

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

20 August 2014 \$2 (incl VAT)

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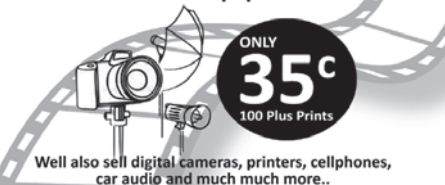
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BACK IN STOCK

Rewrite the Immigration book and streamline border formalities to kick start Outer Island Tourism

One Cook Islands spokesperson Teina Bishop gave an indicator concerning a common interest policy that synergised Immigration and Tourism. He is promoting streamlined visitor friendly formalities on entry to be integrated into our border operations for New Zealand passport holders. "I believe we should start at the point of entry," said Bishop.

Bishop said Immigration was long overdue for a reformation make over and there were some components that could be weaved with Tourism. "It is early days but OCI is keen to initiate dialogue on updating Immigration policies." While a lot has changed our Immigration officials are frustrated that they are bound by outdated rules and terms of reference stated Bishop.

"Our Immigration Ministry gets a lot of unnecessary flak and criticism for following an outdated script and that's not their fault that they are doing their jobs according to the book, it's time to change the book."

Of our total annual visitors of over 121,158 (2013); New Zealanders total 79,125 (2013). With many of the flights arriving in the early hours of the morning, travellers appreciate minimal border formality processing.

Currently NZ and Australia are reviewing their border formalities with the view of improving and reducing processing. Bishop says, "We should take this on board and look for ways to speed up our border formalities without compromising our security integrity."

Bishop acknowledged travel fatigue can be aggravated at the border if there are delays in being cleared for exit.

1.2 million Australians enter NZ each year with 1 million NZ travelling to Australia but there is an estimated 1 million empty

seats in trans Tasman travel each year. Bishop suggests one idea we should at least trial as NZ and Australia are considering is, to localise trans Tasman travel for their respective passport holders.

Currently NZ passports are not stamped on entry or the departure from NZ. Cook Islands could adopt a similar procedure and implement an internal flight destination for NZ passport holders; they bypass Immigration officials and go straight to the baggage collection conveyor then to Customs clearance before exiting.

Less Immigration personnel on duty will incur financial savings.

Air New Zealand can provide the relevant statistics for Immigration and the Tourism Corporation. Bishop said the \$65 departure tax

in the most return for tourism stated Bishop.

Every marketing effort and fine tuning tinkering must become a priority to increase visitor travel to the sister Islands insists Bishop, "For a start, remove the 15% VAT from all fares to the sister Islands and subsidies aviation fuel to lower the cost of air travel."

NZers tend to be bargain visitors who are thrifty and prudent with their spending while here and they get alarmed and give up visiting Aitutaki and Atiu once they see the price of tickets.

Putting the brakes on the depopulation of the sister Island human resources will take a multi pronged effort of a bouquet of solutions. A greater affordable access will increase the visitor volume to the niche markets the



Teina Bishop

"We have to break out of our tax driven economy and diversify by investing in productivity and people driven enterprises, tourism has so many spin off benefits that will offer our sister Island residents the motivation to persevere with their challenges,"

Richard Neves is an Australian who has no idea of the NZ psyche when it comes to parting with a dollar. Locals have invested their savings in accommodation and tourism activities and now they need the hand up backing of Government."

Trip Advisor website indicates visitors to Aitutaki generally are convinced their experience is relative to the expense and are less resistant to a return trip.

Bishop would like to see Aitutaki receiving 20,000 tourists a year, "That's achievable with the right subsidies and incentives but it all starts at the border when they first arrive."

Bishop predicts one day Aitutaki will have an International Airport of its own, "that's our vision, if tiny Niue with a smaller population than ours can have one with a weekly flight from NZ then why can't we?"

A recent MFEM financial report included \$12 million for the Aitutaki airport upgrade suggests that vision may soon be realised

- George Pitt

needs to be reviewed to ensure it was not a deterrent to inbound travellers and if its current expenditure was tourism related.

There is an attractive price incentive pull for travellers to visit Samoa, Tonga and Niue; from time to time all offer internet special airfares for less than \$200 one way to capture the attention of impulse travellers. Fiji continues have a strong pull because of air fare affordability. While we cannot control Air NZ prices, we can make every effort to find smarter ways to work with the reduction of our departure tax in mind. If we retain the current departure tax then it must be appropriated

sister Islands offer leading to the economic spin off opportunities.

"We have to break out of our tax driven economy and diversify by investing in productivity and people driven enterprises, tourism has so many spin off benefits that will offer our sister Island residents the motivation to persevere with their challenges," said Bishop who is one of the few Members of Parliament residing in the outer Islands.

"The price is a major prohibiting factor, we have to bridge the gap of affordability in the mind sets of overseas visitors because the way MFEM is driving the economy we are being priced out of the market,

What next for China in the Cook Islands

After Te Mato Vai-what?

By Charles Pitt

The new government should consider a high level discussion with China to review our relationship going forward.

The reason I consider this necessary at this time is because the focus of the current relationship which is aid based, will change within two years. Our relationship with China will enter a new phase upon the completion of the Te Mato Vai project given no major projects requiring substantial technical or financial aid from China are envisaged in the medium term. What then will form the basis of future discussions?

While it can be assumed there will be no change to China's foreign policy for Oceania nations, how China views us, may change for instance, we may no longer be considered by China to be a developing State. With debt under control and hopefully adopting a policy to lessen reliance on foreign aid, there should be some discussions as to what role we would like to see China playing in our ongoing evolvement as a nation.

We should assume that when the Te Mato Vai project has been completed, it is probable that the Chinese will want to know if it is our wish that they continue to maintain a presence in the Cook Islands and what the nature of that relationship should be.

Having already established a good relationship and dialogue, we could agree for China to continue to maintain a presence if perhaps it is a low key one.

Perhaps there might be a "diplomatic" presence which would fulfill one of the objectives agreed under the One China Policy document when it was jointly signed in 1997. In that document it was agreed to establish relations at Ambassadorial level however, that is unlikely. More likely is a relationship at High

Commission, Consulate or Trade Mission level. A relationship at this level would assist trade, exports, tourism, upgrade our internal infrastructure networks like inter-island transportation and telecommunications, facilitate our integration into global infrastructural networks like high speed telecommunication and rapid transport systems, improve our access to medicines, drugs and treatments.

Perhaps there might be a low key "Technical Assistance" programme whereby China can assist capacity building in education, marine research, telecommunications, pearl farming, sport, health and agriculture. This capacity building can assist development and diversification.

A third category could be a presence based purely on "goodwill" which would involve sporting and cultural exchanges, visits and assistance with sports training and sports medicines. There might also be some exchanges in regard to traditional medicines, art, music and dance.

Why should China bother with an ongoing relationship? Because put simply, in the long term there are opportunities in the Cooks which could be exploited commercially by China including Chinese private sector interests. In this regard there is the abundance of natural resources such as sea bed minerals.

Strategically, the bigger picture reveals there is a super power vacuum in this sector of the Pacific (between Samoa and Tahiti), waiting to be filled.

For the moment China has opted for influence as opposed to bases but that could change in the future as China's blue water navy capability increases. Chinese naval vessels have already made goodwill visits to a number of Pacific nation ports but not the Cook Islands. Major

powers like Britain and the USA have no presence in the Cook Islands. The USA has bases in Guam and Pago to our west and Micronesia to our north while France has bases in New Caledonia to our west and Tahiti to our east.

In recent years, China has had a highly visible presence through infrastructure projects such as the Courthouse, Police Headquarters and Indoor Sports Stadium (TSA) but in the absence of any more significant projects, China could opt to adopt a more subtle, less visible presence through development of financial interests like establishing a bank.

Vigorous and competitive banking activity will pave the way for China to cement a more permanent presence in the Cooks. And to do it without the backing of a community of

Chinese run businesses which often results in increased Chinese residents.

If China is clever, it will limit its presence to a purely financially based one or tourism based visitations. It will then have a good chance of avoiding much of the phobia expressed by other Pacific nations of a Chinese take over. Chinese investment has usually been followed by increased Chinese private sector activity and residency. That has not yet occurred in the Cook Islands. There's a good chance the riots against Chinese businesses and residents which occurred in Vanuatu, the Solomons and Tonga can be avoided.

Any discussions with the Chinese should be transparent with the public kept informed and if necessary consulted.



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Brown denies mass bribery but still no clarity in \$1 million pre election giveaway

As predicted, answers to specific questions concerning the care taker CIP government's \$1 million outer Island giveaway are being generalised and fudged by the care taker Minister of Finance Mark Brown and his autocratic Finance Secretary Richard Neneva Neves.

Both refuse to comment as to why the funds were secretly approved by the Executive Council one week before the 9 July Elections. The date of the Executive meeting and contents were publically exposed in Rarotonga by this publication even though they were widely known and promoted in the outer Islands during the week prior to the Elections.

Brown denies the timing of the million dollar giveaway was intended to influence outer Islanders to vote for the CIP. Sources who forwarded copies of the confidential Executive Council minutes to the Herald claim they had received instructions from a Ministerial staff member of a Cabinet Minister to show influential voters the documents as proof of commitment by the CIP.

Demo Party members became aware of defected CIP supporters being swayed to return to the fold just days before the Elections. This was noticeable in Aitutaki, Mitiaro, Mauke and Pukapuka where even many Demo supporters were persuaded to join the CIP thinking they had gained the upper hand.

While Brown is adamant and insists the Democratic Party leader Wilkie Rasmussen was consulted and approved the allocation of the funds, no media comments of confirmation have been made by the Demo Party. Brown claims Rasmussen approved all the expenditure except for one item, the Manihiki barge outboard motors.

Brown claims the out board

motors were not a new item but an obligation to the supplier who had delivered the motors to Manihiki and was demanding the well over due payment or the request to government to return them to Rarotonga. "We will have to wait till the new Budget to ensure the supplier gets paid".

Brown thought it was strange Rasmussen objected to the Manihiki out board motor's payment because the supplier was Pickering Motors owned by the retiring Mangaian Demo MP Winton Pickering.

This week MFEM released some information that commented on the financial expenditure approval being questioned. It is clear MFEM was selective in what was provided

Neves' belated released information though blurred is a contradiction making Brown's comments appear misleading. The facts in hand establish the Demos and Rasmussen were not fully informed, therefore not aware of all the funds allocated and their purpose.

Brown and Neves meet every Monday morning at 10am; therefore it is strange they don't seem to be on the same page evident by their conflicting media releases.

One allocation of interest was for the Complete Climate Adaption of the Mangaia Harbour for the supply of aggregate. It states:

During implementation of the project, ICI and the contractor



Mark Brown

reason Mangaia did not supply the aggregate? Was the contract to supply tendered or just given to T&M Heather Ltd? In what way was the Contractor forced to purchase the aggregate from Rarotonga when Mangaia had many months to produce the aggregate? Is this just another example of Minister Heather's company favoured with government contracts that aren't tendered?

This publication has sought explanations to a number of questions which Neves continues to ignore or just generalises in response. For example, one question the Grey Power group would like answered, how is \$23,000 justified for a non job related trip but a personal one to Samoa by the QR Tom Marsters? It has to take a new law passed in Parliament for the CIP government's illegal raiding of \$30,000 from pensioner's bank accounts to be reimbursed but a routine Cabinet meeting to secretly give money the equivalent of more than a year's salary for the majority of the local workforce for Marsters' personal trip overseas.

