

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

5 August 2014 \$2 (incl VAT)

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Changes to sweep through Democratic Party

Whether Democratic Party leader Wilkie Rasmussen or Party leader aspirant Norman George is able to overcome Election results through their Electoral Petitions, the Democratic Party will get a long overdue makeover. A small number of emotional vocal members were able to sway the pre election Party Conference to defer the election of Party Leadership and Executive positions till after the Elections to avoid division within. Rasmussen has never had his leadership put to the test in a Party Conference.

Both Rasmussen and George were reported as campaigning with the claim they would be the next Democratic Party Leader and Prime Minister but neither was able to convincingly win over their constituency voters leaving the Party in a leadership limbo, a matter many rank and file want addressed sooner than later. Rather than be exposed as an incompetent leader that had no followers of substance Rasmussen looked for a way out.

During the campaign both Rasmussen and George left the Party leaderless and without campaign direction while they both had to scurry back to their constituencies to regain lost ground and retain their seats. Rasmussen mislead the Demos by stating several times he was confident he would retain Penrhyn unopposed. The Demo campaign was left to unprepared novices under the direction of the first timer Manager Piltz Napa who in turn was accountable to the disorganised raffle hustler Eddie Drollet.

Rasmussen and Drollet had three years to stitch up Penrhyn but both were self serving and aimless relying on

the Cook Islands Party to self destruct under the social unrest provoked by their political ineptness. Even party President Sean Willis failed to capitalise on the opportunities he had when he visited the outer islands as an Air Rarotonga pilot.

Paid over \$1,100 a week plus expenses for three and a half years, Drollet must be held accountable for the strategic failure of the campaign to deliver in the outer islands. Drollet had no monitoring of the CIP's outer island tactics because he simply became reliant on the efforts of others, the Demos had no counter action plans and became over confident and presumptuous.

The Demo campaign had no structure or direction due to inadequate last minute catch up reactionary scatter brain pot shots, the legacy of Rasmussen's vision less leadership.

In three and a half years the control freak Drollet failed to prepare the Party in every way necessary to execute a winning campaign, having failed in 2010 Drollet hadn't learnt the lessons of failure but continued to resist change or build his capacity along with a prepared team of volunteers. The Democratic Party must not tolerate Drollet's continuance as a paid worker.

The Demo campaign had no structure or direction due to inadequate last minute catch up reactionary scatter brain pot shots, the legacy of Rasmussen's vision less leadership. Rasmussen and Drollet's combined efforts just highlighted they were geared to lead the Demos into defeat.

Now they expect the Court to overturn the Election results in favour of the Democratic Party at the huge financial expense of the people they failed. When will the Demo circus end?

The Petitions must not be used as an excuse to delay a Conference, Rasmussen must not expect his tenure to continue, his failure to lead the Demos to a convincing win as he and Drollet kept predicting must be held accountable and they must be replaced sooner than later. Rasmussen unashamedly continues to give the Party false hope claiming he will win a Petition against Willie John. Rasmussen should stop hallucinating legal

conquests and accept defeat and let the Party get on with new leadership and a reformed ethos that is innovative and highly focused.

George's Petitions do not have the confidence or support of the DP and if he insists, George will have to fund it and represent himself. George's Election Day defeat has given the likes of Drollet and Rasmussen clean hands in their arch rival's political demise. George's unwanted inclusion back into the Demo fold has been rejected by his constituency, ending an illustrious thirty year political career without internal disruption to the DP.

There seems little sympathy for the grandfather of Cook Islands politics by the current

and new Demo MP entrants, it remains to be seen what send off the Party affords George if they become the government.

The Demo underbelly has had enough of the incompetent few who have forced their way and failed, there is a concerned group who no longer will remain observant or compliant with complacency and losing along with tolerating Drollet's obsession to control and micro manage the Party.

Drollet is clinging to Rasmussen's leadership because once Rasmussen's desperate petition attempt fails, Drollet is off the payroll. The Democratic Party must look to the new breed of Captain Tama, Albert Nicholas, James Beer and Sel Napa to build a winning team for future success. Whether Petitions enable the DP to get over the line or not, the Party must proactively reinvent itself with prudent use of tax payer funds. A Party Conference will see Willis and Drollet replaced on the Executive as well as Rasmussen as the Party Leader.

In 2010 the heavy defeat on polling day left the Democratic Party with 8 seats and a shattered membership, the untimely death of the leader Robert Wigmore further depressed the Party, but in 2014 the heavy polling day defeat and the same 8 seat result has not dented the core supporter's enthusiasm because this position is the beginning of an internal political resurrection of reform.

This internationalised political metamorphous of the Democratic Party will insure its sustainability and relevance future tense acutely aware Cook Islands politics now has three Parties coveting votes.

- George Pitt

Traditional leaders take issue with Immigration Laws and Policy

Traditional leaders say the criteria for permanent residency is too liberal and is leading to an influx of manuiri who are changing the fabric of Cook Islands society and leading to a loss of culture and traditions.

This was the consensus of the tribal leaders when Immigration Officers made a presentation at the Koutu Nui Uipaanga Mataiti 2014 held in mid July 2014, where, for the first time ever, the conference also included the active participation of the Ui Ariki of Tumutevarovaro and the Pa Enuu of the Southern Group.

The immigration officers explained in detail the criteria for: i) overseas born issue of Cook Islands ancestry; ii) permanent residents; iii) for work permits; iv) special category (spouse of Cook Islanders or permanent resident); v) ordinary category (general); and how to 'revive' a permanent residency that has been cancelled. There are other criteria for work permits and for visitor permits.

The leaders appreciated the information, but it also served to reinforce their view that the current policies and screening process are making it easier for total strangers to become permanent residents, while on the other hand, the rules and regulations are often creating needless obstacles for Cook Islanders born overseas. Given that many children of Cook Islands ancestry are born overseas, this is bound to become an issue once the Pa Metua have passed away.

Speakers noted that the tribal leaders have had longstanding concerns with immigration policy dating back almost a decade when former President, the late Tika Mataiapo, Dorice Reid first raised the concerns on behalf of the Koutu Nui. They also note that it is now 2014, and the issues had still not been addressed and the role of the Aronga Mana as guardians of the country have been ignored.

House of Ariki and Koutu Nui to be part of screening process?

Specific concerns are that the tribal leaders are not part of the screening process for would-be permanent residents - given that the leaders are the guardians of our land, our culture and are the original owners of the country. Immigration officers said the current legislation dates back to the 1970s but the leaders said it needs amending to incorporate traditional Cook Islands values instead of being based on a law imported from New Zealand which does not necessarily have the same mix of cultures as ours especially land laws.

Residential criteria very minimal?

The leaders were also surprised at how short the residential criteria is for intending permanent residents, which is currently three years if they originate from New Zealand. At the discretion of the Minister, even the three year rule can be reduced to only one year. That piece of information set off another chain of reaction with many leaders questioning why any such discretion should be in the hands of one person.

The leaders feel that such discretion ought to be amended and determined by a committee, including reps from the Ui Ariki and Aronga, with a recommendation to the Minister.

Why allow Permanent Residents to be referees for applicants?

And finally, some of the speakers question why the Permanent Residents are allowed to become referees for intending Permanent Residents. This process is a gap in the law and is allowing foreign born residents to bypass the views of people of Cook Islands ancestry, and make decisions that allow other foreign born applicants to become residents.

The traditional leaders are preparing a submission to Cabinet to recommend some changes to the Immigration legislation or to the policy and the way in which the law is being implemented. There are also concerns about foreign investment rules under the Business and Trade Investment Board, which report will be published in next week's issue of the Cook Islands Herald.

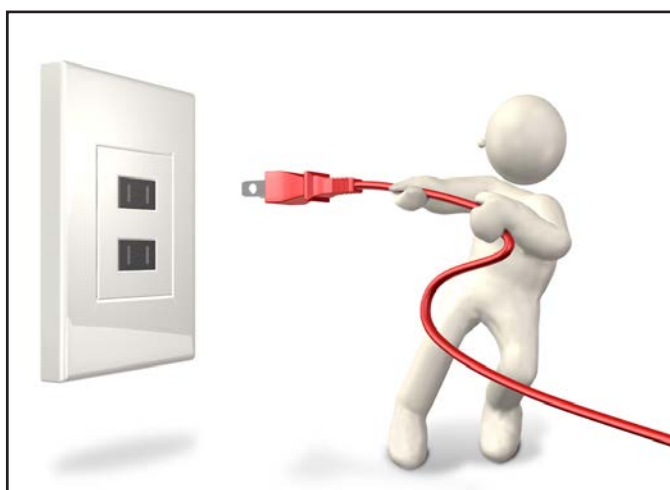


Turi Mataiapo, Parekura o te Koutu Nui



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Demos ready to dump CIP Political hacks

Public Sector deck to be reshuffled

The Democratic Party has a hit list to kick into effect the moment it becomes the Government. An active group within the Party have taken it upon themselves to draw up a list of tax funded positions to be included in a reform process that replaces politically favoured appointments and CIP compliant employees. Some have been bold enough to have visited different CIP Ministerial office premises' to scope for preferences for anticipated Demo Ministers.

