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17 September 2014 \$2 (incl VAT)

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1 5 10 14 29 33

SUPP:

9 22

**20
MILLION
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Demos disillusioned at CJ Weston's court room conduct and decisions

Some of the commentary by Chief Justice Weston has had a very large number of people witnessing the High Court petitions questioning as to how the Chief Justice has arrived at decisions that now will almost certainly cause an appeal to be made by some of the Democratic Party candidates.

As their petition losses have mounted, the Demos have become disgruntled and critical at the manner of CJ Weston's dispersion of judgment. According to some Demos the CJ has also become biased and impartial in his flamboyant conversations with the CIP legal team during the hearings.

Last Friday evening at a gathering of Demo officials and candidates at the Leader of the Opposition office CJ Weston was well and truly roasted for the perception he was favouring the CIP arguments and defense. Admittedly there was an air of frustration and disappointment among the gathering and it seemed the CJ was the culprit of their losses not their own sloppy petitions, blame for failure was well and truly presented at CJ Weston's imaginary door.

Over the last two days CJ Weston's court room manner has only reinforced the simmering Demo hostility towards him. Every word proceeding from his mouth is being scrutinized and scanned for speckles of impartiality and leanings towards the CIP. His written decisions are being microscopically studied for evidence of his perceived CIP leanings, so much so the Demos are confident they can mount four winning appeals. Leading the charge is Wilkie Rasmussen with Norman George, Eugene Tatuava and Kete Ioane.

It is becoming a basis for the Demo argument the CJ is soft on the CIP government that is the acceptance by Weston of a honorary permanent residency by the Puna administration. Orchestrated prior to an election date being set, the Chief Justice would not have known but

at the very least should have sought advice as to whether the acceptance of Honorary Cook Islander when his position as Chief Justice when called upon in electoral petition cases could cause some discontent and question as to whether or not these decisions were made with impartiality.

The judiciary needs to have a clear separation from Parliament and that it would have been prudent for the Chief Justice to recognise that there is at least the appearance of a conflict of interest by accepting the honorary Cook Island residency from the present government that he should excuse himself from presiding over any of these petitions.

The comment that had most people scratching their heads made by CJ Weston in the Manihiki petition was clumsy at best but at worst it gave the appearance that the Prime Minister shared some personal relationship with him and suggested to some degree some discoloration in this case.

In his deliberations Weston CJ commented that "Mr. Puna was an experienced politician and knew where to draw the line on corruption", that comment has led many to wonder whether the CJ Weston actually knows whether a seasoned politician would know, because many seasoned politicians just get very good at blurring that line to evade scrutiny.

During the Manihiki petition Puna was given the full liberty to electronically converse with and instruct witnesses from the Rarotonga Court room but this privilege was not permitted when it was the Demo's turn to assist and guide their witnesses. According to Demo supporters observing this gave the CIP a clear advantage especially when Skype technology was being used for the first time.

In the Aitutaki case there seemed to be growing concern that there was in fact is bias and this was best demonstrated by



Chief Justice Tom Weston

CJ Weston referring once again to the Prime Minister being asked by the First Respondent Mona Ioane whether or not three contracts to be his "eyes and ears" in Aitutaki three weeks before the July 9th elections was permissible.

This formed part of the decision in his submissions and gave the impression that the Prime Minister being consulted made this all very legitimate. Of the three contracts, all identical all given to three different people who would have used these contracts to influence their family members no doubt, only one was deemed to have been corrupt. It was contended that either all three stood or fell together. If all the contracts were the same, why was it necessary to prove that the other two contracts did not have the intention to influence those voters and their family members?

The Demos are crying foul at CJ

Weston's back flipping over voter disenfranchising, a female voter was disqualified even though she was outside of the constituency as a medical referral patient, the woman's home and residence is in the constituency and the length of time absent due to medical reasons is immaterial claim the Demo protestors.

One observer stated CJ Weston made opinionated comments about the dress code of two witnesses in the context they would be credible witnesses, the commenter argued the dress code of a person is no indication of one's credibility as a witness.

No matter what the outcome of the final two petitions or by-elections which ever they are, there will be some disquiet over the decisions to date, the CJ is a learned man but should never have accepted an honorary Cook Islander award until after his term was completed. Justice should not only be done but seen to be done. - George Pitt

The end of the Norman era?

Can Norman rise from the ashes?

By Charles Pitt

About a week before the High Court hearings into the electoral petitions, the great artist Mike Tavioni and I called in to his niece Ellena's café at the airport for a coffee.

On arrival we met Norman George who was just leaving. "I'm going to win my case," said Norman, "remember where you heard it!"

Whatever plan Norman had, Chief Justice Tom Weston was not in on it. On Tuesday 16 September in the High Court, CJ Weston dismissed Norman's petition against the CIP's Rose Brown who in a major political upset, took Norman's Atiu seat from under his nose.

The question now on everyone's lips is, "have we now seen the end of the great Norman?"

It's more likely though that the wise old cat will withdraw into the jungle to lick his wounds and when the time is right, he will re-emerge stronger and more determined than ever.

Norman is considering an appeal but in any event or outcome, are we to regard this interlude as the end of the political career of one of the most colourful characters in Cook Islands politics?

Norman, an astute Politician with some 30 years of experience in the rough and tumble of Cook Islands politics, can never be written off.

On the matter of the Atiu petition on Tuesday afternoon involving Teenui - Mapumai, CJ Weston summarized Justice William's Judgment, the results of which included; all the 8 allegations of bribery, treating and undue influence in the Amended Petition were dismissed for lack of proof to the required standard and as a result, the Amended Petition itself is dismissed. It is accordingly unnecessary to rule on the First Respondent's Application to

strike out the Amended Petition. CJ Weston further advised that there would be a \$104 Certificate in the form in the Schedule to Justice William's Judgment confirming the election on 9 July 2014 of the First Respondent as the Member of Parliament for Teenui-Mapumai. Mr George was invited to comment however he declined.

Action in respect of other petitions

Three other matters relating to Electoral Petitions were dealt with in the High Court yesterday by Chief Justice Thomas Weston. The first involved seeking legal consent to alter a comment made by Chief Justice Weston in his summary following a complaint from Counsel for the petitioner in the Penrhyn constituency which was agreed to. The second matter was also dealt with quickly in relation to confirmation of fixing security costs at \$5,000 for the Constituency of Mitiaro to which there were no objections from either counsel.

On the matter of the Vaipae-Tautu Petition, CJ Weston in his Introductory Observations commented that with 33 witnesses, it raised some difficulties with regards to what he observed as anomalies in S7 of the Electoral Act. It was his recommendation that any reforms to the Electoral Act should be approached on a "cross party" basis involving all political parties in order to address Cook Islands cultural practices in relation to future election processes. He did not consider it the role of the Electoral Court to address cultural issues or practices.

In relation to the electoral Petition regarding voter qualification in Vaipae-Tautu, CJ Weston ruled that despite

upholding 1 count of bribery, the Petition was dismissed and that the Respondent Mona loane retained his seat by 1 vote.

The count of bribery that was upheld was in relation to the appointment of 3 Field Officers in the constituency of Vaipae-Tautu. CJ Weston in his Judgement stated that although the 3 appointments were joined, he dismissed 2 on the basis that the appointments process and the evidence produced, did not confirm aspects of inducement or intent to bribe. He did however uphold the allegation of bribery regarding the 3rd Field Officer as the job offer included an attempt to induce the voter to cast a ballot in loane's favour. Irrespective of

the precautions undertaken by loane to consult with colleagues including the Prime Minister over these appointments, he was aware of the risks he was taking regarding the timing of these appointments. The outcome however, was not enough to overturn the election night results and loane has retained his seat by the slimmest of margins.

An interesting point noticed by some observant attendees in Court was that after Norman's petition was dismissed, several CIP MPs present came forward to offer Rose Brown congratulations however there was no such action when the petition against the CIP's Mona loane by the Demo's Kete loane, was dismissed.



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Trade deficiencies highlighted at SIDS

Cook Islands missing out on export opportunities

Some of the Cook Islands delegates participating in the Samoa SIDS meetings have returned in awe and impressed with many of the exhibits and discussions, especially the self sustainable economic ventures demonstrated by Samoa and other small Pacific Island States.

The innovative drive by small business projects witnessed in Samoa highlighted the failure and lacking of Cook Islands efforts to be more self reliant and less aid dependant. Grass roots initiatives that synergise their collective outputs are thriving in Samoa. As always it is easier to criticise on a comparative judgement and that which is being directed at the Business Trade and Investment Board (BTIB) cannot go uncontested.

While many other Pacific countries have a National Export Development Strategy (NEDS) the Cook Islands doesn't, but it's not for the want of trying. Attempts by the BTIB to secure Budget funds or external funding have been unsuccessful. In particular BTIB management's focus is agriculture commodities for export.

Cook Islander Mona Mato, the Export Services

Manager in New Zealand's Pacific Islands Trade and Invest (PT&I) office warns the lack of a NEDS will gift other Pacific countries export opportunities and market share at our expense. In terms of fresh products NZ is the logical market; therefore a good starting point for building the blocks of a NEDS

Mato suggested identifying niche markets to export Rarotonga commodities during the produce's off season in NZ; from there it's a matter of working backwards to the growers. "It's really a case of building infrastructure to comply with market requirements and opportunities".

Rarotonga is well placed to become a niche commodity exporter said Mato, who emphasised thinking smart in realising the changing NZ demographic provides a diversity of opportunities other countries are capitalising on. "Quantities are not the issue if the market demand of quality, consistent supply and price are accommodated".

recommended Mato.

