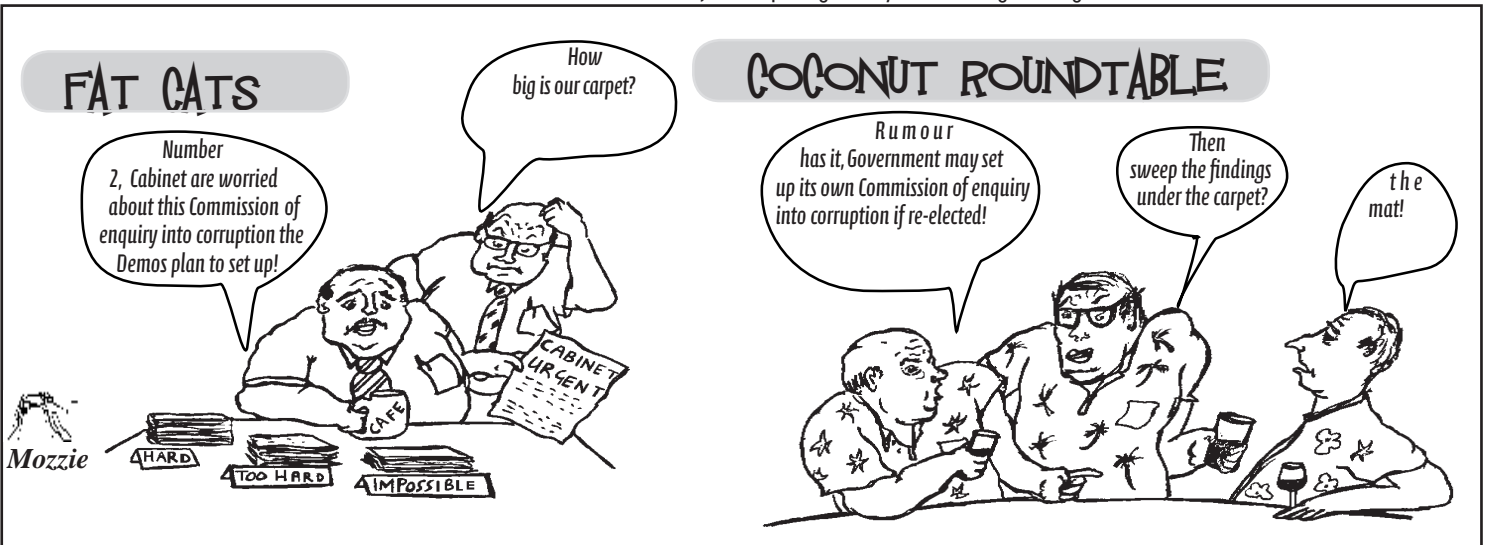
Talk about copy cats or is it a case of follow the leader, leader, leader? After Action man Maggie's successful launch in Tupapa, the other contenders have tried to copy his entertaining format but not with the same flair and pizzaz or success. Not even in Aitutaki could the CIP reproduce the electric atmosphere Bishop's launch generated. The OCIM certainly put the pizzaz back into electioneering!

You won't find any Lookie crayfish on any menu in Rarotonga chooks but you will in the outer islands. Why are no crayfish being flown in to Rarotonga for the tourists to enjoy? Because the outer islanders want this delicacy for themselves. You have to go there to enjoy it and a cray won't cost you the earth.

Someone happened to drop into the Leader of the Opposition's office the other day and was hanging around then they spotted the Demo's wonder boy Drolley had left his computer on at his email page. The eagle eye observer couldn't help but notice the copious exchanges Drolley had between him and his friends neneva Neves and Andrew Haigh at the MFEM office but before he could check some of it out someone came into the office.

The Demo campers are crowing over the criticism about their political kiddie TV ads, as of Tuesday night it had been viewed on the internet by 1788 locals and it had 35,169 hits on the Colagate Cook Islands Facebook site.

Roosters know all about hatching eggs. It's not their job but they do hear all about it from the hens. Big Red has also heard that the Demo Hens are beginning to count their chickens before they hatch. Chooks, is this a case of putting the cart before the horse? Or a case of what came first, the chicken or the egg? The Demo Hens don't seem too worried because the chicks are being counted anyway. The 'egg-and-spoon' race is not yet over but Chook Islands Party workers are already being rung up to be told that they will soon be replaced. That's right, chooks. The cosy coop jobs are already being lined up by the Demo Hens — even as we are



VACANCIES



MINISTRY OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

P.O. Box 8, Rarotonga, Cook Islands. Tel: (682) 20275. Fax: (682) 23725. Email: sonny@votvz.net.ck Web: www.culture.gov.ck

**COOK ISLANDS CULTURAL
AND HISTORIC PLACES TRUST**

Trustees : Registration of Interest

Pursuant to the Cook Islands Cultural and Historic Places Act 1994-95, applications are now being accepted from members of the public who are interested in serving as trustees on the Cook Islands Cultural and Historic Places Trust.

The tenure of each appointment will be for a period of 3 years.

No specific academic qualifications are required for any of the above positions. However, a deep interest, a good understanding and a "sold passion" for various aspects of Cook Islands history, heritage and traditional culture would be a huge advantage.

For further information contact :

Howard Henry
Anthropology Officer at the Cook Islands Museum
Ministry of Cultural Development
Phone 20275, Ext.216.

All Registrations of Interest, and the reasons for such interest, should be addressed to :

Mr Sonny Williams
Secretary for Cultural Development
Ministry of Cultural Development
Avarua, Rarotonga
P.O. Box 8, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

Applications will close at 12 noon on Friday 11 July 2014.