Demo supporters and campaign activists have wasted no time in offering themselves or even suggesting what jobs or positions they expect to get. No longer will the outgoing Drollet be able to control the job dividends and job seekers have

learnt by past experiences those who squeak the loudest get the attention. This time the pressure is on the elected MPs to deliver jobs and appointments to the Party faithful.

More important than ever before, it is recognised appointments need to be based on an individual's ability to provide resources and skill capacity to maintain the continuity of the Party in governance.

First to be dealt with is the Speaker of the House Nicky Rattle who will be replaced with a losing Demo candidate. The Queen's Representative Tom Marsters who will be replaced after a single term, a replacement is being earmarked but cannot be named.

Rosy Blake's tenure at the

Counsel office in Auckland will be replaced in a restructure exercise. The High Commissioner Tiki Matapo will be asked to resign from the Wellington posting, his replacement has been approached but still considering the suggestion.

The Public Service Commissioner Russell Thomas will not seek a further term and will be allowed to finish his current term. The Audit Office will be restructured and a new Director installed replacing Parker. The Commissioner of Deep Sea Mining Paul Lynch will become a casualty of restructuring and reduction of the status of that Office.

Crown Law's Kim Saunders is destined for termination along with Richard Neves and Andrew Haigh from the Ministry

of Finance and Economic Management. All other positions where the salary is over \$120,000 will be reviewed.

Mac Mokoroa the Secretary of Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) will be terminated on grounds not yet disclosed. Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIICC) and Business Trade and Investment Board (BTIB) will be restructured with all existing jobs readvertised.

All government Board positions will be progressively made redundant and new appointments made after a completed selection process.

Any contracts extended during the caretaker period will be revoked including those signed off after the 16 April 2014.

- George Pitt

Spotted at the Float Parade last Monday



Invest in our own local innovators

By Charles Pitt

There is something missing regarding the BTIB. I could not put my finger on it until recently after contacting Cook Islander Alan Wichman in Hamilton, NZ.

Alan is one of those young, brilliant, innovative pioneers not afraid to strike out into new territory and develop technologically advanced products in demand around the world by major corporations and international companies.

What is missing is the support and backing he could be given by the Cook Islands government. It was Alan's intention years ago to establish a manufacturing plant on Rarotonga to manufacture and export technologically advanced products to the world. As it turned out, government showed some interest in his demonstrations of his innovative products but did not follow through with any financial support or endorsements.

Alan has established a factory in Hamilton, employing Cook Islanders and he travels the world assisting major companies overcome problems with his innovative ideas and equipment.

He is not the only Cook Islander to have failed to attract any major, meaningful interest from the government. His father, Tom is one. Sir Tom Davis is another. And how much has our government invested in Dr Mathieson?

Our government is quite prepared to subsidise Air NZ, setting aside up to \$12m each year in the hope big spending US

visitors will provide a return on this investment. Why not invest in our own people?

This is a major failure of the BTIB in that while it is prepared to provide small, low interest funds to "cottage industry" level locals, the really major innovators with enormous export earning potential in their products, get overlooked. If our government was to invest in these Cook Islanders, they may provide a better return financially than the subsidy in Air NZ.

Several years ago when local piggeries were under pressure to clean up their waste water because it was polluting local streams, Tom Wichman asked Alan to come to Rarotonga to demonstrate a new invention of his which removes pollutants from water by altering their atomic structure. He toured the piggeries and many showed an interest including government however, nothing eventuated. No piggery adopted the system. The invention has since been patented and no-one world-wide has yet been able to replicate the technology. It is a world first and it's by a Cook Islander.

Alan has made several innovative developments since this. More recently Alan told the Herald he had been multi tasking between Mineral recovery processing for Industries in the USA and recently and International organizations who have investments in the Mining Industry spanning the globe.

He also had a medical project in NZ for Type I and Type II



Alan and Tom Wichman

Diabetes monitoring and early warning system. A friend of his had a 3 year old son who had Type I diabetes and almost died recently while on holiday in the USA. The parents asked him to adapt one of his technologies to help monitor their son 24/7 and warn them of any potential problems before they happen.

Sampling blood to determine the blood sugar levels is a very demanding task for Type I diabetics, and he worked on a 3D bio-neuron sensor for interfacing to the human body.

Former PM Sir Tom Davis along with local engineer William Powell developed a new form of propulsion which can be adapted for vehicles, boats and aircraft. It can be powered by renewable energy sources such

as compressed air, water jet and electromagnetism. Its potential is enormous but somehow our government lacks the brain power to realise its potential. There are plans by some interested locals to develop a prototype of the device for fitting into a boat as a first step.

What is needed by the BTIB is funding and resources to support Cook Islanders with innovative ideas that have export potential to earn big money and put the country on the map. Small, cottage industries are not going to do this. Perhaps a Board should vet applications from innovators and this Board should comprise locals with a scientific or technology background or persons who can recognise a good thing when they see it.

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Our Frontpage model Household and company water leaks survey to begin Tuesday 5 August



Carlos Mustoni and Richard Neves

The project to assess the level of water leakage on private properties on Rarotonga is about to begin. The 'customer side leakage' investigation is another part of the Te Mato Vai project to upgrade the water supply system on Rarotonga.

An Australian company won the open tender for the work; a contract has been signed, and the work will probably start next Monday.

Water Loss & Pressure Management is based in Brisbane and company director Carlos Mustoni – who originally hails from Argentina – signed the contract with Finance Secretary Richard Neves today (Tuesday 5 August).

The survey team will include company representatives from offshore, with help from local plumbers Ricky Cowan and his son Ngatai; and because the team is very mindful that it will likely be calling on properties when only the lady of the house is home, Vaine Wichman from the National Council of Women will be part of the investigation group.

The survey will involve 150 properties around the island and will be a mix of commercial premises and private homes.

The survey team will need to access people's homes to check for leaks, and director Carlos Mustoni says, "I am conscious and concerned that we should not intrude unnecessarily on people's privacy. Accordingly the team will have proper identification saying that they are part of the Te Mato Vai project. And while plumbers and experts in finding leaks are important to this investigation, so too is respecting people's privacy – especially the women-folk - that is why we have included Vaine in our team. She is a very important part of it."

Water Loss & Pressure Management are no strangers to the region; they also have projects in Samoa and American Samoa as well as in Australia.

Our frontpage model this week is Xaeon Peyroux who works at Reefside Rarotonga. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald



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Paralysed Demos must wake up and move on

Caretaker Government must have an opposition

Rather than get lost in their bitter battle to overturn the CIP government through desperate Electoral Petitions by the losing candidates the eight successfully elected Democratic Party candidates must get on with the political responsibility of providing the Country with an opposition to the CIP caretaker government.

The eight Demo Members of Parliament elect must get on with the business their supporters voted for them to do and let the Party wing deal with the Petition process which could take another 12 weeks or more to resolve. The wait and see mentality that continues to grip and paralyse the leaders of the DP must be denounced and a proactive mindset must prevail.

The Rarotonga reject acting Prime Minister Henry Puna and his minority government have declared their intent to govern with a business as usual attitude while the Demos dilly around making tiresome claims of corruption, bribery and electoral deficiencies as excuses they lost the plot and an Election they presumed they would easily win.

Ignoring the warning as long as Drollet was centre piece of their campaign he would be their catalyst for defeat the DP cannot expect any sympathy from the intelligent political observer.

Demo Leader by default Wilkie Rasmussen is no longer a MP therefore not entitled to a tax funded office, this

must be addressed by those elected. The office premises provided by the tax payers are not for the Democratic political Party but specifically for the Leader of the Opposition which Rasmussen is no longer. While Rasmussen has the use of a GA vehicle for a few more weeks he has no right to use the premises to conduct Party business or his personal business; he must vacate the premises forth with. While Rasmussen's tenure as the Leader of the Democratic Party is tentative he is not a MP therefore not entitled to a tax funded office.