Rarotonga is well placed to become a niche commodity exporter said Mato, who emphasised thinking smart in realising the changing NZ demographic provides a diversity of opportunities other countries are capitalising on. "Quantities are not the issue if the market demand of quality, consistent supply and price are accommodated".

Mato cited examples of a variety of Tahitian limes grown in Samoa to supply the NZ market. After the devastation of agriculture produce in the 2012 Cyclone Evans, over 6,000 extra lime trees were planted with the specific aim of supplying NZ. Exporting has now been revived but with a more focused strategy of supplying ten percent of the NZ market within five years.

Despite being handicapped by labour shortages and poor soil conditions Niue can't meet the demand for their value added vanilla products that are sold globally. Tonga's vanilla is processed and exported to Japan with demand out stripping supply. Both countries have high end branding, quality packaging and bottling.

Fiji is all out to capture the NZ market for their "Fiji Red" Hawaiian variety of pawpaw. There was a time when the Cook Islands supplied 80% of the NZ market for pawpaw said Mato.

Crucial to capitalising exporting commodities to NZ is being approved by their Ministry for Primary Industries whose website currently lists ten Cook Islands commodities approved for export to NZ. The last time the local Ministry of Agriculture got commodity approval was in 2012, prior to that was in 1999. The process for commodity approvals is time consuming, very technical and detailed but if patience is exercised it is achievable.

This is an important issue to be activated by Agriculture's Quarantine Division before any local

continued next page

produce can be admitted into NZ pointed out Mato. A NEDS will clarify what commodities are available, the quantities and the windows of supply summarised Mato who added his office often received enquiries about what the Cook Islands could supply. "The lack of a NEDS isn't helpful when these inquiries are made but we send them on to BTIB".

BTIB management have endeavoured to establish a Trade road map for local commodities but have failed to have it implemented. Changing Board members and Ministers have meant mission focus contamination. A lot of effort goes into bringing BTIB to a point of implementation only to have the goal posts shifted by a higher authority.

After a regional media launch in 2012 a tremendous effort under Agriculture Minister Nandi Glassie in collaboration with BTIB was invested in reviving the pawpaw for export initiative only to have the plug pulled at the point of cutting the ribbon. Ten planters had collectively subscribed to the pawpaw export driven plan and begun planting towards that end, the heat treatment plant



Cook Islander Mona Mato, the Export Services Manager in New Zealand's Pacific Islands Trade and Invest (PT&I) office

was repaired, branding and packaging was being developed all to no avail.

Under the advice of the Financial Secretary Richard Neves, the new Minister of Agriculture Kiriau Turepu a planter himself and the former Associate Minister under Glassie, out of the blue dropped the bomb shell announcement the pawpaw export programme was abandoned and over before it started.

Influenced by Neves, Turepu rubber stamped his instructions then informed the planters and MOA to concentrate on supplying the local market and the 120,000 tourists. This shocked and disillusioned the planters with most now planting different crops.

The indecision and flip flopping at every changing of the guard is a continued obstacle course that disrupts the rhythm and

progress of BTIB to stake a claim in the pool of Pacific competition. BTIB CEO Terry Rangi is optimistic a more focused export strategy for agriculture commodities will be delivered, "what the powers to be do with it is their prerogative".

Rangi said he could provide enough evidence of proof the BTIB management were not the bottle neck responsible for the lack of export activity. - George Pitt

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Our Frontpage model Penrhyn electoral petition decision opens a can of worms

Decision gives fly in voters the green light

By Charles Pitt

If the anticipated appeal to the Court of Appeal by Wilkie Rasmussen over the recent High Court judgment in the electoral petition against Willie John to allow 15 of the 19 votes cast in the Penrhyn electorate by overseas based Cook Islanders normally resident in Australia fails, then it could open a can of worms and lead to a possible manipulation of voting especially in key marginal seats by fly in voters.

It is well known that each year some retired Cook Islanders come home for a stay of several months to avoid the New Zealand winter. For a political party or disgruntled individual to affect the vote in a marginal seat, they only need make their overseas based family members or friends aware of their potential to affect the outcome of the elections by visiting for an extended period be it for a holiday, a birthday, wedding, family reunion, family land meeting, and as a consequence, qualify to register to vote. Provided of course no "influence" is exerted nor any offer made to pay air fares.

By way of example, it would be possible for an organization like Grey Power to get candidates into parliament to give effect to Grey Power policies. All Grey Power need to do is win enough seats thanks to a few fly in voters, to hold the balance of power. Then Grey Power can be in a position to dictate terms beneficial to the elderly.

As it is unlikely any party will attain a two thirds majority in the next parliament, there has to be a united effort by all MPs to amend the Constitution to avoid the prospect of voting at the next election in 2018 being manipulated.

What is the remedy? Obviously the issue is residency and the qualifying period for registration. There must be ample public discussion.



Our frontpage model is 31 year old Glen Bulliva. Bulliva is a Cook Islander, from the Wichman family. His grandfather is Kaka Wichman and his grandmother is Mareta Wichman and the last time he was here was when he was 7 years old. Bulliva is a food processor at Heinz Watties in Hastings.. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck. and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald

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Letter to the Editor

Overseas based Cook Islanders who voted in the General Elections

Dear Sir
You have invited me to comment on the decision in the Penrhyn petition case and how I see the position going forward.

Firstly some observations on the case itself

In my view Wilkie's petition was doomed from the outset and that further pursuit by way of appeal would be a waste of time and money.

That, however, does not mean that he does not possess the moral high ground. He does but as I read it the law does not on this occasion support the moral high ground.

This is an example where the politicians tinkered with the Constitution without fully understanding the implications of that tinkering and in this connection I would mention that Wilkie himself supported the Constitution Amendment No 26 Bill 2003 which has become his undoing.

Up until that amendment there always existed a formula (some say inadequate) to connect absence with residential intention and usual place of abode. In a few strokes of the law draftsman's pen however that all changed. The definition of 'to reside' was repealed and the residential qualification requirements were loosened to the point where any individual or group that otherwise met the basic qualifications (Cook Islander, NZ citizen, Permanent Resident,

18 years of age and 12 months continuous residence at some time) and bent upon changing the result in marginal constituencies, or opportunistically enabled by their presence, could achieve that objective by complying with the three months requirement. And that is what happened with the Australian Penrhyn Islanders whose votes were upheld. They were in Penrhyn for the requisite three months and met the other requirements. The fact that their normal place of abode was in another country had become irrelevant.

The Judgment while finding for the first Respondent, Willie John, did not examine in any detail the repealed definition in Article 1 of the Constitution and had it done so it may have been less inclined to consider that the Constitution Amendment No.26 Act and the Electoral Act 2004 were drafted as something of a package (para13) because clearly there were all sorts of inconsistencies between the vexed terms 'actually resident'; 'actually resides'; 'usual place of abode'; 'resides continuously' and 'thereafter remains in...' and Article 28.

The Solicitor-General made reference to the repeal and also quoted from a speech by Sir Geoffrey to support her contention that 'presence' not 'residence', in the place of abode sense, was the operative meaning. While the Courts have hitherto frowned upon resorting

to Hansard to find the meaning of a Statute there has been some retreat from that in recent times where the legislative intent has been obscure or ambiguous and although Sir Geoffrey had succinctly stated the position there was nothing obscure or ambiguous about it. The Court found these submissions persuasive and correct and that pretty much ended the matter for the Petitioner.

Article 28 governs the position and one cannot read into the various permutations of the expression 'reside' in S7 any other meaning which is inconsistent with that Article.

However, while no-one argued that provisions of S.7 of the Electoral Act 2004 were unconstitutional (para 17) Mr Manarangi did acknowledge that in order to make sense of any inconsistency, provisions of the Electoral Act in conflict with Article 28 should be 'read down' by that I take it he meant to put the best possible construction on a term to avoid blatant inconsistency and a constitutional challenge. The CJ appears to also have followed this approach. In my view that begs the question and revives some doubts I expressed to Tim Arnold a while back as to the Court's position on such inconsistencies with particular reference to the Superannuation Act vis a vis Articles 39(4) vs Article 41 (1).

Finally on the Judgment I

found it odd that the Court - at para 11 recognised that the legal issues concerned were Articles 27 and 28 of the Constitution and S. 7 of the Electoral Act but then proceeded to quote the unamended Article 27 which referred to the composition of Parliament being 25 members, the overseas constituency and Articles 28, 28A, 28B, 28C and 28D when in fact by then Parliament comprised 24 members, the overseas seat had been abolished as had Articles 28A, 28C and 28D.

Paradoxically the Judgment later, at para 14, acknowledged that Parliament now consisted of 24 members but did not acknowledge that the vehicle for that change made the others as well.

Looking forward

Should this situation be allowed to continue? No it should not otherwise the opportunity to manipulate it to bring about a desired result would see no end to conniving and intrigue and the defeat of the wishes of bona fide resident voters.

Will it be changed? Bet your life because no political party having seen the dramatic effects of their own tinkering would wish to see themselves a future target so I am predicting a two-thirds majority will be readily forthcoming and the law will be changed.

The challenge will be to structure a new model that meets all circumstances.

John M Scott
16.09.14



CATAMARAN- FREE TO A GOOD HOME- AS IS- MUST BE TAKEN WITHIN 2 WEEKS

Economy tinkering on meltdown while CIP spend money we don't have

Six months ago the Cook Islands Party Government increased Value Added Tax (VAT) from 12.5% to 15% in a much debated heavily critiqued feature of their tax reform package. An increase in taxes was going to be offset by a reduction in Income Tax, the increase VAT was to also help compensate losses from increased pension payments, but for the first time many pensioners were going to experience the taxation of their old age pension.

