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Politicians need to spruce up Parliamentary performances

As long as Cook Islands politics is personality driven the Parliamentary performances of our Members of Parliament will be woefully pathetic and undeserving of the monetary remuneration they receive. Until all the Electoral Petitions are resolved there are four politicians who are lawyers.

Between them they still have to engage other lawyers to drive their petitions. In the last six months in the scarce sittings of Parliament debate and verbal exchanges have been limited to a mere handful. Very few sitting MPs prior to the 2014 Elections appeared to have a working knowledge of their tools of the trade being the Cook Islands Constitution, the Parliament's Standing Orders and the MFEM Act let alone their own Party Constitution.

It was evident on several occasions the leader of the Opposition Wilkie Rasmussen was out smarted and caught out as being very shallow on the machinery of the House and the application of the Standing Orders, a shameful indictment seeing he had been a MP for nearly a decade. The CIP Prime Minister Henry Puna fared no better but seemed marginal due to his reliance on Teina Bishop who sat at his left and constantly kept him up to speed, on the right sat the bewildered Teariki Heather who at least stayed awake while lost in translation.

MPs must do more than read their Standing Orders and Constitution; they must endeavour and make the effort to study them. It is one thing to know what these documents

say, but a MP must know what they mean instead of being dependent on the sub standard advice of the Crown Law Office. The third step is to know how to apply the documents of trade in relationship with each other in cross referencing.

The Party leaders must know the contents of the listed documents like the back of their hands and how to engage them under the pressure of political banter in the House.

Recapping; know what the documents say, know what they mean then most important of all know how to use them while engaged in the

machinery of the House. Most of the MPs do not have copies of any of the four documents with them for instant reference when they are participating in Parliamentary business in the House.

For the many years that some have been an MP including Cabinet Ministers the level of performance in sessions is alarmingly shoddy and embarrassing. Apart from sending a rare, lengthy greeting to their constituencies many MP are silent and barely utter relevant comments or intelligently contribute to the debates.

In this last Parliamentary term the 47th Session sub

standard performing MPs were never inspired to rise to the occasion due to the equally juvenile performance of a novice Speaker of the House who over indulged her brand of chairpersonship exhausting the patience and good will of not only the regular listeners of the live broadcasts of the Parliamentary sittings but many of the more experienced MPs.

After she sacked the very experienced Clerk of the House Puna Rakanui, Nicky Rattle and the inexperienced assistant Clerk replacement where embarrassingly like

the blind leading the blind. Unfortunately for Rattle and the inexperienced MP there were too few sittings of Parliament for them to grow into the job.

Since 2011 till 2014 Parliament sitting days totalled 74 days for three and a half years. Compared with New Zealand Parliament the Business Committee prior to the close of the sittings at the end of each year sets a minimum of 90 days for the next year.

Select Committee work was abandoned by the constantly travelling Puna leaving the majority of the MPs with little Parliamentary related work

to do. It is little wonder Henry Puna is labelled a lazy PM preoccupied with lavish self indulgences and the worst of all PMs in 50 years of Cook Islands self governance.

In addition to NZ Members of Parliament sitting 90 days a year, they work a full time week engaged in Select Committee work then have the weekends to attend to their constituency demands and expectations.

There needs to be a reform shift from Parliament being the stage for Party politicking performances to a forum where the voice of the constituencies is voiced and heard by the whole Nation by the live broadcasts on Radio Cook Islands. Parliament's audience is sick and tired of the two party antics in the House, each MP represents a constituency that needs their issues debated and resolved. Parliament is to serve the people not a small group that push Party politics, the Constitution makes that very clear.

Its time MPs took their job seriously and begin by lifting their performances and contributions in the House when it sits. It starts by getting a copy of the three documents already referred to. Too many politicians act as if their primary work is to win an election, its time they woke up and realise winning is a door to work and more work. The leaders of both Parties must insist their MPs hone their skills in the understanding and application of their political Bibles. MPs must be self motivated and not dependent on others to be their resource.

- George Pitt

For the many years that some have been an MP including Cabinet Ministers the level of performance in sessions is alarmingly shoddy and embarrassing.

Time to take baby off the bottle

After 50 years of self government, why are we still sucking up to foreign aid?

By Charles Pitt

It was of interest to note the particular comments in the Peer Review Group's report regarding our government's management of foreign aid assistance.

The Pacific Forum Peer Review Group's report is now on line.

It confirms a sad state of affairs. After 50 years of self government, we've not grown up and are not standing on our own two feet. We are propped up each year with the help of millions of dollars of aid funding. Surely the time has come to wean ourselves off the bottle?

The Group's report in the main, commends government's efforts to manage the ODA-Overseas Development Assistance, effectively. However, what continues to be disturbing about this, is that about one third of government's budget comprises foreign aid funding. Even more disturbing is the

proposal to reclassify foreign aid funds from specific programmes to the more general category of "budget support." While flexibility seems to be the purpose of this arrangement, it could be said it just helps to mask or disguise the foreign aid component under layers of assurances our government will manage the resource properly.

The question is should foreign aid form part of the budget at all? Some say it should be kept separate. The budget is for funds appropriated by parliament for a purpose. With foreign aid, this is often already decided by agreement with donors, where it is going to go. Keeping foreign aid as a separate component helps to remind us the extent to which we are living beyond our means.

It's a fact that we are indeed living beyond our means. Tourism, our major earner, is not bringing in sufficient revenue

to meet our needs. Neither are tourist dollars closing the gap between what we spend on imports and what we earn from exports (the trade imbalance). MFEM reports tell us this gap is widening. Because of this, we still need to top up our budget with foreign aid money.

To redress this, government policy should be to eliminate foreign aid by adopting strategies to reduce over time donor aid funds. It is unlikely that reliance on foreign aid can be reduced through exports and export volumes so other revenue streams need to be sought and at the same time efficiencies achieved in government to reduce operational costs. Less tax needs to be drained from the private sector which should retain more revenue to invest in development.

Government should also be considering a strategy to

generate more revenue by effectively managing key national assets like;

1. Fishing –review license fees for foreign vessels, create value added products for human consumption, animal feed, fertilizer (Tuna).

2. The Marine Park and sea food -extracts from sea foods for use in health foods (vitamins, proteins, omega 3) marine life scientific research/eco tourism.

3. Intellectual property (high value, innovative products).

4. Plants and materials- conversion into high value products (high quality carbon from coconut shells, coconut oils, cosmetics).

5. The environment-green waste conversion (for fertilizers, composts, energy).

We should be investigating how we can maximize the returns to the country in these sectors.

Total Parliamentary Sitting Days: 74 during the 47th Session from 2011 to 2014.

2011 : 21 days

February	1 day
April	2 days
July	9 days
August	3 days
December	6 days

2012 : 25 days

February	3 days
June	11 days
November	2 days
December	9 days

2013 : 21 days

February	6 days
June	7 days
December	8 days

2014 : 7 days

March	1 day
April	6 days

Total Sitting days : 74 days

Information supplied by John Tangi, Clerk of the House



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Aunty Mau: Loyal Democratic Leadership

When it comes to loyalty, Aunty Mau is branded by her village as a person who 'actively meets the needs of her people' and as a result always wins by a multitude. A 'true blue' and perhaps the last of its kind! A true blue who values, integrity, respect and teamwork which is put into practice on a daily basis, not only on an election year!

If there is one person worthy of being the leader of the Democratic Party based on loyalty to the Democratic Party and her ability to be well connected to the needs of the people, it's Aunty Mau. She surmounts the remaining members of her political party by far when it comes to leadership. Why may you ask? It's simple, she loves her people and with that love the urge to serve and with that urge to serve, a willingness to help and go beyond the call of duty to get things done. That's the Aunty Mau everyone knows.

Being perhaps the last of the 'true blues' it is a no wonder we see her campaign always

led by Principle and secured by her connection to the people and meeting their daily needs. This rare campaign approach fortunately pushes to the side a campaign that is driven by numbers only, which too often disconnects the candidate to the realities experienced by its constituency.

If there is anything Aunty Mau does well, it is her ability to influence others with a giving and generous heart. This on its own is a powerful attribute to master. It requires the ability to know the difference between a need and a want. Aunty Mau knows when to give and when not to give. You see this in the village, where she has met a need, which overflows to others in need and before you know it more needs are being met by the simple influence of one person.

In regards to gender, Aunty Mau is a woman that has never been driven by the gender flag but rather by her ability to serve and maintain a relationship with and for her people.

Being uniquely balanced in



Aunty Mau

things spiritual, cultural and political and never holding a biased moment towards people regardless of their political affiliation. Aunty Mau may

well have been overlooked by the Party as being that rightful party leader – A leader based on performance, passion and political savyness. - NWT

Open letter to Mr Halatoa Fua, CEO, CI Tourism

Have I read the article of 08 August 'Tourism Contract Details Released' correctly? CI News was denied the identity of the sub-contractor that Australian company, Brave New World (BNW) hired to shoot aerial footage of the Cook Islands? Overview -

1 The project that was funded by NZ Aid

2 CI Tourism breached the Investment Code, at least twice by employing an Australian company to work in an area(s) reserved for Cook Island companies

4 While Mr Fua tells us how much was allocated for the aerial footage, \$27,204.16 (+ \$250,000 for other work) we are not allowed to know who filmed the

aerial footage

Has any footage been filmed at all? Where are the rest of the photographic stills/videos, cinema footage, et al? It's not on the CI Tourism website. So where is it? Why were tenders for aerial footage never advertised publicly? Was Air Rarotonga and/or KokaMedia asked to quote? Did Air Rarotonga and/or KokaMedia shoot any footage, whether still or other? Would the Chairman of the CI Tourism Board, Mr Ewan Smith (shareholder of Air Rarotonga) like to clarify how 'transparency and accountability' is being served by being kept in the dark on the sub-contractors' identity and other tender details?

