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15 October 2014 \$2 (incl VAT)

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# Speaker Rattled by misguiding Parliament

*First sitting controversial and standing orders ignored*

The Cook Islands Party government continues to bungle its way through Parliament with the erroneous endorsement of the Prime Minister and a manipulated Speaker hopelessly lost in translation and oblivious to procedural correctness. Within minutes of settling in to do business on Wednesday 8 October the Speaker of the House for the 48th Session, Nikki Rattle embarked on a red flag display of incompetence void of impartiality turning the first sitting into a political circus that seriously raises the question of her experience and political neutrality to preside as the Speaker.

No amount of overseas travel by Rattle for Speaker training was reflected during the opening sitting. After Rattle was appointed by Puna for a second term she pontificated about her role to guide the House impartially, despite her oath the Speaker proceeded to publically misguide her captive audience and with gratitude perform to her nominator and fellow Manihikian Prime Minister Henry Puna and the CIP gallery that she was well entrenched in their back pocket.

Rattle is starting like she finished her first term as Speaker, politicking and performing to Puna's tune. Rattle's early evidence she knows which side her toast is buttered on hardly makes Parliament's radio broadcasts worth listening to. Interested observers like the members of the Opposition must remember to maintain the separation of the person

as Speaker and the position of Speaker otherwise the office itself will become tainted with disrespect as well as the person.

When challenged about her oversight with the Standing Orders related to the confidence vote in Henry Puna as the Prime Minister that was moved by his deputy Teariki Heather, rather than correcting herself, treating her mistake as trivial, Rattle over ruled being question by the Opposition. Her emerging unacceptable lazy trait of over ruling questions of clarity and

reigning supreme above scrutiny and correction.

Further onesided performances by Rattle could see a mass walk out by protesting Democratic Party MPs as One Cook Island MPs Teina Bishop and George Maggie did over the PM's confidence vote. Rattle is a person of many credentials but as the Speaker she is ill equipped, politically tainted and disappointingly shallow. If Rattle cannot uphold the integrity of the Speaker's office through correct procedures and adhering to the Standing



Nikki Rattle

*After her controversial performance, Rattle in self regulation should in the interest of public credibility conduct a reflective personal audit because in the House she is unaccountable, ruling and reigning supreme above scrutiny and correction.*

debate to cover for her inability to get out of a self inflicted tight spot is a very disappointing concern. Rattle's excuses of time restrictions, no legal counsel from Crown Law available and that settling the issue of PM was in the interest of the Nation were out of order and exposed her lack of depth and suitability to be the Speaker.

After her controversial performance, Rattle in self regulation should in the interest of public credibility conduct a reflective personal audit because in the House she is unaccountable, ruling and

Orders, she should for the sake of preserving our democracy vacate the position.

To say Rattle has compromised the morality and integrity of the high office of Speaker is an understatement, to expect the public at large to have confidence in her leadership is now highly questionable. Two days later in the daily newspaper the lead front page story quoted one MP strongly voicing that the entire confidence vote was illegal. "The appointment of the Prime Minister was illegal."

When questioned the next day on the inappropriate procedure

referred to by the Opposition, the Minister of Finance and the seconder of the confidence motion Mark Brown was adamant the procedure was correct despite the Standing Order #397 saying otherwise. The Minister moving the motion Teariki Heather did not give fourteen days notice nor did he attach his written resignation as a Minister to the motion. This requirement applies to a confidence vote as well as a non confidence vote in the PM.

Rattle's shambolic conduct must not go uncontested; at the next sitting of Parliament she must be called to account and made to apologise for her breaches and call upon the DPM Heather to submit his resignation as per the standing orders. Any further performing to a restricted premeditated script condoning irregularities colluded between her and the CIP government must be stopped immediately. Continued conducts of mockery of the conventions of Parliament by the Speaker will not be tolerated by the Fourth Estate. - George Pitt

# A new era of prosperity possible with Chinese backing

*A marriage of convenience-our vision, Chinese money*

By Charles Pitt

The Chinese have funds available to support economic development. US\$1 billion was recently provided by China for use by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) for economic development by the private sector. The Herald understands that the leaders of the eight SIDS involved have agreed to split the funds equally so each nation receives around US\$125 million.

Government is yet to reveal details of the fund and how it is to be allocated. Nevertheless, the private sector should now be considering how these funds can be utilized to bring in a new era of prosperity. Needed are projects that will also create new employment opportunities and this is possible with projects specially designed to forge strong links between our three main industries-tourism, agriculture and fishing.

