

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

30 July 2014 \$2 (incl VAT)

*Goldmine model,
Tutu, pictured here
wearing a necklace
and earrings from
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2014 Te Maeva Nui Constitution Celebrations

Opening address by the Prime Minister Hon. Henry Puna

Kia Orana
Chief Justice Tom
Weston the Acting
Queen's Representative

Deputy Prime Minister and
the Ministers of the Cabinet

To all the Members of the
Government, Leader of the
Opposition and members of
the Opposition, New Zealand
High Commissioner, Joanna
Kempfers and Members of the
Diplomatic Corps, Kaumaiti and
members of the House of Ariki,
Turi Mataiapo and Members of
the Koutu Nui, Spiritual Leaders
and your Congregations, Heads
of Ministries and all Public
Servants, All our people in the
Outer Islands

Ladies and Gentlemen,
And all our Visitors joining
us for these coming days of
celebrations.

This year's Constitution
Celebrations will be a truly
unique occasion. For one
thing, we are poised to enter a
new phase of our history with
just one year remaining until
we reach half a century!

Yes, this year is the 49th
anniversary of our status as
a self-governing Sovereign
state. While it's an occasion
for celebrations, it is also a
time for reflection, when we
are faced with a significant
range of challenges and issues
– not just as a country that is
still continuing to shape its
international identity but also
as a people, wrestling with
the pressures and demands of
certain choices that were made
all those years ago.

For example, in those days,
our Cook Islands community in
New Zealand was at about the
same level as our population
is today. Now, Cook Islanders
in New Zealand easily total
about four times that number.
So in a sense, depopulation
is a trend that has been with
us for a while. However the
changing demands of Modern
living, our dependence on a
Tourism economy, and this

special and unique relationship
we enjoy with New Zealand,
have been driving factors in the
accelerated levels of mobility
that we must contend with,
today.

In 1965, our political leaders
were so worried about the
Cook Islands being swamped by
incoming New Zealanders that
we asked for a non-reciprocal
access arrangement – as New
Zealand citizens. The ironic
thing is that, today, it is the
large numbers of overseas
Cook Islanders, who could
easily swamp us! But we know
they're not going to do that.
Not all at once anyway! But
we do hope that quite a few of
them would join us next year
for our 50th Celebrations!!

While we are not faced
with that prospect today,
the issues related to our
mobility and residence will
no doubt continue to become
more pressing over time. So
I am happy to say, that as
a government, we will be
embarking on a number of
policy considerations in the
near future so that we can be
better prepared and equipped
to sustain ourselves well into
the future – well past the 50
years we will be celebrating
next year.

I will therefore soon be
announcing the preparations
of several forward-looking
initiatives, which are both
a continuation of the
achievements we have made
in recent years, and a more
concerted commitment to
addressing concerns and areas
where we are perhaps more
vulnerable.

Thankfully, the core of who
we are as Cook Islanders has
endured for many years – in
spite of the pressures and
constraints. I am grateful to
our Ministry of Culture for
recognising this by applying
another theme to our
celebrations this year, which
carries a great deal of cultural



PM Henry Puna

significance: Te Rakei Tupuna O
Toku Matakeinanga.

The costumes of our tribes
and communities are an integral
part of our identity.../not just
in a physical sense but also in
a spiritual sense. They are the
cloaks of our nationhood –
embracing the past, present,
and future; and reflecting
the qualities and spirit of our
heritage through traditional
practices, performances, and
presentation. I truly believe
that our cloak of identity as
a country and as a people is
founded on the twin foundation
of our cherished traditional
practices and as well as our
solid Christian beliefs. That is
why despite the dislocation in
our community caused by the
recent general elections, we
are able today to put aside our
differences and come together
as one people to celebrate our
oneness as Cook Islanders.
Such peace and grace!!

These are the symbols of how
important it is to enrich our

future through the preservation
of our culture, our language,
and our traditions. And they
are the fabric of a society that
strives to come together, to
stay together, to uphold its
values, and to better itself by
remaining true to its beliefs.

In opening these festivities
today, I am encouraged that
these celebrations will continue
to enrich the historical occasion
of our Constitutional status
with the strengthening of our
cultural heritage.

In closing I wish to ask you all,
men and women of the Cook
Islands, to help me and your
Government in putting together a
highly successful and memorable
50th Anniversary Celebrations
next year, one that we today and
Cook Islanders of tomorrow will
always be proud of.

I now declare the 2014 Te
Maeva Niu Celebrations open
and wish you all success and
enjoyment in a safe and happy
festival.

Kia Manuia

Electoral petitions...

Chief Justice makes his views known

"And, if we are going to hear these petitions within the three months contemplated by Article 29 of the Constitution, we are all going to have to put our shoulder to the wheel to make that happen." -Chief Justice.

In a minute issued on Tuesday 29 July 2014, the Honourable Chief Justice Tom Weston set out some observations intended to guide the parties to the petitions and also some clear hints as to the timing of resolution of the issues. Set out below is the full text of his minute.

[1] I will shortly set out some observations which are intended to guide what then follows and, in setting out those observations, I will be giving some fairly clear hints as to the timing of resolution of those sort of issues. Now, that is all they are (observations). If any one of you appearing has a problem with those in a particular case or generally I expect to hear from you. But, unless you know what I am thinking, you have got nothing to push against and you should feel free to push on any of these topics. With that sort of overarching observation let me now get into the particular observations I want to make.

[2] As you know, we have nine petitions and that is quite a challenge both for the Court and, I imagine, for those of you who are appearing, and equally for those of you who, as politicians, have an interest in this. And, if we are going to hear these petitions within the three months contemplated by Article 29 of the Constitution, we are all going to have to put our shoulder to the wheel to make that happen. I do have to flag the possibility that if my hopes and expectations today are not fulfilled (for what may be good reasons) then there may need to be consideration given now to the possibility that we do not achieve resolution of these by mid October which is roughly the three months period.

[3] In saying that, I also acknowledge the possibility of appeals to the Court of Appeal. As I understand the law, that of itself will not necessarily prevent the calling of Parliament but equally it is something that we all need to bear in mind. I have spelt that out to show we have a timing problem on our hands.

[4] And, if nothing else, can I respectfully suggest to the politicians who are sitting in the back of the Court that, in due course, all of this does point to the desirability of reform. The fact that we are here today presented with such a significant logistical problem, the country is not able to get on and manage itself particularly with the 50th anniversary coming up next year, all shows that reform is desirable. There has been plenty of discussion about that both in the papers and amongst officials. I know that Sir Hugh Williams who is one of the Judges of this Court has provided advice because he chairs the New Zealand Electoral Commission. So there is plenty of material available that can be used and there really needs to be political will to carry that forward. Of course, there is nothing that the Court can do about that other than to make the observation that I just have but the reality is that the current Act results in huge pressure on a part-time Court.

[5] Let me illustrate that. We have ten scheduled hearing weeks a year for general and criminal business of the Court. If each of these petitions takes only two days, and allowing for some slack in between times, there are some four or five weeks that would be taken up in hearing the petitions. That is fully 50% of the time that otherwise we are expected to dispose of the business of the Court. We will allocate special hearings for these petitions but I hope my example shows what a major undertaking all of this is.

[6] Because of these problems, I am going to need to make some pretty tight directions and I appreciate that for some of you that is going to place real pressure on you, but that is going to be the reality of this. That may well mean that some lawyers from time to time are going to be working 24/7, it may mean some of the parties and those

helping the lawyers will be doing the same, but my expectation is that you will do that. There is a risk that if you do not meet directions that are made either today or over the next few days that there may be striking out or costs consequences.