The eight elected (Group of Eight-G8) MPs must immediately convene a meeting and among themselves chose an interim Opposition Leader who must take up a presence in the Office provided by the tax payer to conduct the business of being the Opposition to the CIP caretaker government. Neither Rasmussen or his Deputy Smiley Heather demonstrated high level leadership traits therefore this mistake must not be repeated, Heather cannot assume he should be the Interim leader of the Opposition. The one best equipped to lift the level of opposition function against the government and the person best able to lead the Party to future governance must be chosen from among the G8.

New comer Captain Tamaiva Tuavera, a 15 year New Zealand Army veteran could be a contender, Tuavera has a solid endorsement from



Captain Tama ready to front up and lead the Ngatangia constituency and is a proven businessman with extensive community engagement at the grass roots. He has in recent years recruited and worked the best part of a year in Europe in high level security of the relocation of precious metals.

A failure to conduct their affairs with integrity will only confirm the Democratic Party as being no different from the Cook Islands Party who flaunt the rules and break the Law when it suits them. The Demos are howling and barking at the moon at the wrong practises of the CIP but are no different themselves. Here is a bunch of desperate losers who will do anything to get their noses in the public trough even to the point of compromising the integrity of the Party. It is these very people who are publically whinging that they should be running the Country.

The G8 elected MPs must

take the high ground and separate them from the lawlessness manifesting itself from within. All paid staff within the Opposition Leaders Office must be given notice and a new team assembled to take the Opposition out of its passive introverted mode of operation to an assertive challenging stance worthy of the public's confidence and respect.

The dismal failure of the Office of the Leader of the Opposition must be addressed and the sooner the culprits of this political stigma, being Rasmussen and his chief advisor Dollet accept the responsibility for the poor electoral results and move on the sooner the rebuilding of the Democratic Party can begin. Drollet has had two goes and in no uncertain terms does he warrant a third go, may be as a volunteer but not as an \$1134 a week raffle hustler.

- George Pitt

Hokulea's emergency detour to Mitiaro



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

By Tiana Haxton

It is the first Monday of the school holidays and I'm at Mama Rangi's home using her laptop and internet connection to send my first news report titled 'A Veterinarian Experience' (Mama Rangi is the Mitiaro School Online Learning Facilitator). She has informed me that the Hokulea, the Hawaiian

ocean voyaging canoe is to be making an emergency detour to Mitiaro which is deemed the nearest port. The ETA (Expected Time of Arrival) is 7AM. There's a sick crew member on board and an Air Raro flight to air lift the patient to Rarotonga once he/she is off the boat. Mama Rangi has put me to task to be ready before dawn with an I-pad to record this event.

It's cold, foggy and dark before dawn this Tuesday. I'm with mums partner Ron and my little brother Clay at the Harbour in our wet weather gear anticipating the arrival of the Vaka (Mum has chosen to stay at home snuggled in warm cosy blankets). Counting us three, we are part of a daring dozen locals, standing, scanning the foggy horizon. Because of the thick heavy mist we can only just see beyond the breakers on the reef.

By the forecasted time of 7, thirty to fifty locals sporting

brightly coloured raincoats and rainbow umbrellas are mingling around searching for the Hokulea. While we are waiting, an excavator is lowering a small barge into the water. The barge is now being loaded with locally woven baskets of 'nu' (young coconuts), a hospital bed for the patient and a stretcher (prepared for worst case scenario: patient can't walk).

It's around 9, the fog has lifted a bit and the Hokulea is now in view, motoring towards the island with her sails all furled up. She's stopped a safe distance away from the reef to wait for the barge. The barge maneuvers quickly through the choppy seas and approaches the Vaka from astern (the back). The problem was, the barge began to bump into the hulls of the vaka due to the rough sea. So a Hokulea crewman used his hand to fend the barge away resulting in his hand being injured severely and

another patient. I, watching from a distance am wondering, it's a rough sea, how will they get the patient transferred from one boat to the other? The Mitiaroans worked as a team and somehow managed to do it.

The barge has returned and the sick crewmember (female) and the injured man are settled in a mini-van and are now being driven away to the awaiting plane. I believe a 3rd member also followed the two (believed to be a paramedic). As I heard the plane roar over head, I watched the fog quickly lower, covering the Hokulea from sight.

Now its off to home we go where hot drinks, warm blankets and a load of films await.

I know it must have been a pretty rough journey through the storm; this would have made matters worse for the ill lady. So I'd like to say to both patients: get well soon.

Cook Islands Infrastructure Asset Management

Since January 2010, the Government of the Cook Islands, with assistance from the Asian Development

Bank, has been steadily working on putting in place, an asset management framework for managing all of government owned infrastructure assets. Assets include buildings, roads, landfill and sanitation, water supply, electricity supply, airport and port facilities. Successive governments have supported this initiative and it is one of the stated goals in the National Sustainable Development Plan 2011-2015.

The Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC) as the 'owner's representative', is the lead agency for this asset management initiative, and is being assisted by asset management staff from AECOM New Zealand whose involvement is funded by the Asian Development Bank.

The asset management framework will extend from the government to the public who ultimately benefit from the efficient provision of infrastructure assets. At a government level, a National Asset Management Policy has been drafted which outlines the asset management principles the government will require its ministries, corporations and state owned enterprises to apply. From these principles, each government agency will put in place its own asset management strategy and objectives.

This will then initiate asset management plans, which are detailed statements on how assets will be managed and funded, based on detailed analysis and multi-criteria decision-making. The ultimate goal of asset management is that the public including the private sector benefit from services infrastructure assets sustainably deliver or enable, at an affordable cost for current

and future generations.

Supporting the National Asset Management Policy will be asset management legislation which will give government the mandate needed for requiring its agencies to practise prudent asset management.

Once the new government is in place the draft National Asset Management Policy and related draft legislation are expected to be processed through government processes and parliament.

One of the most critical components of asset management is that agencies must know all about the infrastructure assets they are responsible for. It is necessary to know what types of assets exist, where they are located, how old they are, how they are performing and what condition they are in. The saying that 'information is king' is applicable to asset management. Accompanying this need for information is the need to have a suitable system to store and manage the information. A tender process for the procurement of an 'all of government' centralised asset management information system was recently completed. The contract was awarded to an international company called AssetFinda who originate from New Zealand - acknowledged internationally as the birth place of formal asset management.

Asset Finda staff are in Rarotonga for a week commencing 28 July 2014. They are installing their software on a government server which will then be accessed by all users via the intranet or internet.

This feature is essential in a country like the Cook Islands with islands spread so far apart as it will enable staff to work in the field and using hand-held devices such as iPads, they will be able to access the Asset Finda software remotely. This

will enable them to carry out condition inspections on assets, and also receive instructions on repairs and other work that need to be carried out. The results they record on such devices will be transmitted back to the centralised database.

As well as implementation, initial training will be provided in the use of the AssetFinda software. Two days of training is being provided to key agencies involved including CIIC, Airport Authority, Infrastructure Cook Islands, Ports Authority and Te Aponga Uira. The Pa Enua Division of the Office of the Prime Minister is also participating in the training as the intention is to extend this asset management initiative to the outer islands.

Preceding the visit of Asset

Finda staff, they have spent about a month migrating available asset information from various repositories in government agencies based in Rarotonga, into the Asset Finda database. This means that as well as receiving a system with data already populated, personnel of each agency are being trained using their own data. A further week of training is scheduled for the week commencing 25 August 2014. At the conclusion of this training, the AssetFinda software will be fully operational.

Aitutaki, Atiu, Mangaia and Mauke will be the first of the Outer islands to be incorporated into the national asset management framework over the next year with all islands to be included within three years.

Spotted at the Float Parade



An open Letter to Minister of Finance Mark Brown and Finance Secretary Richard Neves

Please supply answers to the following questions resulting from last week's article
"\$1 Million Secret Handout – Were Outer Island Voters Bribed by CIP?"