One aspect of Chinese funding generosity is that some preference be accorded Chinese private sector companies and if we were to consider joint venture development projects with the Chinese, this possible cooperation could be regarded as a marriage of convenience-our vision, Chinese money.

The availability of significant Chinese funds for development comes at a time when one local development company, "Merchants of Paradise" (MOP) is in the process of finalizing a comprehensive development plan for the tourism industry. It has taken some three years for the concept to near completion and the process has involved interested parties on Rarotonga and the outer islands.

MOP comprises a local group of Cook Islanders from various backgrounds and occupations. Its concept has been refined over the last three years and costings along with returns on investment have been estimated.

The MOP vision is that the tourism industry can make significant progress through an

urgent upgrade to a higher level, achieving this through a series of integrated developments which are comprehensive and inclusive. The development includes the outer islands and is to be interlinked with and driven by a recognized "Flagship" establishment based on Rarotonga.

Currently, Rarotonga and Aitutaki are the major money earners for the industry and changes are needed if the outer islands beyond are to also enjoy the benefits tourism has to offer.

In terms of the outer islands, three matters are essential;

1. High standard of accommodation and services
2. Affordable and regular transport services; and
3. Effective marketing locally and internationally.

The plan is for a joint venture project that would see all hotel establishments on Rarotonga and the outer islands linked to local agricultural producers and fishermen who will supply fresh produce to each hotel under contract.

To assimilate smoothly into the outer island environment, outer island hotels would be of a size acceptable to the islanders, being a size (say no more than 30 rooms) they are comfortable with and able to service with local produce and labour. Hotels should be of a design which enables the hotel to blend in with the natural environment.

Establishments will target the 4 to 6 star visitor and operate under one internationally recognized hotel management group.

To secure Chinese funding support, a joint venture offer of 50% ownership to the Chinese is envisaged. MOP recognizes that for this partnership to benefit locals, it must be inclusive. Ownership of the venture is on a 50-50 basis with the local shareholders comprising the landowners, island council, Aronga Mana and the local development company. This shareholding model is to ensure revenue flows down to ordinary Cook Islanders and not into the pockets of overseas owners. It also ensures a bigger return to landowners.

To ensure the development is comprehensive, a portion of the funds will be allocated to development of local agriculture/aquaculture (market gardens/prawn farms/fruits/pig farms) and fishing/seafood (tuna, reef fish, crayfish, kina, paua) to ensure a sustainable supply of fresh local produce for the hotels and local market alike.

To avoid putting local infrastructure under pressure, each establishment will have its own means of power generation (solar), waste management (waste treatment plant) and water supply. Such a set up presents the Chinese with an opportunity to showcase their latest technology in these areas. Any excess power and fresh water can be fed into the local system for the island to use.

Rather than use septic tanks, waste will be treated. Provision of fresh water will be by way of desalination plants. This will compliment the local supply during a drought.

This development project would also present an opportunity for outer islanders to provide visitors with local arts and crafts, fresh market produce, reef fishing, deep sea fishing trips, diving, snorkeling, local tours and entertainment.

A key to sustaining visitor numbers to the outer islands will be regular and affordable transportation. Provision for this to be included as part of the funding. These details will be released later.

MOP is expected to make a formal application for funding once government approves receipt of expressions of interest.



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# Stalled Police Investigation not stopped by amending tax bill

*Neves and Cabinet still in Police sights*

To the delight of the Cook Islands Party government, the 48th session of parliament came before the Police investigation resulting from a complaint filed on 24 June 2014 was completed. The complaint is against the Finance Secretary Richard Neves and five members of Cabinet and possibly the Secretary of Internal Affairs Bridena Drollet and the Solicitor General Kim Saunders. All are implicated in the unlawful taxing of the local pension at source.

The complaint addressing a simple issue of whether the taxing is unlawful or not was resolved within a reasonable time in the context of Cook Islands policing. According to the Police the complaint is validated, the taxing of the local pension is unlawful but it has taken a further three months of dithering indecision if charges are to be laid. The Police have advised the complainant the file has been forwarded to the New Zealand Police Legal Division for advice before a decision whether to lay charges is made. With Crown Law's Kim Saunders a close friend of Neves the Police have avoided legal advice from the Crown Law Office at the complainant's request.

The CIP government's taxing of the local pension from 1 March 2014 is indefensible and unjustified as no permissible legislation was passed in the House before the dissolution of



Richard Neves

Parliament on 16 April 2014.