[7] I also need to flag the possibility, and we will come to this in a moment, that if allegations of fraud are improperly made (without proper basis), I will also be asking relevant Judges to consider the question of costs award against Counsel. I want to make it quite clear that these fraud allegations are regarded extremely seriously. I do not want to say that in any sort of threatening way, and those of you who are appearing know the obligations upon Counsel making fraud allegations, but I want to emphasize in open Court just how seriously the Court takes such allegations.

[8] So the consequences of all of this are as follows. First, I want the lawyers and the parties to focus on what are the main allegations. I have read these petitions and I have to say with respect some of them are just rubbish. There are silly things that have been raised. Let us stick to important issues that are going to have consequences.

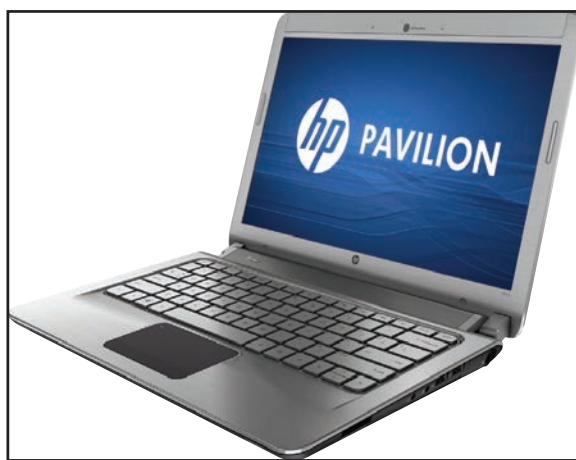
[9] The second thing is that, and we will come to this again, I do want proper particulars given. I am happy to hear from those on the

Continued bottom of page 10



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POLYNESIAN LEADERS GROUP SUMMIT

Fisheries and SIDS concerns dominate Polynesian agenda



Regional fisheries and the forthcoming Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) meeting in Samoa were the dominant issues raised and discussed during the fourth Polynesian Leaders Group (PLG) Summit.

The Summit was held in Auckland on 26 July prior to Pacific Leaders departing for the Forum Meeting in Palau, which kicks off this week. Finance Minister Mark Brown led the delegation to PLG4 and is in Palau as the Prime Minister's representative for the Cook Islands.

The Polynesian Leaders agreed to work more closely together on fisheries issues. They were largely motivated by the impacts on the fisheries

resource from ocean warming, ongoing concerns about over-fishing, and the desire to increase the catch returns. The Leaders heard from newly-appointed Ambassador Shane Jones, who is stepping up regional efforts as New Zealand's link to the Pacific on economic development. The PLG is now keen to get traction in developing strategies and plans where Jones is able to assist the member countries with their fisheries goals.

Also discussed were energy, sustainable development and Tokelau's application to be an Associate Member of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

The one-day Auckland gathering of the eight Polynesian Leaders Group

members also expressed unanimous support for Samoa, which is hosting the global meeting of SIDS in early September. Of concern to the PLG is to ensure the Pacific has increased solidarity and a strengthened presence and profile in Apia. The Leaders said they would make every effort to build momentum around the Pacific in the lead-up to the SIDS Meeting.

On a number of procedural items, the PLG also agreed to formulate a clear process within which territories, organised entities or groups of Polynesian peoples could access the Group as Observers or Members. Niue Premier Toke Talagi assumed the Chair for the next 12 months taking

over from French Polynesia. (The outgoing chair was Nuihau Laurey of French Polynesia who represented the territory after its president Gaston Flosse pulled out last week as France's highest court ruled that he vacate all political offices).

Two presentations were made to Leaders from Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei, and leading global solar company Shunfeng (Suntech).

Apart from the Cook Islands, two other Polynesian Leaders were unable to attend the meeting. French Polynesia was represented by its Vice-President, and the Governor of American Samoa sent apologies for his non-appearance.

Our Frontpage model



Our front-page model this week is 25 year old Tutu Napa who works at Marekos Giftshop. Tutu recently returned from New Zealand where she was a mechanic apprentice, she is back in Rarotonga for good, with her 4 year old daughter. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald

Letter to the Editor

A rose among the thorns

Dear Editor,

I am amazed at the hostile reaction by Norman George against Rose Brown for soundly beating him at the polling both in Atiu. Why can't Mr George accept his defeat is the will of the people who have chosen without pressure to do so, to vote for a change of MP? Norman has had his turn and as the Kata cartoon depicted he has done very little to retain the people's support. To accuse Rose of bribery because she has been helping people is simply ridiculous, that's what people do in the small isolated communities in the sister islands especially where nearly everyone is related in one way or another. People who have businesses are turned to for help more often than not. Norman does not live in his constituency like Rose does; she is exposed to the needs of people every day unlike Norman who is far removed living on Rarotonga.

Unlike Norman, the hard working Rose has sought and found ways to be helpful to people in need rather than make up excuses why something can't be done or resolved. Many times she has been taken advantage of because she is a good hearted person and has been chosen by the people because it is their recognition of her love towards them. Norman is saying some very defaming things through the international media about Taoro, Rose's husband and to her credit and dignity she has remained composed and forgiving. Rose has entered the grubby world of politics and is winning wide support through her refusal to be drawn into retaliative debate over Norman's onslaught of spiteful, false accusations. Rose is a breath of fresh air and will be a real asset to the country as an MP. She is indeed a rose among the thorns, I along with many others wish Rose a very productive political future and all the best to Taoro for paving the way for Rose and supporting her through the rough introduction thrust upon her by her uncle Norman.

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Secret \$1 million handout

Were Outer Island voters bribed by CIP?

The Financial Secretary Richard Nevea Neves and his boss Minister of Finance Mark Brown have some serious matters to explain to the people of the Cook Islands. On the 2 July, just one week before the 2014 Elections at a secret meeting of the Executive over \$1 million was approved for outer Island expenditure. It is believed that Minister Teariki Heather was the chairman at this meeting and signed off on the approval.

None of these expenditure items appears to have been listed in the Pre Election Economic and Fiscal statement (PEEFS) nor were they discussed in the informative meetings conducted by Neves and his team for the political Parties prior to the Elections. No doubt the politically compliant Neves will craft a response that fudges any questions raised over the unannounced financial windfall for the outer Islands.

How much did this influence or sway the outer Island voters to support CIP candidates? In their visits to the outer Islands the CIP campaigners made many promises of support if the CIP retained government. To prove the promises were not empty words, after the Executive meeting of 2nd July, highly confidential copies of the minutes were circulated to the outer Islands and in particular shown to the heads of large families who have the clout to sway who family members to vote for, how crucial are these families when they vote? Quite crucial to the point that these families could easily determine an election outcome on the promise of what is contained in the highly confidential Cabinet minute.

No announcements were made on Rarotonga about the



Mark Brown and Financial Secretary Richard Neves

\$1 Million outer Island hand out, but it was widely and openly promoted there, as a result, a copy of the Executive minute received from an outer Island source is published for public consumption and consideration.

The secrecy of the Executive decision for what are clearly public monies is beginning to materialize and for the Rarotonga audience raises the suspicion of a sinister motive by the CIP care taker government. On examination of the priority of allocating the hand outs raises the question of timing, was this a last desperate attempt to confirm the electioneering promises? If the outcome of the general election result in the outer islands is anything to go by it would seem the CIP plan has worked.

Why these funds were allocated so close to the Elections when they could have waited for one week? What

difference seven days would have made to the physicality of completion? Was this a bribe to secure the outer Island vote? Were these items priority issues or projects for the recipients, please explain the necessity of each allocation Mr. Neves and Brown? We are told funds are scarce and must be prioritized, if there were funds for what appears to be frivolous projects why couldn't Neves and Brown reimburse the \$30,000 to Grey Power members whose bank accounts were illegally raided by Henry Puna's heartless CIP administration?