- George Pitt

Brown and Neves meet every Monday morning at 10am; therefore it is strange they don't seem to be on the same page evident by their conflicting media releases.

for Opposition comment. It identified the expenditure items that Rasmussen was not consulted about due to Neves opinion these were not politically sensitive.

According to the Demo spokes person on Finance and Economic Management, Murienua MP James Beer, the selective exercise by Neves is unacceptable, "all items should have been screened by the Opposition as it isn't the prerogative of officials to define what is politically sensitive."

Unpopular with politicians from all three Parties, one unnamed CIP MP said this is just another example of Neves playing politics in his position as an official.

While his boss Brown is publically saying one thing,

Landholding Ltd were faced with the non-supply of aggregate from the Mangaian community who was to initially provide all the aggregate for this project will be supplied by the community through the Island Government. The ICI and contractor were forced to purchase and ship aggregate from Rarotonga to avoid project completion delays and penalties, originally the projected cost of the aggregate supply was \$100,000, but the final cost was \$80,000 and a saving of \$20,000 was realised.

There is a crusher on Mangaia reportedly less than two years old but T&M Heather Ltd, ICI Minister Teariki Heather's company supplied and shipped the aggregate from Rarotonga. Can it be explained for what

Things to see and do

Are we ready for the expected increase in cruise ship visits?

By Charles Pitt

How well prepared is the Cook Islands to benefit from the expected increase in cruise ship visits?

In March last year, the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) which has 16 Pacific Island members, the Cook Islands being one, stated that cruise tourism would grow strongly over the next few years and that member countries had to be ready to cater for that growth.

In the Cook Islands there appears to be little evidence of any forward movement in regard to providing additional facilities for an increase in sea cruise visitors. On Rarotonga, no amenities have as yet been installed at Avatiu port to cater for vendors, tour operators and visitors needing bathroom facilities. At the Arorangi jetty area, no facilities exist. In Aitutaki, another island likely to benefit from increased visits, no plans appear confirmed. It's all beginning to sound like, "We'll wait until something happens."

At the airport, arriving visitors have Jake Numanga to serenade them but at the wharf there's no such welcome. The more active visitors can bypass the tour

buses and stroll into Avarua. In doing so they pass the Punanga Nui Market where the arts and crafts shops are mainly shut Sunday to Friday, but a few stalls may be open Monday to Friday selling vegetables. Besides the Market, there is no other centralized, dedicated "one stop" area selling local arts and crafts. Cruise visitors calling at our National Museum will not be able to purchase any local arts and crafts from that location. There is no facility there either where they can get refreshments.

Also, what is being done to encourage some more cruise ships to call at other islands like Atiu and Mangaia?

The SPTO reported that globally cruise tourism had grown by over 125% with 143 new cruise ships launched since the year 2,000. It was noted by the SPTO in 2012 that this growth had begun to trickle down to Pacific countries that had sea port infrastructure to support cruise liners. Cruise liner CEOs attending the cruise liners trade show in Miami in 2012 told the SPTO that over the next five to ten years, bigger ships with capacity to carry 4,000 to 5,000 passengers and up to 1,000 crew, were to be brought into service. These

bigger vessels would cruise to the bigger ports in Europe and Asia. The smaller cruise ships with a capacity of 1,500 to 2,000 passengers would be deployed to the Pacific, to places like Australia, NZ, PNG and Vanuatu. Vanuatu actually has the biggest share of cruise boat visits.

The SPTO says while it's one thing to have these ships visit it's another to actually benefit from what they have to offer. Often there's not much for the cruise ship visitor to do ashore. More activities on the ground are needed and less competition among vendors and tour operators. The SPTO says cruise tourism will benefit if service providers on the ground learn to "share" the tourists and not "compete" for them.

Last week, the Herald approached Tourism Corporation and the Ports Authority for comment and to date Bim Tou CEO of the Ports Authority has responded as follows:

"Cruise tourism has seen increasing numbers during the past 12 months to Pacific Island destination including the Cook Islands.

Therefore; improving access for cruise ships allows the

Cook Islands to take its place in the Pacific as a vibrant cruising destination, diversifies our source markets, increases the economic benefit of tourism and delivers high spending customers to the commercial operators of Rarotonga. It is an exciting time that has already allowed us to pitch to new cruise vessels to grow beyond our existing pool of operators.

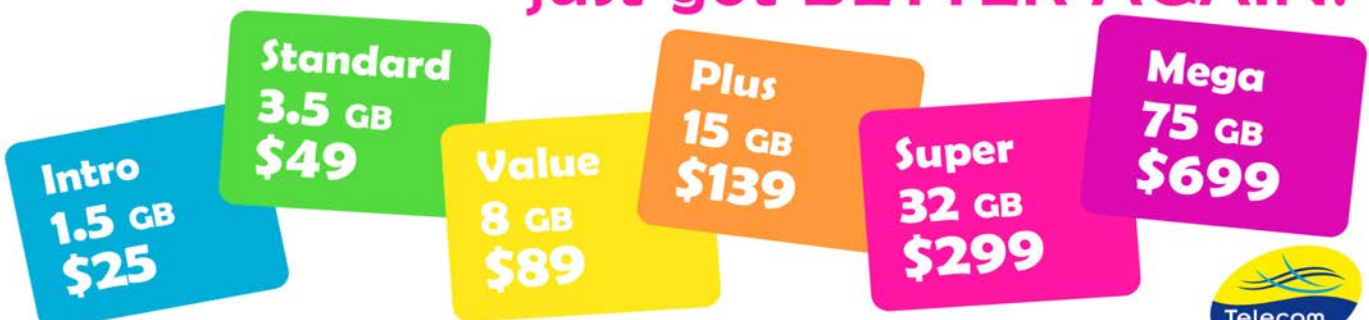
In anticipation of increase cruise tourism, the Ports Authority in partnership with Cook Islands Tourism Corporation over the past few months has been reviewing the use of its temporary onshore facilities in Avatiu Port for a permanent one incorporating a passenger waiting shelter building with toilet and shower facilities plus improved setup for vendors." These permanent facilities are currently work in progress for the 2014-15 financial year.

It is also fair and reasonable to make a general comment that cruise ship operators should continue and increase their investment and engagement with the South Pacific communities to deliver a positive and sustainable footprint that mutually benefits both parties."

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Our Frontpage model



Our frontpage model this week is Tangi who works for Mareko Island Creations. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald

Outer Islands to benefit from heavy machinery delivery

Outer Islands' communities can now look forward to a massive injection of heavy machinery for infrastructure work and projects thanks to the awarding of a procurement tender by the Chinese Government. The heavy machinery to be delivered under Chinese aid assistance include consignments of excavators, rollers, graders, and loaders, which will be used by the Outer Islands for maintenance and upgrade work on roads, airports, and other development projects.

The Chinese Government awarded the tender to CCECC under its own procedures and processes and an MOU with the Cook Islands Government is expected to follow at the end of this month. A top official from CCECC will be arriving in Rarotonga to sign the MOU with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Hon. Teariki Heather.

Government has welcomed the announcement with DPM Heather expressing gratitude on behalf of the Cook Islands. For the past year, Heather has been instrumental in facilitating the dialogue with Chinese officials and assisting in the process to itemise the machinery specific to Outer Islands' needs.

The machinery has been purposefully selected to meet infrastructure requirements and needs. The delivery of the machinery to the Outer Islands will reduce the costs of mobilising equipment out of Rarotonga and provide timely assistance with critical work, especially airports.

The DPM said the assistance from China is deeply appreciated and part of the strengthening of cooperative relations between the two countries. He also acknowledged the central role that CCECC had already played in the Cook Islands with previous projects, including the current Te Mato Vai development work.

Settlement of a fishing incident by a foreign vessel

The Cook Islands and the Republic of El Salvador, after weeks of negotiations, have been able to settle out of court a fishing incident that took place on the 12th December 2013. The Flag State and the Company owner of the vessel have chosen to cooperate with the Cook Islands authorities applying responsible fisheries solutions and averting lengthy proceedings to clarify the aforementioned incident.

The parties met in Rarotonga on the 10th and 11th June in order to resolve the issues surrounding the fishing incident. Negotiations continued after the 11th June, to enable the Flag State and the Company to explore options with regard to settlement and a month was agreed to enable those discussions to continue. An agreement was reached last week for final settlement in a non-disclosed amount, in compensation for the fishing incident.

The Cook Islands acknowledges and appreciates that the Flag State and the Company acted responsibly by making the effort to visit and resolve the matter in good faith and cooperation through negotiations and settlement, sparing the need for a costly prosecution.



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MFEM claim Opposition did not object to some pre election expenditure items

Final Spending Authority for 2013/14 Budget

The total budget appropriated by Parliament for 2013/14 was \$196.534 million. Controls on expenditure arise from the requirements in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management Act (MFEM Act) and the Cook Islands Constitution.

Article 70 (3) (b) (i) of the Cook Islands Constitution provides for additional expenditure equivalent to 1 ½ per cent of the Appropriation to be expended. It is in effect a process designed to accommodate expenditures which may occur that were not known at the time of preparing the Budget, any such additional spending requires approval of the Executive Council and is then authorised by an Order.

MFEM is finalising the actual June 2014 Quarterly Financial statement for release in late early September which will provide a preliminary actual outcome for 2013/14.

Final Expenditure Authority for 2013/14

As has been previously reported, 1 ½ per cent of the total 2013/14 Appropriation (\$196.534 million) amounted to \$2.940 million. Ultimately, the Parliamentary authority for expenditure in 2013/14 was reduced through various Orders by the Executive Council by \$7.186 million to \$189.348 million.

- Total extra operational and capital spending allocated since the Budget 2013/14 of \$-4.946 million was more than offset by a total of reduction of \$8.954 million spending, consisting of \$2.753 million in operational savings, \$1.390 million savings in capital and \$4.811 million in deferred capital spending.

- A total of \$3.178 million was reduced in official development assistance (ODA) due to various changes in timing and implementation.

Actual expenditure in 2013/14 is most likely to be

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Original 2013/14 Appropriation | 196.534 million |
| One and a Half Percent of 2013/14 Appropriation | 2.940 million |
| Additional Expenditure Approved by Executive Council | 4.946 million |
| Operational Expenditure Incurred by Executive Council | 2.589 million |
| Increases in Capital Expenditure | 2.357million |
| Savings Identified | -8.954 million |
| Current Operational Savings | -2.753 million |
| Savings in Capital Expenditure | -1.390 million |
| Deferral of Capital Expenditure to Outer Years | -4.811 million |
| Changes in ODA | -3.178 million |
| Total Change in Appropriation Spending | -7.186 million |
| Final Spending Authority | 189.348 million |

below the authorised amount of \$189.348 million. Details on actual expenditure will be confirmed in the June 2014 Quarterly Financial Statement for which is expected to be released in late August 2014.