Any hope the latest sitting of Parliament would absolve the alleged offenders is futile as explained by John Scott local expert on things pertaining to Parliament, published with his permission is an extract from his letter to the CI News on Monday 13 October 2014.

**4. Income Tax Amendment (No.2) Bill** Just a few points about the mishandling of this Bill. This Bill is a 'money bill' and because it alters taxation

and imposes a charge upon the Cook Islands Government Account, it first required the recommendation of the Queen's Representative before it could proceed. As required the Bill was gazetted by its Short Title viz. Income Tax Amendment (No.2) Act 2014 and the recommendation was similarly styled. The trouble with that is there will in fact be no Income Tax Amendment (No.2) Act 2014 with any content similar to the Bill debated and passed because

the abbreviation (No.2) was removed in Committee which raises the question was the Bill properly proceeded upon. Now that was something the Speaker could have sought an opinion on but like everything else it was not in the procedural notes and it just sailed through unnoticed and unremarked.

Minister Brown, in his speech, repeated in the newspaper, stated that the Bill allegedly made provision for something

*continued next page*

when it did nothing of the sort. He wrongly informed the House that the Bill authorised Internal Affairs to deduct tax on the local pension. It did not. There was nothing about the local pension in this Bill. The Minister was alluding to the Bill interrupted by the dissolution which Government no doubt intended to revive this Session and that presumably was intended to be Amendment number one but obviously got lost in all the intrigue and did not make the Order Paper and is wandering around out there somewhere waiting for the Minister's misleading comments to be attached to it. I am guessing we will see that again when the session resumes but, in the meantime, Internal Affairs has no authority to be taxing the local pension.

The CIP government have between now and the next sitting on the 28 October to collude with Kim Saunders of Crown Law a means of escaping the possibility of charges. On the other hand the Police could simply stop stalling the investigation and do their job without fear or favour of political retribution.

The CIP Cabinet can expect no false comfort of being absolved by legislation being retrospective because it isn't. According to the Police, the amended legislation cannot be a wriggle free escape clause; this does not provide immunity from Police charges and prosecution.

The Act Interpretations Act 1924 ensures that when an Act

that is assented to by the Queens Representative in her Majesty's name, that does not prescribe the time which it is to take effect, it shall come into operation on the day on which it receives the Queens Representative assent, in other words unless the Income Tax Amendment Bill has been assented to by the Queens Representative it is not yet lawful, in this case the deduction of local pensions at source remains unlawful.

The Act Interpretations Act also

*The Act Interpretations Act also ensures that when something is unlawful but continues as if it has been passed and is later passed into law, it does not forgive any person guilty of breaking this law before it was assented.*

ensures that when something is unlawful but continues as if it has been passed and is later passed into law, it does not forgive any person guilty of breaking this law before it was assented. A simple example would be if a person robs from his neighbour coconuts and later a law is passed that allows ownership to anyone who takes coconuts from his neighbours home, the Act Interpretations Act does not legalise what occurred prior to its passing.

Similarly a complaint has

been filed with the Cook Islands Police; this was filed 24 June 2014 before any passing of the Income Tax Amendment Bill to tax at source the local pension. That complaint is live, and the complaint is against Richard Neves, PM Henry Puna, Ministers Mark Brown, Nandi Glassie, Tearki Heather and Kiriau Turepu.

None can be defended or advised by Crown Law lawyers. Kim Saunders must also be suspended to maintain the

the political fraternity that the abuse of power has unforgiving consequences.

Law makers in the Cook Islands are under oath to uphold the highest standards of integrity and law compliance as stipulated in the Parliamentarian's Standing Orders Code of Conduct, but instead the CIP government have been blasé, blatantly self enriching and dismissive of public opinion of their conduct and abuses of power.

Worst case scenario is all five Cabinet Ministers including the Police Minister Teariki Heather could be found guilty and expelled from Parliamentary Office resulting in five by elections in which none could participate. For Richard Neves, he could face a custodial sentence. Drollet and Saunders are implicated as accessories and could face lesser sentences.

The Police complaint was followed by a request from the complainant to the Ministry of Internal Affairs to refund all unlawful tax deductions and the pension to be paid in full. Apart from her tendency to parrot Neves' unsolicited manipulating instructions, to her credit Bredina Drollet has honoured that request in a professional manner to the happy satisfaction of the complainant. Drollet's involvement has unfortunately placed her in a predicament not of her making, either way the pension tax has made her an innocent victim of political abuses.