While two tenders currently are being advertised in Rarotonga newspapers their amounts are listed in the Executive minutes. The Cook Islands Investment Corporation's tender advertising for a School Bus for Mangaia has \$80,000 allocated for it and the Infrastructure Cook Islands tender for the supply

and fabrication of fuel tanks for Aitutaki has an allocation of \$160,000. This gives the impression the advertised tenders are mere window dressing and a parade for the gallery with the contract recipients preordained. When the tenders are eventually awarded it will become clearer if these contracts were fairly contested and transparent.

Noted also was the approval of an additional \$23,000 towards the Head of State to attend the 90th Anniversary celebration of the Avele College in Samoa. What then was the total cost of this trip which has been criticized as being a private personal trip that has no relevance to the position or duties of the Queen's Representative? Like all living ex students of Avele College, Tom Marsters was invited to attend and participate in the Anniversary. - George Pitt



Executive Council

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ECM (2014) 018

Copy No: 018

Issued: Wednesday, 2 July 2014

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ECM (14) 018 At a meeting held on Wednesday, 2 July 2014, the Executive Council

Considered A paper dated 1 July 2014, submitted by the Hon. Mark Brown, Minister of Finance

Entitled End of Year Outcomes and approval to amend Operating and Capital Expenditure Budget for 2013/14

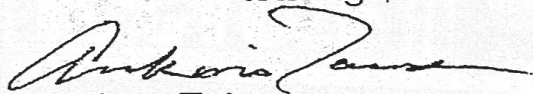
Concurred With the decision of Cabinet contained in Cabinet Minute, CM (14) 0214

Passed The following additional items of operating and capital expenditures to be incurred over and above the 2013/14 appropriation, capital savings and changes in delivery of certain capital expenditures to financial year 2014/15.

1. Approved an additional \$0.025 million towards the Cook Islands Rugby.
2. Approved an additional \$0.030 million for the Ministry of Agriculture towards the Fruitfly eradication.
3. Approved the transfer of Operating to Capital Expenditure for Education of \$0.088 million as provided in Appendix A.
4. Approved an additional \$0.023 million towards the Head of State to attend the 90th Anniversary celebration of the Avele Agricultural College in Samoa.

Continued next page

5. Approved an additional \$0.030 million towards the hosting of the Oceania Championships being held in Rarotonga.
6. Approved an additional funding of \$0.060 million towards topping up the Health Referral POBOC.
7. Approved the funding of \$0.045 million to purchase oxygen cylinders until the oxygen plant is operational.
8. Approved increase in Capital Expenditure of \$0.102 million
 - a. To reinstate the Tauhunu Power Generator, Manihiki, \$0.089 million
 - b. To complete the veranda extension of the Pukapuka Cyclone Centre, an additional \$0.005 million
 - c. To enlarge the Mitiaro Machinery Shelter, an additional \$0.008
9. Approved changes in delivery of Capital Expenditure of -\$0.205 million as result of deferral to 2014/15.
 - a. Vaimaru Water Upgrade, -\$0.056 million
 - b. Fuel Storage Facility on Aitutaki, -\$0.160 million
 - c. Water Pumps on Aitutaki, -\$0.007 million
 - d. Mini Transformers on Aitutaki, -\$0.013 million
 - e. School Bus for Mangaia, -\$0.080 million
 - f. Bridges and drainage, \$0.013 million
 - g. Road Network Maintenance, \$0.089 million
 - h. Pukapuka Bobcat, \$0.002 million
 - i. Atiu Power Distribution, \$0.007 million
10. Approved the capital savings of -\$0.463 million
 - a. Education building completion, \$0.013 million
 - b. Manihiki Barge Outboard motors, \$0.013 million
 - c. Complete Climate Adaptation of Manihiki Harbour, \$0.020 million
 - d. Renewable Energy Project Management and Support, \$0.041 million
 - e. Community Capital Development Fund, \$0.017 million
 - f. National Health Renewal Programme, \$0.088 million
 - g. Orongo Development Master Plan, \$0.061 million
 - h. Asset Management Information System, \$0.147 million
 - i. Various capital items with saving less than \$0.010 million each, totaling \$0.063 million.



Aukino Tairea

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Tento Toilet Tissue



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Red Cross identify strengths and weaknesses

By Nadia George

The National Red Cross Society of the Cook Islands hosted a three-day workshop that focused on identifying strengths and weaknesses within our own National Red Cross Society. The process, which was developed by the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), looks at an initiative that helps identify the strengths and weaknesses of a sector and helps with the development of this and strengthening in weaker sectors to help build them up once again. The workshop looks at assessing each sector of a National Society and categorizing each attribute into levels ranking from 'A' being an at risk category or a sector needing a lot of development, and an 'E' category being that of the high ranking amongst categories, having a sector completed and right on track with its assessment and evaluation. Many individuals from the various branches that we have within the Cook Islands have all



flown in to attend this workshop, which is being facilitated by Teresita Usapdin and Camini Pinnalawatte of the IFRC. At the

end of this prominent three-day workshop, all participants would have worked together to produce a final action plan that looks at strengthening those areas in which they had found to be struggling and identifying those that are doing just fine.

From Page 3

responding end of petitions if they think that they do not understand what has been said or they want some more details.

[10] Thirdly, I am disinclined to order discovery on the bribery allegations except in very clear and limited circumstances because discovery tends to slow things down and generally is not consistent with an election petition type of allegation. But, as I say, if you have got particular grounds, and you want it, you tell me.

[11] Fourthly, I am likely to be ordering that all hearings take place in Rarotonga unless there is good reason to go to one of the outer islands concerned. Now I say that with great reluctance. Election petitions, as a matter of democracy, should I believe be determined in the relevant constituency, but in the current circumstances I cannot presently see how we could do that in a logistical sense. Too much time would be spent travelling because only two of the nine petitions at the moment concern Rarotonga constituencies. So seven out of nine are about an outer island, and that presents huge challenges and also huge costs. But, again, if you think there are particular reasons your petition should be heard in your constituency, let me hear about it.

[12] Fifthly, there will be realistic security sums paid. Historically we have been nudging just above the \$5,000 figure. The figures have slowly increased over the years. What we have found is that actual costs awards are frequently exceeding the amount of security paid into Court and we need to have realistic security sums ordered. It will also be the case that if we have decided that your petition needs to be heard in your constituency, that may have security consequences in relation to the costs of getting everybody to that constituency. Under Section 101 of the Act, the Court has power to award costs in due course in relation to the entirety of the election petition, and that will include airfares. So if, for example, a plane needs to be chartered to go to your island and that is going to cost some particular sum, then

there is a real possibility that that sum will be added on top of your security if you are the applicant and you will be required to pay that.

[13] Sixthly, my current anticipation is that we will deal with petitions in one or two day hearings. If you think yours is a one day hearing that is great. We will try and accommodate that. If it is a two day hearing, which may well be the majority of them, then you may have to cut your cloth to meet that time restriction. Again, if you have got particular grounds, and think your petition should be longer than that, we will hear about it, but you will appreciate with nine of these you have only got to do some simple arithmetic to see how every extra day on say even half of the petitions will have quite dramatic consequences in terms of how we are going to dispose of these.

[14] The final point that I want to make is that I do see the Chief Electoral Officer having a greater role in these elections than has been the case in the last two elections which have led to petitions in which I have been involved. And the role that I see concerns the challenges to qualification of voters. For example, in relation to Murienua, there are 17 challenges to people not entitled to vote. If we are to go through each one of these we are going to spend a lot of time doing that.