The Official Information Act

(OIA) was designed –

(a) to increase the availability of official information ...to the people of the Cook Islands in order -

(i) to enable their more effective participation in the making and administration of laws and policies; and

(ii) to promote the accountability of Ministers of the Crown and officials, and thereby to enhance respect for the law and to promote the good government of the Cook Islands;

Mr Fua, to suppress access to public information by claiming that -

'any further requests made by CI News in relation to this matter may be refused under s18 (h) of the Official Information Act 2008

as being 'vexatious, ...'

Not only undermines the purpose of the OIA but it casts suspicion over your role and that of Chairman of the CI Tourism Board, Mr Smith. Is that your intention? Because that is how it now appears. And here's another question – how do you think we appear to the New Zealand taxpayer? We've taken their money; breached our own Investment Code and then we gave \$277,204.16 of NZ Aid money to Australians! And now, we are doing all we can to circumvent the purpose of the OIA.

(Name Withheld)

Editors Note

A copy was forwarded to Mr Fua.

GHD release preliminary findings for TMV detailed design

GHD an international engineering, architecture and environmental consulting company which has been selected to develop the final system design of Te Mato Vai updated stakeholders on progress with the design process last week.

Steve Carne, a water engineer with over 25 years' of experience in Australia and New Zealand at GHD led a presentation to officials on current progress with design. GHD have commenced modelling and analysing data gathered from a number of meters recently installed by ICI around Rarotonga, including: 18 domestic sites, five agricultural sites, nine commercial properties, eight schools, and 12 intakes. Additionally, GHD utilised the findings contained in over 25 reports which have been conducted over time on water supply issues in Rarotonga.

Initial data outlines that usage increased from a daily level of 8.1 million litres per day in April to 9.6 million litres in July.

On the basis of the data supplied, Mr. Carne outlined that the estimated average daily usage rate per person has varied seasonally between 290-550 litres – the larger number he described as “very high” and considerably more than the target amount of 200 litres per person per day defined by the Institution of Professional Engineers Cook Islands Design

Guideline document.

Leakage rates around the island were emphasised as a prime concern for planners, he said, which could vary depending on the time of year. Mr Carne outlined that there was obviously significant leakage in the system, and there seemed to be mounting evidence supporting the previous statements of up to approximately 60 per cent leakage in the system. Ultimately at times of low pressure, leakage rates will be lower and conversely at times when there was more pressure in the system higher levels of leakage will be experienced.

“Studies on the quality of the water highlighted the levels of bacteria in the supply and distribution system. Significant further data on raw water quality is being accumulated over coming weeks to assist in developing the potential treatment process and options”, he said.

“There are obviously many things that can contribute to these levels of bacteria but at this stage we would believe that it is more than likely due to the presence of feral animals in the catchment areas. The impact of human access to the catchments also needs to be better understood,” said Mr Carne. “Reducing the risks posed by these and also installation of disinfection would make this water safe to drink.”



Steve Carne and Latu of KEW consultants

In developing a model for Rarotonga's new water system, he outlined that significant efforts to reduce both consumer demand and leakage across the system should also be coupled with the new infrastructure being designed and implemented in Te Mato Vai to improve the resilience of the island's water supply during extended dry periods.

Currently at times of peak demand, the ICI water supply and distribution system as a whole is only capable of storing eight hours' worth of water. The domestic tank program pushes this out to about 1 day. Te Mato Vai is targeted to try and increase storage to up to four days of peak demand.” Hence whilst the Te Mato Vai infrastructure will significantly

increase the reliability of the water supply and quality of the water, the absence of larger available volumes of storage through either a large reservoir or groundwater source means that in extended dry periods, some risk of supply failure or interruptions will still exist after Te Mato Vai is completed” Carne reiterated.

Continued data collection and subsequent analysis of the flows of Rarotonga's various streams, which supply the island's twelve intakes, is currently being gathered and will be able to help planners further understand what level of risk would remain”, he said.

A completed draft of the design including initial costings will be available by October, said Carne.

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Letters to the Editor

Hurt by distortions of issues

Dear Editor,
I am extremely disappointed with the vengeful and unjustified attack of me by the owner, publisher of the Cook Islands Herald George Pitt in last week's edition. It made me ask is this man, a pastor, a man of God or is he the devil himself? I am very hurt with his distortions of issues, his own versions of events and of course his very personal insults of me.

Of course I am a politician and a high profile one at that and am therefore subject to public criticism but I am a mere human being with flaws like many other people in my line of work. Sadly and without provocation, George Pitt launched an attack on me, my performance as the Democratic Party and

Opposition Leader and my use of the office that I have, in his newspaper. I have no immediate way of defending myself but to write you this letter. No doubt, I now have to wait for his next round of abuse in response to my letter.

Mr Pitt and I have seen eye to eye on a number of matters and I have enjoyed his company at times but of course we have disagreed on many matters. He has a working style that I find extremely disturbing because of the little regard he has for the feelings of those he chooses to attack. He seems to think that I am fair game and his freedom of speech allows him to denigrate me for all to read. And I do feel helpless in fighting back to give my version, which is of course an after event. The damage has already been done.

George Pitt is a very nasty man with an ugly soul. He threatens people like me with proposed demeaning articles which he showed me. Then for not publishing it he demanded that I pay him as my media officer. I eventually did not succumb to his demand which some people called extortion and now I suffer his backlash. He wanted me to sack people too and allow him to plan for the Democratic Party. I simply refused him such tasks and hence his vicious attack.

I say this Mr Editor, I am never, never going to be in his pocket as he had claimed of some politicians in the past. He deludes himself with thoughts that if he launches attack after attack on me, I will succumb and play along. I will fight what is wrong and he is very wrong. I know what he is

up. He is trying to discredit me and manipulate some of the new Demo MP's making them greedy and wanting power. I hope they see George Pitt for what he really is. I am trying to guide away from such immoral takes on life and politics.

What George Pitt has written about me are all matters and issues that he took out of context and turned into lies. He thinks of himself as someone wise about politics but he is very, very mistaken. I am a realist and if my petition does not succeed, then it is time to move on. I have many other interests in life that will occupy me. If I win, then I thank God and pray that he will forgive George Pitt for his trespasses.

*Yours Sincerely,
Wilkie Rasmussen*

Leader of the Democratic Party

Print media the real political opposition

Dear Editor.
The public are not easily fooled by the declarations of some of this country's senior politicians. Many people comment at just how much of a lame duck some of these politicians really are.

The CIP and the Demo leaders really are the cake walkers, fudging and blowing each other sweet kisses and not doing the work that they are paid so well to do. They would not be able to work in the real world where their own people work, or they could not possibly run successful

businesses even in a brisk and developing economy and the evidence to that is the klutzy way the country has been governed the last few years and the klutzy way the opposition office has operated, you could just about compare them to the BTIB. They would simply fail at just about anything where money and accountability are expressly required, their own future wealth is entirely dependent on the tax payers of this poor country what an incredible testimony to being the next government. That is why there is this

desperate attempt by Puna and Rasmussen to hold onto office at just about any cost just for the sake of their own personal financial survival. How can the public know?

Notice how the real opposition to government ineptitude and wastefulness is actually the print media? Notice how each time there has been a major moral or legal transgression by the government that the only real opposition, the only real damage caused to the Government came from the Pitt Media Group?

TMV or Grey Power the

taxing of local pensions, where was the Opposition?

Sleep walking it seems.

If only the government and in particular the opposition woke up to reality that without proper exposure by the media the country would be in a worse position that it is now.

So when they read this remember don't shoot the messenger because the messenger is really the public and when you do, expect to be shot down come election time. Oops! That's right, that's already happened.

Sid Vicious



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Tento Toilet Tissue



\$13.50 bottle

Team Cook Islands in China

By Te Riu Woonton

Team Cook Islands has made it safe and sound to China!

The team consisting of Chef De Mission George Hosking, golf players; 15 year old Winston Kiria and 17 year old Memory Akama, Golf Manager Kurai Foster, Young Ambassador Tarapiripa Bishop and Young Reporter TeRiu Woonton arrived into Auckland on Monday, and met up with 15 year old Aquatic rep Temaruata Strickland before making their way to Shanghai.

It was a long 12 hour flight before the team landed into Shanghai, taking a 5 and half hour bus ride to the Youth Olympic Village in Nanjing.

The Youth Olympic Village provides accommodation for about 60,000 residents including athletes, team officials, Young Ambassadors and Young Reporters.

The team then met up with Sailing rep, Joshua Ioane and his coach Taua Elisa who were already in China and had already made themselves at home in the 3 bedroom apartment which Team Cook Islands will be sharing during the 3 week duration of the 2nd Summer Youth Olympic Games.

The Young Ambassador Tarapiripa Bishop will be promoting the Cook Islands culture whilst in Nanjing, and is expected to perform along with the other Young Ambassadors at the official opening ceremony which will be held on the 16th of August.

The Young Reporter TeRiu Woonton will be joining 35 other Young Reporters from across the globe in intense media training across all facets- broadcasting, written, photographic and social media, her first assignment will be during the opening ceremony.



Team Cook Islands at Rar airport. Memory Akava n Winston Kiria (golf), Tarapiripa Bishop (Young Ambassador) Kurai Foster (Mngr Golf), George Hosking (Chef De Mission)



Team Cook Islands with our official- just arrived into Village



Team Cook Islands in front of the wall of fame



Congratulations to Mrs. Tereapii Taurarii

Congratulations to Mrs Tereapii Taurarii who is also known as Puapii Rautana Taurarii for being Woman of the Month for August.

Puapii is a Senior Public Health Nurse with the Ministry of Health. Now 56 yrs old, she has been a nurse since 1975.

She is married to Dr Taurarii and they have three children, a son and two daughters both of whom they adopted.

Puapii was born in Aitutaki and was educated at Pukapuka Primary School, Amuri Primary School, Araura High School which later was renamed Araura College and Tereora College.