It was stated many times that increased VAT was going to penalise the poor and grow the gap between the haves and have not's. This government turned a deaf ear to all of that and while the Cook Islands Party Prime Minister Henry Puna and his cabinet grabbed every opportunity to roam the globe they did not see the trickle to a torrent as people packed their bags and left their homes in search of a new life.

Lost for an economic road map driven by development Cabinet were easily jawboned by the Financial Secretary Richard Neves who pursued the lazy solution of sleight of hand tax wizardry. Neves birthed nenevanomics as he preached with evangelical fervour the good news the increase in VAT was going to make everyone better off. More revenue would be collected from tourism and any increases in cost of living would be offset by the compensatory measures from Income Tax adjustments.

While the manipulative drumbeat pushed the "more in your pocket" rhetoric, it masked the fact more money would buy less, much more so if you lived in the outer islands. A case in point is this week's increase in an Air Rarotonga return fare to Manihiki, it has increased over \$300, from \$2,800 to \$3,119 return.

It may now take lodgings in Finance Minister Mark Brown's MBA brain that by the time all

the components that make up the air fare times the VAT increase actually blows the air fare up by more than 10 percent not 2.5 percent, it's called the multiplying effect.

At the best of times living in the outer islands is an endurance and it is beginning to sink in the CIP have been very devious about the more in your pocket mantra.

Far from it, it seems. It is now apparent that the country will be in serious deficit territory no thanks in part to a four percent drop in visitor arrivals and poor political leadership that has surrendered the management of the asylum to

by manipulatively pushing for a quick fix fast track fire sale of our profitable national asset Telecom Cook Islands to Telco predator Digicel, hopping their \$7 million offer would bring momentary relief to Treasury's empty coffers. To any discerning observer Neves was acting in self interests and not that of the Cook Islands.

The magnitude of Neve's self inflicted nightmare has driven him to illegally tax the local pension with the backing of a just as incompetent Crown Law when it is clear no law permits him to do so. His political puppets are turning a blind eye as is every watch dog

Facing the reality of being exposed as negligent and incompetent, the desperate Neves sougled to cover his tracks and preserve his bloated credentials by manipulatively pushing for a quick fix fast track fire sale of our profitable national asset Telecom Cook Islands to Telco predator Digicel, hopping their \$7 million offer would bring momentary relief to Treasury's empty coffers.

the bureaucratic inmates.

The wishful \$8 million annual increase in revenue will not be the panacea to help balance the books; increased costs of living from increased taxes have pushed families over an unfamiliar edge to the point that life in the Cook Islands is no longer sustainable.

Facing the reality of being exposed as negligent and incompetent, the desperate Neves sougled to cover his tracks and preserve his bloated credentials

institution in the Country. Neve's insistence New Zealand pension recipients must pay tax because it is the law, is a glorification of his hypocrisy for while he like the CIP government preach the law, they elevate themselves above compliance as they violate it in desperate self interests with the obscenity of Kim Saunders' shameless approval laced with political commentary.

The MFEM star gazers and Richard Neves had not

comprehended one important trait of Cook Islanders, which has been evident ever since the International Airport opened and that is if things get tough the marginalised get going - going overseas. It is now easier and better to live in Australia with aunty or uncle or other family members than to put up with financial ineptness and wanton wastefulness back home that has pushed family living costs beyond the reach of the lowly government and private sector employees.

Just as bad as increasing taxes without watching government spending is the dangerous but common practice of increasing debt to balance the budget.

Buying political homage has been the scene in the Cook Islands since self government. Observers know what to look for when political parties use government money to secure voters. In the outer islands it's machinery and jobs, on Rarotonga where most of the Board posts have been swallowed up by Party hacks the next best thing to lock in further political homage is buy more flash GA vehicles for desperate Party voters. The vehicles have made a big difference for those lucky enough to get one and a decisive factor for the CIP Government in these last elections.

Are we headed for financial disaster? With the Prime Minister jetting away to New York in a day or so for no real justifiable reason and doing what he does best - avoiding the hard truths about his country, we are very likely heading for a major financial meltdown.

Let's see what the new Budget shows when it finally gets to Parliament then we'll really know what the pre-election tax reform package is going to deprive us of or will it titillate us with expectations founded on imaginary revenues? More debt and unsurpassed spending or more party time ahead?

- George Pitt

Food parcels to needy on increase despite rise in welfare payments

By Charles Pitt

Back in November 2012, the Herald reported on the plight of those considered destitute. At that time, it was reported that many families were going hungry. It was reported that four churches on Rarotonga were sending food parcels to needy families and the elderly.

A person who prepared food parcels for 20 families in need, told the Herald these families had been assessed and the two main considerations were children and elderly living alone or with family.

The type of goods provided

include dried goods (such as sugar, tea, flour, rice, bread), tinned food (such as spaghetti, fish), noodles and even items such as mosquito coils.

It was reported that of the church groups distributing food, some do it twice a year, weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

An issue for the volunteers who deliver the food parcels is the cost of fuel.

The person said the matter of hungry families is a very emotional, very sensitive one. There were reports of children going to school hungry and at lunch time, hiding behind sheds so the other kids do not

see that they have nothing to eat.

Sharing is a way, the person said, for the community to help those in need. Do not wait for someone to ask for help because they may be too shy, too embarrassed or too proud to ask.

At that time the Herald reported that there was a destitute allowance available through the Ministry of Internal Affairs and applicants had to satisfy a committee set up under the Welfare Act 1989 to receive the allowance of \$75 a fortnight. The destitute allowance was one of five legislated payments under the Act.

Ministry records for the period 1-15 November 2012 showed there were 42 persons in receipt of the benefit in the Cook Islands. Mangaia-19, Aitutaki-7, Rarotonga-4, Pukapuka-4, Atiu-3, Penrhyn-3, Mauke-2.

The committee met once a month and the members are; Secretary of Health (Chair), Secretary of Internal Affairs (Deputy Chair), Director of Welfare (Chief Examiner), two Inspectors-Director of Disabilities and the Senior Welfare Inspector. The committee reviews cases as allowances are initially granted for a period of

continued page 22

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House of Ariki and Koutu Nui updated on Te Mato Vai Project



Koutu Nui and Are Ariki Leaders

A meeting held with the House of Ariki and Koutu Nui has seen the traditional leaders giving the Te Mato Vai project their support; but insisting that the project managers and government need to work with the people whose land will be needed for upgraded intakes with filtering systems and storage tanks in the foothills.

The meeting was called by the project's Legal Work Stream and very well attended with all Ariki and Koutu Nui leaders represented.

The Te Mato Vai project was represented by the chair of the project's Legal Work Stream, Tamari'i Tutangata and vice chair Tingika Elikana, deputy project manager Daryl Rairi, GHD design deputy team manager Sam Napa and team members, Ngamau Wichman Tou and Teariki Rongo.

Daryl Rairi updated those

present on the work done so far with the laying of the new ring mains along the main and back roads and the work to assess and repair the leakage that's occurring on residential and commercial properties.

Sam Napa explained the work that needs to be carried out at the intakes. The meeting included a visit to the Papua intake to see what an intake looks like and what works will need to be carried out to upgrade the intakes and improve storage capacity and water quality.

A number of Ariki and Koutu Nui speakers at the meeting acknowledged the benefits the new and improved water system will provide to the people of Rarotonga. They said they didn't want the government to take land for the project, but would like to see government working in partnership with the people.

Vakatini Ariki best summed up the view of the traditional leaders by reminding people that in the beginning the land belonged to the Ariki, but that they had given the land to the people to be used for the benefit of all, and that now those people are the landowners. "We give our blessing to the project, but for the lands involved, you need to get the consent of the landowners."

Tamari'i Tutangata who co-chaired the meeting told the gathering, "We are not here to negotiate the land but to let you know what is being planned to be undertaken up our valleys where the intakes are, including the land requirements; and to see what you think about those plans".

"Government recognises the need to work together with the landowners in planning and

implementing the project and we will be holding separate meetings with the land owners for that purpose. Once we come to an agreement, it is part of the Government process that we seek cabinet endorsement."

Mr Tutangata says meetings with landowners will be called once the exact parcels and size of the lands required are known. "Bearing in mind that there are 12 intakes, this is a significant undertaking. The amount of land required for the intakes and related infrastructure such as filtering and storage systems is relatively small, but the benefits that will follow for our people – especially our tamariki – is hugely important. That's why we want to get things right from the start in discussions with the landowners, who after all are our people too."



Business Trade Investment Board

Cook Islands

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **FAO World Food Day**

The World Food Day global event will be held in October on Friday 17th at the Punanga Nui market place. BTIB and the Ministry of Agriculture are collaborating with the Ministry of Marine Resources, the National Environment Service, Public Health (Ministry of Health), and Titikaveka Growers Association, Arorangi Growers, the Hospitality & Tourism Training Centre and a few private businesses. This will be an event to look forward to with activities planned such as a food demonstration by local trainee chefs, sale of fruits, vegetables and plants, fish and a wide selection of local fresh and cooked food.

- **PACER & PACER Plus**

The 8th Intersessional meeting on PACER Plus trade negotiations will commence at the end of September over a week in Wellington, New Zealand between the Forum Island Countries (FIC's) and Australia and New Zealand. The Cook Islands will be represented at the negotiation table by government officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Immigration and the BTIB. Key trade issues on the table for negotiations include labor mobility, development assistance, trade in service and investment to name a few.