- George Pitt

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# Airport solar panels switched on



By Nadia George

The official opening of the 'Te Mana o Te Ra' renewable energy project for the Cook Islands was held at the Rarotonga Airport mid-morning on Wednesday 15th October. Parliamentary dignitaries such as the Cook Islands Prime Minister Henry Puna as well as Minister of Finance and Sport, Mark Brown, were amongst the small crowd of guests that had attended the official opening of the project.

Te Mana O Te Ra, has been under works for just under three years and parties involved in its commencement and completion are being highly acclaimed and commended by not only the members of the Rarotonga Community but also the New Zealand High Commissioner, Joanna Kempkers.

The initial long-term goal set by the Cook Islands Government

is "to achieve 50% renewable energy by 2015 and to be 100% renewable by 2020. Prime Minister, Henry Puna says that the system commissioned will have the capacity to deliver a peak of nearly 1 megawatt of electricity into the Rarotonga distribution network, and has the potential to reduce fuel usage at the power station by an estimated 370,000 litres per year.

This project can be seen as a small stepping stone for the Cook Islands to eliminate its "reliance on imported diesel and international oils, as both have been a constraint on the current development of the Cook Islands economy", says Kempkers, however there are many more steps to follow. Currently there is a similar solar panel project being constructed in the Northern part of the Cook Islands.





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# Equipment contract signed



*By Norma Ngatamariki*

On Friday 10th October, The People's Republic of China, in association with the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) has donated \$6.5 million dollars worth of equipment to the Cook Islands Government. The signing of this long-awaited contract occurred in the Cabinet room of the Office of the Prime Minister, with CCECC officials as well as the Secretary of Finance, Richard Neves, Infrastructure Cook Islands Secretary Mac Mokoroa, Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) Chief of Staff Elizabeth Koteka, Cook Islands Tertiary Training Institute (CITTI) director Owen Lewis, Mayor of Atiu Taoro Brown and Teenui-Mapumai MP Rose Toki Brown in attendance.

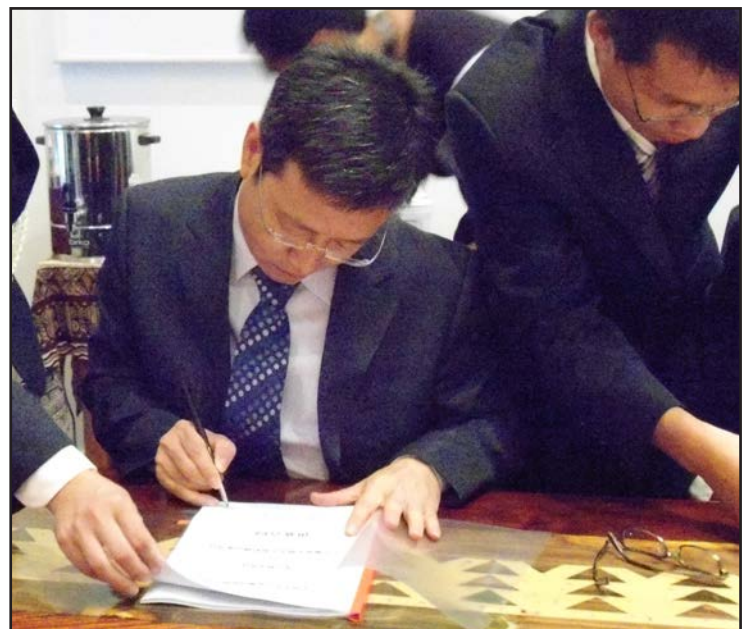
Some of the donated equipment will be outsourced to the outer islands to make further

improvements to infrastructure. According to Taoro Brown, Mayor of Atiu, this equipment will be beneficial not only for the people of Atiu, but for the other outer islands as well. "We are currently under-resourced, so this equipment will assist us in the sealing of the airport tarmac, improving our water reticulation system and other projects." Brown also says that the sourcing of new heavy-duty equipment will also create domestic job opportunities for the island.

CITTI Director Owen Lewis comments that the new equipment will guarantee sustainability for the Cook Islands. "Our intent is to identify operators from the outer islands and bring them to Rarotonga for training." These people will not only be taught how to operate this new machinery and equipment, but maintenance

and repair skills as well. "This is to ensure that the results are effective and long-lasting." Upon the delivery of the equipment, which will be in four months time, a trained technician is

planned to arrive as well. Lewis also states that the involvement of the private sector is crucial, as it will generate public interest and therefore create job opportunities.