Modifications to the original 2013/14 Budget passed by the Parliament of the Cook Islands were authorised through Orders by the Executive Council (as per the provisions provided through the Constitution of the Cook Islands) on various occasions, these were on:

- 29 April 2014 to deal with some expenditures and savings originally set out in the draft supplementary budget which was not presented to Parliament, these were considered to be Government policy and covered off in the Pre-Election Fiscal Update published by MFEM on 30 April 2014;

- 3 June 2014 – to clarify issues around capital spending which were outlined in the draft supplementary budget and extra operational items which arose at that time; and

- 2 July 2014 – to accommodate further operational items which arose in the period following the announcement of the election and 30 June 2014 when the 2013/14 elapsed and extra trading revenue earned by

some agencies in 2013/14, this was done at the end of the year to capture all the issues at once.

Actions Taken During the Pre-Election Period

No caretaker conventions exist in the Cook Islands guiding government agencies on the management of ongoing business of government during an election period. Such conventions are important when decisions are required of the Government during this time.

For the 2014 election MFEM adopted principles from other caretaker conventions published in Australia and New Zealand. These ensured that both parties were consulted on any decisions that were required to be taken that may encumber a future government legally or financially. This approach was pointed out in letters to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition on 22 April 2014.

During the period between the dissolution of Parliament (17 April) and the election (9 July) the Leader of the Opposition was consulted by MFEM on various issues which may have been perceived to encumber a future administration.

These included changes to the Departure Tax regulations,

signing of a Government Funding Agreement (GFA) on sanitation between the Governments of the Cook Islands and New Zealand and assistance to local producers of alcohol and sweetened drink beverages in the face of the new excise arrangements in the Cook Islands.

The Leader of the Opposition was also consulted on some decisions made by the Government involving additional spending which were deemed to be politically sensitive. In this regard, a “no objection response” was sought from the Leader of the Opposition. If there was an objection, it did not necessarily mean that spending could not occur. The response of the Leader of Opposition was one of the variables taken into account on assessing whether additional spending was appropriate.

Changes in Spending

In summary the following modifications to operating expenditure were made through the two Orders subsequent to the PEFU which in total were \$0.301 million. These were in addition to the \$2.455 million in expenditure identified in the PEFU which was offset by estimated savings of \$2.753 million.

Table 2 – Additional spending post PEFU (top of next page)

| Beneficiary | Amount | Reason |
|------------------------------------|----------|--|
| Telecom Cook Islands | \$10,000 | Initially at the time of the Budget \$45,000 was allocated for the broadcasting services provided by Telecom Cook Islands to the Pa Enua on behalf of the government, the actual cost outcome was \$55,000. The expense was incurred and not judged to be politically sensitive, and the leader of the opposition was not contacted. |
| Cook Islands Rugby Union | \$25,000 | A grant to assist with costs associated with the World Cup Rugby Qualifier in Fiji. The Leader of the Opposition was consulted and expressed no objection to the grant in an email to the Financial Secretary. |
| Cook Islands Athletics Association | \$30,000 | A grant to assist with costs associated with the Oceania Athletics Championship. The Leader of the Opposition was consulted and expressed no objection to the grant in a phone call to the Financial Secretary. |
| Ministry of Health | \$60,000 | Approve actual incurred spending on health referrals. The Ministry of Health finances the costs of transporting Cook Islanders from the outer islands to Rarotonga and from Rarotonga to New Zealand for medical referrals. The original appropriation was \$550,000 (which contained a \$50,000 increase on the previous year on what was provided for in 2014/15). Clinical decisions can lead to costs being incurred which are over the original appropriation. The appropriation is monitored closely to ascertain the likelihood of expenditure exceeding the original appropriation. This is left to the end of the year to ensure that an accurate figure is known and if the final expenditure exceeds the appropriation then authority is sought for that additional expenditure. On this occasion the expense had been incurred and was not judged to be politically sensitive, and the Leader of the Opposition was not contacted. |
| Ministry of Education | \$88,500 | This is a saving in operating expenditure as it was a transfer of from operating to capital expenditure. The Ministry of Education did not incur any extra spending by the Crown. This was an administrative reclassification of these monies. Initially an amount of \$297,000 was made available as operational expenditure to cover costs incurred by the Ministry of Education in relation to the fires at Avatea School and Nukutere College. The Ministry spent some of those funds on the replacement of capital items such as furniture, fittings and computer equipment which were damaged as a result of the fires. As the money had been allocated and it was just an administrative change the Leader of the Opposition was not contacted. |
| Head of State | \$23,000 | Additional costs associated with the Head of State attendance to the 90th celebration of Avele Agricultural College in Samoa. This was not judged to be politically sensitive and the Leader of the Opposition was not contacted. |
| Ministry of Health | \$45,000 | The purchase of oxygen cylinders at a cost of which were urgently required at the hospital due to mechanical failure of the oxygen plant. This was a necessity and not judged to be politically sensitive. The Leader of the Opposition was not contacted. |

MFEM explains reasons behind government's pre-election spend up

Listed below is an extract from an MFEM media release explaining the reasons behind government's pre-election expenditure which has drawn public comment as to appropriateness given the expenditure's timing. Outer island expenditure items have raised the issue of whether voting has been influenced.

Manihiki Harbours -Improvements to the harbours on Tauhunu and Tukao to provide a greater degree of safety and protection for existing lighters and cargoes, and to make provision for landing barge operations in future, is on schedule and expected to be completed in 2014. The contracted works made an allowance for the construction of a new cargo shed on Tukao. Following a recent inspection of the harbours by ICI engineers, it was considered necessary to construct a similar shed on Tauhunu where no shed currently exists. The variance in 2013/14 of \$140,000 reflects the construction

of a cargo shed on Tauhunu. In 2014/15 the budget estimate is expected to increase from \$0.300 million to \$0.900 million to reflect the carry forward of the budget allocated but unspent in 2012/13 (\$500,000), the cost of design and monitoring works that ICI is incurring (\$70,000), and contract works provisional sums (\$30,000). The Manihiki Harbours project at completion is estimated to cost a total of \$3.040 million.

Complete Climate Adaptation of the Mangaia Harbour - The Mangaia Harbour upgrade and climate adaptation project was funded by the Australian Government, PAC/SPREP and UNDP and completed mid April

2014. The value of development assistance towards this project is \$2.455 million. During implementation of the project, ICI and the contractor Landholding Ltd, were faced with the non-supply of aggregate from the Mangaian community who was to initially provide all the aggregate for this project will be supplied by the community through the Island Government. The ICI and contractor we forced to purchase and ship aggregate from Rarotonga to avoid project completion delays and penalties, originally the projected cost of the aggregate supply was \$100,000, but the final cost was \$80,000 and a saving of \$20,000 was realised.

Mangaia School Bus -The number of primary aged students from Ivirua and Tamarua has diminished over the last six to eight years making it economically unviable to offer full primary classes at the two respective village school sites. Currently only Early Childhood Education (ECE) is taught at the two schools. The older students are required to travel to Oneroa for schooling where the combined class size is sustainable. Due to the distance between villages, students must travel by vehicle to Oneroa. Currently a 20-year old bus runs the transportation service for students to Oneroa from both

continued page 20

July tourist arrivals slow relative to 2013

Data released by the Statistics Office on 8 August 2014 showed that 13,184 tourists arrived in July 2014, a 236 person decline (-1.8 per cent) as compared to July 2013.

Of the 13,184 arrivals, 73.4 per cent (9,674) came from New Zealand and 14.9 per cent (1,968) came from Australia.

Compared to July 2013, the decline was spread across all major markets, but was dominated by a 97 person decline (-4.7 per cent) in arrivals from Australia, an 85 person decline (-0.9 per cent) from New Zealand and an 82 person decline (-11.0 per cent) from Europe.

"As a percentage, New

Zealand arrivals were pretty much unchanged relative to the large volume of New Zealand tourists we received in July 2013. The July 2014 result is broadly consistent with a general slowing of this market. The decline of the European market is also not out of step with the long term downward trend of European visitors over the last 10 years."

MFEM Economic Advisor James Webb said. "However, the fall in Australian numbers is a concern. 2013 was a record year for Australian arrivals and represented high and consistent growth from this market. It may be too early to say that the trend has changed, but we will be watching developments over

coming months and adjusting our forecasts accordingly."

"Overall these results suggest that the record highs over the last 12 months are not guaranteed and we cannot rely on the previously high growth rates out of New Zealand and Australia. Destination development, improved productivity, and improving the value for money of tourism services (particularly for accommodation) should remain the industry's focus going forward."

"The Australian market continues to be a key focus for the Cook Islands despite the drop in July. Some key destinations in the South Pacific are noticing a general drop from Australian visitors

this year. The Cook Islands continues to build strong relationship with key travel trade partners in Australia and the outlook is generally positive.", said Tourism Corporation CEO, Halatoa Fua. "The ability to hold visitor numbers from New Zealand is pleasing, given the fierce competition in this market and reduction in Cook Islanders in New Zealand returning to the islands for holidays. Consumers are also being bombarded with deals and offers from other island destinations and national airlines."

"The North America market is fairly constant; however economic conditions in Europe will continue to affect this market."-MFEM release

June quarter annual inflation lower than expected

Data released by the Statistics Office on 8 August 2014 showed that inflation in the June quarter as measured by the Consumer Price Index increased by 1.7 per cent as compared to the March quarter 2014.

Annual inflation through the year to June 2014 was 2.2 per cent compared to June 2013, with annual underlying inflation in June at 1.7 percent.

For annual inflation, a 4.0 per cent increase in food prices, a 21.1 per cent increase in tobacco prices, and a 3.0 per

cent increase in 'other' (contributing 1.2, 0.7, and 0.2 percentage points to total inflation) was partly offset a 2.8 per cent fall in housing costs (subtracting 0.4 percentage points from inflation).

The Ministry of Finance was expecting the June quarter to show a larger increase in prices due to the implementation of the recent VAT change:

"The lower inflation result, on the surface, may seem out of step with what people see at the grocery store", said MFEM Economic Advisor James Webb. "While apparel,

transport and fruit and vegetables increased by around 4 per cent, overall inflation was less than expected because other categories increased by less or declined."

"Going forward we might expect some more retailers to adjust their prices as the VAT changes flow through the system, but the biggest impact on general prices over the next year is likely to be the final 33 per cent increase in wholesale tobacco prices from 1 July. Even then though, vendors have stocked up, so it might take a while for them to

pass on the full cost."

"It's important to note here that CPI measures the impact of price changes on local consumers only – things like tour operators and accommodation are not included."

"As always, if consumers or retailers think that suppliers are unfairly increasing their prices, we advise you to notify the Consumer Commissioner at the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Only a 2.2 per cent price increase can be blamed on the VAT change, any other increase should be justified by other factors."

-MFEM Release

Education for All - setting

new Global Education Targets



20 AUGUST 2014

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

UNESCO recently hosted an Asia Pacific meeting at its regional education office in Bangkok to look at the achievement of education systems in the region and to consider a new set of regional education goals.

More than 40 countries and over 400 people participated in the meeting. The Cook Islands was represented by Gail Townsend, Executive Director of the Ministry of Education and author of the Cook Islands' report.

There was significant Pacific participation including delegates from Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, PNG, Vanuatu, Marshall Islands, Palau, Niue and Nauru.

"Education for All" was developed in 1990 as a set of international education goals for countries to work towards. These ranged from establishing Early Childhood Education through to Technical Training as well as specific goals on literacy, gender and quality. The Cook Islands has regularly reported on progress and has achieved well in all of the goals.