Eric Short Automotive Emerges from the Ashes

Eric Short Automotive together with Raro Cars was ravaged by fire in November 2012. This fire followed that of 10 days earlier when Snowbird Laundry and Timberland Ltd's workshop and office was burnt to the ground.

With the assistance of the Business Trade Investment Board, the automotive business has now emerged from the ashes and has recommenced business as of Monday 15th September 2014. Eric was elated that he is now back in business. He has relocated to a vacant family building (formerly Turangi Traders) in the heart of Turangi, Ngatangiia opposite the Mormon Church. Thank you to John Short Construction Ltd who was able to renovate and modify the building to accommodate the company's hydraulic hoist, other machineries and tools of the trade.

Eric Short had commented that this location is ideal as his competitors are well distanced from either ends of the location and he would be attracting businesses especially those residing in Ngatangiia and Matavera.



Foreign Investment Brief

Over the past 3 months the Foreign Investment Division has facilitated 8 applications for Foreign Enterprise Registration which were all approved by the Board. Most of the proposals are to carry on business within the Tourism Sector. The Board has also approved many Short term business approvals for short term consultants carrying out projects for Solar Energy, Film Making and Water Pressure. The Foreign Investment Division has also assisted many local and foreign businesses by granting levy exemptions on motor vehicles. We feel that is important to assist businesses so that they continue operating to keep the economy and their business moving.

Commissioning and installations Of Apostolic Pastors in churches in New Zealand and Australia

Bishop Tutai Pere began his Diocesan duty installing and placing Elder Ngata Vahua, wife Sara and young daughters Oioi and Esther from the island of Aitutaki. Ngata, a former fireman for the Aitutaki Airport Authority and wife Sara a shopkeeper were commissioned and installed as Pastor for the newly established church in Dunedin, on Saturday August 23rd 2014. Apostolic branches from Christchurch, Ashburton and Invercargill gathered into Dunedin to mark and celebrate such an auspicious occasions with around 50-60 people in attendance. The Vahua's were given a 3 bedroom house to live in, house bond and advanced rental payments, fully furnished and all taken care of by the Apostolic Acts Missionary Trusts Fund. They were blessed with a car donated them by the Invercargill Pastor Rongo Katuke and Mother June, all good to kick-start their ministry. a very cold time of the year but the outpouring gifts, love and hospitality from all saints who attended brought warmth and sunshine to the young Aitutakian couple who traded the warm and sunny Aitutaki for the cold, snowy and icy climate of Dunedin. In fact, light snow fell the very day they set foot into Dunedin.

The Cook Islands Community of Christchurch put on a farewell feast for Suffragan Bishop Joseph and Mother Sharon who had lived and served our Cook Islands Community for the last 8-9 years but now Commissioned to Perth, Australia. Dr Kiki



Bishop Tutai Pere

Maoate together with the church, community and sports leaders gathered that Monday evening September 25th to farewell the Maea family. Pastor Maea had lived through the disastrous earthquakes that severely hit and damaged the many historic and monumental buildings of Christchurch but would not move when asked to relocate. Pastor Papauri Pere and Mother Tanya continues the ministry covering both Christchurch and Ashburton an hour's drive from one town to the other. Pastor Papauri who had only ministered one year has a strong following in Ashburton with Africa,

New Zealand Maori, and Romanian families attending. Much blessed with a long-standing and much respected Youth Counsellor, a Cook Islands Representative on the Christchurch City Council.

Pastor Maea also leaves behind a strong youthful church led by his own son Joe Joe, wife Arihia and sister Carmina; and a young in heart Richmond Junior of Matavera descent who had served over 20 years in the New Zealand military in East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan but now serves and brings with him lots of energy, vibrancy and already showing in credible enthusiasm and dynamism as secretary of

the Christchurch church.

Sunday, August 31st saw the installation of Suffragan Bishop Joseph Maea, Mother Sharon and their two teenage sons Maraeara and Maaotevea Maea as Pastor over the Southern side of Perth. This new church in Perth was birthed out of one soul Tangi Ngatamariki, a Manganian born whom Bishop Pere baptised and filled with the Holy Ghost during a brief first time visit to Perth back in July. After a one time and first Sunday fellowship meeting held at Tutai and Ta Upu Pere's residence, several families rallied together and

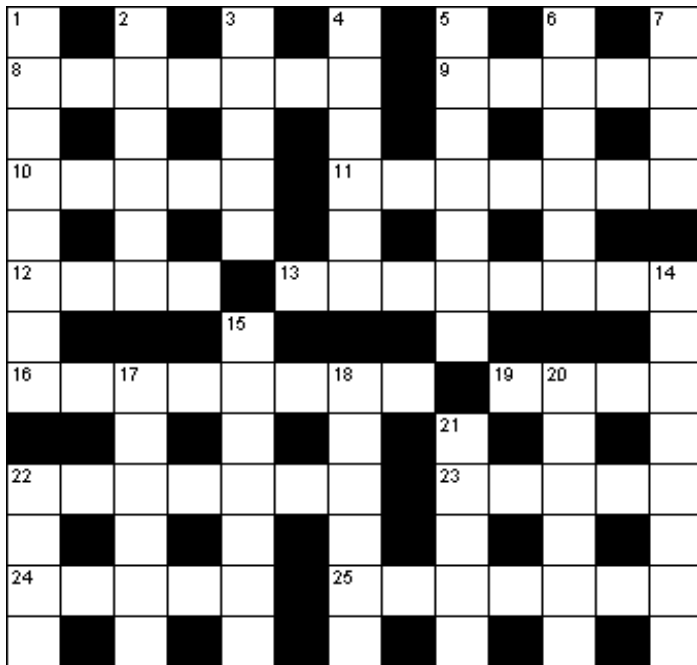


requested for a church to be started there. Tangi back the kindly and generously offered one of his homes to accommodate, together with his own brother Vaiora Teremoana, wives and families took to the task of re-furbishing and getting the house ready even before the new Pastor and family arrived. Credit is also accorded to Pastor Aukino Aukino of Liverpool, Sydney whom Bishop Pere appointed as Caretaker Pastor throughout the eight weeks duration doing both the physical and spiritual groundwork, setting up the new church for the new Pastor Joseph Maea. He brought his own Youthful Praise Team and Musicians to further support and assist in the establishment of this new baby church. The Maea family were blessed with a Toyota family van by Bishop Pere on behalf of the Apostolic Acts Missionary Trust Fund to just get on with the work and not depend or rely on nobody but run on their own wheels for the great task ahead; fully independent and self-sufficient.

Saturday September 6 saw the Installation of Elder Tinirau Tupa and wife Miimetua to Pastor the church in Cairns, Australia. Together with their son 8 year old son Ethan and 6 year old daughter Elly all flew out of Rarotonga and straight to Cairns arriving on Friday 5th and straight into their new house already arranged and fully furnished with their own family van as well all set and ready for the work of the ministry. Pastor Tinirau Tupa working at the Ministry of Justice and Miimetua a staff BCI before they left for their pastoral calling.



CROSSWORD



Across

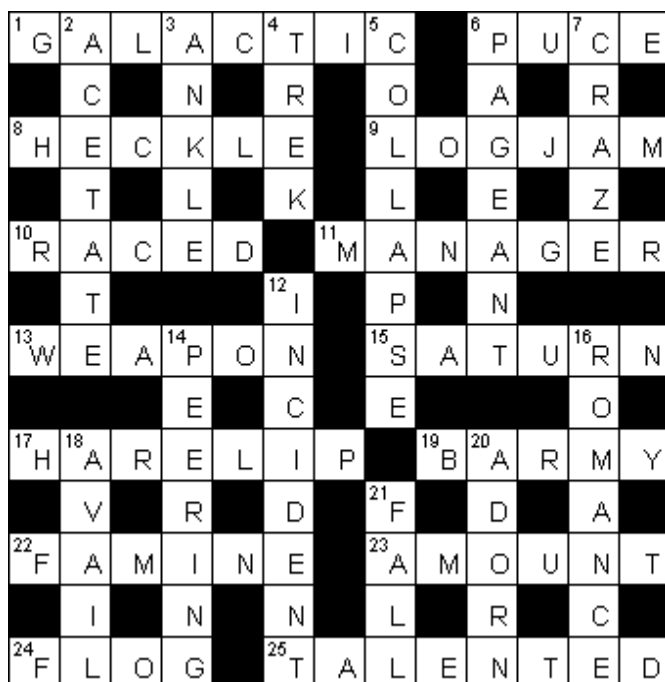
- 8. Uproarious
- 9. Extent
- 10. Woman who has lost her husband
- 11. Least difficult
- 12. Exhort
- 13. Sporting competitors
- 16. Astonishment
- 19. Goad
- 22. Paramount
- 23. Equipped with wires
- 24. Efface
- 25. Grassland

Down

- 3. Welsh coastal town
- 4. State positively
- 5. Engage in wrestling
- 6. Put in
- 7. Heave
- 14. Finely chopped
- 15. Refrigerator
- 17. Say again
- 18. Drowsy
- 20. Full of pores
- 21. Intertwine
- 22. Killed