[15] What my present intention is that I will direct the Chief Electoral Officer to investigate each one of the qualification allegations in each petition and present a report to the Court, and we will have to timetable that obviously. It will be assumed by me that there will be liaison with the lawyers concerned for the respective parties in order to assist the Chief Electoral Officer together with advice from Crown Law to get what I hope will be the right answer on that. Now let us assume 80% or 90% of those challenges are sorted in that process. That will mean that, when we get to trial, we are going to focus on the really difficult ones.

[16] That covers my preliminary points.

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Meitaki Maata for your contribution!



BCI Trade Days underway

At 9am on Tuesday morning the BCI Trade Days got under way across the road from the Banana Court complex. Organised by the BTIB, the major sponsor for the event is the BCI which is the sole Gold sponsor. Although some 34 vendors are taking part, several did not set up due to the poor weather conditions. The Atiu stall did not set up and the Manihiki stall closed early. On this first day, it was mainly local artisans selling a range of crafts, carvings, artworks, local foods and drinks. Trade Days regulars like carver Henry Tavioni and funky style artist Julz, feature again. The event will go through to Friday. Although the day was overcast and constantly drizzly, a good crowd braved the elements to turn out.



Ngatokorima Paia and Justin Pokino was among the many vendors that were selling modern bucket hats with traditional prints, that were put together by Taylor Wise and printed by Turtles. —Poko Utia



Another vendor that was also selling Paia and Pokino's bucket hats was Windy Tuara who sold little girl's dresses and lady's dresses. These were hand made by herself from material that was brought in from China. —Poko Utia



McLeod Pearls was a vendor that was selling pearl necklaces, pearl earrings and pearl bracelets. The pearls were brought in from Manihiki and made here on Rarotonga. —Poko Utia



A regular at these events, local carver Henry Tavioni's quality works again featured prominently. Carved products included Tangaroas, combs, sandals, model vakas, weaved fans, pates, dolls and other products. —Poko Utia



Roteek Enterprises main product is the Pataapuka seed which is used to make necklaces and bracelets. The business helps people from the northern group by bringing in their products and selling it to make profit. The seeds are sent over by family members so if you are looking to purchase these seeds you would have to have connections to that particular island in order for it to be picked and sent down. *Poko Utia*



Rola prints were selling produce and products made from the coconut tree. It was coconut scones, kiko-Nu pie, coconut bread and coconut cinnamon. The owner's personal favourite was the kiko-Nu pie. They also sold artificial flowers and pareu. *Poko Utia*



A regular at this event, well known Funky Artist Julz was selling her unique artworks and hand painted pareus. Her works are all handmade with a choice of hand painted items or prints. *Poko Utia*



Rongo Oti and Mii Enea were among the crowd of stall sellers down at the Trade Days market selling their Maukean made oils, goat meat, banana pancakes and ketes that they brought over with them from Mauke. Mama Rongo spoke of the difficulties of producing the akari pi oil. Starting with collecting coconuts that from the inland bushes then taking the coconuts home to husk. The next day they begin to grate the coconut, but must wait for a fine day to continue to squeeze the flesh of the coconut because the grated flesh may freeze in cold weather. Once the coconut cream has been extracted, they begin to boil it, which usually takes about four hours to produce one small batch. The final process of the oil is to then cook the oil in herbs called "pi", which is also found in the bushes of Mauke. The finished oil is then bottled and sold. Mama Rongo and Mii will be down at the Trade Days till Thursday selling their assortment of oils for only \$22, Mori Tiare Maori at \$15 and ketes at \$40. – *Nadia George*

Some lows in the High Court

By Rod Henderson

In a recent High Court case a jury of twelve men and women sat to determine the facts of a fraud case against Avitesh Prasad a former employee of the Aitutaki Resort and Spa.

The Crown in their case alleged Prasad who held the position of head accountant at the Aitutaki resort embezzled the not so insignificant sum of \$10,495. This crime they said was committed by him short-changing a number of his fellow employees of their full pay entitlements by diverting their money into another employee's account from which he obtained the proceeds.

The Crown said these offences occurred over a 2 year period from 2011 to 2012 and involved 31 instances which could be traced through the resorts accounting paper trail. They would show that on 30 occasions siphoned monies were diverted into Prasad's friend's accounts and just once into an account he owned.

A four poster file filled to the brim with copies of spread sheets, pay details, names, copies of bank statements and audit reports was compiled and distributed by the Crown to all the court officials and jurors. This impressive mountain of hard evidence suggested a large and well calculated fraud had been committed and they had the paper work to prove it.

Five local witnesses were called by the prosecution to prove their case. The first was the Aitutakian friend whose account was used to bank the tainted money. He was followed by his wife who also had some monies paid into her account. She was followed by the Resort Manager who had overall control of the payroll area and finally a local Detective Sergeant who was landed with the neatly packaged file.

To add muscle, two witnesses were flown in from overseas. The first was a New Zealand based private detective who had earlier investigated the allegations. The next import was a Forensic Accountant based in Sydney who also gave evidence on his findings.

This power packed team had everything, everything except

the ability to convince the jury that they had an ironclad case.

As a casual observer and somewhat familiar with the mechanics of running a successful case I was astounded at the absence of any of the resort's employees who the Crown said lost money to Prasad. None were called and their voice was never heard. Further and also most surprising was that not one of those unfortunate workers made a complaint to management of any under payments. To add insult to injury the court heard that the losses had come to light as a result to a junior accountant at the resort coming across anomalies in the payroll system. This key witness was also noticeable by his non appearance.

Having been charged with the embezzlement of \$10,495 from the resort, defence counsel Norman George argued that the resort had not suffered any loss at all. It was the employees who missed out, not the resort which rang true to me, but the case went on.

The defence called their only witness to the facts, being the accused himself. He gave his version of the missing monies, admitting he had made some mistakes but denying he stole any money. He did concede however he has paid back the entire amount said to have been stolen, plus another \$10,000. He told the court the private detective ordered him to pay for the investigation and he agreed to do so.

After a three hearing days the jury retired to consider its verdict. After deliberating they returned with a finding that the accused was guilty of only one of the 31 charges, this amount being a mere \$298.80 compared with the \$10,495 he was originally charged with.

The Judge convicted Prasad of one count of theft as servant and discharged him without penalty.

He said that because of the relatively small amount and the fact Prasad had already paid \$20,000 to the resort, he did not intend to penalize him.

So there you have it! Thousands spent. Weak evidence and an astute jury that could read the play!

This case unfortunately is not unique. Other recent serious cases put before Cook Islands High Court by the Crown have also come to a similar fate at great expense to tax payers.

Without going into details I recall the homicide trial into the death of Arorangi man John Chambers. Two men were present during his death. Only one was charged with murder and he was acquitted shortly after the jury retired to consider its verdict. The prime suspect walked free.

Then there was the death of a young nurse on Mangaia. A member of her household was charged with her murder and after a lengthy trial he was too was found not guilty.

Other recent cases that come to mind are a rape trial and drug

cultivation trial both of which resulted in acquittals.

It is conceded that the Cook Islands Police Department is under resourced and lacks experience in investigating serious crime. This of course has a real bearing on the outcome of court hearings, but in the matters I have raised the Crown has the role of ensuring the police evidence covers all the relevant points of proof and that the best case is put before the court or alternatively withdrawing charges where evidence is unavailable.

While the incoming government will no doubt be engaged in responsible governance I suggest they take a close look at the Crown Law Department and do the numbers.

Small Islands States meeting in Palau

On behalf of the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister Mark attended the Small Island States (SIS) meeting in Palau on Tuesday. This is the first meeting of a busy schedule that includes the opening Forum Plenary on Wednesday, Leaders Retreat on Thursday and the post Forum Dialogue Partners meeting on Friday.

SIS Leaders discussed a number of pressing development issues relevant to the challenges associated with their vulnerable status. High on the agenda for discussion was the Majuro Declaration on Climate Change, the Palau Declaration on Oceans, Pacific Framework on regionalism and preparations for the Small Islands Developing States meeting in Samoa later this year.