1. Why was this decision made with 7 days before the elections and never announced?
2. Why is Mauke Island with its **\$46,000** in funding almost double that of a larger island like Aitutaki, is this because Tai Tura was looking like going with OCI?
3. Why the **\$25,000** is for Cook Islands Rugby coming in now, was this to help the teams funding for the Commonwealth Games?
4. The fruit fly eradication program has been widely promoted by the CIP in their achievements, why then do they need to approve **\$30,000** for this program before the election when its entire eradication program cost a whole lot less?
5. Why is the additional **\$23,000** being approved by Executive Council then signed off by the QR himself, claiming consideration then approving it, doesn't sound right?
6. The appropriation for this extra spending is not covered in the 2013/14 Budget Book, neither was the first spending to travel to Samoa. This falls into the extra ordinary spending for 2014/2015 Budget year and yet happened in the 2013/2014 financial year? Executive Council allows for extra spending to occur when its position is to hold and not make extra ordinary spending. Travel to Samoa cannot possibly be a run of the mill type of government expenditure?
7. The Health Referral POBOC was topped up in the PEFU by **\$60,000** this is covered correctly in the ECM, but that's where the similarities end.
8. The Aitutaki Fuel storage of **\$160K** in the ECM is different to the PEFU where this is costed at **\$70,000**.
9. Why are oxygen cylinders being purchased when a perfectly operational system is operating from Julian Dashwood's residence in Matavera? Who gets the **\$45,000**, if this is to a private company why wasn't this tendered? Where is the oxygen plant located if it's not at the Rarotonga hospital?
10. So the PM is the Solar Power King and yet as MP he recently as of 2011 had new diesel generators installed in Manihiki and another approval so close to the election for the sizeable amount of **\$89,000**.
11. What is meant by a complete climate adaption of Manihiki harbour for the amount of **\$20,000**? What is a complete climate adaptation? Higher walls? Tsunami warning system? Or another way of buying **\$20,000** worth of outboard motors and pretending that these are for climate change adaptation measures?
12. Road network maintenance is this a disguise for another contract for T&M Heather?
13. Pukapuka Bob Cat **\$2000** what kind of expense is this? Is this some kind of campaign works done in Pukapuka or work done in Pukapuka and not paid and was this approval made a week before the elections to gain the votes of a particular bob cat owner in Pukapuka?
14. Mini Transformers on Aitutaki, why have these been paid out of the public account, and why have these not been paid out of the SOE - Aitutaki Electricity Supply? A total of **\$13,000** approved by Cabinet be interesting to see where this money actually went?
15. National Health Renewal program of **\$88,000** is this for the upgrade at the Rarotonga Hospital, if so why was the Min of Health Nandi Glassie so upbeat about the completion of the hospital upgrade on the 3rd April in Parliament?
16. Why have Various Capital Items less than **\$10,000** each with a total of **\$63,000** have not been identified when Pukapuka **\$2,000**, Atiu Power Distribution **\$7,000**, Water Pumps Aitutaki **\$7,000** are listed? What is hidden in these various Capital items?

On behalf of concerned readers. George Pitt



Executive Council

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ECM (2014) 019

Copy No: 019

Issued: Wednesday, 2 July 2014

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- ECM (14) 019 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 Approval to expend over the gross appropriated budget for selected Outer Island Governments-2013/14 Operating Budget
- Concurred With the decision of Cabinet contained in Cabinet Minute, CM (14) 0215
- Passed To expend over the gross appropriated budget for selected Outer Island Governments-2013/14 Operating Budget.
1. Approved the increase in trading revenue and corresponding operating expense for the Island of Mauke \$0.046 million to enable Mauke Island Administration to access funding.
 2. Approved the increase in trading revenue and corresponding operating expense for the Island of Aitutaki \$0.026 million to enable Aitutaki Island Administration to access funding.
 3. Approved the increase in trading revenue and corresponding operating expense for the Island of Penrhyn \$0.025 million to enable Penrhyn Island Administration to access funding.
 4. Approved the increase in trading revenue and corresponding operating expense for the island of Mitiaro \$0.006 million to enable Mitiaro Island Administration to access funding.

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Copy No: 018

Issued: Wednesday, 2 July 2014

Aukino Tairea

ACTING CLERK OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Queen's Representative
All Executive Council

At a meeting held on Wednesday, 2 July 2014, the Executive Council



Executive Council

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ECM (2014) 018

Copy No: 018

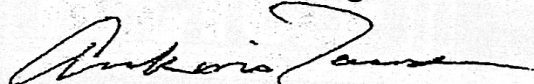
Issued: Wednesday, 2 July 2014

This paper is the **PROPERTY** of the Cook Islands Government. It includes material for **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL** purposes it **MUST** be handled with **PARTICULAR** care and in **ACCORDANCE** with any **SECURITY** classification or other **ENDORSEMENT** assigned to it. The information in it may be released **ONLY** where proper **AUTHORITY** to do so exists, and **STRICTLY** in terms of that authority.

- 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

ACTING CLERK OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Queen's Representative
All Executive Council

What must I do to be saved? Acts 2:38

By Pastor Ngarima George

Is FAITH necessary for Salvation?

YES "...Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him." (Hebrews 11:6)

Is FAITH ALONE sufficient for Salvation?

NO "...Even demons BELIEVE-and tremble! But do you want to know, O FOOLISH MAN that faith without works is dead?

...YES see then that a man is justified by works, and not by FAITH ONLY.

.....For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." (James 2:19, 20, 24, 26)

Are we saved by our Own Works of RIGHTEOUSNESS?

NO "...Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by FAITH IN CHRIST, and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified." (Galatians 2:16)

SO THEN, WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

SUBMIT TO GOD IN OBEDIENT FAITH:

"For you are all sons of God THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS. For as many of you as were BAPTISED INTO CHRIST have put on Christ." (Galatians 3:26, 27)

Are you part of the glorious church of Christ, which He built on the sure foundation that He is the only begotten Son of God?

All who obey Him are members of His one spiritual family.

The Church, the body of Christ. "Who do men say that I the Son of Man am?" And Simon answered and said, "YOU are THE CHRIST< THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD."

"....on this rock I will build MY CHURCH..." (Matthew 16:13-18, 1 Corinthians 3:11)

Ka Kite a teia epetoma ki mua

A special welcome family and friends to the New Hope Church in Parekura, (between the TV station and Lawn Bowls Club) on Sunday 10 August 2014 at 10am for our Holy Communion Service and message by Pastor Ngarima George.

Theme for the day.

"Man Distance from God"

Why not make the effort to come and hear the Word of Power and Healing.

New Hope Church

Parekura Conference Centre

Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you

Sunday at 10.30am

The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

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Part 1 of 7: Using the Start Screen

Use the tiles. When you start the computer, after passing the lock and sign-in screens, it will take you to the start screen. This screen replaces the function of the start button in previous versions of Windows. On your start screen, you will see several boxes in various sizes and colors. These are tiles. Tiles act the same as icons did in previous versions, in that clicking on them starts the program that they represent.

- Some tiles will present basic information associated with that program. For example, the Store tile will show the number of programs, which have available updates (if any).
- You can move the tiles by holding and dragging them. With the Windows 8.1 update, you can even batch move (as well as edit) tiles.

Take advantage of the live tiles. Live tiles are tiles, which change every few seconds to present you with various information. These can be helpful and give your start screen a more dynamic look but they are not available for every application. Using live tiles is especially helpful with things like News applications, which will flash headlines to keep you updated.

To be continued...

WHAT'S NEW INSTORE



HP 20-2000a All in One PC
AMD E1-2500 CPU
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SERIOUS SOUND!
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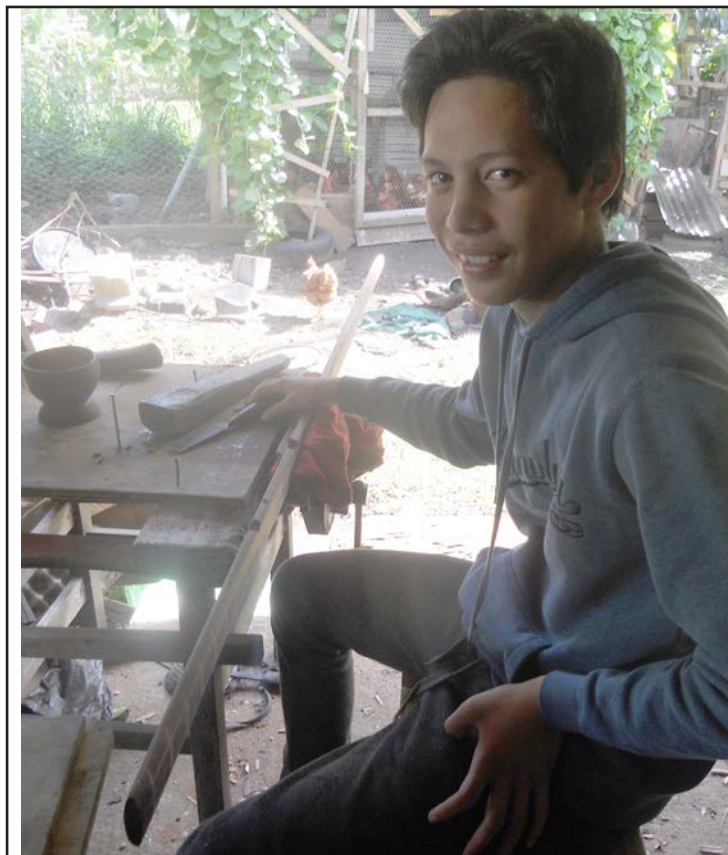
Hawaiian students learn from the master



Hikili'i Chow



Miki'ala Pescaia



Kukahi Meyers

By Poko Utia

A group of Hawaiian high school students currently visiting Rarotonga and Mangaia have been spending time with local master carver Mike Tavioni learning about carving.