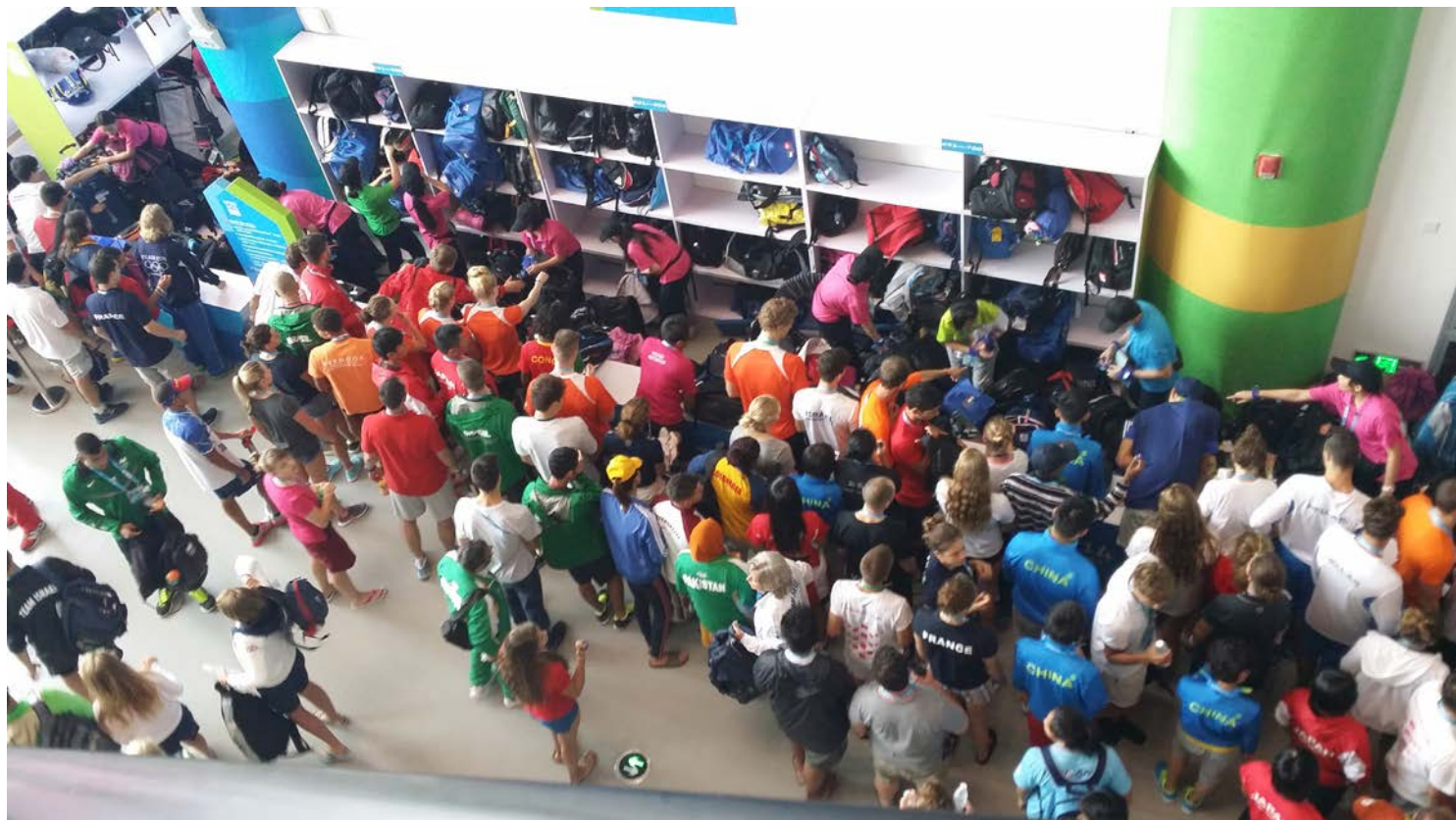
A new set of goals is now being developed to be endorsed at a global education conference next year. These will also help to develop an education goal for the UN goals on sustainable development. The new goals continue to ensure that all young people have access to quality education but also address the relevancy of education to developing the skills needed for work and

livelihoods. Increased focus has been placed on the role of technology in education and the level of financial support provided to education from national budgets. The goals of the Cook Islands Education Master Plan align well with these international goals so the Cook Islands is well placed to be able to achieve them.

The Ministry of Education looks forward to working with schools, communities, other government agencies and all of our stakeholders on continuing to provide opportunities and environments for our young people to be successful in their learning.

The Cook Islands Education for All report is available on the Ministry of Education website; www.education.gov.ck.

Te Riu Woonton updates on her Nanjing experience



So we are just going into week two of the IOCs Young Reporters Programme and it's going by quite fast!

It's been an amazing experience meeting and getting to know my fellow young reporters. I flat with a sports reporter from TV3 and a project manager from Norway and we spend most of our time away from our flat and when we are in the flat, it's all fun and games.

The other young reporters are from all over the world, most of them speak English and those that don't speak English well can at least understand. The mentors are also very experienced media professionals who have been very helpful.

Unfortunately I don't get to see team Cook Islands very often unless I bump into them at the diner

or while they're walking towards their apartment. Our schedule is quite full on. I usually don't sleep until early hours of the morning (well that's actually because there is free wifi and I'm just making the most of it) and we have early morning starts.

Anyway from what I've seen so far, our athletes are having a blast. Our young athletes, Tamaruata, Joshua, Winston, Memory and Young Ambassador Tarapiripa have definitely settled in. They've made a number of friends and it's easy to spot them Cook Islands colours amongst the different country colours. I even get stopped every now and then when I'm wearing my team Cook Islands shirt, only to be asked where 'the boys' are. And of course Chef De Mission George and

Manager for golf athletes, Kurai have been on top of their game, making sure our athletes are training well, eating well and getting up early enough for their early morning devotion.

China is such a huge place. The Youth Olympic Village alone is like a city and there are so many athletes around. I keep forgetting they are only 'young' athletes as some of them look older; the Norway men's hockey team are giants and so are some of the Russian athletes. However, we did see this tiny girl at the dining hall, who looked about 14 or 15 and she was very muscly, musclier than any of the guys in our young reporters team, we gathered that she might be a gymnast. The dining hall is one place you wouldn't want to be stuck in when the rush comes in. A couple of

other young reporters and I like to sit at one place and watch all the athletes come in and guess what sport they play (or see what food they are 'restricted' to) Speaking of food, so far the experience hasn't been that great, I guess we have to go out to experience real 'Chinese food'. The dining room food is pretty much the basics, however the bread I must say, is tasty, very sweet. Oh and the ice cream is good. I had a candyfloss/strawberry-flavoured ice cream the other day, I don't know what it was called (obviously) but it was the tastiest. Apparently there's also a 'peas' flavoured ice cream, which I am still yet to try- not sure if I'm looking forward to it but I have to do it before I leave.

Anyway that's it for part one, sorry, in a rush I'm going on a river boat ride.



Results for 19th Aug CI Athletes in Nanjing

Swimming-In heat 5 in the 50m freestyle mens. Temaruata Strickland- came 7th placing (out of 7 competitors). Time- 27.54secs

Sailing-Byte CII Mens One Person Dinghy Joshua Ioane
Race 3- 27th out of 30,
Race 4- 28th placing out of 30 competitors

Golf- Mens individual stroke play round one. Winston Kiria Completed 18 holes, 2 over par, result 92, 31 placing out of 32

Womens Individual Stroke play round 1 Memory Akama Completed 18 holes, 16 over par

Results 20th August

Golf

Mens individual stroke play round 2. Winston Kiria Completed 18 holes, 20 over par
Womens individual stroke play Memory Akama Completed 18 holes, 22 over par.

Sailing

Byte CII Mens One Person Dinghy Joshua Ioane
Race 5 placing- 28 out of 30
Race 6-placing 29 out of 30
Race 7- 28 out of 30
Finals 23rd August

New Furniture for Avatea sets excitement for open plan learning designs

Avatea School received its first round of furniture to kit out what is planned to be the Cook Islands first open plan learning center. Avatea School will receive a much needed face lift to the school environment after the fire of late 2013 leveled a whole block of classrooms. Furniture and learning aids have been selected specifically for the schools new architectural designs fostering an open learning plan that utilizes the existing space.

The new furniture boasts bright and bold colours, interactive learning gear such as whiteboard tabletops that allow students to add and remove writing and work, portable gear and bean bags that give the proposed new school plans the modern edge in learning. The furniture which arrived from NZ awaits the construction of the new school surroundings before



it can be put to full use however that didn't stop several students and visiting Principals from giving the new gear a test run.

Among the group of Rarotonga Principals was Avatea School Principal Mrs Nga Charlie inspecting the furniture, "I love

the colours, and the moveable gear and different shapes and sizes means students have a different place to learn."

MoE's Finance Division Director Anthony Turua said, "The schools furniture was standard with many schools

in New Zealand who have also adopted the conceptual open plan design for the classroom." This is also a sample for the rest of the schools in the Cook Islands to adopt new school furniture of the future.

-Ministry of Education

Quiz night fundraiser

By Nadia George

Last week Wednesday saw a total of 19 quiz teams flock into the Rarotonga Golf Club to take part in and support the junior paddlers of Ngakau toa vaka, in their quiz night fundraiser.

Rain or shine, the night was definitely one to remember, with many showing up in full force ready to take out first placing for the night, with others showing up just to have a goodtime and show their support for our juniors.

Throughout the evening, a variety of fun activities running alongside the a quiz night with events such as a miniature auction, spin the wheel and a \$2 raffle, which ran all night long, giving participants more than their fair chance to take home a little something for them or for the family.

Prizes included cartons of chicken, tera rucksacks, food and beverage vouchers, beauty

vouchers and much, much more. There was even karaoke! That's right, karaoke! Even our number one supporter, Mrs. Annie Fisher got up on stage to bust out a tune or two, with Tome Jones' "Green, green grass of home", that got a number of talented participants up on stage to show off their dance moves.

Whether it is waltzing, twerking or a booty shake here and there-by junior paddlers Otea Tommy and Kestra Miringa (or was it Tehere?), they were surely the crowd pleasers of the night!

The night ended with Gibbo's Goonies taking out first place, Lile's Lions coming a close second and the CITC team "be a Man" closing in at third place. During last weeks very successful quiz night we raised approximately \$5,400 with our food stall also making a healthy chunk of change as well and we could not have achieved this without the overwhelming support of

everyone involved.

So on behalf of the junior Ngakau Toa team, we would like to say a huge Meitaki maata to all the businesses, families and individuals who have assisted in and/or supported our junior team to fundraise for the 2014 trans Tasman series and Gubbi Gubbi championship junior regatta being held next month in Sunshine Coast, Australia. Your prizes and/or money donated have been really appreciated and we cannot thank you enough. We would also like to specially thank Quiz master himself, Clee Masters, for your awesome MC work on the night, without you it would not have been the same!

With just under five weeks to go, we have almost achieved our target of \$52,000! Just a few more fundraisers left to go, to edge us closer to our target.

Upcoming fundraising events include a mega garage sale and a bucket run. So as the junior



paddlers continue to train hard on and off the water while continuing to juggle their school life, social life and part time jobs, we once again thank you all for your unwavering support towards our team. But more importantly we give all praise and glory to God. Let the count down begin!