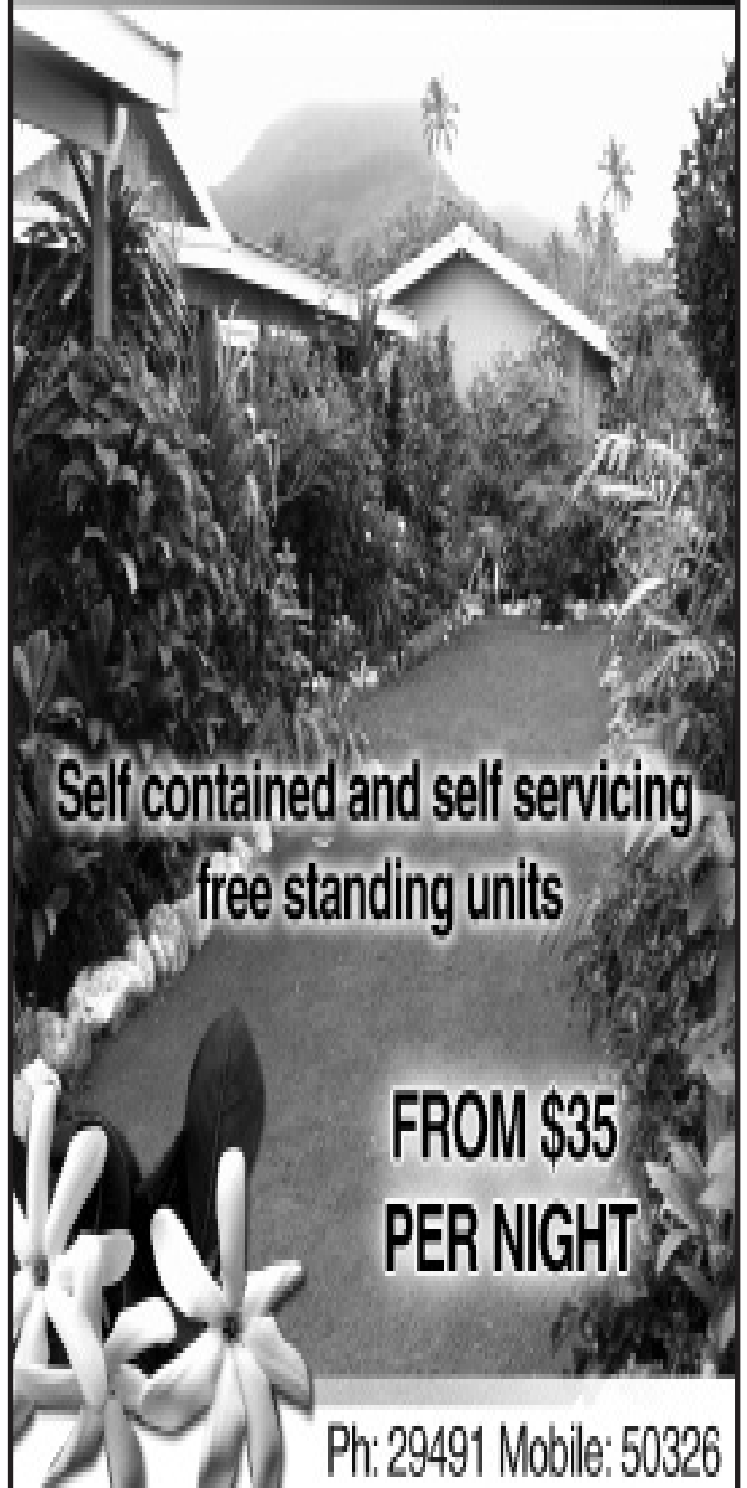
Down

- 1. Adults
- 2. Frankfurter



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Handball: Update of competition Round 3 on Tuesday 9th September 2014

Now that competition is held every Tuesday evening it has proven to be a better turnout for those who normally do not make it to Friday evening due to other commitments. Meitaki Maata to Robert Graham, Harriet Rau, Siniva Marsters and Haurua for allowing us to have the vacancy that is normally filled by the Volleyball Federation.

Game 1: No Experience (Telecom) vs PJs.

It was awesome to see keen players ahead of schedule and on time to games ready to play. PJs was leading 4-3 at half time and it took over 3 minutes for the first goal to be scored. Donald Munro registered the top score for No experience with 2 goals. Big M Marouna Ioane at Pivot proving to be a force to reckon with and the happy feet Teiti Tupuna both scoring 3 goals made the difference for PJ's being in the right position at the right time. Potential Goal Keeper Finlay Munro is proving to be dangerous in the goalpost. PJs (winning by 5 goals) 13 to No Experience 8 goals.

Game 2: TMKz vs Legends.

What an exciting game with the newbies TMKz playing young players and running their whole team on the bench with positive teamwork. Youngsters Trina Rau and Peggy Herman were enjoying being part of the team. Welcome back to veteran Ting Ting and Kiki Tomokino. Kiki scored 4 points to gaining good points for his team. Whilst for the Legends Davida, Victor Elikana and Brendon Turepu hitting 5 points each. Thus sealing the victory. Legends 16 to TMKz 14 in a real close game.

Game 3: Justice League vs Avengers

This became a nail biting match and definitely down to the wire. Top scorer Olaf Rasmussen always decisive, scored 4 essential goals for his team. Supported by team mates Ben Maxwell and James Webb on 3 points each proved the discipline in organisational play by team Coach Wayne Robati became evident as he called the first time-out in the competition to calm his team in the last minutes of play. Phillip Roi's Avengers Jonathan was deadly at pivot and complimented with backs Cruz Robati and winger Brendon Turepu scoring 3 and 2 goals each. But tight defence from Justice League did justice to win 15 to Avengers 14 points.

Overall standings going is to Round 4 are 1st place Justice League on 6 points, 2nd placing PJ's and Avengers both on 4 points each, 4th place are Legends and No Experience on 2 points each and 6th place are TMKz who have yet to win a game but are playing exceptionally well for first-timers to the competition.

Happy handballing everyone.
7mtres

Reject paper: a recyclable resource

By Tiana Haxton

Recently mum was in Rarotonga.

While there, it was important for her to meet the Editor of the Cook Islands Herald; Charles Pitt; in person. She called in at his workplace in Tutakimoa, where the staff is warm, welcoming and ever helpful. She introduced herself and discussed me and my writing for their paper. Feedback and direction is good...

Mum visited a second time, having promised to pick up some perfectly good paper being proffered for Mitiaro School.

On this particular day, mum got there mid-print. A3 sheets of white paper had just passed through the printer; just once through (this is the first of two passes required to complete the printing process). The sheets were stacked high and had text and images visible on only one side; meanwhile, the other side remained pristine white-blank.

Notably, Wednesday(s) is printing day; a busy day. Not too busy though to box up (to carry) and plastic wrap (to weather proof) a recyclable resource. About this recyclable resource, Charles Pitt referred to it as 'reject paper'. And then he chose to expand upon this. Mum was humoured trying to recall and relay his effort to define. Then, mum and I both, found it especially

funny that in the process he personified his printer!

This is what I gleaned; an insight to printing.

Printing doesn't always go smoothly. The printer seems to have a mind of its own! It discerns 'good' paper from 'not so good' paper. In turn, it spits out paper deeming it 'reject paper' hence its name. And yes, reloading the paper tray and refeeding the printer with the previously ejected paper is a good idea however, there is no fooling this temperamental and technological machine with an electronic brain.

Charles shakes his head with some exasperation and shrugs his shoulders in resignation. He intones that he can't tell 'good' paper from 'not so good' paper. However, with enthusiasm, he donates this recyclable resource to schools around Rarotonga and now Mitiaro. Air Raro covered the cost of freight. To both companies, Thanks for your kind contribution to our School and our outer island community.

With the Power of suggestion...

The A3 sheets of paper are poster sized; canvas enough to create to your heart's content...

~Origami fold a paper plane...

~Scrunch paper to sculpture...

~Handwrite a personal story on unlined paper...

Ceremony for visiting Police Officers



The Cook Islands Police held a flag raising ceremony this morning to honour the visiting Royal Solomon's Police Force and the Australian Federal Police who are here for 5 days to learn about intelligence based policing and the Cook Islands policing model. The Australian Federal Police is assisting the Royal Solomon's Police Force create an intelligence based policy for policing. The Australian Federal Police currently assist via RAMSI in the Solomon Islands but are slowly withdrawing and leaving the Royal Solomon's Police to conduct their own policing. The joint Australian/Solomon

task force were recently in New Zealand observing their policing model. The group depart Sunday.

The ceremony also honoured officer Susie Santos from Guam Police who is in the country for 2 weeks to observe our Women Advisory Network. Susie is part of the police officer exchange program funded by NZAID through the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police and the Australian Federal Police. She is the 6th Pacific police officer to come here on exchange since 2009. The Cook Islands Police has seen 3 of its female officers visit other Pacific police stations to observe various work such as community policing and intelligence.



Super Intendent Todd Hunter and CI Police Commissioner Maara Tetava





Toku matakeinanga



By Tiana Haxton

This is Term 3 and at school the topic for the subject 'Maori' is 'Toku Matakeinanga.' This is important to teach and to learn about; to make it relate to individual(s) and collectives alike.

'Toku' is My and 'Matakeinanga' means Tribe or People. Together it translates to My Tribe, My People. 'My' also means to be the possessor, like 'tribe' also translates to be a group of families or clans known to have common ancestor(s).

To know this, is what it means to have belonging.

There are 3 Matakeinanga's on Mitiaro; known as Ngati Akataura, Ngati Paruarangi and Ngati Nurau. At the head of each Matakeinanga is an Ariki (Chief/King/Queen) with respective titles; Akataura Ariki, Paruarangi Ariki, Nurau Ariki. The Ariki of each matakeinanga will reign in turn; meanwhile, they maintain active role(s) being 'ui' ariki together. Today, Te Maeu O Te Rangi Te Ika Mata Ariki is the

reigning Queen of Mitiaro and she hails from ngati Akataura.