Minister Brown noted that the SIS meeting is an ideal place for the seven smaller Pacific countries to discuss key issues as a strong alliance to deliver as one their agreed priorities to the wider Forum grouping. The commitment to the stewardship of the Ocean was unanimously agreed by the members with support given for a standalone UN Sustainable Development goal.

The leaders also discussed ways to further enhance the role of the Forum Secretariat to better meet the growing needs of the SIS. Leaders recognised that the SIS issues are not receiving the attention that perhaps they should be getting due to their extremely vulnerable status. Leaders agreed to a review of the SIS unit to look at performance over the past five years. Minister Brown believes this is a crucial first step in determining what is needed to build a new strategy that will elevate SIS development needs to a higher status in the regional framework.

However Minister Brown notes that further work is needed beyond a new strategy as the most important part of any new plan is resourcing implementation. "I see resourcing as a priority to maintaining the unity of the SIS grouping and delivering tangible projects that makes a difference on the ground."

Surgery on a float and a Mangaian mountain

By Courtney Matai

Working with my friend Poko the whole of yesterday was very exciting as we were put in charge of taking pictures of people as well as their floats on the day, as part of the beginning of the Te Maeva Nui celebration. Most times we had to man up and ask dancers and drummers to stop what they were doing so we could take their photo. It was a bit awkward when we had to ask people from school to turn around and smile when they don't feel like a photo opt. It was such a drag as most spectators like myself were beginning to become impatient and irritated with waiting for the floats in the pouring rain.

Walking along the roads we noticed a few tourists waiting near the Little Polynesians and asked if we could take their picture in return they take one of us. Tiring as it was walking up and down the sidewalk, the parade had made its way through town. Finally! All that could be seen as far as the eye can see, were kids scrambling on the roads, catching lollies that were thrown by people on the floats. I however was too shy and embarrassed to pick up the lollies on the ground for people (mainly Tereora College students) will notice that I'm eating lollies of the ground. As the floats made their way towards the front of the Court House, they had a little performance prepared for those who sat underneath the marquee. The best floats on the day were the Ministry of Health because their float was in a way, displaying health issues and a surgery at the back of their pick up. Mangaia however caught my eyes as their float had a mountain looking art form that had people carrying it from underneath, swaying it



Courtney Matai from side to side and boys that were acting as warriors which looked very convincing.

Last but not least, Takitumu (my village), looked stunning as the dancers costume looked amazing as well as more traditional-looking. The little ones looked so adorable in their costumes accompanied by their parents and grandparents that help them put on their costume. The funny bit about being a part of the spectators is that I could hear people's opinions on all the floats which made me laugh as they mainly commented on the floats that my mates were a part of.

Another float was very impressive was the Nikao groups one because they had an actual 'spit' happening on the back of the pickup and dancers like Ake Turaki, who were dancing enthusiastically behind their float for support. Colors filled the street as the floats processed their way in and out of town leaving lolly rappers and spectators returning to work or out of the rain. The Te Maeva Nui Float Parade was not at all what I expected, but hopefully the next one to come will be EPIC and hope that the whole of town will be full of both spectators and performers.

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Part 4 of 7: Using the Basic Programs

Use the Office Suite. If you have the newest version of the Office Suite which was designed to pair with Windows 8, you may notice that it has a much more sleek interface. The functionality is largely the same, however, to Office 7, so if you are acquainted with that version you should have an easy time switching over. Certain new features have been added to the various programs to improve functionality and you will likely find your Office experience much more productive and simpler to use.

Tips!

Use the Mail application. This is a useful application, which handles all of your email accounts by streaming them together into a single program. Sync the program with Hotmail, Yahoo, AOL, Gmail or Google, Outlook, and many other email services. You will be able to view, send, and organize all of your mail from this single program. •Add email accounts by clicking settings from the charms menu and then clicking Accounts and Add accounts.

Use SkyDrive. SkyDrive is an application which allows you to store files on the internet, so they can be accessed from anywhere. You can keep these files private, make them public, or share them with particular individuals. You can create folders, upload files, as well as do things like refresh the screen and view details by right clicking in the background of the window. Use of the SkyDrive usually requires a subscription but some features may be available for free.

Cont'd...

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Te Maeva Nui Float Parade Monday

Photos by Nadia George



Te Maeva Nui Float Parade Monday

Photos by Poko Utia



A veterinarian experience

By Tianna Haxton



Tianna is a 14 yr old, year 9 student from Mitiaro

From the age of 10, I had begun to think of becoming a veterinarian, a doctor to animals. My class started online learning and our tutor (Kristina Crouch) saw my interest in becoming a veterinarian and introduced me to a 5 week long online vet course. Following my completion of this, I was given the chance to experience actual vet work. With a bit of fundraising, Kristina Crouch and the Ministry of Education managed to pay for a two way plane fare, THANKS A LOT!

So on July 21st, I travelled to Rarotonga from my home island Mitiaro. I came to volunteer at the Esther Honey Foundation.

The next morning, I was driven down to the clinic where I was given some scrubs with the Esther Honey trademark stitched on.

I met the kind crew who showed and taught me what to do.

Walking Dogs, feeding and checking each animal had fresh water and a clean cage, changing their beddings, washing their food bowls and then going on poop patrol (not my favourite job.).

It was all pretty simple. The tricky thing though was tending to the puppies. As



there were quite a few, we needed 3-4 bowls of food and 3-4 bowls of water. This means we had to go in and out of the large puppy pen, the adorable puppies always bounded over to the gate and tried to get out of the pen to explore each time the gate was opened! (None escaped though).

After the basic cleaning was done, I was lucky enough to be taken on a home visit. A home visit occurs every now and then when there is an emergency or if the owner of the animal(s) can't necessarily bring the animals to the clinic. So we bring the clinic to them. We take some supplies such as medicines, injections, stethoscopes and so on. We drive to places we have been called to go to and tend to the animals there. In the particular visit I was in, we trimmed a dog's nails, gave another an injection for its eye infection and did a brief general health check on another two.

When we returned to the clinic, I helped with changing a poor dog's leg bandage (had been hit by a car). Each morning for the next few days, I came to the clinic and helped out; I loved playing with all the animals once the work was done. Then one day, I observed some surgery on a female cat. The surgeon removed her ovaries so the cat can't have kittens. This is an important operation. If an animal has too many children, the owner can't afford to look after them

resulting in poor owners and an overpopulation of animals!

In my opinion, Esther Honey is a great Veterinary Clinic. Animals are well cared for and have plenty of room for food, water, and a toilet area in their cages. One time, I went inside one of the cages to play with a dog. I could actually fit!

There are many adorable animals at the clinic. Many are up for adoption. There's no price on the animals, just a form to fill out. Oh, donations are gladly accepted.