The Pukapuka connection is through her father.

Family background

Father : Rautana Robati-Originally from the Robati family in Pukapuka, as mum's second marriage, with two brothers and one older sister.

Mother: Tekura ite Vaitau Teariki Monga of Aitutaki-originated from the Nga-Ariki-Toko -A of Aitutaki, a Teao Akamaru descendant and Ngati Tepaki- Te Vaka Taunga o Araura. These are three of the most distinct families on the island of Araura, well known for their Kau Taunga traditional knowledge in cultural values; Karakia, Korero and all other traditional knowledge and practices.

Family History

Puapii is a descendant of the Ngati Paenui of Inave, Arorangi, through her grandmother(her mother Tekura's mother)-Tekauvai Tatira, the daughter of Ngaupoko, who was also the daughter of Rota, the son

of Paenui and Tutuenua of Arorangi. Somehow, Paenui was originally from the Makea Patuakino of Teautotonga, or the third child of Makea Patuakino and Pouna nia of the Ngati Karika of Teautotonga.

Tinomana Enuarurutini Ariki of Puaikura, bestowed upon Paenui the Rangatira Title under His protection, for the great deed that he has committed his own life to help Tinomana and his people. He further awarded Paenui, about 11 acres of land in Inave with an Enea Ariki Taoanga (Title Land), for him and his family and many descendants for life.

Community Involvement:

Puapii has a strong involvement in her community through a wide range of activities associated with the Cook Islands Christian Church and other organisations.

Church Activities

- Girls Brigade Officer
- Sunday School Supporter
- Christian Youth Fellowship
- Christian Women's Group
- Strong advocate in religious activities- Nuku, Uapou
- Teretere Vainetini, other Women's Interests
- Conducting Morning Services in Church
- Strong advocate in Imene Tuki
- Prayer Meeting Group

Other community involvement:

- Cultural Activities
- Village group activities -feasting ,entertaining, fund raising



Woman of the Month of August, Mrs Tereapii Taurarii, better known as Puapii.

- Support Schools, Rangatira Title.
- Support sports, village activities
- Supports the Puaikura Maire Maeva Nui Cultural Group for the Maeva Nui Competition.
- Competes in Song Quests Activities
- Loves partying- singing, dancing- always became the fun of the party
- An over- all person in community activities
- Very good in hosting family members who come from overseas and the outer islands.

Personal:

- Puapii is a very joyful person, easy to get along with and while admitting to being very loud at times, it's always in a funny way. She is very loving of those who are close to her, helpful and kind.
- She is not ashamed or hesitant to ask questions or speak her mind and sometimes gets upset when challenged by her children or family.
- She can be the best person to have as a friend or a sister.

2014 Woman of the Month Sponsors:

1. WOM Organising Committee
2. Apii Ulrich -Flowers
3. Bank Cook Islands- Wall of Fame & Cheq Voucher
4. Fuji Image/CI Printing
5. Pitt Media Group- CITV/Herald
6. Farm Direct Pearls Lesley & Temu Okotai
7. Island Hotel & Restaurant
8. Staircase Restaurant
9. Nga Bates Massage Therapist
10. Aunty Kafo- kafoteria
11. Lydia Sijp – Foot massage Pamper session
12. Martha Makimare Tivaevae
13. ANZ Bank –Trophy & Voucher 2013 sponsor
14. BEKA – Peka and Ben Tangatakino
15. Flametree Restaurant – Eric Sijp

Mitiaro maroro flying fish fishing



By *Tiana Haxton*

Ranging from the months June through to December, during the moon phase 'vari' (half-moon) it is the maroro season... It is the flying fish season. Flying fish are silver and blue and are roughly 25-30 center meters long. They earn't their name FLYING fish from the way they leap out of the water with their extra-long pectoral fins outstretched like an aeroplane and they glide over the surface of the ocean till they dive back in. They can travel long distances while they are airborne, and quite speedy too.

All the men owning canoes/paiere prepare. They get their scoop nets (attached to the end

of a 4-6 meter long pole), check their boats are ready for the job and into the sea they go.

As I am Female, I'm not allowed to go fishing in a canoe for maroro, so I've talked to a fisher man and here is what he has told me...

"Superstition has it that the Orometua/Pastor must stay inside his house for the three days during the fish run. Otherwise the fish become static and become hard to catch or show up. The women and children are allowed to collect the fish for their houses when the fishermen return from fishing. Most families have their own fishermen but the fish are still shared out equally to those who have no one to catch the flying fish for them.

To catch these fish, the canoes spread out along the edge of the reef, and everyone acts as spotters. When the maroro are spotted, they come in large spawning schools, then it becomes a race to scoop as many as possible. Of course, there are many large sharks that are longer than the canoes and these have to be avoided. Many scoop nets have been damaged by sharks biting through them in an attempt to get to their meals. Once the canoes are either full or the school scatters, the fishermen return to shore."

When the fishermen return, everyone arrives at the harbour to help carry the canoes full of fish onto

dry land. The fish are gifted to the orometua(s) (day one custom). When the second day arrives, the men go out fishing again while the kids play and swim. Once the fishermen return again and the paieres are on shore, everyone grabs a sack and begin to fill them with fish. Fish, fish and more fish. There are plenty to go around. After they are gutted and scaled, they make an excellent meal. I enjoyed eating the succulent freshly caught and fried fish for tea. Mmmmmmmmm.....

Flying fish fishing continues on till the end of vari/ half-moon. Everyone enjoys taking home a bag of maroro which is considered a delicacy in the Cook Islands

Pride the downfall of Puna and Rasmussen but the rise of Bishop



Prime Minister Henry Puna failed to raise the bar of leadership.

It took the Cook Islands Party (CIP) faithful a decade of unwavering effort to win government and in less than four years due to poor inept leadership by their Prime Minister Henry Puna to squander the privilege of governance.

continued next page



Wilkie Rasmussen failed to fulfill his dream

The magnitude of their huge win in 2010 sent the CIP into raptures of euphoric celebrations which propelled their politicians into a deluded mentality of indestructibility.

No matter how unpopular their decisions have been with sections of the community, the CIP have claimed the right thing to do would win the day. Dismissing the notion of the importance of followship and popularity, Puna has continued to ignore the signals all is not well bleating among the hurting tribes, a glaring fault in his leadership he is about to pay dearly for.

Both Puna and Rasmussen had unconvincing and marginal results at their respective polls unlike Bishop who increased his followers and polling tally not to mention One Cook Islands Tupapa CIP reject George Maggie breaking the record for the most votes (498).

Puna who is highly unpopular in Rarotonga is often depicted in the media as an Elvis Presley impersonator show man that

has allergic impulses to hard work and any concepts of the principles and qualities of a true leader. Inducted into the CIP leadership in 2006 largely on the recommendation and emotive endorsement of the outgoing Sir Geoffrey Henry, Puna had never demonstrated he had earned the position based on definable leadership accomplishments.

his ivory tower. Rasmussen finally made it when he jumped off the Demo vaka into the CIP one for his fourth attempt and won the Penryhn seat. He was fortunate to return and become the Demo Deputy then the Leader when Robert Wigmore passed way. Rasmussen's leadership of the Demos has been largely

Rasmussen's response to any possibility was quashed without hesitation or consideration for the plight of the Demo supporters.

And as some had predicted back in the day, Puna has failed to fill a single of his mentor's shoes. Apart from those directly benefiting from his lavish spending of hard earned public money Puna has very few followers and they will soon desert him when he is dethroned from

passive and unchallenged until tested by recent circumstances, the result being Rasmussen has been found seriously wanting in political strategies and tactics, he was simply incapable of leading the Democratic Party to an Election victory. The over confident Puna

made two self destructing political mistakes no sooner had he won the 2010 General Elections. First he dumped Norman George and anointed his understudy Nandi Glassie to Cabinet, and then Puna broke a pre election understanding to Teina Bishop by giving the Deputy Prime Ministership to the veteran Tom Marsters and the Minister of Finance to new comer Mark Brown.

Bishop respected Marsters had seniority and was Rarotonga based, he shielded his disappointment but expected once Marsters was installed as the Queen's Representative Bishop would be given the DPM baton. Five months after Marsters moved on, Puna made another political blunder by ignoring Bishop's seniority in favour of Teariki Heather.

Politically discerning observers by now were warning the CIP leaders that a loss in the Murienua by election would trigger a number of potentially threatening scenarios. The net result of Puna's self preserving attempts plus the inept political acumen of the Democratic Party leader Wilkie Rasmussen and his chief advisor Eddie Drollet, was etched into Cook Islands history, a new political influence and presence was catapulted into life.

The One Cook Island Movement massaged into birth by a handful of friends is the result of an unwanted pregnancy that the self indulgent Party leaders created. The OCI is being nurtured and will feature as a dominant political fixture at the next General Elections or at any by election opportunity before then.

The shameful legacy of both Puna and Rasmussen is they overstated their own *continued next page*

importance resulting in the OCI becoming a permanent thorn in their flesh and haunting both their respective Parties long after they have been erased as best forgotten former leaders who lacked political insight.

The inability of both political leaders to see beyond themselves and their personal aspirations has cost them both their leadership status with the haunting realisation neither can point their self inflicted blame at anyone else. Puna and Rasmussen deserve no sympathy from their supporters or the public at large, not because of their failed outcomes but because of why and how they lost leadership, they are victims of their centric personalities and their fate is the direct result their own dumbness.

In April both Puna and Rasmussen were confronted with a decision that had wide ranging consequences for the masses of faithful Party supporters. In both instances they had to swallow their egotistic Northern pride for the sake of those they supportidly led. Putting their personal needs before the masses both bungled the opportunity before them at an unnecessary cost to the Country.