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**INFRASTRUCTURE COOK ISLANDS
– WATSAN UNIT**

Sanitation Upgrade Programme – Panel Members to Provide Design, Supply and Install Services for Rarotonga and Aitutaki Systems Upgrade – CW004/2014

The WATSAN Unit of the Ministry of Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) is planning for the delivery of a four-year 'Sanitation Upgrade Programme' (SUP), which has the overall aim of contributing to the ongoing protection of public health and improvement in the quality of streams, groundwater and lagoons.

A key component of the SUP will be upgrading domestic onsite sanitation systems at up to 1,000 homes in areas of Rarotonga and Aitutaki, to ensure compliance with relevant Regulations and Standards.

The physical works required to upgrade onsite sanitation systems will vary from site to site, ranging from minor repairs or existing septic tank systems, to full design and installation of new secondary treatment and land application systems. The upgrades to these domestic systems must be completed by 31st July 2018.

The SUP follows on from the Waste Management and Sanitation Improvement (WMI) Programme, which included a pilot project to upgrade onsite sanitation systems at over 200 homes in the Muri-Avana area of Rarotonga. That project was successfully delivered through contracts issued by WATSAN, to a 'Panel' of preferred providers of relevant sanitation system design and installation services.

ICI now wishes to identify a Panel of Suppliers ("The Panel") for delivery of the sanitation system upgrade works under the SUP, with a view to commencing physical works during July 2014. ICI therefore invites tenders from suitably qualified and experienced individuals and companies, who wish to be part of that Panel.

To be eligible for inclusion on the Panel, Tenderers must be registered in the Cook Islands as 'Sanitary Professionals and Technicians', in accordance with relevant legislation.

It should be noted that those individuals and companies that were part of the Panel for the WMI Programme, are not required to submit a new tender in response to this RFT for the SUP.

A copy of the Tender document including specifications can be collected during work hours from the ICI Office in Arorangi, or can be requested by email below.

Tenders close at 3pm on Monday 30th June and must be submitted to the ICI Office in Arorangi. Tenders must be submitted in hard copy inside a sealed envelope addressed to:

Secretary
Infrastructure Cook Islands
Po Box 102
Rarotonga
Cook Islands

And clearly marked with "Sanitation Upgrade Programme – Panel Members to Provide, Design, Supply and Install Services for Rarotonga and Aitutaki Systems Upgrade – CW004/2014" and the tenderers name.

Enquiries to:
Tangi Taoro
WATSAN Programme Administrator
P: +682 20-321 E: taoro@ici.gov.ck

TE REO MĀORI KŪKI 'AIRANI



tātā`ia e Rutera Taripo

Kia Orāna `e te kātotoa! Me ko teia tō`ou taime mua ki runga i teia kapi Te Reo Māori Kūki `Airani, "tūrou, tūrou ki teia tu`anga no te `akamātūtū `uātu rāi i to tātou reo Māori Kūki `Airani".

Hello and greetings everyone! If this is your first time to this page Te Reo Māori Kūki `Airani, "welcome, welcome to this section of continuing to strengthen our Cook Islands Māori language".

I teia `epetoma, kua pati `ia mai au kia `aka`oki `aka`ōu mai i tēta`i au tā`anga`anga `anga o tēta`i au kupu, tākiato `ē tēta`i au tākiato-kōrero putuputu i te tuatua `ia mē `ārāvei `ē mē komakoma ki tēta`i tangata.

This week, some readers have asked me to repeat some uses of words, phrases and sentences when meeting and talking to someone.

Tēia tēta`i au `ākara`anga:

Here are some examples:

Au Kupu - Words

`enua - island/land

`ingoa - name

tamā`ine - girl

mānea - beautiful

nō`ea - (from) where

tāne - man

pārata`ito - paradise

mata`iti - year

`akaipoipo - marry

Au Tākiato - Phrases

`enua mānea - beautiful island

`ei-tiare - flower garland

`oe vaka - canoe paddle

nū vene - sweet coconut

rā vera - hot day

tāra`u motokā - car hire/rent

tō`ou kainga - your home

aka`oro pātikara - bike riding

Au Tākiato Kōrero - Sentences

1. **Kia Orāna, ko`ai tō`ou ingoa?**

- Hello, what is your name?

2. **`E pārata`ito mānea tikāi tēia**

- This is really a beautiful paradise.

3. **Nō`ea mai koe?**

- Where are you from?

4. **`Ē`ia o`ou mata`iti?**

- How old are you?

5. **Kua `akaipoipo koe?**

- Are you married?

6. **Tei `ea tā`au tāne?**

- Where is your husband?

7. **E nū vene tēna nū.**

- That coconut (with you) is a sweet one.

8. **Inu `ia!**

- Drink it!

9. **Nō`ou tēia `ei-tiare Māori.**

- This flower garland of Tiare Maori is for you.

10. **Ka `aere tāua aka`oro`oro pātikara.**

- Let us go bike riding

11. **`Āpōpō, ka tāra`u au i tēta`i motokā.**

- Tomorrow, I will hire a motor-car

12. **Ka `inangaro au i te `aere `oe vaka**

- I want to go canoe paddling.

13. **`E vera (tikāi) teia rā**

- Today is (really) hot

14. **Tei `ea tō`ou kainga?**

- Where is your home?

15. **Tei Arorangi tōku kainga.**

- My home is in Arorangi.

KIA MATAORA KOE I TEIA RĀ! - MAY YOU HAVE HAPPINESS TODAY!