How to live a positive life in a negative world

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

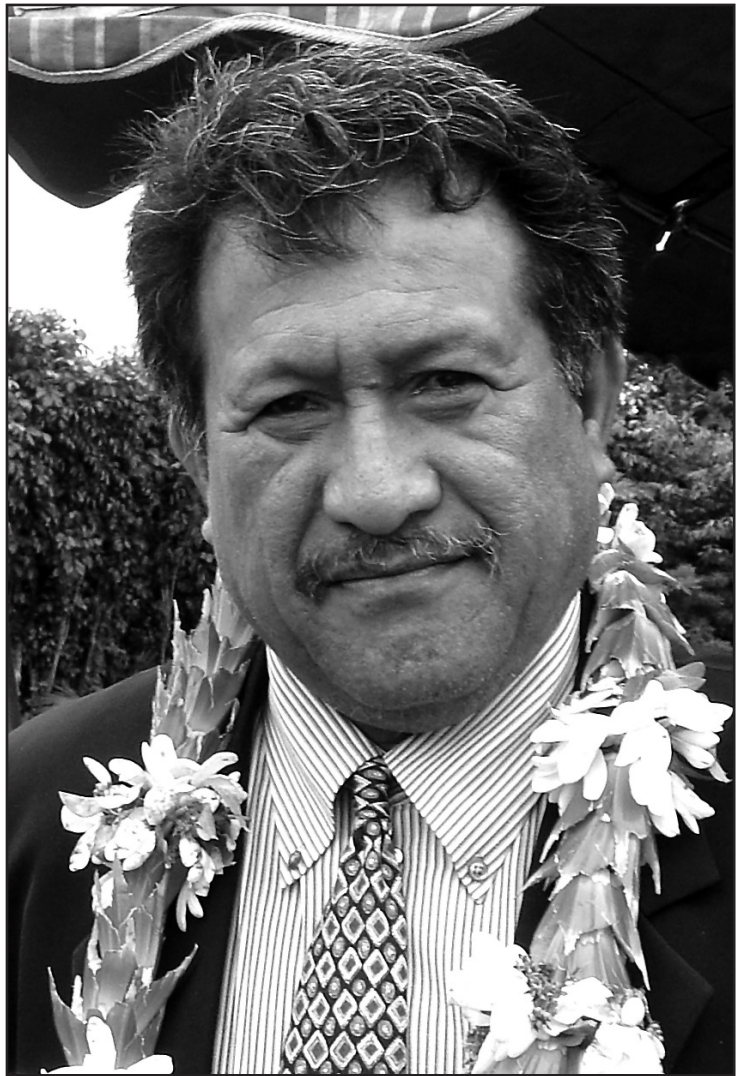
The world we live in is negative in attitude, confessions and behaviour because that's how many people live life. But God did not want us to be like this. I believe God wanted us to live a positive life in this negative world! The Apostle Paul in the New Testament encourages us to rise above the negative things of this world. In II Corinthians 11v.24-31 (CEV) Paul recounts some of his hardships. Yet there is no where in the Bible where Paul is seen complaining. Sometimes our circumstances are beyond our control, they are unavoidable. The solution is not to change the circumstances, but to learn how to live above them. The question is "What does Paul do, despite his negative circumstances?"

First we see him Focusing On Jesus Christ And Not His Circumstances. It is no use blaming others, or running away, or moaning! In fact we can make our circumstances worse by being negative about them. As for Paul, his confession is on Jesus Christ and not his circumstances. Paul was imprisoned; received 39 lashes of whip; beaten with a big stick; stoned; shipwrecked 3 times; robbed by his own people; he worked and struggled and spent many sleepless nights; hungry and thirsty nothing to eat; he was cold because not enough clothes to keep him warm; and so on. But does he become negative about all of these? No! Paul said in II Corinthians 11v.28-29, v.31 (CEV) "Besides everything else, each day I am burdened down, worrying about all the churches. When others are weak, I am weak too. When others are tricked into sin, I get angry.... God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, knows I am not lying. And God is to be praised for ever!" Paul in Philippians 3v.7-8 (NLT)

said, "I once thought all these things were so important, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may have Christ..." Paul was able to see beyond his circumstances. If we talk negatively about our circumstances, the worse they become in our minds. But if we focus our confession towards God concerning our circumstances, the smaller and insignificant these will be! We begin to live a positive life in a negative world by getting our focus off the circumstances and on to Jesus Christ!

Secondly, Paul has his Focus Upon The Sovereignty Of God And Not The Will Of Man. Man's will was to stop the Gospel being spread by restricting Paul's movement. It is God's will that none should perish. So if one man is put down, God will raise up another. Man's plan to destroy Paul's mission in life turned out to benefit God's kingdom. Paul said in v.12 of Philippians 1 "But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel." We got to learn to see God at work in the big picture of life. Paul said in Romans 8v.28 "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to his purpose." In the context of the Sovereignty of God, nothing happens to us unless God has permitted it! God knows every part of our lives. Sometimes God can only achieve His purposes through us when we go through negative circumstances. God will use this negative world to engineer the

Encouragement Column
With Senior Pastor John Tangi



fulfillment of His positive plans and purposes and He wants you and I to be involved.

Thirdly, Paul Focused Upon The Positive Results And Not The Personal Pains. God knows how to cause your worst circumstance to make a tremendous spiritual impact upon others. Paul does not complain, he does not blame anyone for his circumstances! Paul lived a positive life in a negative world spiritually impacting people around him. We need to be focusing upon the opportunities in

our circumstances. We may not be able to change our circumstances, but we can change our focus. We don't have to live a negative life in a positive world! We don't have to live under our circumstances unless we choose to! By altering our focus, positive attitudes will rise up within us releasing positive emotions causing our spirit to lift above this negative world. Psalm 125v.1 reads "Those who trust in the Lord are steady as Mount Zion unmoved by any circumstances." May you have a God blessed week!

Holidays are here

By Nadia George

As many of you all know, the count down continues till the end of year exams for all college students but for now, its break time. That's right people; the two-week holiday you've been waiting for is finally here. No more early mornings, no more teachers and no more uniforms...for two weeks that is. No, now is your time to take a load off, kick up your feet and just relax and waste the day away. That is unless you have a part time job like myself, then it all about the early mornings (if you call 8am early), the freezing cold drives to work and the endless meet and greets between myself and the people I have meet with everyday when I have to cover a new story.

As much as id like to spend it in doors with a good movie and lots and lots of fatty foods and sugary goods, I am forced to venture out and work, at least

the cushioning of an honest weeks pay cheque will soften the blow of the early mornings and wintery cold. Since my fellow colleague Norma Ngatamariki is off soaking up so much needed retail therapy in New Zealand, I am left with my good mate Poko and Dean to help me cover the events of the holidays. It's all about Te Maeva Nui celebrations and whatever next week brings us. So anyway, back to the holiday jist of it all.

There are many things one could or should do with their spare time during the holidays. Thing like chilling out with friends, getting a holiday job, catching up on the washing you let pile up over the weeks or the extra the house work that you promised mum you'd do but just never really got around to it. The list is endless but then again, who wants to do house work when you have two free weeks off school. So here's a

thought, why not go down to the national auditorium this week and watch your friends, siblings, cousins, aunties or even uncles, perform for their respective islands or dance groups at this years 49th annual Te Maeva Nui festival.

Monday's annual float parade saw half the island gather on the main roads of the town strip to watch on as the passing floats paraded past a crowd of spectators clothed in traditional cultural dance wear, medical scrubs, pareu wear and even a walking mascot banana? Although the parade took a long time to start, some might say it was worth the wait, others may say that it wasn't quite up to scratch; I'll let you be the judge of that. Needless to say that the holidays have begun and week one has almost come to a close. With another week left, make the most of the time you have left but always remember to be safe



and take care of yourself and last but not least, may the best island win.

\$50,000 target for Junior paddlers

By Nadia George

The junior paddlers of the local canoeing club Ngakau Toa, are out and about searching for keen businesses, groups of people or individuals who would like to sponsor the young group of twenty paddlers to attend the Trans Tasman series and Gubbi Gubbi championships junior regatta race, held in Sunshine Coast in Australia. The competition is an annual one, having been held every year at the end of September. This year the team's paddlers wish to travel to and compete in this years championships but are asking for the financial support of those willing to help out in getting our Cook Islands paddlers to the competition. Training six days a week from Monday to Friday with intense land trainings and water trainings being run by local paddling enthusiast Vaea Melvin, and at the same time trying to balance school lives, with part time jobs, social agendas as well as fundraising stalls,



Ngakau Toa Juniors

this small group of determined individuals are striving towards their target amount of \$50, 000. So the team are reaching out to you all, to please help support them in anyway possible. So

whether you're a small business, kind individual or family, your generous donations and support would be greatly appreciated by those in the team as well as the friends and families of those

involved with getting these paddlers to Australia. For more information feel free to call Sue Fletcher Vea on 55565 or coach, Vaea Melvin on 55029 or email at: sandtvea@oyster.net.ck.