At a time when it was least affordable, Puna dissolved Parliament sending the Country into the conflicts and commotion of an Election. Bishop's wish list was simple and easily accommodated by the CIP but Puna's dismissive pride would not yield. When confronted with a challenging leadership decision in 1999 Sir Geoffrey Henry put the welfare of every CIP supporter before his own and offered the leadership of the Country to Dr Joe Williams to prevent him from crossing to the Demos.

Sir Geoffrey Henry's servant hood leadership



Teina Bishop - Elevated by OCIM supporters

was an elevation that could not shake Puna's pride that couldn't focus on what would be gained by giving something up. All Puna had to do was reshuffle cabinet by offering Bishop the DPM and the Ministry of Finance as a way of making his pre 2010 election understanding

the Demo petition. As the scriptures allude, a man's pride comes before his fall. Rasmussen had been advised Bishop was politically vulnerable and could be a possible catalyst for a change in government, the second Murienua by election if won by the Demos could be the

the disorganised Demos hypnotised by his 'no coalition' mantra and his personal boasting he wouldn't touch Bishop with a long pole. In one emotionally charged Demo meeting Rasmussen took great pains to warn them of going into any arrangement with the unstable Bishop. Riding on

The Country's largest constituency Tupapa, have spoken with their votes and the message is loud and clear, the OCI is a long awaited genuine third Party alternative that offers a difference to the sameness of the CIP and Democratic Party.

good. Secondly, Bishop and Maggie had become resistant to the Grey Power tax controversies and the CIP constitution of breaches against beneficiaries.

Puna's gross failure to see beyond his own self indulgences and fetish for international travel will result in him being ousted into the political wilderness by

tipping point. Rasmussen's response to any possibility was quashed without hesitation or consideration for the plight of the Demo supporters. Like Puna, Rasmussen and Drollet were in financial comfort zones that were miles from the realities of the financial struggles strangling the average person at grass roots. Rasmussen soon had

an emotional high of political grandioso the puffed up Rasmussen unwisely belittled Bishop's political importance, but had Rasmussen possessed the political intelligence and smartness when the opportunity to change government was served to him on a plate in Parliament how different the political

continued next page



landscape would be today. After his embarrassing loss at the polls, Rasmussen is being more embarrassing by clinging to the Demo Parliamentary wing when he isn't a MP elect. Little does he realise he is making a fool of himself by stating he will conduct any negotiations with OCI because he is close to Bishop. In the meantime the eight Demo MPs elect are ignoring Rasmussen's self serving wait and see instructions and proactively processing a possible political partnership with Bishop to ensure the outcome of being Government.

Losing the Tamarua seat will be the signal the CIP are destined for a lengthy dose of self imposed wandering in the barren political wilderness. Instead of engaging in preliminary unification talks with Bishop, Puna is suspended in the fantasy of invincibility and

future tense, CIP members can critically blame Puna for significant demise and loss of followers. The Country's largest constituency Tupapa, have spoken with their votes and the message is loud and clear, the OCI is a long

Neither Puna or Rasmussen will be missed, both Parties have willing contenders for Party and Parliamentary leadership...

awaited genuine third Party alternative that offers a difference to the sameness of the CIP and Democratic Party. Rasmussen's stubborn northern pride overtook him and the leadership to do it for the sake of the Demo masses escaped him, his personal ambition to be the first Penrhyn MP to be the PM was

buried there and then. After a decade in Parliament it was clearly evident Rasmussen and Drollet have been selfish in letting the Demo team down by their combined inability to do the right thing for the

sake of others. As the Demo leader, Rasmussen influenced by an equally politically naive handful lead the Party to political despair and financial debt. Just like Puna, Rasmussen had not learnt or made the effort to apply the two principles of Politics, you do whatever to get in and you do whatever to stay in.

The common stumbling block culprit for both is their pride. Neither Puna or Rasmussen will be missed, both Parties have willing contenders for Party and Parliamentary leadership and if either resists voluntary moving on they will be unsympathetically dumped at the earliest opportunity.

Rasmussen continues to cocoon himself in denial and is reportedly misleading Penrhyn by conveying to them he is still their Member of Parliament for Penryhn not the declared winner Willie John. If he doesn't win his petition, Rasmussen's chief advisor Drollet is spreading the word there will be an appeal, further evidence both are beyond desperation grasping at twigs to continue the pretence.

What has pulled Puna and Rasmussen down has elevated Bishop, how bizarre?
- George Pitt

The unusual disappearance of David Peppiatt

by Rod Henderson



The Unusual Disappearance of David Peppiatt at sea is the subject of another one of my mystery stories.

It follows on from the case of the enigmatic conman Albert Tshabalala who enjoyed an unauthorized eight year holiday on Rarotonga. The bizarre kidnapping of local ANZ Bank Manageress Gayle Stapleton and the 1982 missing, never to be seen again Japanese movie technician Mr Kato working in Rarotonga on the movie "Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence"

These and are other equally intriguing unsolved mysteries are part of my research into some of the strange goings-on in the Cook Islands that remain unanswered. Everyone loves a good mystery story and fortunately for me the field here is ripe and ready for harvest.

Christopher Michael David Peppiatt could well be described as a man of high adventure and a calculated risk taker.

David as he was referred to be called was 62 years when he nonchalantly sailed into the Avatiu harbour aboard his yacht Bonny on the 31st December 2011.

Nothing exceptional about this! Blue water yachties sailing the Pacific Ocean love calling into this island paradise to have a look around as they break their journey and replenish provisions before

pressing on to some other far away port.

Not many sailors sail single handed, but David did, he was his own man. Sailing in the southern hemispheres cyclone season was insane but that's what David did, that's what he had to do!

He was a man on a mission. The compelling reason that brought him to this point was the preservation of his life. Risking life and limb on a small boat in high seas was nothing compared to facing a lengthy jail sentence on a raft of child abuse charges he faced back in New Zealand.

His motto as recorded in his ships log was- AUT VINCERE AUT MORTI translated to EITHER CONQUER OR DIE.

The axiom is the catalyst for this investigation because I have formed the opinion that this extremely clever, resourceful but devious man faked his own death and has conquered.

To set the scene David Peppiatt sailed out from New Zealand's Herald Islands Bay on 17 November 2011 bound for what he says was a new life in Rio de Janeiro. The 36 foot sloop he called the Bonny was not his, despite spending countless hours and a lot of money over a 2 years period he had welched on his deal with rightful owner to make any payment except for an initial deposit.

After 46 days at sea he unexpectedly and unannounced sailed into harbour at Rarotonga on 31 December 2011 in a yacht that bore no name or any identifying markings claiming he was suffering from shortness of breath and was now using the name Gavin Maitland.

Carrying no passport or departure clearance from

New Zealand and with no bio- security clearance in Rarotonga he was able to bluff his way past the Harbour Master telling him he was suffering from shortness of breath implying a mild heart condition. He enlisted transport to drive him up to the hospital and after being seen by a doctor, he left failing to take the doctors advice to remain for observation or pick up an asthma inhaler and aspirin that was prescribed.

Now on dry land Peppiatt in spite of his fugitive status blithely went about undisguised gathering supplies, and soaking up the atmosphere.

After staying at berth over night he hired a taxi and set about acquiring more stores and diesel fuel then sailed out to sea at 2pm on New Year's Day.

Remarkably he sailed back to Rarotonga the following day being 2nd January and without berthing circled in the small harbour whilst he waited for his taxi driver to return. On her arrival he was able to throw a weighted note to her asking that she ring an Auckland phone number to advise the woman there that he was suffering chest pains and was returning home.

It was during Pappiatts highly unusual circling manoeuvres that two independent witnesses saw a second party trying to peep out of the yachts cabin hatch.

Having accomplished this most notable re- appearance he sailed out to sea again.

Peppiatt alias Maitland again made his presence known the next day being the 3rd of January. This event is marked by a SOS call from his yacht to Rarotonga's Communication Centre announcing he was 23 kilometres south west and

was returning as he was again unwell. He calmly inquired that if he didn't make it back within 5 hours could someone come out and look for him.

Of course he didn't sail back in and when the Police Maritime patrol boat reached the location given by the solo sailor the Bonny was drifting he had vanished.

Maritime police reported the yacht was not under sail, nor was its motor running. There was no evidence of foul play or signs of a medical mishap on board, and to complete the scene the seas were calm and the weather was fine.

In the course of my investigation I was able to speak to a number of people who were able to shed additional light on the why, when and how of the whole affair.

Everything I have learnt points to a staged disappearance. He had the motive. Was he picked up by another yacht and able to sail off into the sunset, or did someone from Raro rendezvous with him and bring him back to shore?

Regrettably but predictably the Cook Islands Police Administration adopted their usual practice of secrecy and have failed on every front to assist in disclosure of their efforts to determine whether Peppiatt is dead or alive, including their failure to release his photo supplied in the first days of the emergency in 2012.

The only tangible piece of information that emerged from the Department was the theft of \$9000 from the recovered Bonny by one of their own.

The forgoing is a taste of the main meal which will be served up in the not too distant future.

A valedictory speech

By Nadia George

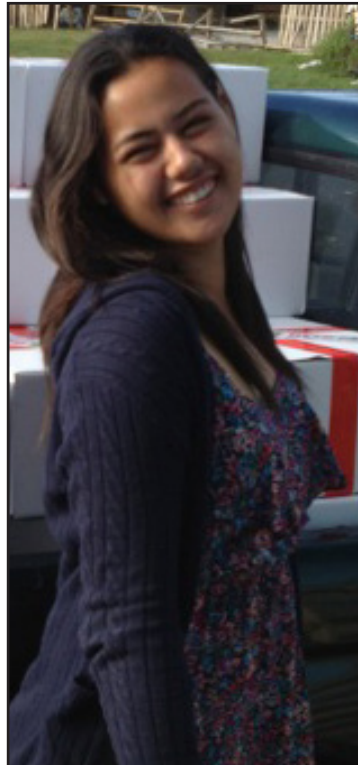
A valedictory speech. My first assessment for term three is to produce a speech for English based on my final farewells to my friends, peers and teachers.