The Herald visited Tavioni's Atupa workshop on Tuesday and spoke with the group's teacher Miki'ala Pescaia.

She told the Herald she came to Rarotonga in 1992 as an exchange student from Hawaii and was accommodated by Tatari Mitchell. Miki'ala's second encounter to the island was in 2012 with a group of students from Molokai High school and Kamehameha schools kapalama. Her sole purpose was to give the students an opportunity to experience

what she had felt and went through as a former exchange student.

Now this is her third time to the island with a group of kids from all over Hawaii. Some are from university and others are from high schools. The kids are learning the ways of the people by getting to know the locals and the children, but for some it is their first time and for some it is their second time to the island. There is a program set in place for students on holiday to go to and learn the traditional practices that they may not have learnt at school.

Miki'ala has also noticed the lack of enthusiasm in the Cook Islands, where kids are not at all interested in learning their culture and being a part of it.

She is very concerned for the local people that we might lose our tradition and cultural identity.

Miki'ala came across Mike Tavioni at the BCI Trade Days and he offered to teach the kids his skills and knowledge about carving. Malama Honua, meaning "To care for our planet". Is the message that they believe in and live by. "Our islands are like canoes, limited in resources and we must all care for one another, our Vaka ensures sustainability. Our visit here is to share ideas with Cook Islands communities on ways to best perpetuate culture, traditions, food sources and our identity as Pacific Islanders. We are thankful for the hospitality shown to us and hope we have

reciprocated in Aloha as well". Miki'ala is planning another trip back to the island next year with her group of kids.

Hikili'i Chow is a 17 year old girl currently studying at Molokai High school this is her first time to the island and is loving her stay here. She says that it is very similar to home and can only speak a little bit of Hawaiian. She is learning to carve a drum and wants to put on one side the name of her high school and the other Cook Islands.

Kukahi Meyers is a 16 year old boy currently studying at Kamehameha schools Kapalama it is his second time back to the island and loves it. He can speak the language (Hawaiian) and is not quite sure what it is he doing for his carving.

Rough seas delay vakas



By Nadia George

Friends, family and spectators from all over Rarotonga, gathered on the docks of Avatiu harbor on Thursday 31st July, to bear witness as the traditional voyaging vakas of Hokulea, Hikianalia and Fa'afaite sailed into the shores of Rarotonga late Thursday morning. After departing from the shores of Tahiti Nui and setting sail on their journey the crew had finally arrived

a day later that they had expected due to the hectic weather that we here in the Cook Islands, have been experiencing. Voyagers had to endure rough seas, five to seven meter swells and winds gushing at them at sixty five knots, but master navigator Tua Pittman says that through all the bad weather, everyone did the best they could to ensure that all crew members were safe. Once they hit the shores, family

and friends greeted all as they disembarked from the vessel having been adorned by freshly made leis. After a morning filled with everyone anxiously awaiting the arrival of the vakas, crewmembers and spectators were treated to a short cultural performance by Nukutere College students, members of the Cook Islands voyaging association and speeches by those involved in the vakas voyage to Rarotonga.

The Vakas will remain on the shores of Rarotonga until the 6th August where they will depart once again on their journey where they will grace the shores of Aitutaki, Suvarrow and American Samoa, to name a few. As the team of Pacific voyagers set off to campaign against and promoting the message of protecting the Pacific ocean as many bigger countries disregard the well being of those of us here living in the Pacific.



By Nadia George

A woman with a large, colorful feathered headdress and a red dress with a large feathered collar stands behind a table displaying various handmade crafts, including hats, necklaces, and masks, at an outdoor market stall. A sign on the table lists items for sale: Supreme Coffee, Crispy Waffles, Fresh Shakes, Health Supplements, and a menu with prices.

Purotu looks at selling locally made oils that can be used to help treat wounds, stretch marks as well as help maintain or give life to a person's hair. April Ngametua tells us that to produce a batch of Mahina oil, takes up to three hours of cooking coconut oils and aloe Vera together in one batch. Once the oil is cooked, the team then bottles the oil and labels them; ready to sell to eager customers. An important note made by Ngametua herself, is that with the cold conditions Rarotonga is now experiencing, the oil tends to freeze and a trick that may come in handy is to take a bit of Mahina oil out of the bottle and rub it between your palms to heat the oil up and then apply it to your skin or hair.

A collection of carved wooden flutes, some with intricate carvings, displayed on a table outdoors. The flutes are arranged in a row, showing various designs and finishes. The table is covered with a blue cloth, and the background shows a grassy area and a white plastic chair.

How to enjoy people in your life

Part 1

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

Now-a-days we see on television and read in newspapers about problems people are facing. Many of these are to do with our relationships with each other. In the Book of Philippians written by the Apostle Paul it deals a lot with the problems in life that we all face. The words "joy" or "rejoice" or "be glad" are used 17 different times. Therefore I want to speak on how to be joyful in spite of circumstances or problems we face.

In Philippians 1v.3-11, Paul starts talking about people. The question is "Do you enjoy the people around you? the people that you work with? the one that you're married to? the people in your family?" The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 9v.9 "Husbands [men] enjoy life with your wife whom you love." The problem I find is that many marriages are more of a matter of endurance rather than enjoyment. We don't really enjoy the people in our lives, we tolerate them, we put up with them, we endure them. The question is 'What does it take to enjoy the people in your life?' There are four points I want us to look at. We will look at 2 in this article and 2 in the next one:

1. Be grateful for the good in people. v. 3. "I thank my God every time I remember you." Paul said I like to remember the good things about people, focus on the good times, remember the positive experiences. What do you remember about people? The good experiences or the bad experiences. When Paul said this he had not had an easy time in Philippi. Acts 16 tells us the background of this story. When he went to Philippi he was arrested illegally, whipped, humiliated, thrown into prison. While in prison there was an earthquake. He was asked to leave town. Paul did not have a good time in Philippi, he had a bad time. Yet he says, "When I think of you I remember the good things." "I thank God every time

I remember you." Paul chose not to remember the negative and painful memories, but rather he focused on the things he could be grateful for. Maybe you have been hurt in the past by your parent or your partner and you're still holding on to that hurt. As a result you can't enjoy them today. You're still focusing on the bad and the negative. Be grateful for the good in people. Pleasant memories are a choice. You can choose what you're going to remember about your past.

LESSON #1: Remember the best, forget the rest.

I hear people say "He's a good man, but ... " Anytime you hear "but" it means the emphasis is on the negative not the positive. Be grateful for what you've got! Mr Perfect does not exist! Be grateful for the good in other people. Paul appreciated people's loyalty. v.5 reads "You have helped me from the very first day until now." Who has been loyal to you? Maybe somebody at work, a friend, a husband or wife. Maybe they didn't do anything really spectacular, but time and time again, when they had every opportunity to walk out on you, they didn't. They hung in there. When you were going through a crisis in your life, they stayed with you. You ought to appreciate that! If you want to enjoy others, you have got to focus on their strengths and not their weaknesses. You can find something good in everybody.