Word is the CIP rank and file wants a change to their leadership including Elvis Enere and X factor Heta. Despite the odd deluded claim by a very small fan club of a single female that Elvis has a mandate to govern, the rest of everyone else aren't so blinded. The fact that Elvis barely scraped in with 78 votes to 74 is evidence his own constituency has serious doubts about his leadership, hardly an endorsement and 78 votes to be the Prime Minister? Put Elvis in Tupapa, a decent size constituency and test his mandate. Teina Bishop got a whopping 68.27% of the vote in his constituency and that's a mandate, so he should be the PM.



Rarotonga has spoken, by the voting pattern Puna and Heta are not wanted in leading the country, the CIP should offer Bishop the top job to get him back into the fold before the next elections when the One CI Movement will multiply and multiply to the demise of the CIP.



Rasmussen doesn't have a significant majority or mandate to be PM either, he has to resort to desperate legal measures to wrestle the Penrhyn seat off Willie John his former CEO whom he sacked. The Penrhyn people have spoken through their votes and how can that be illegal? It's time to move on Rasmussen and before you know it all your papa'a friends will be no more as they suck up to the next lot and don't forget to take your ex convict chief advisor and friend with you.



Some Demos can't wait for all the

Petitions and counter Petitions to settle the final count so the overpaid walking disaster Drolley, Mr I can be sent packing. Many want to call an urgent Party Conference, the one that got deferred by Drolley, his boss and Napa, so all the leadership positions can be put on the table. Watch the side show of wriggle mania as the same lot try their best to hold on to their positions. Drolley is turning up to all the meetings but doesn't say anything or contribute anything sensible but it's all show to pretend he is earning his \$1,134 a week salary plus perks, which is more than what a MP gets. Not bad for organising a couple of raffles and doing exactly what he has been doing for the last three and half years, very little to nothing memorable.



When asked why the DPM Heta didn't replace Elvis at two regional meetings for PMs, the media was told Heta wasn't up to it intellectually and it was far above is level, isn't that is why they have advisors? Anyway Mark Brown was the right choice seeing he will most likely be the next CIP PM. By the way it was the CIP President Rau

Nga and the CIP Patron Dan Kamana who intervened and told Elvis not to go. It is also these two men that the Rarotonga bunch has nominated to tell Elvis and Heta to exit cabinet for the back bench.



No local poly wanted Carrot Top's promotional expertise and abilities to help with their election campaign. Perhaps none of the local polys were aware of this latte sipper's potential although sometime past the Herald did a feature on him. Sadly, while no local political entity or person wanted to hire his services, the whisper is he has now been snapped up by an overseas high flying political figure (not Dot Com)! And, lo, word is it's none other than our old pal Winnie!



CIP hopefuls hoped to take Mitiaro by one vote with a defaced ballot paper. How naïve! People should follow instructions. Next thing you know, people will be drawing little flowers on their ballot papers and putting little kisses and maybe a picture of their pet poodle! Where would it end?



Rain has put a damper on the

celebrations chooks! While the number of floats continues to dwindle, the number of marching teams is on the rise! Before too long we may even see the spectacular "Marching Boys" of Auckland Gay Parade fame, strutting their stuff. Maybe they will show up next year for the 50th celebrations!



It will not pay those chooks roosting in MFEM to get too cosy and complacent in their nests. The winds of reform and restructuring may soon begin to blow through those once hallowed halls. If you toil away in MFEM and see the head of the One Cook Islands rooster looming on the horizon, you will know time may soon be up!

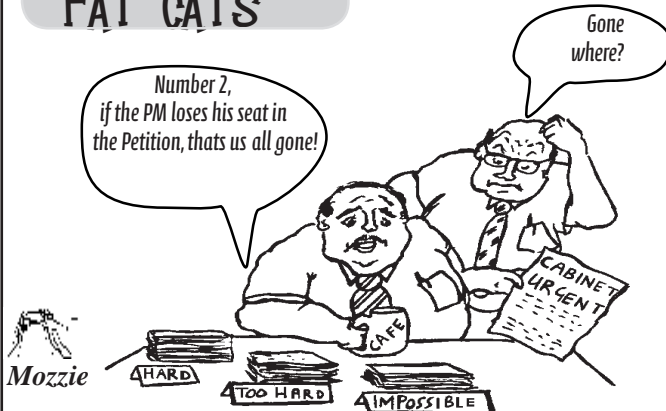


Rarotongans have woken up to the CIP attempts to mutate their societal values so the CIP power base has fled to the outer reaches. How long will it be before those communities also wake up? Former Kiwi PM Piggy Muldoon learnt many years ago that it's fatal to fiddle with the old age pension just before an election so he did not sing that song. Not so the CIP. Now they are paying the price. Grey Power has not gone away and will not go away until justice or the final throes of the CIP come.



If the CIP manage to hold onto power the new leadership line up will be, Mark Brown, Teina Bishop, Kiriau Turepu, Nandi Glassie, the chap from Rakahanga and the Mauke MP. Remember you got it first from big Red. If the Demos turn the tables it will be James Beer, Apii Piho, Teina Bishop, George Maggie, Captain Tama and Tangata Vavia.

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Dynamic applications enclosing C.V with reference to: KPMG-BCI Ref MD14, Attention: Mike Carr, PO Box 691, Rarotonga, or email mikecarr@kpmg.co.ck by 3pm, 5th September 2014.

A copy of the Job Description can also be obtained from Mii Mataora by email mii@bci.co.ck or telephone 29341 ext 840.

FOR RENT



FOR RENT

Space available for rent in the Banana Court Complex next door to Salon de Hermies. Suitable for shop or office. If you are interested please email anne.taoro@cookislands.gov.ck or call 29391. All interests to be received no later than 4pm Wednesday 6 August 2014.

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PUBLIC NOTICE



Business Trade Investment Board

Cook Islands



RAROTONGA BUSINESS WEEK (RBW)

A RBW will be held from Tuesday 5th August to Friday 8th August, 2014.

This business training week is free. The modules vary in topics including some specialised modules and presenters. The added features of this year's training are the repeat of Website Designing and the One on One Business Mentoring. The details of the modules and times of presentations are as follows:

Workshop One: Website Designing.
Presenter – John Blanchard

Venue – BTIB Training Room

3 Days: Tuesday 5th August, Wednesday 6th August & Thursday 7th August 2014

09:00am to 12:00pm: Lunch Break: 01:00pm to 03:00pm daily
Limited space available

Workshop Two: One on One Business Mentoring
Mentors – Allan & Shirley Cann

This program is ideal for new businesses that are looking at ways of improving record keeping, business performance etc. Allan & Shirley will come to your business premises. By appointment only.

To register your interest please contact:

Lydia Marsh - Business Development Officer
Business Trade Investment Board
Phone: (682) 24 - 296

Email: lydia.marsh@cookislands.gov.ck

Allan Cann and Shirley Cann will be available by appointment "ONLY" during working hours to visit individual businesses for a one on one mentoring.

This business training program is jointly funded by BTIB in collaboration with the Rarotonga Rotary Club, the Wendouree Rotary in Melbourne, Australia and Cann Business Enterprises.

TENDER



**REQUEST FOR TENDERS
MANGAIA SCHOOL BUS**

The Cook Islands Investment Corporation, on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Mangaia Island Government, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of a School Bus to Mangaia – contract C37/14.