I don't really know how a valedictory speech goes, but am told that it should include a life lesson, stories that one remembers from their journey; it should not ridicule or criticize a person, but instead it should be a happy final farewell of everything you've experienced and learnt throughout your high school/college experience.

For two days now, I've been sitting at my computer, stumped as to what I would possibly say in this speech or how I'd even present it. Do I go for the casual tale of my journey, do I go for the daring humorous speech, inspiring or even critical, or do I go for the formal ones that everyone seems to love doing nowadays? The closest I've come to hearing a valedictorian speech is from Alex Dunphey off modern family, where she decides to take her sister, Hayley's advice, and base her speech on what everyone wants to hear rather than what Alex really wants to say, finally deciding to conclude her speech with popular song lyrics... "don't stop believing and lets get this party started!" I could do that I guess? I mean, I study song lyrics more than I study my homework lol, but looking around me, I think I'll dig up some old memories of my junior years and throw in a life lesson.

It'll go a little something like this...

I remember the first time I step foot in T.C, my first day and I was terrified. The kids there were much bigger than me, the friends I had were off making new ones and my uniform hung from my body, a few sizes to big. I remember the teachers being



much more terrifying than the ones I was used too and the walls feeling like they were going to cave in on me. I remember being small, insignificant and out of place all at the same time. But throughout my years at T.C I remember all the friends I've made along the way, the friends I've lost, the passions that I've collected and the loved ones that have fallen. I remember all these things all too clearly but somehow they still remain a faint distant memory.

My years in Tereora have shaped and molded me into the person that I am today, but I will never forget the person that I was. Five years of learning, growing, self-discovery and memories being forged. Five years of countless bonds being made, some being mended and others broken. I have come along way since my time in year nine; I've made new memories, experienced a number of new and exciting things and have come out a seemingly better person because of those. I am a product of Tereora College, but I am still me. Kia toa.

The **COMPUTER MAN** Tech Tips

Phone 24979 Email: sales@thecomputerman.co.ck



Use the Store. The store is a helpful service that allows you to find and download new programs to use on your device. Some are free, while others will cost money. You can download games, productivity, social and entertainment, sports, reading applications, as well as various other programs.

Access the Accessories. You may wish to access some of the programs previously contained in the accessories menu, such as Notepad or the Calculator. These programs and utilities are still included in Windows 8 and can be found by clicking the search button on the charms menu and generally scrolling all the way to the right. These programs will generally run in Desktop view and are treated as a single entity.

Use the new printing tools. You will need to make sure you have set up a printer through the devices charm. For programs that run on desktop or have familiar interfaces, you can print in the same way you are used to printing. However, for apps with the "modern look" of the Windows 8 interface, you will need to find the print button within that program or you can use the hot key Ctrl+P to open the print dialogue.

Setting up custom tiles. You can create new tiles on the start menu by right-clicking the application icon in the search menu. You can also change how tiles look in the same way, by selecting the size (when available). Completely custom tiles can be created using third-party programs, which will allow you to set the image and text of a tile.

...to be continued

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Handball season to start 29 August

By Charles Pitt

The Cook Islands Handball season begins on 29 August at the Telecom Sports Arena commencing at 5.45pm.

Local executive Wayne Robati Jnr advised the Herald on Tuesday the season will comprise three competitions.

First up will be the Mixed Social Competition which will run until 26 September and is intended to be a lead-in to get players fitness up to a higher level. It will comprise five rounds. So far, five teams have entered; Mauke Team, MFEM 1, MFEM 2, Pabuz and Telecom. The plan is to have

three games per night.

Next up will be the Business House Competition comprising four rounds. This competition will start on 1 October. The teams are; Jnr Men's, Jnr Women's, MFEM and Telecom.

This will be followed by the National Competition which begins on 31 October. It will run for five rounds and comprise the five teams from the Mixed Social Competition.

More teams are being sought for these local events. Wayne can be contacted on Ph 75 036.

Interim President Makiroa Mitchell told the Herald this

season will be treated as a lead up for two major events next year. They Are the U20 Men's and U19 Women's tournament to be held in Europe about June/July. The winners at this event will qualify for the World Competition for which 8 countries are so far confirmed.

Mitchell said Cook Islands Handball is grateful for funding from international affiliates Oceania Handball and the IHF,

the International Handball Federation.

Oceania Handball said Mitchell started with just 4 teams. That has now grown to 14.

Mitchell is to represent the Cook Islands at the first official Oceania Congress to be held in Guam October 22-25.

For more information on Handball, check out their Facebook site or contact Mitchell on ph 29 818.

Draw for the first round Mixed Social Competition

5.45pm-6.30pm Mauke Team	vs	Pabuz
6.35pm-7.20pm MFEM 1	vs	Telecom
7.25pm-8.10pm MFEM 2	vs	To be announced

Boys Brigade builds battle baseline

The National Environment Service, in partnership with the Arorangi Boys Brigade, has last night launched a collaborative campaign to prevent and manage the rapidly growing threat from the introduced invasive plant Tiaea.

This introduced invasive plant is a concern, like many introduced invasive species, on Mangaia and Rarotonga.

Introduced invasive species are one of the biggest threats to Cook Island native plants and animals. This partnership is designed to empower communities to take action against the problems caused by Tiaea, which includes;

1. Building capacity within the Arorangi Boys Brigade to identify and recognize the impacts of introduced invasive species, including Tiaea;

2. Improve and deliver appropriate community targeted awareness and information material;

3. Develop necessary skills within the Arorangi Boys Brigade to assess the impact of, and map the spread of Tiaea;

4. Undertake efforts to control and manage the populations of Tiaea on Rarotonga.

Arorangi Boys Brigade's Mahai Daniel says, the only way the invasive is appropriately managed is through efforts and support from members of the community, "we are asking the



National Environment Service Posters of the invasive Tiaea Plant

communities support that if this invasive species is growing in your backyard to notify us, and we will identify it then move towards an eradication plan."

The weed is considered as 'one of the most serious and widespread destructive weeds on Mangaia.

Through this collaborative partnership between the National Environment Services and the Arorangi Boys Brigade and ongoing community awareness, efforts to prevent the Tiaea's spread to other parts of Rarotonga and islands within the Cook Islands will be made.

"The people of the Pacific are facing numerous threats from invasive species, which are

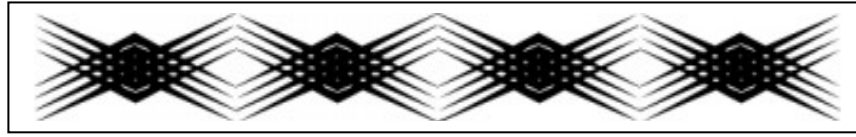
having major effects on our food security, health and wellbeing, and are seriously damaging our natural heritage", says Puna. "They are causing widespread problems such as crop loss, damage to infrastructure, forest degradation, collapse of native bird populations, along with risks to our reefs and fishing" – Hon Henry Puna, 43rd Pacific Islands Forum.

The National Environment Service is pleased to be working in partnership with local communities to ensure the sustainable management of our natural resources, to promote the importance of protecting our native plants and animals from the threats from

introduced invasive species and building the knowledge, skills and appreciation of our natural history for our future generations.

The National Environment Service would like to thank the Global Environment Facility for their generous financial support towards this Cook Islands Invasive Alien Species partnership and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the South Pacific Region (SPREP), the Cook Islands Natural Heritage Trust, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Arorangi Boys Brigade for their continued support in battle against introduced invasive species.

TE REO MĀORI



tātāia e Ruteru Taripo

Situation: Waking up, Tidy room, Shower, Dress, Have breakfast, and Ready to go out

Kua <u>ara</u> au	<i>I am <u>awake</u></i>
Kua <u>ara</u> au i <u>roto</u> i tōku <u>ro`i</u>	<i>I am <u>awake</u> <u>in</u> my <u>bed</u></i>
Kā tū mai au	<i>I will <u>get up</u></i>
Kā <u>`eke</u> au ki <u>va`o</u> i te ro`i	<i>I <u>get out</u> of bed</i>
Ka `aere au ki te <u>māramarama</u>	<i>I walk to the <u>window</u></i>
Ka <u>`e`eu</u> au i te <u>ārai`ē</u> ka `ākara ki vao	<i>I <u>open</u> the <u>curtain</u> and look out</i>
Hmm!! `E <u>rā mānea</u> tēia	<i>Hmm!! Today is a <u>nice day</u></i>
Ka <u>`akatuera</u> au i te māramarama	<i>I <u>open</u> the window</i>
Ka ma`ani au i tōku ro`i `ē ka <u>tāmā</u> i tōku <u>pi`a-moe</u>	<i>I make my bed and <u>clean</u> my <u>bed-room</u></i>
Kā <u>rave</u> mai i tōku <u>tauera`ē</u> ka `aere ki te <u>pi`a-pā`i</u>	<i>I <u>get</u> my <u>towel</u> and go to the <u>bath-room</u></i>
Kā rave mai i tōku <u>`uru-ni`o`ē</u> kā <u>`uru</u> i tōku ni`o	<i>I pick up my <u>tooth-brush</u> and <u>brush</u> my teeth</i>
Ka <u>pā`i</u> au	<i>I <u>have a shower</u></i>
Ka <u>tāmarō</u> au i āku ki te tauera	<i>I <u>dry</u> myself with the towel</i>
Ka <u>`a`ao</u> au i tōku <u>kāka`u`ē</u> ka `a`ao i tōku <u>tāmaka</u>	<i>I <u>dress</u> myself and put my <u>shoes</u> on</i>
Kā <u>peru</u> au i tōku rouru	<i>I <u>comb</u> my hair</i>
Ka `aere au ki te <u>pi`a-kaikai</u>	<i>I walk to the <u>kitchen</u></i>
Ka `akavera au i te <u>tīkatā-vai</u>	<i>I put the <u>kettle</u> on</i>
Ka ma`ani `ē kā kai au i tāku <u>kai-pōpongi</u>	<i>I make and eat my <u>breakfast</u></i>
Ka ma`ani au `ē kā <u>inu</u> i tāku tī	<i>I make and <u>drink</u> my tea</i>
Kā rave mai au i tāku <u>kiri`ē</u> ka `aere ki te ngūtupa	<i>I pick my <u>bag</u> and go to the door</i>
Ka `e`eu au i te <u>ngūtupa`ē</u> ka `aere atu ki <u>va`o</u>	<i>I open the <u>door</u> and walk <u>out</u></i>
Ka <u>tōpiri</u> au `ē kā <u>roka</u> i te ngūtupa	<i>I <u>close</u> and <u>lock</u> the door</i>