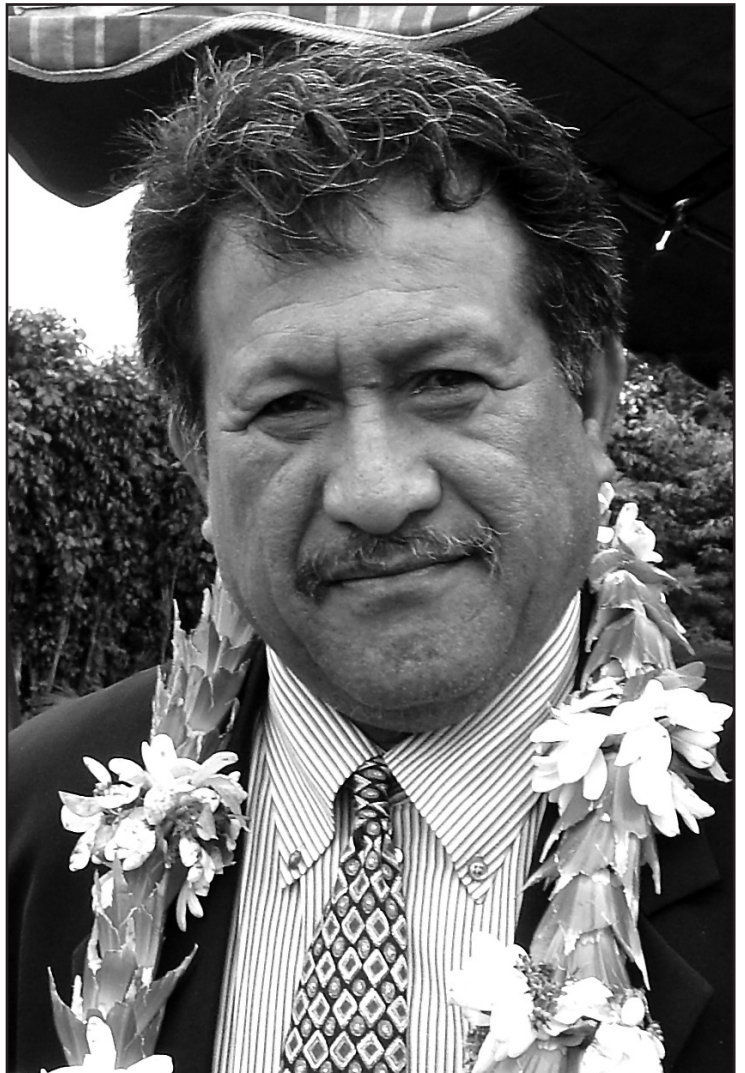
2. Practice positive praying. v.4 reads "In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy." Isn't this encouraging knowing that people are praying for you when they are remembering you?

LESSON #2: The quickest way to change a relationship from bad to good is to start thanking God in prayer for people.

This will do two things: change your attitude and change them. Positive praying is much more powerful than positive thinking. People may resist our advice and reject our suggestions and not

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



listen to our help, but they are powerless against our prayers. Most of us are good at praying in a crisis but on a normal basis what do you pray? "God, bless them?" That's too general. The more specific you are in prayer the more specific you get an answer. This is how Paul prayed for people. In v.9-11 it reads "And this is my prayer, that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight so that you may be able to discern what is best and be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God." There are four things Paul prays for other

people. You can pray these for people in your life and they will be answered because they are God's will.

1. Pray that they will grow in love. "... abound in love ..."
2. Pray that they make wise choices. "... discern what is best..."
3. Pray that they will do the right thing. "... be pure and blameless."
4. Pray that they will live for God's glory. "... the fruit of righteousness."

Paul says if you want to enjoy people in your life, first You must be grateful for the good in people; and secondly You practice positive praying. I will continue with Part 2 of this article of Encouragement next week. May you have a God blessed week. Te Atua te aroa.

School time

By Nadia George

Kia ora, to all you keen "Heralders" out there, I trust your holidays have been fantabulous, and if you're a parent reading this, then I bet you just can't wait to kick your kids b**ts back to school next week. I was actually meant to talk about the Maeva Nui celebrations that went on the whole of last week but unfortunately I hadn't attended any of the dance nights due to the hectic weather that we've been experiencing. Praise be to God for the sun finally coming out! Time to get my tan on... Jokes, I don't have the bikini ready 'bod' for tanning, yet, but I will someday.

Anyway since the holidays are almost coming to a close, I for one am actually looking forward to going back to school next week. Not because I'm a nerd or anything, it's just that life during my school holiday

hasn't been as adventurous as I had thought it would be. There was no epic party (well not that I am aware of), not as many lunch dates that I had hoped for and no egging off and just being the eighteen-year-old teenager that my friends wished I would be. There was definitely no rehab or hiddies either. I know what you're thinking, "you're eighteen and all you do is stay home?" Well sadly yes, told you I was boring. Now I know how my fellow columnist Norma Ngatamariki feels lol! The holidays for moi have been more work than pleasure really. But the silver lining to it all is that my bank account has finally bumped up few bucks, so there's the plus side to all this.

Since its term three already (where have all the months gone), I plan on pushing myself, academically, to try and build my credit score in level three. Gotta maintain that awesome

excellence level if I want to maintain my placement in the scholarship list. Only problem is that this term will be shorter than the previous ones we've just had. I can already see the stress building in 'future Nadia'. "Its okay Nadia, just breathe!" that's what I like to do, give myself a pep talk, just to keep my spirits up and motivate myself, well if no one else will do it for me, then I might as well do it myself. And you know what they say; if you want something done right then you better do it yourself. Needless to say, I can already see a very busy eight weeks ahead of me, what with school work piling up, my drama production finally getting geared up and lets not forget the big paddling trip, yay me!

Trainings are set to get more intense what with the departing date edging even closer, I've finally started my singles training and morning trainings for the next few



weeks ahead. And again I say, yay me! Let the count down begin.

Students gearing up for Culinary Fare

By Nadia George

Three talented students, currently studying at the Cook Islands Tertiary Training Institute (CITTI), are gearing themselves up to take part in the annual Culinary Fare held in New Zealand on the 17th of August, accredited by the infamous London City and Guilds. Currently being held as a single day event allowing students to compete against one another in their respective fields of front house staff as well as culinary and cookery. Taa Pera, head of faculty of CITTI, will be taking over the team of three consisting of two chefs and one front of house staff, to compete in this prestigious competitions that she believes will give these students good experience and a little taste of what is yet to come for them in their fields of the hospitality industry. The competition is set to run for one day and is streaked with

many prizes to be won as well as recognition from highly credited organizations such as the London City and Guilds. The competition offers these three students the chance to strut their stuff and put all the skills and techniques that they have learnt from their trainings, to work. Currently the students are training five hours a day, five days a week and have to travel other commitments such as part time jobs, family commitments as well as sports and other community projects.. Every year the Cook Islands Training Institute has sent over teams who have also competed and returned home with excellent results and so Pera believes that this year's team will do very well also. Here's wishing our very own local students all the best as they venture off and compete in this prestigious event. Good luck to you all.



CITTI student are gearing up for Culinary Fare in New Zealand

The Demo lot are at it again, letting the media do their job as Opposition. Given the big story about the CIP \$1m give away before the Elections, not one squeak forth coming from the self proclaiming leader from Penrhyn or his chief advisor, the \$1,134 a week raffle coordinator Mr 'eye' Drolley who continues to shield his wife's boss neneva Neves. When is anyone in the Demo camp going to realise Rasmussen is no longer the leader of the Opposition, the final results have been announced and Willie John is now collecting the pay as the MP for Penrhyn. What is Rasmussen's status in the tax funded Office of the Leader of the Opposition? As the Party Leader what right does Rasmussen have to be in there? The office is not provided for the political Demo Party but for the Leader of the Opposition, an elected Member of Parliament. Time to move on Rasmussen.



How grandiose Mr Elvis is with his Rock Star euphoria, in a parade of his own, the unpopular leader had to have a police escort, one in front and one at the rear both with flashing lights when he went to the National Auditorium to see the dancers in a half empty building. While it Elvis' showmanship was a big turn off for the locals it really impressed the outer islanders. What a waste of petrol and police man hours, then when did the lazy Enere every worry about the lavish self gratifying spending of hard earned public money?



Talking about Enere Elvis, while everyone in the CIP camp that matters wants the after Election Party

Conference to go ahead straight after the petitions Elvis wants everything deferred for another year so he can glory in the 50 year celebration of more debts and dependency on other Countries. Talk about trying to shift the goal posts, the sooner the conference is held the sooner the 78 vote PM can be replaced by a real leader. This time the President, Patron and the Executives aren't going to back down.



Talk in the CIP petition camp is both Elvis and X factor Heta are weighing up the option of doing a Murienua/Tuariki and resigning forcing two by elections in their respective constituencies instead of facing up to bribery allegations that if proven will be punished by imprisonment. Mona loane from Vaipae/Tautu is in the same sinking boat and may have to follow suit otherwise it will be jail house rock under the supervision of the Black Knight who will give Elvis the duty of feeding the pigs and working in George Maggie's road side beautification team in Tupapa, certainly a good remedy for the permanent cure of laziness. Elvis will soon see how few friends he has when no one turns up on visiting days.