During term, the entire school divided into 3 groups made up of about 15 students and two teachers each. Each group assigned to represent a Matakeinanga respectively. I was placed in group Ngati Akataura and my younger brother Clay was put in Group Ngati Paruarangi, in real life we both herald from Ngati Nurau. Being called to represent other Matakeinanga's, we were able to learn more about the Mitiaro People as a whole.

It was understood that to complete this assignment the entire school would present all they have learnt to the community. There would be a presentation night to reflect Matakeinanga; Te iti-tangata o Mitiaro. As was, we were sent home to glean what we might already know there and then we were allowed to go into the greater community to gather more information. Seemingly, this was not enough!

And so, Official spokes-person(s) were invited to school to further inform us and help fill in our obvious knowledge gaps. This was a huge help.

An especial 'Thank You' to Noo Pouao of Akataura, Julian Aupuni of Paruarangi and Metuaone Tou of Nurau. They openly shared 'Papaanga'/'Genealogy' that they are entrusted with in their roles. Additionally, they provided insight to Ui Tupuna, Ui Ariki, Ui Mataiapo, Ui Rangatira, and the corresponding lands that go with these positions. These lands are named.

As the Uki Ou (new generation) we were inspired to compose Songs, Create Chants and choreograph action songs. It was challenging to incorporate facts of life, past and present into our creativity. Though this proved difficult, it is part of the school culture, community culture, and Mitiaro culture; to aspire to do these things; atu imene, atu pe'e e akatutu kapa-rima.

'Tuatau Oro-oro' has arrived! Time for rushing about...

We designed posters inviting everyone. The feature heading was 'Po Koperepereanga Reo.' 'A night of appraising...' We picked flowers and foliage to fashion costumes with, memorized scripts and helped the younger students practice their parts to play. When there's a school event, there's a sales table. Each student provides two drinking nuts (nu) to fundraise for school. Hope Mum has ours ready!

The show started at 6:30pm at the community hall. Everyone looked dressed for a special occasion. Notably, there were two cameramen; one taking stills, the other rolling film. The excitement and anticipation was high. Staff and Students provided a great night of entertainment. The audience was jovial and generous in their support. All the nu sold and the community tried to out-bid each other in proud support of their matakeinanga(s). They danced and delivered their generous earnings into a bucket amounting to a total take of over a \$1000.00.

How To Experience Gods Blessings (according to Psalm 128)

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

I have never met anyone who does not want to be blessed in life, and most importantly to be blessed by God! In Psalm 128 are important lessons that we could learn from if we are to be blessed by God. There are two parts to this Psalm

(1) is our attitude towards God which is to respect (or fear) Him, and to obey His laws (or walk in His ways), and

(2) is the blessings of God. In other words if we do what God want us to do then He will bless us.

In the home environment if the children listen and do what their parents ask them to do then they will receive some form of blessings. This is no different from the things of God! In other words the Psalmist is saying "Don't expect God to bless you if you don't respect Him and obey His laws!" "No pain, no gain!" "There's no such thing as free-lunch!" v.1 reads "The Lord will bless you if you respect Him and obey His laws."

The question is 'How do you respect God?' The answer is 'We respect God by doing what is right in His sight!' One important question is 'What are the laws of God?' The answer is, read your Bible and you will find the laws of God! Anyway, here's one of God's laws "You shall have no other gods before Me!" (Exodus 20v.3) Many people treat TV as their God, and are too lazy to go to Church! Some spend too much time doing things that take them away from God!

Things that prevent them from reading their Bible or praying to God, or even singing to God! That is why the Psalmist said "The Lord

will bless you if you respect Him and obey His laws." v.2 reads "Your fields will produce, and you will be happy and all will go well." This verse is speaking to us as individuals.

The work that you are doing will prosper because you respect God and obey His laws. The root-crops that you're planting produces manifold because of Him! Your boss is pleased with your work performance because you're doing it honestly, faithfully, in the fear of the Lord, and in accordance to His ways, His laws, His righteousness! v.3-4 speaks about you and the family. It reads "Your wife will be as fruitful as a grapevine, and just as an olive tree is rich with olives, your home will be rich with healthy children.

That is how the Lord will bless everyone who respects (fear) Him." This is speaking about the joy, the peace, the respect, the love of God in the home – the father, the mother, the children and everyone else in the home! It doesn't mean that life is plain-sailing, smooth, no! a little argument now and then is expected because of our human nature. But what the Psalmist is saying here is that, most of the time life is good in the home! But this can only happened if we "...respect (fear) God and obey His laws (or follow His ways!)" v.5 reads "I pray that the Lord will bless you from Zion and let Jerusalem prosper as long as you live."

This verse speaks about the city Jerusalem. For us today, Jerusalem is the community we are living in. Even the island we are living on – this is our Jerusalem. Friends, I'm sure all of us want to

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



see things happening for the 'good of all' during our lifetime! According to the Psalmist, this will only happen if we "...respect (fear) God and obey His laws (or follow His ways!)" v.6 reads "May you live long enough to see your grandchildren. Let's pray for peace in Israel." This verse is speaking about the future generations and the peace in the nation of Israel. This verse is also speaking about the future generations

in our nation, and the 'peace of God' in the Cook Islands!

As individuals, God will bless you! As families, God will bless members of the families and those in the households! God will also bless our community, the future generations and also the nation! Therefore, we need to respect God and obey His laws! And do what is right in His sight!

May you have a God blessed week!

Exam's you're Chooks extra killing me

By Nadia George

You know the struggle is real when you walk into the exam room, take a seat and realize that everything you spent the last week or so studying has nothing to do with the actual exam question.

That's right people, the stress is on, but if we've learnt anything from our past years of experience it is that when the pressures on, just breathe lol. I for one am glad that exams for me are finally over, but then again, who wouldn't be right? To be very honest, I'm not much of a study bug, which is a bad habit that I hope to one-day drop. But for now, I'm more of a "study a few minutes before the actual test", type of gal. But this skill is not something I highly recommend to all you loyal readers out there.

Unless you're naturally smart (if that's even possible) then I recommend studying in advance. Yes I know it's hard and boring and everything else seems to be far more entertaining than that but in the long run it'll pay off and then you can thank you lol. Like my good friend and principal of Tereora College told us "the only time success comes before work is in the dictionary," or something like that...I wasn't really listening. (Again, another poor habit that I hope to drop sometime soon).


The extra mile that a person is willing to take will always pay out in the end, although it may not be right now, it'll happen. I only wish that I myself could follow my own advice. My English exam was terrible. You ever open up an exam booklet and every single question being asked looks too difficult to answer? Yeah that was me on Monday.





like they purposely do that to see who breaks first. It's all like "to what extent do you agree with this statement, use evidence from a text you have studied to support your answer. If the square root of sixty-four is twelve what is purple?"


Honestly, that was exactly how I felt during every single paper I sat. I wrote three different essays, (all terrible if you ask me), then went on to crossing them all out and re writing my final one in the last thirty minutes. If that isn't heroism then I don't know what is lol? That's not even the worst part; the worst part is that throughout the entire three hours of my first exam, some persons phone kept going off! Can anyone say annoying? I wanted to hulk smash someone so bad at that point. Deep intake of oxygen.


Needless to say, the exam stress has subsided for now until the actual exams take place. Yikes, I best be getting my study on for those.

How long is neneva Neves going to keep playing selective tax collecting? With numerous GA vehicles provided for government workers why aren't they being taxed because use or provision of a vehicle is included as part of their income, that's how it is in NZ, so try picking on a few HOMs instead of terrorising the pensioners. While you are at, it calculate the tax owing from the years no tax has been collected for having a vehicle, better still just take what's owing straight out of their Bank accounts. 

After graduating from the Cooking for Men class, Ed Pitman hopes to travel with his golfing mate the devious 75 vote caretaker PM as his ball fetcher and chef de mission. After he gets the boot he'll able to be the head chef at the Palace. 

The grumbling Demos are complaining the devious Elvis Puna lied during the petition. What's new about that? The 75 vote caretaker leader has been publically lying to the Grey Power group for months and as the saying goes the thieving and stealing is synonymous with lying. When it comes to stealing and lying Puna isn't the great pretender, he's the real thing, how devious can you get? 

News that Brown Marks when in Wellington held talks with our pals from the land of the great wall to fund the rebuild of the burnt out schools to the tune of \$12 million. However Tricky Dickie (Richard) has put the brakes on the deal for the Chinese to fund and do the rebuild and wants the public to be consulted whereupon our PM told him that's a job for officials! 

Citizens concerned about the use of government vehicles outside of working hours may have been surprised to see a multitude of "GA" plated vehicles outside the establishment across from the airport once known as the "Aquarius" on Tuesday evening. 

Persons strolling in the moonlight by the Office of the Opposition on Tuesday evening may have raised their eyebrows upon hearing shouting coming from the building where the Demo elite were conducting a meeting. Perhaps persons were shouting so those at the back could hear them or was it the other way around?