Au Kupu - Some Words

moe	-	sleep	ara	-	awake	māramarama	-	window
arai	-	curtain	rā mānea	-	nice day	`akatu`era	-	open
ma`ani	-	make	tāmā	-	clean	pi`a-moe	-	bed-room
tauera	-	towel	pi`a-pā`i	-	bathroom	`uruni`o	-	toothbrush
`uru	-	brush	pā`i	-	shower	tāmarō	-	dry
tāmaka	-	shoes	peru	-	comb	pi`a-kaikai	-	kitchen
rouru	-	hair	tīkatā-vai	-	kettle	kai-pōpongi	-	breakfast
ngūtupa	-	door	tōpiri	-	close/shut	roka	-	lock

Kua rava tēia kaku`anga. `Akamāro`iro`i! `Aere ki mua!

Chinese shoppers are changing the face of retail

Wen Zhong, a 28-year-old from Shanghai has already been to France and the Netherlands. He is now flying from Schiphol airport in Amsterdam to his final stop, Finland, where he hopes to see the Northern Lights ("very exclusive"). Mr Wen is typical of a new wave of Chinese tourists: young, affluent and travelling independently, rather than on a "20-cities-in-ten-days" bus tour like those that brought his predecessors. Such tours still appeal to most Chinese tourists on their first trip further afield than Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan. But a third are now organising their own travel, spending more and staying longer in each of their destinations.

Nearly one in ten international tourists worldwide is now Chinese, with 97.3m outward-bound journeys from the country last year, of which around half were for leisure. Chinese tourists spend most in total (\$129 billion in 2013, followed by Americans at \$86 billion) and per tax-free transaction (\$1,130 compared with \$494 by Russians). More than 80% say that shopping is vital to their plans, compared with 56% of Middle Eastern tourists and 48% of Russians. They are expected to buy more luxury goods next year while abroad than tourists from all other countries combined.

The dizzying pace of growth is expected to continue. Only around 5% of China's population now own passports, and most of those who travel go to Hong Kong or Macau. But increased affluence, a trend towards longer holidays, fewer visa conditions and growing numbers of repeat travellers mean that every year more will take foreign trips, and more will venture farther. By 2020 the number of foreign trips made from China will double, predicts Aaron Fischer of CLSA, an investment firm, and spending by Chinese tourists abroad will triple.

Shops, hotels and other tourist

businesses are scrambling to profit from the new arrivals. Schiphol, which has direct flights to seven Chinese cities, hands out presents in the arrivals hall around Chinese New Year and has a free translation app to point Chinese travellers to its luxury shops, all of which accept Chinese currency and Union Pay (China's main credit card). Benno Leeser, the boss of Gassan Diamonds, a Dutch jewellery chain with 14 outlets in the airport, travels to China every year to schmooze with the travel agents who bring him his best customers.

New destinations are trying to work out how to get themselves on the itinerary. After direct airline connections, the next step is to make getting a visa easier or, better still, to bring in a visa-waiver scheme. In 2013 Chinese citizens could visit just 44 other countries without a pre-arranged visa; Taiwanese citizens could visit 130, and Americans and Britons over 170. In 2010 the European Tour Operators Association found that a quarter of Chinese who had hoped to visit Europe for leisure had abandoned their plans because of visa delays. Britain, which is outside the European Schengen free-travel area, requires its own visa—the main reason it gets just a ninth of the Chinese tourists France does.

America has started to interview Chinese visa-applicants online and allows them to pick up their visas at any of 900 bank branches, rather than the American embassy. It saw a 22% increase in Chinese visitors last year. But places with visa-waiver schemes, like the Maldives, are really thriving: last year the number of Chinese visitors to the islands increased by 45% and reached nearly a third of the 1.1m total. A boom in Chinese honeymoons helps. Beach resorts are also popular with "6+1s"—young couples travelling with one child and two sets of parents. Parents and children do adventure activities;



grandparents, who are less likely to speak English, go to evening shows and cannot get lost.

The next step is to tailor language, products and services to the Chinese market. Printemps, a shop in Paris, has a dedicated entrance for Chinese tour groups; Harrods in London has 100 Union Pay terminals scattered throughout the store. Both are recruiting Mandarin-speaking staff and have Chinese-language websites and maps. Hotels increase their appeal by offering Chinese television channels, menus with pictures, and congee (Chinese porridge) for breakfast. Such details are seen as a sign of respect.

Appealing to the new Chinese horde means tapping into their love of a good romantic tale, says John Kester of the UN World Tourism Organisation. Thailand saw the number of Chinese visitors triple after a blockbuster film, "Lost in Thailand", inspired a generation to come and sample Thai beer. Mauritius is hoping that "Five Minutes to Tomorrow", a romance due out later this year featuring Liu Shishi, a popular actress, and partly filmed on the island, will bring it a similar bonanza.

The new generation of Chinese luxury travelers don't rely anymore on old fashioned Chinese outbound travel agencies: They prefer to carefully select their destination and hotels with the help of specialized luxury travel magazines, such as the Shanghai Travelers' Club

magazine of Luxury Hotels of America, both published by the fast growing publishing company China Elite Focus Magazines. "We opened a new office in New York City last year" said Pierre Gervois, the Publisher. "Our editorial team is based in Shanghai, and our sales office is now in the United States, to be closer to our advertisers, mostly luxury brands who want to use our media portfolio to reach directly independent Chinese travelers"

The toughest step is getting noticed by Chinese would-be travellers, says Frank Budde of the Boston Consulting Group and co-author of "Winning the Next Billion Asian Travellers". Nearly half of China's population is now online, and two-thirds of those planning to travel use online material when preparing their itinerary. Since they use different search engines and social-media platforms from everywhere else, success largely depends on being blogged about on these platforms. Here, destinations can make their own luck. Tourism New Zealand's decision to host the fairy-tale wedding of Yao Chen, an actress with 66m followers on Weibo, China's equivalent of Twitter, in Queenstown in 2012 was rewarded with 40m posts and comments on discussion forums, 7,000 news articles—and a surge in interest from Chinese lovebirds.

Source: *The Economist* 15 July 2014

How to enjoy people in your life

Part 2

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

The main scripture reading of this article is Philippians 1v.3-11. In Part 1, I made mention of two important points in order for us to Enjoy The People In Our Lives.

1 BE GRATEFUL FOR THE GOOD IN PEOPLE. v.3 reads "I thank my God every time I remember you." Although Paul had some bad experiences in life, he never allows these to cloud his positive mentality towards people. He focused on the good in people and not the bad or negative things.

Lesson 1 "Remember the Best and forget the Rest."

2 PRACTICE POSITIVE PRAYING v.4 reads "In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy."

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

3. Be patient with their progress. Paul looked at people's future and not just their past. v.6: reads "Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Paul says what God started in your life at salvation He will bring it eventually, to completion.

We are great starters but bad finishers. We leave unfinished work, unfinished buildings, and unfinished projects. We don't always finish what we started but God always finishes what He started. He puts the finishing touches on everything He does and then He says, "It is good."

The Bible says when Jesus Christ starts working in your life He will complete what He started. In spite of my faults, my bad decisions, my sins, in spite of all the circumstances that I face in life, God is going to finish what He started in my life. And in your life too! The Bible says that one day when you get to Heaven you're going to become just like Jesus, because you will see Him as He is. And

that's the goal. God starts what He finishes.

Lesson #3: God is not finished with people.

We need to be patient with people. Paul said, "I'm not the man I used to be, but thank God, I'm growing and changing."

In our marriages, if we want to enjoy our marriages, we've got to learn to enjoy our husband or our wife, while allowing for growth and development. If we're going to learn to enjoy our children we've got to learn to enjoy them in the process, while they're growing. Because there is no such thing as a perfect child. And there's no such thing as a perfect adult. If you demand perfection of the people in your life in order to enjoy them, you're going to be miserable for the rest of your life. Nobody's perfect.

Paul says that he enjoyed the Philippians because he chose to ignore the bad things that happened and concentrated on the good. He was grateful for the good that happened and he practiced positive praying, he prayed with joy and for specific things in their life. If you want something to change your attitude, start praying for that person who irritates you at work, that person in your home, child or mate, and see what happens to your attitude. Then be patient with their progress because life is a matter of growth.

v.6 "Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Paul believed in God's power to change the human personality. Paul believed that no person was hopeless. He never gave up on people. This is a great promise of God. Claim it for your children, for your workmate, for yourself.

4. Love people from the heart. If people are not on your heart, they're on your nerves. If you don't have your kids in your heart, they get on your nerves. If you don't have your husband

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



in your heart, he gets on your nerves.

v 8 "God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus."

Paul is saying, "I've got a gut feeling of love for you." It's not a natural kind of love. It's the affection of Christ Jesus in him. Human love wears out and dries up and dies. This happens to everybody. And Paul is saying that the only kind of love that lasts in spite of heartaches and difficulties in tough times is God's love -- the affection of Jesus Christ. That's the only kind of love that lasts.