Enere can be thankful we are the Cook Islands and not China where you lose your head.



In 2010 the medical Doctors were given red cards and phased out of Parliamentary politics, in 2014 all four lawyers are clinging to hope by way of petitions and counter petitions the red curtain hasn't fallen on their era. Maybe it's time to return to the Albert Henry low tech approach of good old common sense and hearing the heart of the people. All in favour say 'eyhe'.



Tax payer funded Drolley seems to be becoming confused about his role, paid over \$1,000 a week to be employed as a CEO to the leader of the Opposition, most of his time is spent openly doing work for the Democratic Party, it's about time the Demos demonstrated the walk what they talk about and separate Party work from Opposition Office work. The tax payer is getting tired of the Demos copy cating the CIP and disregarding the rules, no wonder the One Cook Islands Movement is attracting new members. Raffle hustling isn't Opposition work nor should it be funded by taxpayer's hard earn efforts.

Instead of opposing the government the lazy Drolley along with his leader have been twiddling their thumbs, baby sitting the grand children and doing his private business in a tax funded office while the media is doing the job for them. What's Drolley up to now? Running around in circles trying to look like he is saving his leader's seat; just more Party work at the taxpayer's expense.



Are the Demos counting their chooks before they hatch? 13 chicks in the hen house? More like 10 say some. What of the CIP? Talking to them would be like talking to the crew of the Titanic. Better to get into the lifeboats now.

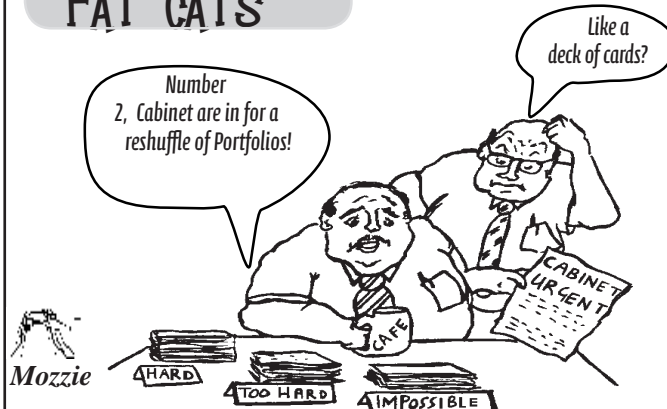


Seems one high flyer in MFEM skies is not planning to hang around and may soar off to lands far off! Moving in to warm a seat in those hallowed halls is a former top consultant with an overseas development bank now back sunning himself on these shores. Could this just be the prelude to a step up to the rarified atmosphere of the extreme high flyers?

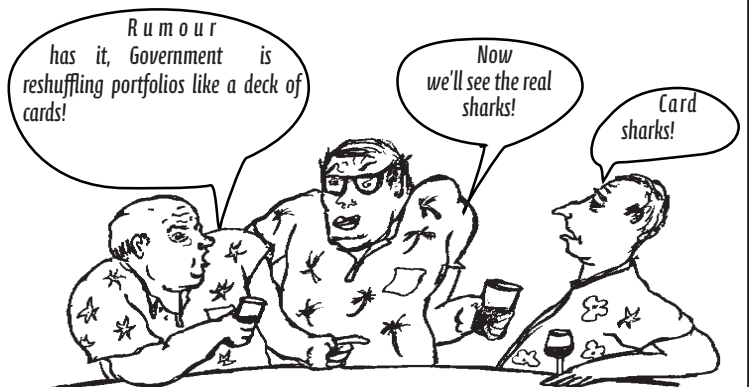


Just where did our female sprinter finish in her heat of the 200m at the Glasgow Games? The Daily said she finished seventh. However, in the film footage she is shown as finishing eighth in a field of eight and a long last over 4 seconds behind the winner. On the electronic board she is also shown as finishing eighth. Why can't the Daily just get over the massive embarrassment and say she was completely outclassed and finished a long, lonely last in a field of eight?

FAT CATS



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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.

Mount View Lodges O'oa

Accommodation to suit your budget

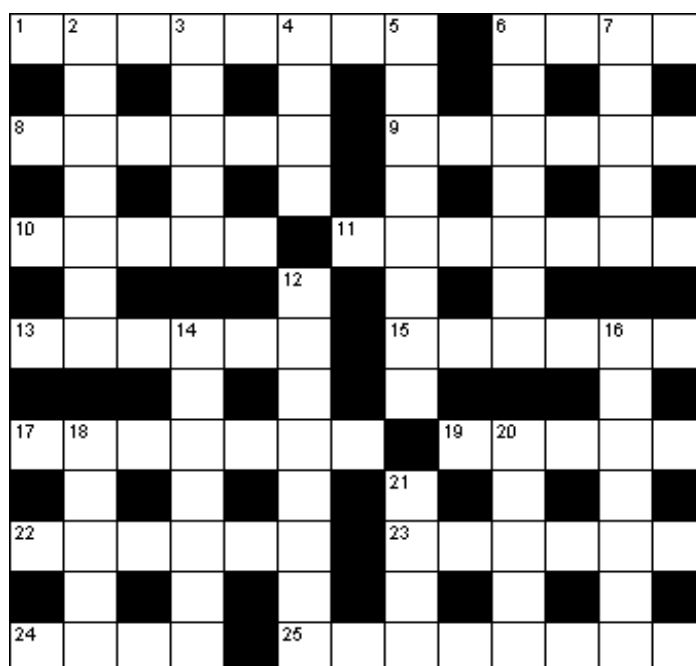


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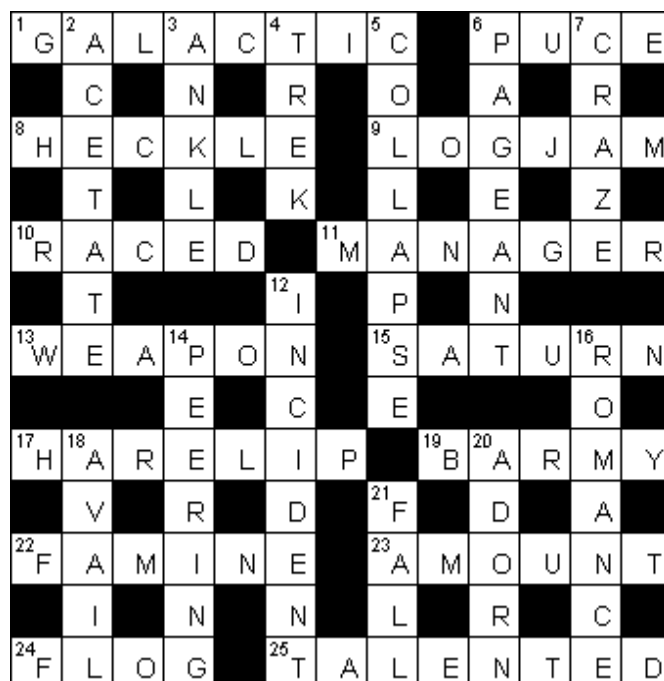


Across

1. Wages
6. Mixed school
8. Fester
9. Second day of the week
10. Game resembling ice hockey
11. Supposed
13. Stroll
15. Make fat
17. Irrigated
19. Lanterns
22. Calls on
23. About
24. Unit of computer memory
25. Distance across a circle

Down

2. State of USA
3. Unadorned
4. Russian no
5. Make less complex
6. Link
7. Elude
12. Freed
14. Dwelling place for bees
16. Expenditure
18. Friendship
20. Make amends
21. Father



Pacific Island Forum Secretariat Peer Review of the Cook Islands

In recently launching the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat Peer Review Report of the Cook Islands at the 10th Annual Forum Economic Ministers Meeting in the Solomon Islands, Forum Secretary General Slade congratulated the membership of the Pacific Islands Forum on the peer review process. "Within four years of making the commitment in Cairns to undertake peer reviews, all 13 Forum Island Countries that signed up to the Forum compact have lived up to those promises."

The review looked at how the Government, development partners and other stakeholders plan, budget, deliver and monitor development programmes and services to the people of the Cook Islands.