A copy of the tender document can be downloaded from www.procurement.gov.ck or by emailing anne.taoro@cookislands.gov.ck.

For enquiries and to register your interest, contact:

Anne Taoro

Phone: (682) 29391

Email anne.taoro@cookislands.gov.ck

Tenders close 3.00pm, Tuesday 5 August 2014.

EAT LESS

MOVE MORE

HEART FOUNDATION

PUBLIC NOTICE



**COOK ISLANDS
BREAST CANCER
FOUNDATION**



**BREAST CANCER INFORMATION EVENING
– WEDNESDAY 6TH AUGUST**

Next Wednesday night (6th August) people who want to hear about breast cancer from an expert will be able to do so.

The Cook Islands Breast Cancer Foundation in association with the Ministry of Health would like to invite all those interested to a Breast Cancer Information Evening, 6pm, Te Ipukarea Society (TIS) meeting room, main road, Tupapa.

Dr Fran Jones who is leading a team of four from Australia carrying out the checks for a fortnight will present and then take part in a general question and answer session. This disease affects many of our women, our families, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Normally you would have to travel overseas to speak to someone with this level of knowledge and expertise, next week you will only need to travel to Tupapa!

For more information or to confirm your attendance please phone or text Jaewynn 55 486 or email Jaewynn@xtra.co.nz

Meitaki maata



**COOK ISLANDS
BREAST CANCER
FOUNDATION**



BREAST SCREENING PROGRAMME

The Ministry of Health in partnership with the Cook Islands Breast Cancer Foundation would like to advise that this year's Mammography Screening Programme will be held from Monday 28th July to Friday 8th of August at the Rarotonga Hospital.

We would like to encourage all women 40 years and over and who have not had a Breast Screen before in Rarotonga to have one this year.

If you were last screened in 2012 and advised to commit to 2 yearly screening, you should be seen again this year also.

If you fall into either of the above two categories please phone the Rarotonga Hospital Receptionist on 22664 for an appointment.

If you are under 40 years and are experiencing breast pain, please phone Dr May on 22 664 ext 813.

Meitaki maata

POROKARAMU NOTE IO ATU ITE U OTE VAINÉ

Akamata ate Monite 28 o Tiurai, kite Varaire ra 8 o Aukute 2014 ite Aremaki, Rarotonga.

Akanooanga:

1. Te au vaine a ngauru mataiti aere atu ki runga

2. Me kua akara iana toou u ite mataiti 2012

Taniuniu te are maki numero 22664 no tetai tuatau noou.

Te au vaine I raro ake ite a ngauru mataiti, e u maki ete mamae toou, taniuniu ia

Dr May numero 22664 ext 813

Meitaki Maata

TENDER



**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. Current 2014 Regulations and standards are available at <http://www.health.gov.ck/index.php/publications/moh-documents>.

The physical works required to upgrade onsite sanitation systems will vary from site to site, ranging from minor repairs of 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 November 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.

Closing time and date for Tenders has been extended to 3pm on Thursday, 31st July 2014 (Cook Islands time) 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 Tenderer's name.

Enquiries to: Tangi Taoro

WATSAN Programme Administrator

P: +682 20-321 E: tangi.taoro@ici.gov.ck

Cc: watsan@oyster.net.ck

QR must neutralise care takers

Let a cabinet of National Unity govern

With an unprecedented nine Electoral Petitions tabled before the Chief Justice Tom Weston the practical logistics may not achieve resolutions for about three months meaning a caretaker Government will suffice. Any appeals to Petition outcomes could delay further the formalising of the government.

With Petitions usually heard in the Island of the relevant constituency further delays is a certainty, an issue raised by CJ Weston who for logistical sense is suggesting the Petitions be held in Rarotonga. Until all Petitions are completed Parliament cannot be reconvened for candidates to be sworn in as Members of Parliament.

For the unpopular Cook Islands Party leader Henry Puna to continue as the care taker Prime Minister, the Rarotonga public who have rejected his leadership at the polls will be incense and highly uncomfortable.

Puna's popularity in Rarotonga is virtually nil beyond his few loyal groupies who are economically dependent upon him and the CIP. No sooner had Puna got the nod in Manihiki after all the votes were declared he continued where he left off wasting hard \$22,000 of hard earned public money flying his wife as the sole passenger on the chartered flight to Manihiki to pick him up.

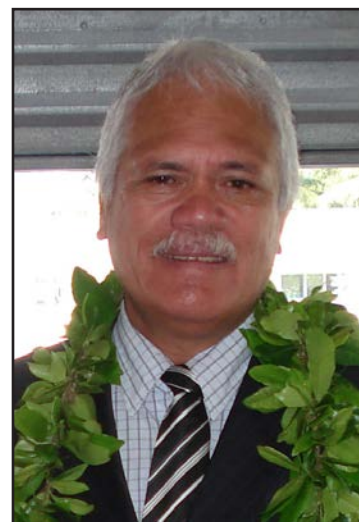
Previously booked to return on a routine Air Rarotonga flight a few days later, Puna could not resist breaking free of the care taker shackles that had confined his fetish for lavish showmanship and wasteful spending. While the plane rested on the tarmac for three hours it is reported it was for Mrs Puna to attend to some domestic chores. A significant amount of the chartered cost could have been reduced if seats on the plane had been sold to



Mark Brown



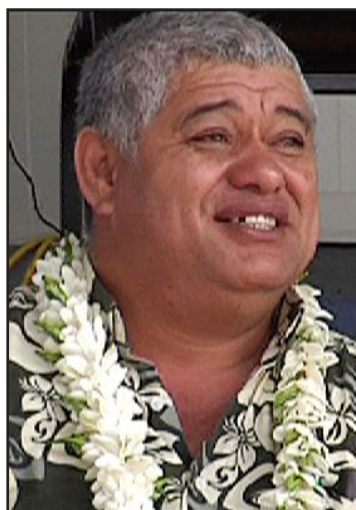
Kiriau Turepu



Jim Marurai



Ngamau Munukoa



Smiley Heather



Teina Bishop

travellers even if at a reduced cost. Up to \$14,000 could have been received from other passengers and cargo to offset the tax payer's contribution.

Had it not been for the intervention of the CIP President Rau Nga and President Dan Kamana, Mr and Mrs Puna would have caught a flight out last Thursday to attend two regional meetings in New Zealand and Palau. Finance Minister Mark Brown substituted for Puna.

Puna needs to be consistently reminded his four vote majority in Manihiki has no relevance or political grunt in Rarotonga and while he may have tentative marginal support to be the CIP leader he lacks the moral credibility to lead beyond that.

Public Polls indicate Puna's leadership stocks are in the single digits.

While Puna or any other candidate is subjected to an Electoral Petition he should do the honourable thing and stand aside so the Queen's Representative Tom Marsters can install a publically acceptable care taker government.

It is suggested a neutral Cabinet become responsible to meet the responsibility of administering the governance of the Country. With only 78 votes, Puna or his few supporters can hardly claim to he has a mandate to be the Prime Minister, for the comfort of the vast majority of the voters his own Party Executive needs to advise him to stand aside till a

governance resolution is known.

A cabinet of National Unity consisting of moderate and mature members from all three parties who have the solid endorsements of their constituencies must be given the reigns to take care of governing. The CIP have proven they are incapable of being prudent and impartial.

The CIP can be represented by Mark Brown and Kiriau Turepu; the Democratic Party can be represented by the former PM Jim Marurai, Auntie Mau and Smiley Heather with Teina Bishop from One Cook Islands Movement. All are experienced politicians who are not prone to excessive impulses and are highly acceptable to the Rarotonga public.

- George Pitt