Romans 5v.5 "God has poured out his love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit, who is

God's gift to us." God's love is something that is poured into us by the Holy Spirit as we allow Him to live in us day by day. God's love is something He does in us and through us.

Life is too short to not enjoy the people in our lives. If we don't learn to enjoy the people that God has placed around us in our lives we will be miserable. People will rob us of our joy unless we learn how to respond to them the way Jesus did.

It is my prayer that you will find this article of encouragement helpful as you interact with people around you and in your life.

May you have a God blessed week. Te Atua te arua.

Lot of confusion and lack of clarity in the Demo camp chooks. Because Rasmussen is still being paid the three month severance pay for Ministers which he was equivalent to as the Opposition Leader, he claims he is still the Leader of the Opposition, how deluded can he get and because some feel sorry they are letting him think he is and he still drives a tax funded car to give himself the feeling he still is a MP. How can he be if he isn't?



What happened to the "no coalition" statement the Demos kept barking? Facing extinction in the political wilderness they have ditched the ten foot pole and calling Teina their best friend, what a bunch of wombles? What happened to the 18 seats, just stupid wobble talk? What now Demos, just wait? Wait for what? More egg on your faces? Get rid of Drolley and let the new ones make something happen.



What's up with the junior roosters in the CIP coup? Last Friday morning on the 8 August the Minita Brown said on international radio the CIP had a very strong case in their petition against Petition expert James Beer, the most petitioned politician in the entire history of Cook Islands politics, but a few hours later the Murienua petition was withdrawn. Then a few days later the future CIP leader is back on international Radio explaining why the strong case suddenly became no case. What else are the CIP roosters deluded about?



While Atiu's Nandi Glassie is telling



it all to his fellow CIP roosters that is about the OCI leader's constant offers of goodies to cross over but he is piri and CIP solid, others not involved with petitions are putting their hands and feet up to be in government as a Minita. Hopping to have a dollar each way the CIP legal eagles don't give Glassie good odds of still being a MP, that's why others are now preferred and are at the front of the queue.



Word in FIFA circles is after Eugene wins his petition over Glassie he will be sworn in to be eligible to get his three months' severance pay then resign to make way for the ultimate warrior Norm Fu to re enter by the secret phoenix gate and be a hot favourite challenger for the Demo leadership and the top job to fulfil the prophecy there will be a Commission of Inquiry into the multimillion dollar Colagate scandal.



One local accommodator is happy to get Kiwi tourists but is becoming concerned at her guests bringing in half a suitcase of groceries and drinks. They are being advised in NZ to bring

their own food because the imported goods are so expensive here. Locals don't seem to be penny pinching, has anyone seen an undernourished local? One visitor even brought a compass in case they got lost.



Chook visiting last Trade Days event was surprised to see not local foods being prepared and sold but dishes more at home in Fiji like curry. Another chook thought he was in a time warp and had gone back to the past because the same items and same people that were there years ago were still there selling the same products! Ever been to a Trade Day in Tahiti? Over there, their art and craft products and variety of items is years ahead of what we have to offer. Tahitian crafts are continually evolving and new contemporary styles, designs and formats appear each year making their Trade Days fresh and interesting!



A real challenge awaits surfer types in Mauke. There are some great breaking waves there but with the reef close to shore and coral heads poking upwards, surfers will have to

dodge the rocks or turn back before the wave breaks on the reef. Yep, quite a challenge and not a board run for the faint hearted! So get over there surfers and check it out!



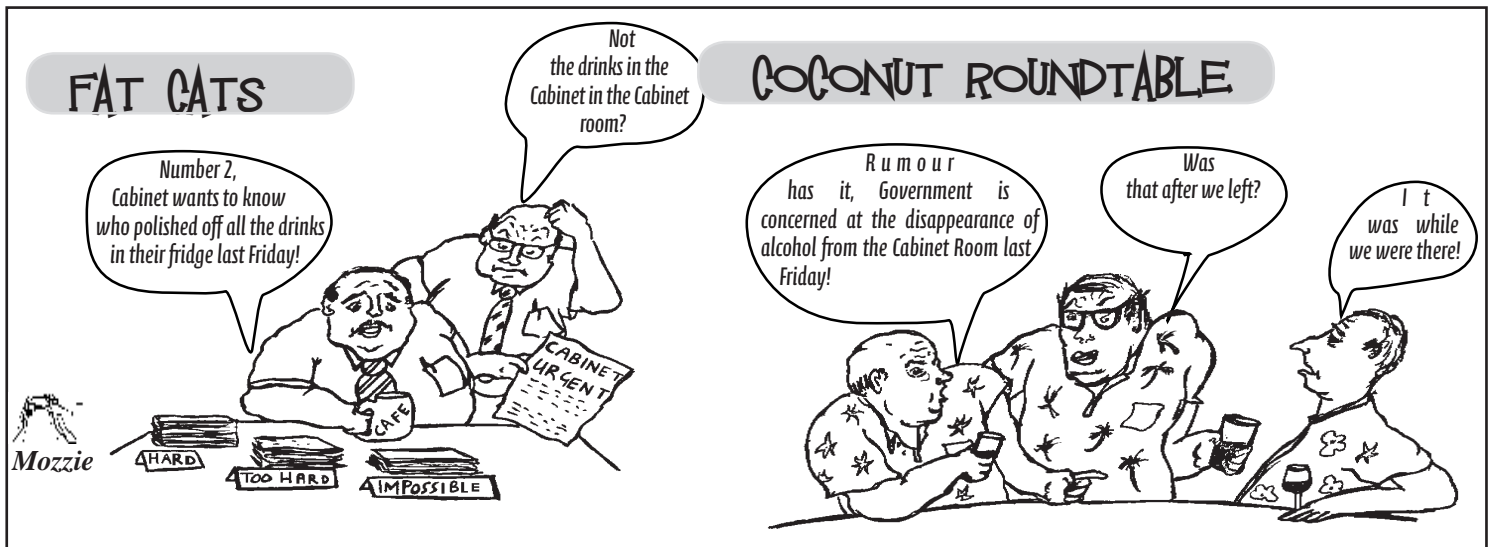
Has anyone noticed there's a shortage of fruit on the Rock? Where are all the Star Fruit? There's none at the Market and there seems to be no ripe star fruit anywhere. Guavas? Not much about at all. Mangoes are not here yet. Plenty of green bananas. Is it just the weather? And why is the humble mandarin selling at one shop for a \$1.50 each? Is this fruit rare? If this is what price it's fetching, why aren't more growers planting mandarins? What does a mandarin cost in NZ? Should we be exporting mandarins to Kiwiland given the high price they are fetching here? Should growers pull out their vanilla plants and put in mandarins? Why is the Ministry of Agriculture not investigating this great money making opportunity?



At long last, civilization has arrived on the Rock! Evidence? Cream buns with real cream! Not the artificial stuff but real, yummy, cream-lashings of it, in soft, fresh buns! And cream donuts!

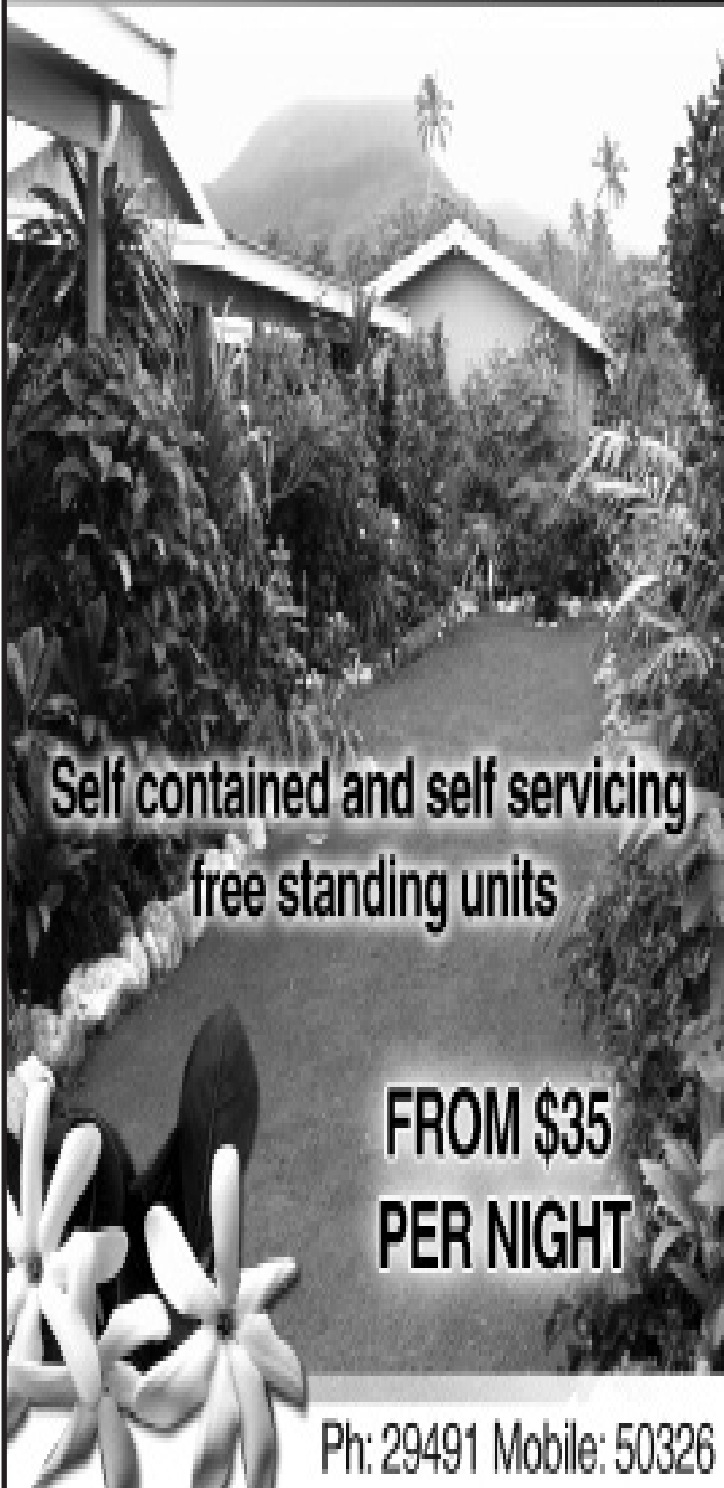


Why are our top, four star hotel dining rooms not serving the iconic Cook Islands doughnut? On Island Nights, do you see the doughnut being served up with local staples like taro, kumara and raw fish? The humble green banana also seems to be missing from many Island Nights. Why is that?