Clean drinking water consultations on Aitutaki

By Derek Fox

The provision of clean and reliable drinking water for visitors and the residents of Aitutaki is a step closer after a consultation round with people on the island.

Staff from the Prime Ministers Office, the Ministry of Health and Infrastructure Cook Islands, have held four meetings on Aitutaki, with the Mayor and Island Council and in three village halls; more than 70 members of the community attended the meetings. The aim was to seek views and gain approval to develop a Water Safety Plan.

There will be follow up next month with a workshop on the island, which among other things will introduce locals to special water 'testing kits' being manufactured in Fiji. Once they are brought up to speed with using the kits people will be able to test their water supply to see if it's safe to drink.

The consultation round follows hard on the heels of – but is separate from – a project which is distributing water tanks to households on the island. The new tanks with a capacity of 6-thousand-litres, are being installed on a concrete pad to keep them level, and if the houses they're attached to don't have gutters and down pipes to feed water into the tank, they are being supplied too.

Unlike the water tank scheme in Rarotonga, on Aitutaki the households are not being supplied with a pump. Instead a tap is being connected to draw water from the tank.

Aitutaki, and the rest of the Cook Islands too – has the capacity to meet most if not all



A still functioning community water tank

of its water needs by harvesting rainwater. The idyllic atoll has an average annual rainwater of 2-metres. But like elsewhere in the islands, up until now very little household rain harvesting has been taking place; and few houses or buildings have gutters to catch water and tanks to store it.

Aitutaki Mayor – John Baxter – welcomes the new household water tanks but says they really need another couple of hundred to ensure every house receives one.

He concedes that with a 6-thousand-litre capacity the tanks are not big, but if families keep their gutters and tank clean and keep that water for drinking, they should be ok. The water that is reticulated from underground galleries and wells is 'brackish' and not fit for drinking and should be

kept for flushing toilets and washing.

He knows many people also want UV filters fitted to the new tanks to ensure the water is completely 'potable', but he thinks the cost involved may be too high. He has fitted a UV filter to his own water supply, but believes that quite apart from the cost factor, keeping the filter properly maintained may be beyond most Aitutaki families and the filters will very quickly become redundant and eventually taken out and thrown away.

"I favour repairing and getting up to scratch our community water tanks and putting UV filters on them and having public filling stations like you have on Rarotonga. That way if people start running low with water from their home tanks they can still get

clean drinking water from the community tank. But many of our community tanks have lost their roof and are in need of repair."

As in all of these projects, maintenance is the key. While aid funds may be available to establish and install infrastructure, maintenance is left to the locals.

Large concrete water tanks are sprinkled around the island with several in each village. They're supposed to hold 45-thousand-litres each, and many date back to the 1950s and 60s. The last of them was built in the 1980s.

They are round and have metal strapping holding them together. They originally came with a roof that Mayor Baxter reckons, "You could play a game of football under the

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COOK ISLANDS HERALD NEWS

From page 15
overlap.”

But none of those stately structures remain. Those that still have a roof at all are now ‘local’ constructions, flat and made out of corrugated iron trimmed with only a small overlap. Others without a roof have rubbish in them and look like very good breeding grounds for ‘namu’.

But they were built strong, and more than half a century after they first started appearing they could easily be pressed back into service. Take for example the tank across the road from the Vaepae hall and adjacent to one of the local churches. It does have a relatively new roof and looks in good nick, but there are no pipes leading into it.

Right next door the large church and its associated buildings have the capacity to deliver thousands of litres of water into it. Combine that with the mayor’s plan of a UV filter on each of the functioning community tanks, and you would have ample clean drinking water for the people of Vaepae.

One of the locals who also just happens to be involved with the local water reticulation system provides the answer to our questions. “The base is cracked. So it doesn’t hold water anymore. That’s why we cut off the pipes that used to carry water from the church.

But if the leak was fixed it wouldn’t take much to re-connect the pipes. And look at the size of that roof to catch water.”

“Holy water”, a wag suggests. Maintenance.

At the moment there is only one water filling station on Aitutaki, it’s down near the main wharf and is pretty popular with locals and tourists alike.

But as Mayor Baxter

reflects although it is fed from a very big tank, it too – along with all of the islands water supplies - was severely tested during last summer’s drought.

“It was a real wake up call for us. The tank supplying that filling station ran out, and we had to go and draw water from an underground source at the other end of the island; and that needed treating. The galleries underground are ok, they are sources of fresh water sitting on top of seawater, but the more fresh you draw out the saltier it gets. Encouraging the harvesting and storing of rainwater is very important. And our people are becoming more aware of having clean water.

Although the new tanks are small – only 6-thousand-litres – if people keep them clean and the gutters too; and because we usually get rain every week or fortnight, and if we keep that water for drinking, and use the piped brackish water for toilets and cleaning it’ll be a big help. We have run low on water before, but that last drought we came very close to running out of water completely.”

The World Health Organisation is promoting clean water and water safety plans in a number of island nations in the pacific including the Cook Islands. The visit by representatives from the three government agencies was a scoping mission to see how receptive Aitutaki communities would be to going ahead and developing full water safety plans, and how that might be achieved locally. The group got a thumbs up for that phase and plans are afoot to set up a four day workshop to start putting things in place; and to introduce the locals to water testing kits so they can monitor the quality of the water they and their families are consuming.

The COMPUTER MAN Tech Tips

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Windows 8



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

WHATS NEW

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The three desires of the Devil

By Pastor Ngarima George

Kia Orana.
Last week I shared about Salvation by FAITH. I received so many words of thanks for that simple message about salvation.

This week I want to share to you all about the three desires of the Devil.

1. Satan's desire is to keep you ignorant of God's word.

If you aren't a Christian he desires to keep you out of the Church. The Apostle Paul said, "Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief." (1 Timothy 1:13)

Prior to obeying the Gospel, the Devil's desire was fulfilled—Paul was ignorant and did bodily harm to the Church. But he wasn't alone. The Athenians were worshipping in ignorance. (Acts 17:23) Times haven't changed, the religious world as a whole is ignorant.

Everyone will have to hear, study and know the

truth to obey God. (Romans 10:17; 2 Timothy 2:15; John 8:32 and James 1:22) The fact remains if Satan can keep one ignorant he can keep one lost. He knows the importance of the Church (Acts 20: 28). He knows Christ is the Saviour of the body, the Church. (Ephesians 5:23) He knows if he can keep one, out of the Church, that person is lost.

2. The Devil desires to get Christians back into the world.

Christians know that we are in the world but not of the world. We are instructed not to love the world. (1 John 2:15; James 4:4) It isn't possible to serve two masters (Matthew 6:24). Peter gives a horrible picture of those who try. He speaks of the dog and the sow. (2 Peter 2:20-22) Remember the prodigal son in Luke 15? Satan knows we cannot continue in sin. (Romans 6:12; 12:1-2) He knows if he can get one back into the world, and keep him there, then that

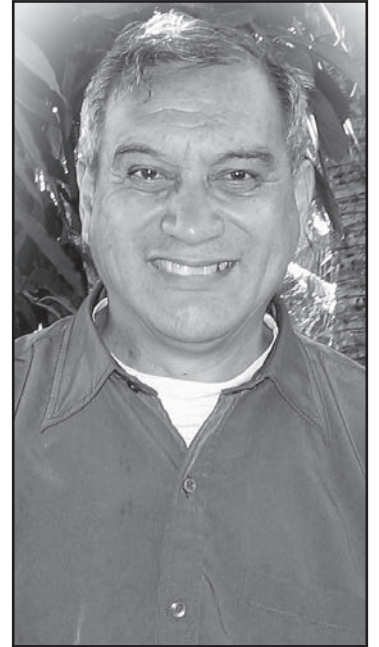
soul will be lost.

3. Satan desires to render Christians worthless to the Lord and to the Church.

His focus is on those determined to remain faithful. For them his goal is to work in such a way that we will be fruitless and worthless to God. (2 Timothy 2:26) Often lack of involvement and discouragement are the tools he uses.

Satan's advice would go like this, "You are a member, that's enough! All you have to do is just live a good moral life. You are too busy to give so much time to the Church. You have too many expenses to give more money to the Church. Why be concerned about the lost or weak? They have a Bible and they know where the Church meets.

The fact is all Christians "ought to be teachers." (Hebrews 5:12-14) Do not allow the Devil to fulfill his desires. Each Christian must work for the Lord. Each Christian must bear fruit (John 15:2) Christians



must remain on guard continually. The Devil never gives up. (1 Peter 5:8) The only way to stay ahead of him and escape him is to be determined to serve God. Always remember this—God loves you (John 3:16) and the Devil hates you. (1 Peter 5:8) If you disappoint anyone, let it be the Devil.

Friends consider these three devices of Satan and be alert to the service of Jesus Christ by the leading of the Holy Spirit of God.

E Tateni enua

By Pastor Ngarima George

E Tateni Enuā te tai, Ka rongo tatou I roto I te vaa o te tai au Metua pakari I te au tuatau pure Tumatetenga, me kare ra, te au akaipoipo.

Ko teia Tateni ka tano ki te au tuanga o te oraanga Tangata, te Kavamani Basileia, te Enuā e te Evangelia.

1. TEIA TE TATENI

UA NAA E, UA NAA TAU TUA
UA NAA TAU ARO
UA NAA O TE UU TARAMEA
I KATIKATI ANA I TE KAOA
O TAI AKAU KE
E UU NO TE AKAU ROA
KA OKI RAI KI TONA AKAU
KA OKI RAI TE UU KI TONA AKAU

2. TATENI RUA

KA TUKI, KA TUKI
KA RERU, KA RERU
TUKIA TUKIA
RERUA RERUA
KIA PARAARAA
KIA PETEPETE TUE
E ARIKI E NOO MAIRA
I TE TAUREVAREVA
I TE ENUA O TE TANE
URI E, TAIKI E
KUA UKAUKA TE KARE O TE MOANA
I TE AKAMANA ATUA
KUA KAAKAATEA TE TORO I IKURANGI
KUA RAUTIPARA TE TANGI A TE RAKOA
TI E RAKOA, TI E RAKOA
I-E-KOKO, KOKO

Women's week 2014 breast cancer screening

By *Tiana Haxton*

I am 14, most definitely a teenager and am fast becoming a young lady. A woman. Dare I say, I am budding bosoms and am aware that I'm a little self conscious of this very fact.

Since, my mum has then noticed my forfeit of good posture and poise. And, she consistently insists on my rightful return to sitting up straight and standing tall.

She further encourages me to identify with myself and my need to accept the changes that come with growing up- Ready or Not?

Quoting mum, "...Oi... You are beautiful" I'm not too sure this, her exclamation, is a compliment, a reprimand or both.

In my uncertainty and out of my mother's concern for me, we do some research. We are looking for greater knowledge, better understanding and practical solutions to comprehending.... womanhood.

The dictionary proffers definitions, contexts and origin(s).

Referencing Collins new compact dictionary, the 1992 edition in English; this defines bosom:

Bosom: 1) the chest or breast of a person, especially the female breast.

2) A protective centre or part. e.g. The bosom of the family.

3) The breast considered as the seat of emotions.

4) Very dear, Intimate E.g. a bosom friend.

The first and foremost definition brings us abreast; alongside each other as mother and daughter, now facing in the same direction and so I'd like to try and address breast cancer screening, with mums help. Please....