News Brief *By TeRiu Woonton*

IT conference to discuss innovations

The annual Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society, PacINET Conference will be held from the 22nd to the 26th of September here on Rarotonga. An invitation has been extended to the IT community and those interested in ICT for Development to attend this year's conference, themed "Internet Innovations for Development across the Pacific". The conference will include a series of information workshop that will explain the work of the Chapter within the region as well as a short conference where leaders from the Internet Society and ICANN Organizations will present updates on internet development regionally and internationally. The programme has been specifically targeted to explain some internet-related issues that is important for the people of the Cook Islands to know. The growth of mobile phone users in the Cook Islands is indicative of awareness that communication and connecting to the rest of the world is important for our social as well as economic development. The internet is essential to development, in the areas of e-Health, e-Learning, e-Commerce, e-Government and so forth. Maureen Hilyard, Board Chair of the Pacific Chapter of the Internet Society says the opportunities of the use of the internet in connecting the main land with the Pa Enua have not been tapped to anywhere near its potential that would add value to the lives of those living on our isolated outer islands. During the 5 days of the conference, there will be a lot of panel discussions, updates from various regional Organizations, Technical training and sessions on e-Government, ICT and people with disabilities as well as a session on the Cook Islands Maori Language Database. The conference will be held at the Pukapuka Hostel and there is no conference fee.

The Demo, Smiling Heta now the acting leader of the opposition needs to appoint a deputy to collect the extra pay. Word is he's got four spin doctors all inherited from his predecessor, none have direct access to the media and everything still has to go past Drolley before the public sees or hears about it, that way no bad comments about his wife's boss Neves gets out.



The Demo's petition has an America's Cup feel about it; the Kiwis only needed one more win to be the Cup holders but the Yanks won eight in a row. It seems the Demos eight petitions will get picked off one by one by their claims the Judge is biased and handing it all to the CIP on a plate. According to Demo spies Elvis Eneri was in friendly chin wagging with the Justice at the airport before CJ Westy flew out to preside in Aitutaki.



The Demo's Manihiki petition turned into custard with the use of Skype, when it came to communicating with the northern witnesses Mitchell had to use an interpreter in Manihiki and things got messy. From Manihiki Apii Piho had a brain explosion and started sending hand signals. The obvious choice would have been to use Tina Brown without the need for a translator, a real cock up there, blame yourselves Demos not the Judge. Too much emotion in both the northern petitions, the Judge deals in what's believable not necessarily the facts, the truth or emotional whinging. And forget about the silly talk of appeals and it's in the bag nonsense.



One way or another someone has to pay the bills and the legal costs for the Demos is still climbing. Not only their own costs but every time they lose, they have to pay the CIP legal costs. So far the Demos are looking at over \$200,000, much of it wasted on emotional charged wishful but unwinnable claims of corruption. Looks like the departing tag team of Drolley and Rasmussen's legacy



is to leave the Party in deep debt with fewer seats than it had before the Elections. If they win the Vaipae/Tautu petition, it's only because in a state of confusion Mona loane tripped over his brain and pleaded guilty.



The Demos claims the use of Skype due to financial constraints was an injustice and detrimental to them winning their petition in Manihiki, when you think about it, neneva Neves has no problems approving money for the frivolous like the \$22,000 for the 75 vote PM Elvis' charter flight plus the \$60,000 and \$30,000 for sports teams, \$23,000 for the QR's personal trip to Samoa but Neves can't find \$30,000 to pay for the petition costs in two northern constituencies both critical out comes for the country, that's why he's called neneva.



Talking about the QR, Tom Marsters' contract is unsigned and still lingering in the to do tray, the 75 vote PM isn't happy about the increase demand in pay to Ministerial level, the three vehicles and already over \$140,000 spent on travel. There is still some rumbling within the inner circles of the PM's office over Tom vacating the Murienua seat that resulted in the loss of the seat then the political crises in the CIP.



The pretender Puna can't whinge about the QR's travel when he himself is the undisputed champion of air travel, in a

blinking of an eye lid our 75 vote, I'm leaving on a jet plane PM will be off to New York with an entourage of handpicked companions who don't actually do anything official where ever they go to.



Talk in the coop is Digicel have gone cold on their offer to buy Telecom Cook Islands shares off NZ. They are discovering how frustrating it is to do business here. With Neneva Neves' petrol tank operating on the fumes Digicel's spluttering doesn't look good.



As it was back in the day CIP retributions are swift, Bulldozer PM wanna be Heta is reported to have sacked one of the T&M Heather workers for allegedly voting for the Demos. Environment head Tupa is in the firing line for reportedly telling people to vote Demo and his job earmarked for a relative of the great pretender.



The \$3 million water tank giveaway has run out of cash after only \$1 million, not to worry most of the recipients were Party supporters or potential converts, but the CIP had done too much damage to get over the Rarotonga line, thus there'll be no hurry to fix the roads especially in Tupapa.



The short sighted strategic less Demos can forget about trying to win any outer islands bye elections from the petition outcomes. The CIP are saturating the outer Islands with

infrastructure projects and heavy machinery just like Mr X Factor Heta promised. This week Minita Brown did a detour on his return from Asia to Wellington to finalise the Chinese's machinery for the Southern group islands airport and roading projects thanks to the Te Mato Vai contractors CCECC plus to call on the South Korea mob for funding assistance for the 50th dependent anniversary. Pontiff Rasmussen sure missed the gravy train when he didn't seize the moment back in April.



Minita of Sports Brownly Mark will be back only long enough to polish his boots then he's off to the Queensland's Gold Coast with the Golden Oldies Rugby lads, wonder if he chucked in \$30,000 to help expenses, at least they can be expected to do better than other public cashed up teams.



Family members of an untimely departed male are still perplexed as to the Police findings of an unusual death as being suicide by hanging when the deceased young man was found with his hands tied behind his back. They are still waiting for an explanation.

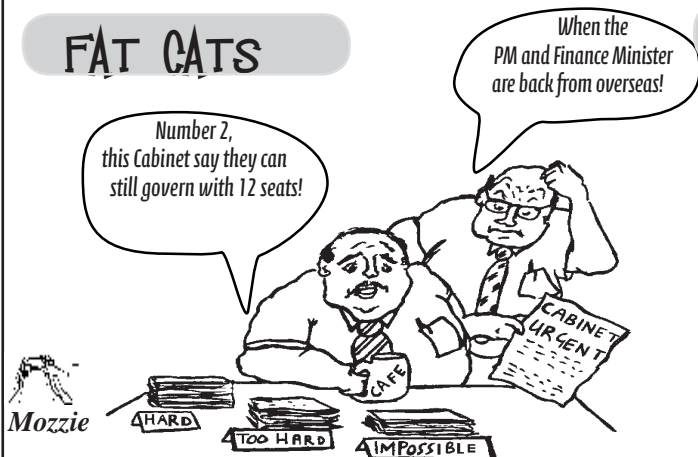


With his grossly overpaid job hanging in the balance neneva Neves is preparing himself for a possible in disguise job as Santa for the CITC mainstore at Xmas. He could also work off his community service as a junior Santa for his sentence after he is found guilty for illegally taxing local pensioners.

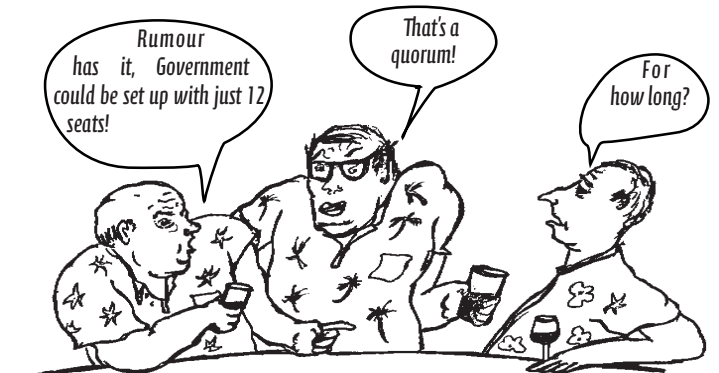


Observers attending the petition hearings are being very vocal about CJ Weston, whenever the Demos looked likely to gain some advantage they claim Weston would intervene, even his comment about Henry Puna being a seasoned politician having the wisdom not to make bribery promises is being questioned. Puna has only been a politician for five years and much of it out of the country, hardly seasoned. Weston failed to demonstrate impartiality claim the Demos, too much fire side chatting with Tony during the hearings say some.

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Food parcels to needy on increase despite rise in welfare payments

From page 9

three months and are then reviewed at three monthly intervals. The committee cannot approve an allowance for longer than one year and may impose conditions. The committee also considers whether the applicant can be rehabilitated or helped to find employment.

Two concerns were; that the legal definition of destitute under the Act does not accurately fit most circumstances.

Under the Act, a destitute person is one who is unable to permanently support himself by his own means or labour and includes persons with dependants where such dependants are unable through infirmity or age to support themselves by their own means or labour.

A review of the Welfare Act was carried out in 2010 funded by the ADB. The findings of the review were announced in September 2011.

One recommendation was; "Recalculating benefits that are currently means-tested (the Destitute and Infirm Person's relief, Care-givers Allowance, Power Subsidy, Special Assistance Projects) by household, rather than by individual, as is done at present (see para 3.7.3) which could allow for a fairer distribution of payments and, quite likely, higher welfare receipts for some households."

A multi-sector steering committee was set up to recommend options for the 2013-2014 Budget.

On Tuesday, the Ministry of Internal Affairs provided this update from Secretary

for Internal Affairs, Bredina Drollet.

"Current numbers on Destitute Payment is 25 but this should be balance against the Infirm Payment also because in the legislation, this is the same category of payment as the Destitute Payment. There are 181 on the Infirm Payment. There are 130 people approved for the caregiver's payment. All payments are paid at the same rate of \$165 a month (half of this is paid on the first of the month and the second half on the 16th of the month). I have been discussing the issues raised in your article with a few people and they have commented that these issues are not Cook Islands specific, these issues happen everywhere and was a recent issue in the NZ election discussions. I am sure are already aware of that but thought I would pass those observations on."