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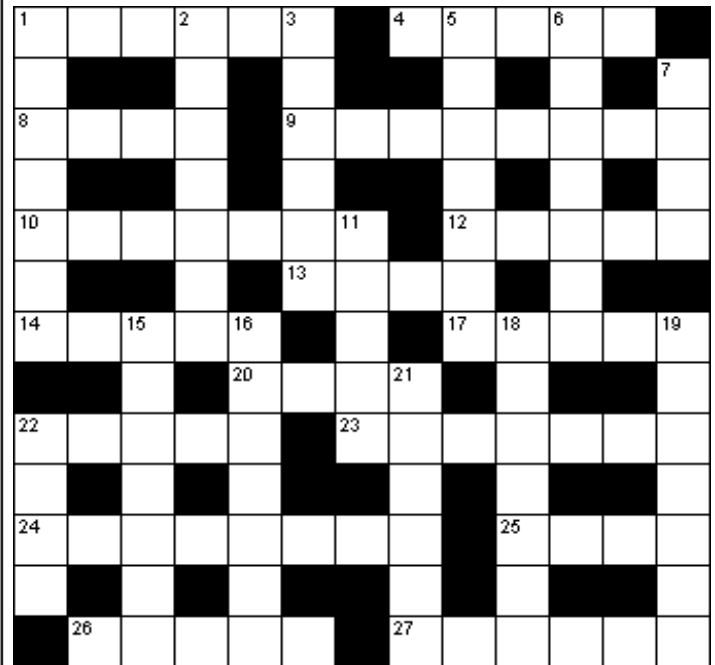


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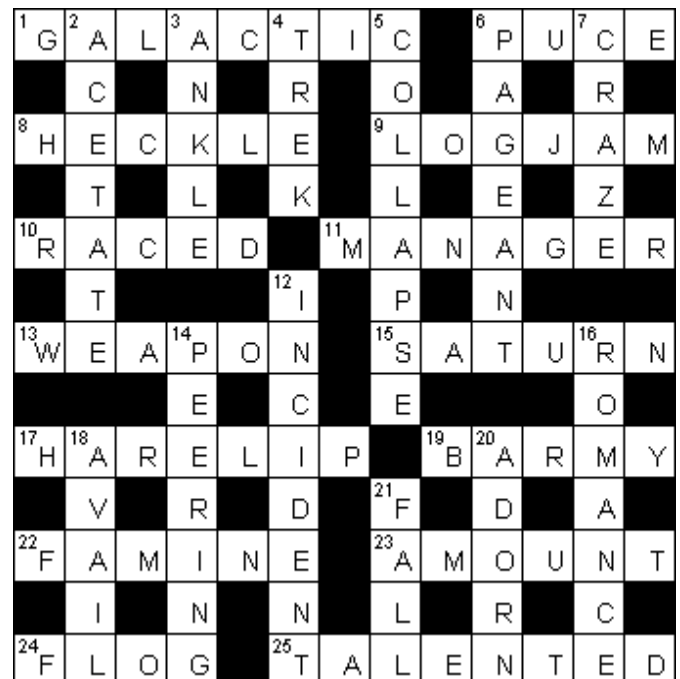


Across

1. Situation comedy
4. Grew less
8. Disfigure
9. Make legal
10. Objects
12. Construct
13. Roster
14. Laziness
17. Marijuana
20. Serpents
22. Confronts
23. Language of European Jews
24. Memento
25. Overhanging lower edge of a roof
26. Averages
27. An Australian

Down

1. Writ
2. Decaying organic matter
3. Person who operates a mill
5. Cloth bag filled with beans
6. Version
7. Ward off
11. Containing soap
15. Use too often
16. Person that is no longer popular
18. Formal speech
19. Bring to a successful end
21. Mountain range
22. Rock clinging plant



VACANCIES



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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.

PUBLIC NOTICE



**COOK ISLANDS TOURISM CORPORATION
UNITED KINGDOM AND SOUTHERN EUROPE
MARKET UPDATE**

Cook Islands Tourism is holding an industry update of the marketing activities that have been conducted and future marketing plans for United Kingdom and Nordic Countries (Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway) and Southern Europe (Italy, Spain, France).

Our international market reps, Ian Griffiths (UK/Nordic) and Nicholas Costantini (Southern Europe) will be conducting these presentations.

We are inviting all interested Cook Islands Tourism Industry members to attend.

When: Tuesday 19 August 2014
Time: 10am - 11.30am
Venue: Crown Beach Resort & Spa

For seating and catering purposes, please RSVP no later than 12pm Monday 18 August to Lydia Nga on email lydia.nga@cookislands.gov.ck or phone +682 29435.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Kia Manuia
Cook Islands Tourism



PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that as of Monday 11 August 2014 The Labour & Employment Relations Office Will be open to the public from 9 am to 3pm
Kia manuia
The Secretary

New Hope Church

Parekura Conference Centre

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The cost of doing business with the European Union (EU)

By Charles Pitt

A recent media article on trade by Pacific nations with the European Union (EU) raised a number of concerns expressed by Pacific nations regarding EU compliance costs.

The concerns are valid given the EU is a giant bureaucracy that has spawned a complex framework of directives that ensnare uninformed trading partners in a mind bending maze of upwardly spiraling compliance costs.

The Cook Islands private sector would do well to be cautious of any invitation to discuss EU trade deals. There is no "one-off" cost of doing business with the EU and the Cook Islands private sector should insist that during discussions with our government representatives, the EU disclose the full and likely ongoing costs of compliance with EU directives. It is one thing to commit costs to setting up arrangements however, the warning is that ongoing costs to maintain the relationship would eventually become a drain on finances unless exports increase. To increase exports to the EU to maintain profit margins, new deals would be needed attracting more EU directives.

If you enter into an agreement to export your produce to the EU, then in order to satisfy the EU's criteria you must prove, usually by way of a complicated system of certification, that you comply with their standards which apply to your product be it safety, quality, hygiene or quarantine. You must also provide evidence that you have satisfied their strict regime of training, tests, approvals, audits, assessments and inspections. All to EU standards of course. Even those doing the training must meet EU standards applying to course material, syllabus and trainer qualifications.

Then there's the paper work to be completed, the records to be kept, manuals, sets of instructions to be kept. All of these in the formats approved by the EU.

Having established a firm trading partnership with the EU, if you wish to maintain your trade connection you must comply with all directives issued by the EU Parliament that apply to your industry. The EU may even send out assessors to check if you have complied. Failure to meet EU requirements will mean your trade access could be cancelled. On top of these directives may be another layer of legal requirements set by the individual EU member country as Standards may vary between EU member countries.

EU directives can have downstream consequences as NZ discovered.

It was the EU directives that applied to meat freezing works which eventually transformed the NZ Meat industry. In order to continue supplying meat to the EU, NZ had to radically upgrade its meat processing plants to meet stringent EU standards. Those freezing works which were old and too expensive to upgrade or modernize were simply shut down forcing many workers out of jobs. Many of the workers made redundant were Pacific Islanders. Many had worked in the industry since a young age and received large redundancy payouts but after either paying off their home mortgages or buying new cars, many had to look for new jobs.

Therefore Cook Island companies looking to trade with the EU in fresh, frozen tuna for example, will need to have processing plants that meet strict EU standards and requirements and certification. Each year the plants would be subject to audit and would have to comply with any new directives issued by the EU. It could be an expensive exercise indeed.

Letter to the Editor

Response to the 'open letter' 12

August 2014 *(see bottom page 4)*

Dear Editor,

I read the "open letter", published in yesterday's paper with interest.

Unfortunately there is nothing new in this. Cook Islands Tourism needed cinema quality video production services on a one-off basis. It followed the processes laid down by law and believes that it received value for money.

The precise details are commercially sensitive; the OIA process is not intended to compromise those issues. If there is a feeling that public money has been misspent, then there are other processes designed to test that issue and which do allow for commercial sensitivity to be respected. I note, though, that no-one has thought this matter needs PERCA review – nor should it, the process have already been extensively reviewed.

As for the suggestion of a breach of the Investment Code, this is, with respect, an unhelpful and irrelevant slur on the Corporation. The Development Investment Act contains an "isolated transaction" exception. As the Immigration records will show, the individuals concerned were in the country for just two weeks. They had not undertaken work here previously; they have not undertaken work here since. This was an "isolated transaction", so it fell outside the definition of "carrying on business" under that Act – and was certainly not carrying on business within the meaning of the Code.

I note that once again your correspondent seems intent on trying to drag Air Rarotonga into this matter – it is not involved in any way; was not involved in any way, and presumably your newspaper has already noted the apology given on this matter for defamation.

It is correct that the funding in question came from NZAID; those funds and their expenditure have been fully accounted for to the donor and – so far as I am aware – to its satisfaction.

In short, this matter is at an end from the point of view of the Tourism Corporation; Cook Islanders expect the Corporation to provide value for money and concentrate on our core business of promoting tourism with first class, cost effective, promotional material; this contract achieved that aim. We are not in the business of providing endless justifications for a competing business that feels it should have had the business instead.

Yours sincerely

Kia manuia

Halatoa Fua

CEO

Cook Islands Tourism Corporation