Mum is 43 and 2 years ago at 41 she had her first ever mammogram; an X-ray of her breasts. This took place during

women's week 2012 when she coincided being in Rarotonga where this service is provided. As was, an advocate of women's affairs- 'Taputu Mariri', invited mum to share her appointment time for breast cancer screening.....

Woman to Woman, Taputu recommends the 2 yearly checks as provided by the ministry of health.AROA NUI.....

This year, Women's week 2014, mum was cued for by our community nurse Shirley Patia, to return to Rarotonga for the bi-annual breast cancer screening programme. Provision was made for mum and 2 others to fly there and back from our home island.....Mitiaro.....

Mum left Monday of August 5th, knowing her appointment time would be 2pm dated Tuesday 5th; the very next day.

She flew out leaving her 'pick up', accommodation' and her 'length of stay' unconfirmed! She was assured knowing family and friends live in Rarotonga and that she could stay with them possibly?

Unbeknown to her, she would meet and tarry with newfound friends. Edwin & Erena & family.MEITAKI RANUINUI.....

Mum enjoyed your good company and had fun trying to find her way around your inland oire of Atupa. Atupa with back roads to town, a shortcut to the airport and with its handy proximity to the hospital.

Tuesday dawns. Mum rents an automatic scooter to ensure her ability to motor up the incline of the hospital hill. It's important to be on time for scheduled appointments.

The X-ray department was easy to find and she found it positive to see recent renovations done there.

Friendly staff seated mum with the other outer island mamas there with the same interest. They together represent

Ngaputoru – being from Atiu, Mauke and Mitiaro; Respectively. This is both bolstering & comforting to identify with.

While waiting, files were created. In turn two women at a time were called into an inner room, the all female team of experts, known to be from Australia, They were petite, lively and onto it. Thank you for your professionalism, your precious time, your focused energies and your valued expertise. This amounted to creating ease when it came to be a little daunting to attend these appointments. Like looking in a mirror pertinent questions were posed like "How are you? When was your last screening? Have you noticed any changes in your breasts(s) like pigment changes, texture changes? Like sensitivity changes? Do you have a family

history of breast cancer? Then it is on to (just as valuable) small talk while being put to task.

This trained line of questioning was both dumb founding and poignant to my mum. She did need reminding that through meaningful family communication we ourselves are our greatest resource. This enables us to gauge states of well being and encourages growing a better awareness of selves and others.

With special note, mum wants to bring attention to the changes in the X-ray equipment. It seems less encumber some, more manoeuvrable and so much more user friendly. More tactile friendly materials are utilised on these machines to soften contact experience with skin when touched AWESOME.

Seen in China



Caught on camera at the dining hall- Tarapiripa Bishop, Youth Ambassador of the Cook Islands and Youth Ambassador rep for Fiji

How to build friendship

Part 1

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

For this article of Encouragement I want to talk about How To Build Friendship. Choosing your friends is very important because they will have some influence on your life. Whether the influence is positive (good) or negative (bad). In Genesis 2v.18 it reads "It is not good for man to be alone." Loneliness is not part of Gods plan for us. God made us for relationships.

We were meant to have friends. There are basically two different kinds of friends. There are Casual friends and there are Close friends.

Casual friends is the result of circumstances. You happen to be in the same circumstance together. For example in your work place you interact with different people. Maybe living next door to somebody, or meeting someone in the 'Market place (Punanga Nui)', and so on.

But Close friends is the result of choice. You can't be close friends with everybody so you have to be selective. The closer you are to a person the greater their influence will be on your life, they can influence you in a "bad" way or "good" way.

Therefore, choose your close friends carefully.

The Bible has a lot to say about the kinds of friends we are to choose. Proverbs 27v.19 (GN) "A mirror reflects a man's face but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses." In other words the kind of friends we choose shows what kind of a person we're really like.

Proverbs 12v.26 reads "A

righteous man is cautious in friendship." The Bible talks about some people we need to avoid as our closest friends. The Bible says Lazy people should not be your closest friends. Even a Bad Tempered or Angry person - don't befriend a bad tempered person - you may learn his or her habits. Immoral (wicked, corrupt, dishonest) people . Greedy people – the Books of Ecclesiastes and Proverbs in the Old Testament talks about these kind of people. Avoid as your closest friends people who have chosen not to believe in God. The question is "What do you do with these people?" The Bible says we're to love everybody, but don't have these people as your closest friends because it will influence you.

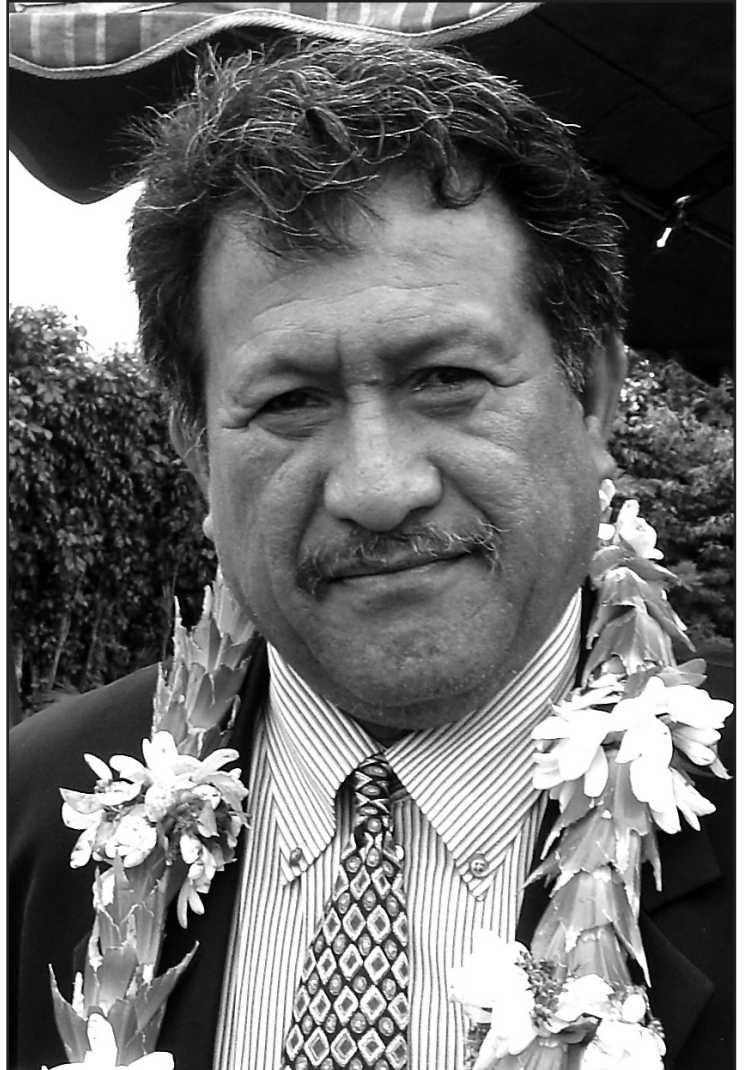
According to the Bible there are 3 types of friends we ought to select as Close friends:

i) Choose as your Close friends those who Stimulate (inspire; motivate; encourage) you mentally. The Bible says, "He who walks with the wise will grow wise" and "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Friends are part of your education. Does your friends make you think? or do they put you to sleep? The Bible says choose friends that stimulate you, motivate you, that brings out the best in your life.

ii) Choose as your Close friends those who Supports you emotionally. A friend is somebody who walks with you when everybody else walks away. A friend is somebody who is there with you even when the going gets tough. Galatians 6v.2 says "Bear one another's burdens." A friend

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



can be counted on in a crisis.

iii) Choose as your Close friends those who Strengthens you spiritually. I Thessalonians 5v.11 "Encourage one another and build each other up." Hebrews 10v.24 "encourage one another toward love and good works."

We all have a deep need for fellowship. There's a difference between fellowship and friendship. Friendship is based on our mind and our emotions. Fellowship is a function of our spirit. We can be friends with an unbeliever but we can only fellowship

with other Christians. The Bible says everybody needs a spiritual encourager, somebody we can share our struggles with, somebody who can pray with us, somebody who really lift us up and is an encouragement not a discouragement to our spiritual life. The question is "How do we attract this kind of friends?" In the next issue of the Cook Islands Herald I will focus on how to build friendships according to the word of God which is Part 2 of this article of Encouragement.

May you have a God blessed week, te Atua te aroa.

MFEM explains reasons behind government's pre-election spend up

From page 9

Tamarua and Ivirua. Approximately 25 students use this service, while the other few use own transport. The existing bus has been servicing Mangaia for the last 10 years and is in serious state of disrepair. The purchase of a brand-new bus will ensure safety of students travelling to and from school. As now, the new bus will be managed and operated by the Mangaia Island Government, primarily for schools, but will also be available for community services.

Rakahanga Harbour Improvements - Improvements to the passage way and harbour of Rakahanga have identified and design details are underway. Due to the nature of work and logistics involved in undertaking such work in the northern group, the delivery of this project is now scheduled to take place in early 2014/15, on completion of the Manihiki Harbour project.

Mangaia Water and Roads - An excavator was required to support Mangaia infrastructure Division with scheduled water, roads and harbour upgrade works. Part of the budget appropriated for Mangaia Water and Roads was redirected to fund the excavator purchase of \$84,000. This reduced the funding available for physical construction work to \$96,000. All work planned for Mangaia water and roads for 2013/14 is now on hold. ICI is working with the OPMs Climate Change team to finalise the water upgrades plan for Mangaia. The budget required in addition to the UN Adaptation Fund is currently being reviewed.

Rakahanga generator control panels and powerhouse relocation - The relocation of the powerhouse and replacement of generator on Rakahanga has been rescheduled to 2014/15 to coincide with the islands planned renewable energy development project.

Atiu Power Distribution - A total of \$264,000 was originally allocated in the 2013/14 Budget Capital plan for improvements to the distribution of electrical power in Atiu, due to delays in implementation the April Executive Order reduced 2013/14 spending to \$34,000 with \$230,000 earmarked to spent in 2014/15. However, \$41,000

was required in 2013/14 for the shipping of cables and concept designs to be undertaken, the remaining balance in 2014/15 is \$223,000. The overall cost of the project remains unchanged.

Mitiaro Generator, Powerhouse Relocation - The relocation of the powerhouse and replacement of generator on Mitiaro has been rescheduled to 2014/15 to coincide with the islands planned renewable energy development project.

Pa Enea Renewable Energy Projects-Land Acquisition - The advancement of land settlement with landowners on Pukapuka and Palmerston for the installation of renewable energy farms was provided for in 2013/14 for these islands at an estimated cost of \$262,000. All other islands where new land will be required are expected to be compensated in 2014/15. The budget estimate for 2014/15 is under review.

Orongo Development Master Plan (Ports Authority) - As with the Pa Enea Land Acquisition for Renewable Energy Projects; work on the masterplan for Orongo Centre and Arutanga Harbour development was suspended. To date \$175,000 has been expended and a further \$65,000 is required to settle accounts on work already underway. The initial budget allocated to Orongo Development Master Plan in 2013/14 was \$275,000 before the revision to \$150,000. The total expenditure for 2013/14 is confirmed to be \$242,000. The budget required to complete deferred, additional planning and small priority development work is under review.