Minister Brown noted that a number of peer review recommendations aimed to further the development of initiatives already in progress such as the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics and the National Infrastructure Investment Planning process. Brown stated that he is "pleased to see that Cook Islands development is on the right track and the increasingly inclusive approach to country led and owned strategies and action plans are providing a solid foundation to achieving our National Sustainable Development Plan vision of enjoying the highest quality of life consistent with the aspirations of our people in harmony with our culture and environment".

In summary, the final report outlines that the Cook Islands has sound macro-economic management, some of the best development statistics in the region and is well on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, but acknowledging the ever present vulnerability to external economic and environmental shocks. The report acknowledges the policy challenges facing the Cook Islands in working towards an inclusive economy that alleviates inequality

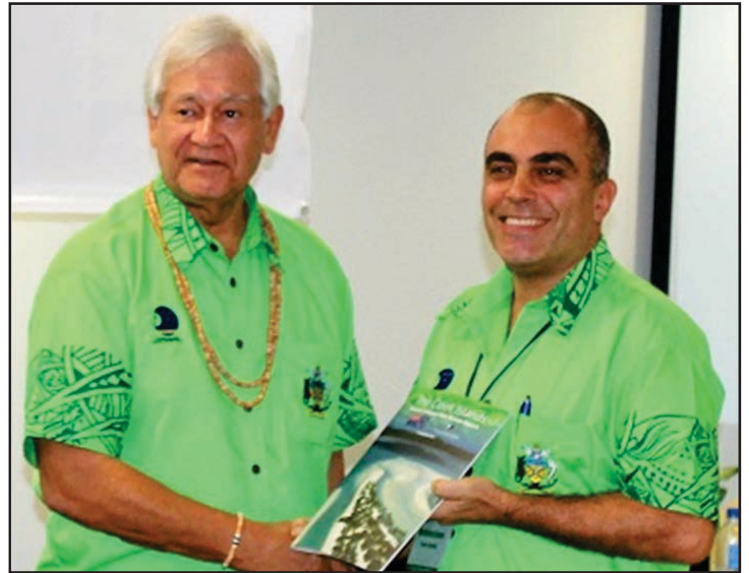
and ensures participation and beneficiation of Cook Islanders. A particular point in the report was the continued concerns around outward migration of Cook Islanders.

Areas in which key findings were made include planning and monitoring, communication and coordination, budgeting, performance management and public financial management and budgeting, aid coordination and management.

In terms of planning and monitoring the report outlined that the monitoring and implementation of long term development vision and medium term development plans through an established national coordination mechanism in the Office of the Prime Minister is good practice. Recommendations were made on measures to improve coordination and increase capacity in the Central Policy Unit of the Office of the Prime Minister in order that a more systematic approach to monitoring and reporting across government on the objectives of the National Sustainable Development Plan could be implemented.

In terms of communication and coordination the report noted the strength of the civil society, private, culture and media sector in the Cook Islands. The report outlined that an opportunity was present for greater policy analysis and dialogue across these groups. In particular, an improved focus on communications was identified and that this could be achieved through the establishment of a communications office and the provision of support for 'umbrella' type mechanisms or organisations to represent the private, civil society, media and cultural sector. The report pointed to consideration of a public consultations/communication campaign on upcoming large scale investments in renewable energy and water infrastructure.

In terms of budgeting,



Forum Secretariat Secretary General, Tuiloma Neroni Slade (left) and the Cook Islands Secretary of Finance, Mr. Richard Neves at the launch of the Cook Islands Forum Compact Peer Review Report (Photo courtesy of Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat)

performance management and public financial management the report outlined that the Government has a well-considered approach to public sector human resource management and is attracting and contracting skilled and committed public servants at the senior level, but that issues remain around retention. The report recommended the Cook Islands working with others in the region to learn lessons on good practice in attracting and retaining staff with scarce skills.

The report confirmed that centralising procurement as well as other core functions would deliver efficiencies in Government and that measures to improve resourcing of the Audit Office to catch up on outstanding audits and follow up on findings should be considered.

In terms of aid coordination the report noted the well established aid management functions and systems in place in the Cook Islands. The report outlined best practice processes in the Cook Islands whereby aid effectiveness principles focus on the context of strengthening government as a whole and that transparency and the potential

for accountability is dramatically improved by project reports and studies being made available to the public in the Cook Islands. The report called on development partners to support the implementation of the Cook Islands Official Development Assistance (ODA) strategy. In this regard the report recommends a meaningful policy dialogue on medium term strategy to move away from project based aid to long term development financing through one budget support mechanism.

Other recommendations included measures to determine the bottlenecks in delivery of major infrastructure including to outer islands; more timely and complete information from development partners and regional organisations; and working with development partners to establish a set of unique development targets with government.

The Government will now review the recommendations and look towards how some of these can be incorporated into its processes to improve the ongoing development of the Cook Islands.

“Te Tateni o Ngati Makea”

By: Pastor Ngarima George

Ka tika, ka tika
Kare aku tuitui
Kare aku paua
Kare aku rivaitau
Ei nekeanga
Ei nooanga tanga tangata

Ka tumu te po
Ka tumu tea o
Ka tioi te po
Ka tioi tea o
Ka tioi te marama
Ka tioi te au etu

E enua ko Tumu-te-varovaro
E Ariki ko Turiara
Ariki atu ei ki tonga Koutu
Tana pu, Tana pau, Tana kaara
E pu, e pau, e kaara
E aka Ariki
E toroe, kiritia
Kiritia ki raro pu enua
Ka peke kit e rangi takiri
Tutavake te tama, ka noo i te vaine
Ko Tepairu, Aurangi
Anau tona Ariki ko Kititie
Kiritia raa ka noo kit e vaine
Ko tauira it e po
Kotauira it e ao
Putā mai ei koe e Makea
Kit e ao nui maramarama
E Ariki manamana
No nga tini atu e rua

Tumu e kapu , ko kapu runga,

Ko kapu raro
Ko papa ko atea
Akaotu enua ko Tumu-Te-Varovaro

Me oro koe kit e manga
E Ariki koe no te manu
Me oro koe ki te moana
E Ariki koe no te ika
Me oro koe ki Anaiki
E Ariki koe no Tumaro, Kumi
Etumaro anga e totoro i ora varu

E maunga tei uta
Ko nga vaia te manga
E Koutu ki tai ko Arai-Te-Tonga
Ko Pureora, ko Murivai, ko Marae Koroa
E Ariki ki runga ko Makea
Ko Tinomana, ko Karika, ko Vakadini

E vaka ki runga
Ko Takitumu
Ko Pa MA Kainuku
E vaka ki raro
Ko Puaikura
Tinomana i te Kauariki Rangi
E vaka ki ropu ko te au ki tonga

Naai teia rui
Na Makea...
Noea...
No runga, no Arai-Te-Tonga
E te rui nekeneke
E te rui nekeneke
E neke e te rui
le...koko

Cook Islands Contract Awards List Updated

In a continued effort to improve transparency and accountability for all Government procurement activities, MFEM has gathered information on contract awards from the respective agencies of the Cook Islands Government and posted it to the MFEM website. Due to some technical difficulties with www.procurement.gov.ck which was recently hacked the updates will be hosted on the www.mfem.gov.ck website. It should be noted that the procurement process is decentralised and the list relies on the provision of information by all agencies, and in some cases there is still information to be provided by the agency.

It is the aim of MFEM to have the list updated every quarter.

Procurement outcomes are around achieving value for money, as opposed to just the cheapest. Ultimately tender evaluation teams take into account a number of variables, including price when ascertaining what is the best tender in terms of providing a good or service to Government.

The Cook Islands Government Financial Policies and Procedures outlines that any purchase of a good or service which may be valued at over \$30,000 requires an open public tender process. Exceptions to the requirement to run an open public tender can occur,

either through a closed tender process or a waiver of the process.

Closed tenders are undertaken in particular situations, including where an:

- agency seeks a particular brand or make and there are limited suppliers, for example, the conditions around purchasing equipment or material with development partner funds may require that those items be manufactured from that country.

- existing panel arrangement is in place where accredited suppliers are approved for supply of goods or services to government, a good example is in waste and sanitation where there is an approved

panel of accredited suppliers for works associated with the sanitation upgrade funded by the Government and development partners; and

- initial expression of interest has been undertaken to ascertain market capacity, and only bidders who participated in the initial EOI are allowed to participate.

Tender processes may be waived in circumstances where there is an urgency to procure the service immediately, these are usually urgent or unforeseen and if allowed to continue present a risk to the public.

The latest update can be found at http://www.mfem.gov.ck/images/Contract_Awards_Notifications.pdf.