Drollet also said, "Families that are struggling to feed their families should contact the Welfare Division. A household assessment can then be carried out for assistance. One change that could be included, as it is factual, is that all welfare benefits were increased on 1 March 2014 arising from the tax reforms. (There has been an increase in the payment from \$150 a month to \$165 month following the reforms).

In relation to the household survey, it was work being undertaken by ADB as part of a regional publication on poverty. There was no survey undertaken, it actually related to review of survey data collected by Stats in 2006. I will follow up with

ADB on their time frame for publication. We are intending to present something else to the incoming government in relation to the welfare review work and that is the fiscal impact analysis of the cost of the welfare system. I would expect to release this information after the incoming government has had time to review it."

The Herald was also informed by a member of one local Church that the Church operates a Hospitality

Ministry which is its most powerful Ministry. Every second Sunday of the month all members contribute items of food such as fresh vegetables which are packed into bags and distributed to needy families. The Church has been doing this for the past 8 years and has noticed a marked increase in bags distributed-60. Bags are delivered to the elderly and destitute of all denominations who are on their own or neglected.

News Briefs *By TeRiu Woonton*

English Rugby League Club, Halifax has signed Cook Islands front rower Adam Tangata on a two year contract. Tangata, who plays for NRL giants Canberra Raiders' feeder club, Mount Pritchard Mounties and has also played for the Raiders' under 20s side, is due to travel to England in November. The 23 year old, who represented the Cook Islands in last year's World Cup, is the club's first overseas signing since 2010.

A dinner to celebrate the academic achievements of all Cook Islanders who have graduated from the University of Auckland, Auckland University of Technology, Manukau Institute of Technology, Massey University and Unitec Institute of Technology from between 2012 to 2014 at diploma level or higher will be held next Wednesday in Auckland. The gathering will also help develop a database to capture the skill base and academic qualifications of our Cook Islands people residing in NZ. This database will identify specific areas of expertise and will be beneficial in helping to fill the skill gaps in the Cook Islands. The database will be managed by the Cook Islands Tertiary Advisory Group. They are a voluntary group of Cook Islanders passionate about education and the benefits our people can get from tertiary education.

Mangaia held a fundraiser through a telethon last Wednesday 10th September. The telethon was to replace the standby pump at the Vai a Rongo water hole in Oneroa. The telethon raised \$15,500 and the cost of the replacement is about \$14,500. Oneroa will receive the pump from Southern Cross through Savage Lockington in Aitutaki.

Teresia Mareta Purea coordinator of the Cook Islands Maori Ura class held at the Cook Islands Red Cross headquarters in Tupapa paid Radio Cook Islands a visit in a bid to promote the Ura class. The one hour class targets those in their late 30s, 40s, and even 60s to help rekindle the Cook Islands dancing as well as health and fitness. With only a gold coin donation, the class gets quite busy at times and even overseas visitors are seen attending the class. All funds from the classes go towards the Cook Islands Red Cross and with hurricane season coming up, Purea says the funds are to help assist the Organization with their preparation for that period as well as other administration needs. The classes take place every Mondays at the Red Cross across Club Raro in Tupapa from 5pm.

TENDER



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL STATIONERY AND CONSUMABLES
TENDER NOTICE**

Tenders are invited for the bulk supply of School Stationery and Consumables for the 2015 school year. Stationery and Consumables quality and specifications can be uplifted from the Ministry of Education office or download from MOE website: www.education.gov.ck or contact Terangi Charlie of Finance Management Division on phone 29357, fax 28357 or email terangi@education.gov.ck

Tender submission will close @ 4.00pm Wednesday 1st October 2014

Tenders shall be in a sealed envelope
MOE Stationery and Consumables Tender15
Secretary of Education,
Ministry of Education, PO Box 97
Rarotonga, Cook Islands



**REQUEST FOR TENDERS –
PROJECT CITY ROAD CONSTRUCTION**

Ministry of Infrastructure Cook Islands invites suitably qualified and experienced contractors to submit a Tender for the Supply and Construction of the Road Network for Project City (Panama to Tupapa). Two contracts are available by Tender:

- Contract N° C13/13.2 - Asphalt Road Surfacing
- Contract N° C13/13.3 - Chip Seal Road Surfacing

The Tender Document is available electronically from www.procurement.gov.ck. A fee will be charged for printed documents issued. Contractors wishing to participate in this Tender process are encouraged to register their interest. Notices will be sent to registered parties only, and uploaded to the website above, as and when they are issued.

All registrations and enquiries relating to this Tender are to be directed to:

Tenga Mana, Project Engineer
Email tenga.mana@ici.gov.ck
Phone 20 321

Tenders close 3pm Friday 26 September 2014. Instructions for the lodgement of Tenders are detailed in the Tender Document.

PUBLIC NOTICE



**2014/2015 COOK ISLANDS GOVERNMENT
TERTIARY STUDY & TRAINING AWARD**

Expressions of interest are sought for the following award:
2014/2015 IN-COUNTRY TUITION AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP (ITAS)

Cook Islanders who are pursuing tertiary studies privately in-country can now apply for the In-Country Tuition Awards Scholarship.

Applicants must have successfully completed at least 4 courses at an approved tertiary institute. The study award is to be completed in the Cook Islands.

Scholarships are offered in specific areas that are relevant to the development needs and employment opportunities of the Cook Islands. Applications will be prioritized according to the following HRD priorities for 2014/2015:

Agriculture, Education, Finance Management, Health, ICT, Marine Resources/Fisheries, Renewable Energy, Trade and Waste Management although other areas may be included (excluding Aviation, Civil Engineering and Architectural studies) All applicants must meet the General Eligibility criteria on the application form.

Application forms are available from the Ministry of Education in Nikao or ring Anna Roi on ph: 29357 or email scholarships@education.gov.ck. Application Forms must be received no later than 12pm Friday 26 September 2014

PUBLIC NOTICE

Te Aponga Uira will be testing a new control system affecting the engines at the Avatiu Power Station for up to 3 hours between 6.30pm and 9.30pm, Sunday 21 September.

There could be a loss of power and the public is advised to prepare or be ready for alternative arrangement.

The test is important as the information gained from it during a peak period will guide our plans to add renewal energy generators to the power grid.

TAU apologises for any inconvenience or disruption that may be experienced as a result of testing.

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HEART FOUNDATION

Te Reo Māori

Tūranga: `Okoko aka`ōu i te Māketete Pūnanga Nui

Situation: Shopping again at the Punanga Nui Market

Kua oki aka`ōu `a Tere `ē tōna taeake `a Tiare ki te Māketete no tā rāua `oko`oko openga, i mua ka `oki atu ēi (a Tiare) ki Aotearoa.

Tere and her friend Tiare returned back to the Market for some final shopping before she (Tiare) returns to Aotearoa.

Māori

Tiare, `aere mai ka` aere tāua `oko kai nā tāua.

`ae, e manako meitaki tēnā, `e matepongi tikāi au.

`Ea`a tā`au ka `inangaro e Tere?

`E ika-mata, `e mitiore `ē te nū tāku ka `inangaro.
Meitaki mā`ata

Hmm..., ko tāku e moa-kare.

Ka `inangaro au i te `oko nāku tēta`i ukarere.
`Aere mai ra.
Ka `aere tāua `ākarakara i te `aitamu.

`akara! ko Metua mā tera i kō.
Ōō, meitaki, ka `aere tāua ki reira no`o ai.

Kia Orāna kōtou. Pe`ea `ua?
Meitaki `ua mātou, te `ākarakara aitamau nei.

Aue...! te reka i te tangi rutu pā`u e...
Ko`ai teia pupu-`ura?

Ko te Pupu Kōrero Māori.
`Akaieie te `ura `ē pērā tō rātou rākei.
Aue! `akara i te `ope o te au tāriki.

Tiare, ka `inangaro au i te `oake atu i teia nā`au.
E `apinga aro`a iti `ua, me `oki atu koe.
(Ko Metua)Teia katoa tēta`i, mei ā mātou.

Aue kōtou ē, kua parāni takere kōtou i tēia.
Pō`itirere tākiri au, kāre au i manako ana....
Ka vā`i au?

`E pāreu, `e piriario Kūki `Airani, `e tōkere,`ē ..`ē te `ei poe-pārau, aue tau e...meitaki rava.
Oh my gosh, goodness, its a piece of pareu, a Cook Islands t-shirt, a tōkere and... and a black pearl necklace....oh thank you so much. KIA MANUIA

Translation

Tiare, come we will go and buy us something to eat.

Yes, that is a good idea, I am very hungry.

What would you like Tere?

I would like some rawfish, mitiore, and nū.
Thank you very much

Hmm..., mine will be curried chicken.

I would like to buy me a ukulele.
Well lets go.
Lets go and watch the items.

Look! its Metua and the others over there.
Oh good, we'll go and sit there.

Hello all. How are you?
We (all) are well, just watching the show.

Gosh! the drum beats sound beautiful...
Who is this dance-team?

It is the Kōrero Māori team.
Dancing is beautiful & also their costumes.
Goodness! Look at the hips of the little ones.

Tiare, I would like to give you this.
Just a little gift, when you go back (to NZ)
(Metua says) Heres another from us.

Gosh you guys, you already planned this.
I am surprise, I did not expect ...
May I open it?