## *Congratulations to Mrs. Teata Purea Ateriano*

We congratulate Woman of the Month for October, Mauke JP Mrs Teata Purea-Ateriano who is a person very passionate about teaching and sport.

Teata lives in Kimiangatau on Mauke and was born on 27 September 1952.

The 62 year old describes herself as an enthusiastic and self-motivated sports person who loves meeting new people and who thrives on challenges and achieves her goals using self-determination and common sense.

She says she is a person who copes well under pressure and who works effectively in a team environment.

### **Employment**

Teata taught at Avondale Intermediate School in Auckland, New Zealand from 1977 to 2002.

Returning to the Cook Islands in 2003, she became a teacher at Mauke School in 2004. In 2009 she attended the University of the South Pacific (USP) and in 2013 graduated as Bachelor of Education. She is currently studying towards a Post Graduate degree. She is back teaching at Mauke School.

In Mauke she also manages the family business which is Tiare Cottages.

### **Community Involvement**

Teata has a strong commitment to her community. In New Zealand,

during the period from 1983 to 2002, she held the positions of Secretary, Sports Coordinator, Vice President and Advisor for the Mauke Enea Association (NZ).

From 1987 to 2002, she was on the Auckland Cook Islands Sports Assoc. (NZ)

Planning Committee, and was Netball and Touch Rugby referees coordinator.

From 2003 to 2004 she was Chairperson of Mauke School.

In 2005, Teata was sworn in as a Justice of the Peace.

In 2006 she became Secretary for Areora Village and the Mauke Red Cross, positions she still holds today.

In 2008, and up to today, she is Head Elder and Treasurer for the Mauke SDA Church.

In 2008 and up to today, she holds the position of Secretary-Koutu Turoto/Mauke.

In 2013 she was made Chairperson of the Pouara Landowners, a position she still holds.

### **Sports Achievements**

In 1992, 1995 and 1999 she captained the Cook Islands Senior Women's Touch Rugby Team to three World Cups.

From 2000 to 2003 Teata was a NZ National Touch Referee

From 2003 to 2006, she was President of Mauke Netball.

### **Manea Games**

From 2006 up to the present



Woman of the Month of October, Mrs Teata Purea Ateriano day, Teata has participated In 2008 she won Gold in the Manea Games as an the Open Women's Tennis athlete and administrator. Doubles.

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# Vaka blessing via the internet

By Norma Ngatamariki

**D**ue to travel constraints, Friday may see the first time a vaka is blessed over the internet.

At the request of the Cook Islands community in Invercargill, master carver Mike Tavioni has created a vaka, which is symbolic of our proud national heritage. The vaka will serve as a reminder to Cook Island residents in New Zealand of their home. "People over on that side were getting a little homesick," says Tavioni. The piece will be displayed in the Cook Islands Community Centre, alongside a sculpture of a mango (shark) as well as a paddle, donated by Tavioni himself. "These pieces hold significant meaning and they will forever be preserved within the community centre."

As Mike is not able to travel to the dedication ceremony for the vaka to be held in Invercargill on 17 October to conduct the blessing, Pitt Media Group last Thursday afternoon, filmed Mike delivering a blessing and also explaining the construction of the vaka from start to finish. The film footage was sent to Invercargill last Friday via the internet.

At the filming last Thursday, Tavioni also took the Herald through the process of carving out a vaka, from the selection of the tree to the finished product. "When a tree is chosen, a traditional chant is said by the taunga vaka (person in charge of the vaka) to ask for the tree's permission." According to Tavioni, it is an old Cook Island tradition to ask for the blessing or permission of any living creature before it is used for the purposes of man. "This is to ensure that there are no mishaps and that the vaka will sail smoothly to its destination." The tools used to carve out the vaka are also given a blessing ceremony and then the taunga vaka makes the first ceremonial cut.

"A taunga vaka must have vision," Tavioni says. "He must be able to see a vaka even in its first stages. Even when it is still a tree." Tavioni is not only gifted in the art of carving, but he has also assisted in the creation of over 100 vaka during his career as a carver.

However, one of the challenges that Tavioni faced while working on this project was the lack of financial aid. "I needed resources and labour to jump start this vaka. But I needed money in order to obtain these things." Despite the challenges, Tavioni managed to deliver the final product to Invercargill.