Tauhunu Generator Reinstatement - The generator at Tauhunu had broken down for some time. Due to the logistics and timing of getting parts and equipment to Tauhunu, the people of Tauhunu were without power for some time. This was an emergency and obviously was not contained in the original 2013/14 budget or the subsequent PEFU. The Leader of the Opposition was consulted and notified me by text message on 27 June that he did not object to the expenditure following a briefing on the situation by the Secretary of Infrastructure Cook Islands.

Pukapuka Cyclone Centre - An

additional \$5,000 was required in addition to the original budget of \$60,000 (provided for in the 2013/14 Budget) for the costs of freighting materials to be used in the construction of a veranda around the perimeter of the Pukapuka Cyclone Centre. The additional funds were not deemed to be politically sensitive and the Leader of Opposition was not contacted.

Mitiaro Machinery Shelter - An additional \$8,000 was required in addition to the original budget of \$50,000 due to some changes to the overall scope of the Mitiaro machinery cargo shed. The original funds were provided for in the 2013/14 Budget, the additional funds were not deemed to be politically sensitive and the Leader of Opposition was not contacted.

Vaimaru Water Upgrade - An amount of \$56,000 for works associated with improving the water supply from the Vaimaru water gallery in Aitutaki was deferred to 2014/15. Initially a budget of \$200,000 was provided for a scope of works which consisted of a pump and pump-house replacement, and replacement of sections of the pipeline feeding Arutanga, Reureu and Nikaupara. Subsequent planning extended the scope of work to include improvements to the actual gallery itself and to provide an up-scaled solar pump to service the entire island. This additional work increased the estimated cost of the project by \$50,000 extra financing which was approved by Executive Council and reported in the PEFU. The final designs and specifications for the pump and solar panel were completed in June 2014, and procurement of the pump and solar components to complete the entire Vaimaru water upgrade project will now be completed in 2014/15, the overall cost of the project is not expected to exceed the amounts reported in the PEFU.

Fuel Storage Facility, Aitutaki - Initially \$90,000 had been provided for partial replacement of the existing fuel storage tanks on Aitutaki which have been in service for the last 40 years. These tanks are beyond repair the initial budget allowed for the construction of building and the

replacement of two new tanks. A decision was made to replace all the tanks at once and an additional \$70,000, was allocated towards the project taking the total budget to \$160,000 this was reported in the PEFU. The contract for the supply and installation of the tanks have been tendered by Infrastructure Cook Islands and is waiting to be awarded. Implementation is expected to commence within the next two months.

Water Pumps (Vaiepeka, Tautu, Vaipae), Aitutaki - Initially \$52,000 had been provided for the replacement of pumps for Vaiepeka, Tautu and Vaipae and this was scheduled over 2013/14 and 2014/15. Pumps and sluice valves were purchased using the allocated budget in 2013/14. The remaining pumps and valves which are required will be purchased in 2014/15 and \$7,000 which was unspent in 2013/14 has been deferred for spending in 2014/15.

Mini Transformers, Aitutaki - Initially \$96,000 was provided in the 2013/14 budget for the supply and installation of the mini transformers in Aitutaki, some of this work has been deferred to 2014/15. The final components are due to be completed in 2014/15 an amount of \$13,000 has been deferred to coincide with this.

Pukapuka Bobcat - Originally an allocation of \$50,000 was made in the 2013/14 budget for the purchase of a bobcat for the island administration in Pukapuka. A decision was reached in May 2014 to defer the purchase to 2014/15 to allow for fuller planning, and procurement procedures to be put in place. Costs incurred in 2013/14 of \$2,000 relates to training of operators/servicemen who will be responsible for servicing and maintenance of the new bobcat.

Manihiki Barge Outboard Motors - Replacement outboard motors for the Manihiki barges were purchased and installed in May 2014 to allow for harbour upgrades to continue and be completed on schedule, and for continuation of cargo cartage to and from freight carriers as they arrived. A budget of \$30,000 was approved by Executive Council in May 2014, with savings of \$18,000, which were returned to Budget.

The big suck up is in full swing, not much notice was taken about the warning the Demos are going to clean out CIP appointments in government till all of a sudden the CIP grip on power doesn't look that flash, the now vulnerable CIP mob that got the lucrative Board appointments and cushy jobs are starting to smooch up to the new Demo MPs with a lot of sweet talk and that they secretly voted for them. Suck up big before the big biff, it's time for another lot to put their noses into the public trough.



The self proclaiming claytons Demo leader Wilkie finally made a media statement after breaking his vow of silence of nearly four months, but it was to viciously attack a hard working private sector media worker for having an analytical opinion about his incompetent directionless leadership. Fancy losing the election when it was put on a plate for him by the media. Does he come up with vision and inspiration? No just bluff, denial, bluster, hector and righteous judgment hoping over worked God Almighty will intervene on his behalf, nothing leadership about that, just normal lazy lawyer tactic of discrediting the messenger so the jury will doubt the message.



With the different imported ethnic workers now among us it is evolving that once they have the numbers they begin to introduce their brand of life here. One local who has Phillipine workers noticed a reduction in the number of local roosters that did their grazing in the morning as they moved through his property and also some of the roosters looked battered



and roughed up, after making enquiries the workers apologetically told him they have been catching the roosters and used them for cock fighting which is a bit of a favourite sport and gambling activity back home. Who knows it might catch on with the locals; it could be an alternative to bingo.



Having trouble feeding the family? If short on food just hold out till Saturday and attend the worship at the Arorangi Seventh Days Adventist Church and after the spiritual food you get a healthy buffet lunch as good as you would pay Resort prices for and you can eat all you like. If that's not enough attend the Apostolic Church in Tupapa on Sunday and get enough beautiful food to last three days. Forget about the rest who believe Jesus great teaching, "man shall not live on bread alone".



There are a few rumblings down at the local Punanganui market, it seems those who have kept up their rental payments are getting annoyed others are still trading as their rental arrears keep getting bigger. One of the biggest debtors is a high profile politician earning more than \$100,000 a year.

And what made us think the market was for the little people? And what about the foreign massager who was allowed to give fair dinkum rubs at the market because she was going to give the SPCA a donation for every customer she serviced? Guess what organisation the Market Manager belongs to? Just another case of locals working against locals?



Since when does a couple of papa'a spear fishing a fish the size locals catch all the time deserve to be front page in the daily dribble? If it wasn't for the daily fix Kata cartoon and the Phantom comic who would bother to buy the dribble that has become boring, bring back the controversial pugnacious Wilson.



In neneva Neves Press Release about the pre election spend up there is reference to nearly half a million dollars spent on bridges for Betela, Tupapa, Matavera and Takuvaine all CIP strongholds at the time. Nothing on the list for the Demo constituencies, but then is that thing less than normal?



Whisper received that the Captain

of the vessel SS Daily, Bark du Cray may be doing a reverse Bligh and voluntarily sailing off into the sunset. After the Daily surprised all by featuring something fishy in the ship's log on Monday, perhaps du Cray sighted an ice berg in the distance and decided to lower the life boat!



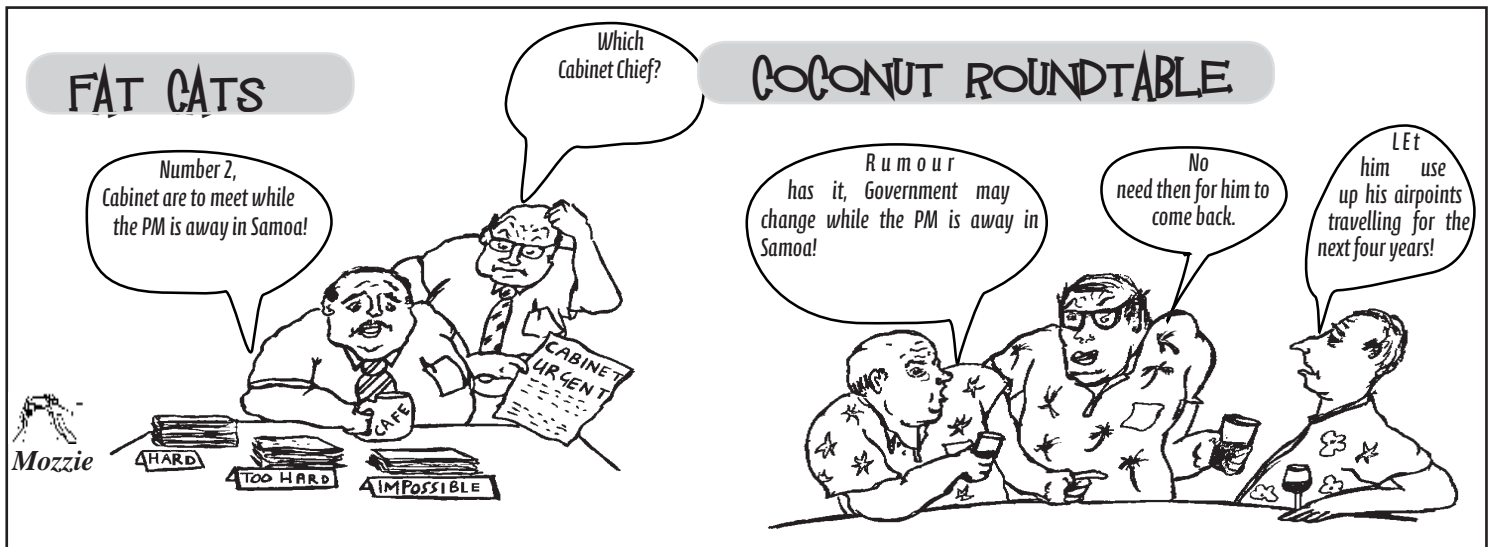
Word has been recieved that Energy Commissioner Roger de Bray has left these shores with the coming to end of his lucrative contract. So far no replacement has been named.



The Country's most unpopular PM can't wait to get away from all the negativity he attracts. Despite the election result being up in the air, that's exactly where the crooning PM is headed. Up in the air and off to the Small Island Developing States chin wag in Samoa. He must realize he is still in a caretaker role and cannot commit the country to anything. There was no need for him to attend as these chin wags produce little more than pages of meaningless dialogue. There are now questions as to whether our country is even a developing State!

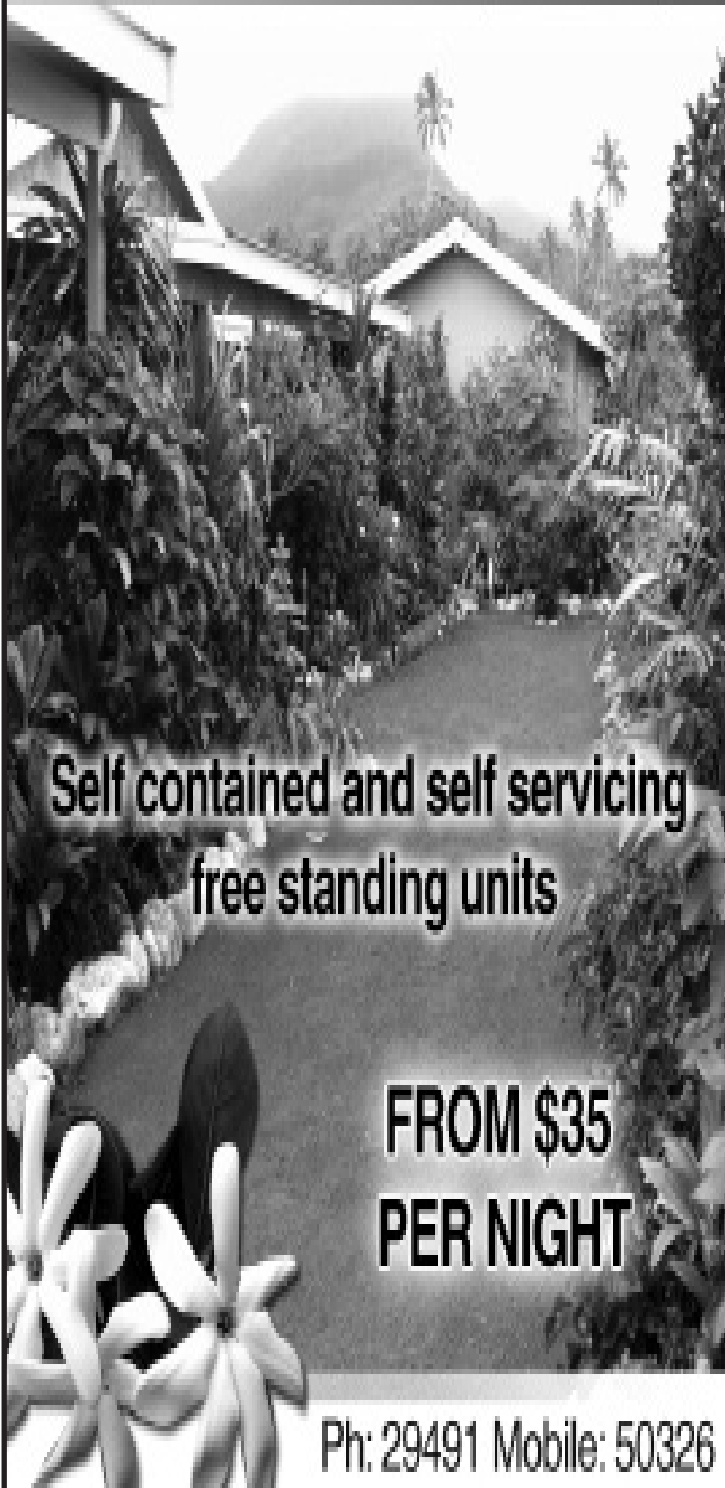


Big Red has intercepted word that several Hotels on the Rock are charging seven star, Dubai like room rates. What country are these customers coming from to pay over \$1,000 per night for a lagoon front room? One small, boutique set up out west charges \$1,000 per night for a beach front room. Does it come with a Butler? There is one well known resort which has its feet on the ground when it comes to room rates and it consistently wins international awards.



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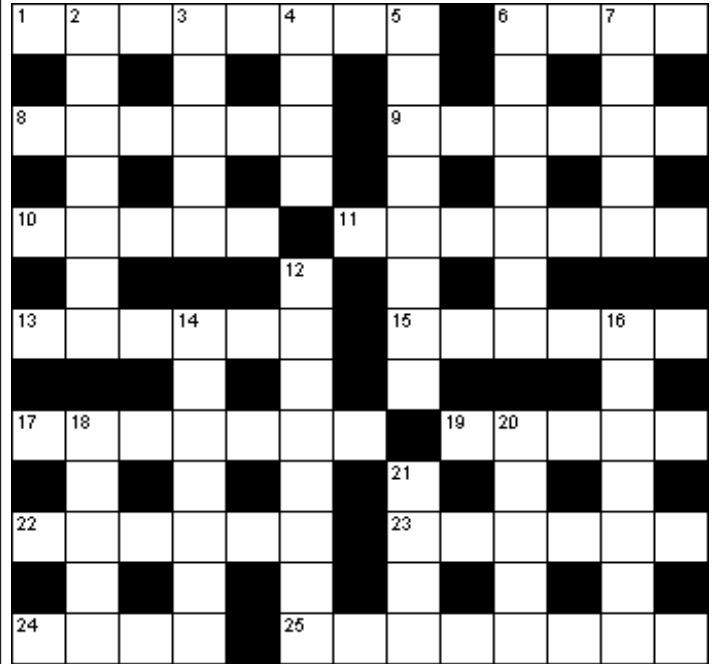


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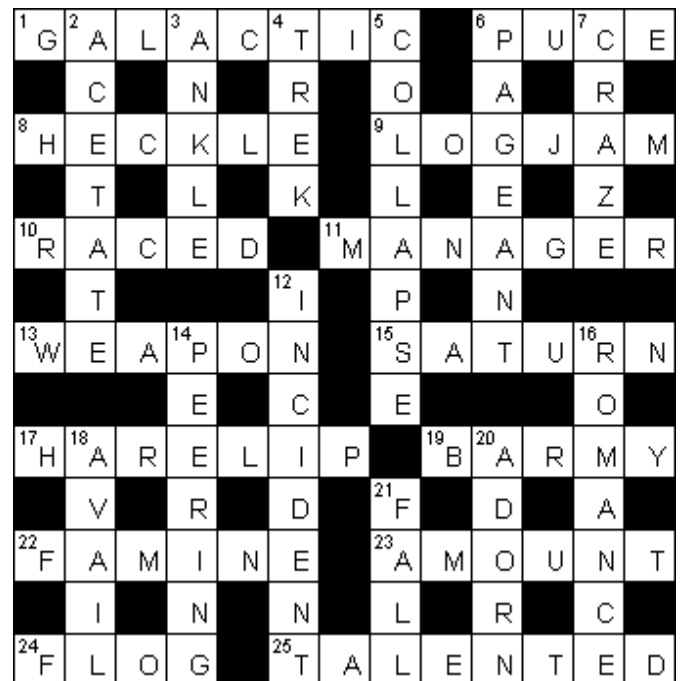
Across

- 1. On an upper floor
- 6. Drunkards
- 8. Make an accusation
- 9. Quantity
- 10. Pulp
- 11. Nurture
- 13. One who belongs to a group
- 15. Equine sounds
- 17. Smart
- 19. Resembling a mouse
- 22. Dreary
- 23. Acquire
- 24. Faculty head
- 25. Reformist

- 3. Not easily broken
- 4. Frozen treats
- 5. Direct light of the sun
- 6. Warrior of feudal Japan
- 7. Rows
- 12. County Down town
- 14. Inhabitant of Belgium
- 16. Not friendly
- 18. That group
- 20. External
- 21. Carnivorous mammal

Down

- 2. Visible image



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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.

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Terms of reference include:

- 1) Field work and analysis of multi-disciplinary sciences, coral reef monitoring, benthic GIS surveys & mapping, public health monitoring & coastal hydrology
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- 4) Leadership, mentoring and management skills to drive sustainable development and growth of pearl sector

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Contract renewable annually with possible extension of 2 years. Contact Uirangi Bishopon 28730, or email rar@mmr.gov.ck for full job description.

Send CV with application to: Secretary, Ministry of Marine Resources, P.O. Box 85, Tutakimoa.

Applications close Monday 25 August.

Cook Islands will keep its SIDS obligations: PM

The Cook Islands has a long-standing commitment to participating in the upcoming Small Island Developing State Conference in Samoa, which is not going to be ignored, the Prime Minister says.

"Our Regional and international obligations will remain intact right through this post-election period," he added, confirming his availability to contribute to Pacific Leadership presence in Apia. The 3rd SIDS Conference is being hosted by Samoa, 1-4 September 2014.

The Cook Islands has been engaged with the global gathering of SIDS since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio (UNCED) recognised the "special case of SIDS". Since then, high level representation has been maintained at every milestone meeting, including the Barbados Conference of 1994 (Barbados Plan of Action), and the Mauritius Meeting of 2005 (Mauritius Strategy of Implementation).

A strengthened Pacific presence in Apia is paramount, the Prime Minister says, and the plight of the region needs the collective voice of its leaders to highlight our needs and concerns, especially since the SIDS Conference is being held in our 'neighbourhood'.

The Cook Islands does not sit

back for the developed countries to lead despite their greater impacts on the rest of the world, he says.

"The Cook Islands has consistently promoted a message of self-responsibility where we, alongside our Pacific colleagues, can take the initiative and just get on with it and do what needs to be done. I am simply providing the political will to what our people want, and deserve."

"We don't have a large carbon footprint. We don't produce the volumes of waste. We don't pollute this Earth at the same levels of over-development and other activity as larger countries."

"But we know what's important to our future and long-term survival. We know what's required for our way of life to be sustained for the generations to come."

"So we act. We act responsibly and with foresight."

"That's how we show the rest of the world that the preservation of fragile marine ecosystems is possible through regulated and managed marine park reserves. That's how we show the rest of the world how to convert to renewable energy and break the dependence on fossil fuels. That's how we show the world we mean business when we negotiate better terms for the

sustained management of our fisheries resource."

The Prime Minister will be delivering a country statement to the Conference during the scheduled Plenary Sessions.

Travel details:

1. The delegation of government officials is 10, inclusive of the PM and Mrs Puna.

2. Three government officials are funded from their respective budgets – the rest are sponsored.

3. A large number of non-government reps are included in the delegation because of the UN requirement for credentials. They are self-funded or under separate arrangements. They include business people, civil society, and youth.

4. The credentials cover the attendance of 24 people for various events and activities (which can be obtained from the Net).

5. The estimated costs for the PM and Mrs Puna are in the vicinity of \$13,000 (Civil List entitlements). I do not have the exact figure due to airfare adjustments, currency etc. For instance, there are savings thanks to the assistance of NZ with an Air Force flight (Apia return) out of Whenuapai. Accommodation costs in Samoa have to be taken into account.

6. The PM is due back on 5

September.

The 3rd SIDS Conference is being attended by more than 3,000 delegates, including Heads of State and Government, Regional and International donor agencies, and Civil Society groups. The Cook Islands delegation headed by the Prime Minister will involve a number of officials from the PM's Office, Foreign Affairs, Aid Management, and Infrastructure.

Note:

The PM will leave for SIDS slightly early to honour a request from Conservation International (CI) to attend the launch of the NZ office of CI in Auckland. His attendance at this event is fully covered by CI. Conservation International is an important partner in our Marae Moana project, and instrumental in the establishment of the Information Hub at Nikao.

Representatives from CI will arrive in Rarotonga this Sunday and Monday to join the launch of the Cook Islands Information Hub (Kevin Iro's building at Nikao) on Monday afternoon 25 August. The CI contingent plus the PM and Mrs Puna will all leave for NZ late Monday night for the CI launch located at Auckland University. The PM is delivering an address at the opening, which PM John Key has also been invited to.

TE REO MĀORI



na Rutera Taripo

Kia Ūpoko-tū!

Ta`i, rua, toru, `ā!
Ngō`ie `ua kia akatātā
`Ō atu tātou kī mūa
Rima, ono, `itu, varu!
Aru mai `a iva `ē ta`i-nga`uru.
Nā rira `ua rāi te tatau
Ma te mā `ē te `ē ki rua-nga`uru
Te reo ō tātou kia ūpoko-tū
`Ē rau, `ē mano, te tuātau!

Let it flourish!

One, two, three and four!
It is simple to recite
Let us forward to advance
Five, six, seven and eight!
Followed by nine and ten.
Continue counting in this way
With conjunctions to two tens
Flourish on our language
For hundreds and thousands of years!