Here is the traditional chant said for the blessing of the newly made vaka:



E Rongo, e Tane  
Oh Rongo and Tane  
Ka iki taku to...ki  
My axe be selected  
Ka iki ki te tumu ot te raka...u  
Selected to suit the tree trunk  
Ka rapa taku to...ki  
My axe be sharpened

Ka rapa ki te tumu o te rakau  
Sharpened to cut the tree trunk  
Ka nia taku toki  
My axe be lifted  
Ka nia ki te tumu o te rakau  
Lifted against the tree trunk  
Ka mata toku toki  
My axe shall cut  
Ka mata ki te tumu o te rakau  
It shall cut the tree trunk  
Ka inga te tumu o te rakau  
The tree trunk shall fall down  
E Rongo, e Tane  
Oh Rongo and Tane  
Kua moe te tumu o te rakau  
The tree trunk has fallen asleep  
Ka urunga taku toki, ka urunga  
My axe will lie down  
Tu ki te Maoake!

Pointing to the east wind!  
Rongo and Tane being the ancient gods in Cook Island legends.

## Letter to the Editor

**D**ear Editor,  
Kia Ora from Manihiki, Pae Tokerau. The aftermath of these 2014 Elections brought about by self-interest and sheer desperation, was initiated in April 2014. Virtually the whole country was caught off guard by the abrupt and sudden news that Parliament was dismissed, that we had no Govt, no Budget Bill passed and we were to have a Election a lot sooner than we knew, ready or not.

And we were far from ready and prepared. Many constituencies had both Party supporters and candidates behaving with good-natured political civility towards one another and to those that were being wooed; others chose to campaign in a nasty, vicious manner utilising bullying tactics with threats to jobs and economic circumstance and undue pressure on individual voters, in order to get votes.

For many years, we've all seen the wrong in this, but bit by bit, little by little, we've turned a blind eye and looked the other way until one day we accept as normal these corrupt elements, which further corrupt us. It is this malaise, this lack of societal conscience within our society, which paints a bleak, dark and depressive portrait of ourselves as a people, as a Nation.

As a nation, we proudly shout out to the World that we are well- educated, law-abiding citizens of strong faith, and extremely friendly people. Welcome to our beautiful luscious country; enjoy our hospitality, the friendliness and aroha we bestow upon you. Welcome! Welcome! We shall care for you, lovingly embrace you within our culture, and with our unique Cook Islands hospitality, shall ensure you are safe and truly welcome as manuhiri to this Paradise Nation of ours.

We shall care and protect you as we do the young and down-trodden; the women and children exposed to violence

and abuse; those with mental/ physical disabilities; and the sick and elderly. We shall move heaven and earth to ensure your rights, safety and freedom are paramount simply because that's what we as a democratic nation also expect and embrace as our right. As the saying goes, Do Unto Others, As You Would Have Others Do Unto You.

Yes we do indeed. We virtually prostrate ourselves bending over backwards, while disseminating to visitors, tourists, dignitaries, our trading partners, Big Brothers, NZ, Aust and even ourselves, that we don't tolerate corruption, breaking the law, violence and abuse, maladministration, fraud and so on for we have an open and transparent Government who will instigate enforcement and make these transgressors accountable for their actions. Be they Joe or Jane citizen, a celebrity, a respected Businessman, a Sporting Icon, a Government administrator or an elected official, they will be held accountable and true justice and rule of law will be applied.

You break the law, local or tourist, rich or poor, nobody or somebody, citizen or elected official-the law will deal to you. And if those responsible for dispensing justice fail to do so without lawful reason, then they too shall be taken to task with the full force of the law.

Over the years, ordinary folk who have broken the law went to court and were punished-fines, convictions, community service, prison and rightly so, they took their medicine knowing they had transgressed. But for decades we've seen those of influence -elected officials/politicians, Businessmen, Government administrators break the law and many go unpunished, get a slap on the wrist, and you never hear anything further.

This must stop. We need to ensure we have a level playing field so that true justice and rule of law, shall be applied equally

to any and all transgressors, irrespective of your standing in Society. Currently, there is civil unrest in Hong Kong and demonstrators are demanding democracy for their peoples; we as a democratic nation, demand and expect open and transparent government, good governance, responsibility and accountability, and reform in key areas-political, economic, judicial and electoral to name but a few, and like the collective response in Hong Kong, we need to step up and in good conscience, do something and make a difference.

Kia Kaha! Kia Toa! Kia Manawanui! to Dennis Tunui and his Grey Power members. I commend you and your movement for having the courage, fortitude and the convictions to make your collective stand because you believe it's the right to thing do and you are exercising your rights to do so. More power to your Grey Power movement! Some years back, another similar-minded movement was lead by Tere Carr and other concerned individuals, who like the GPM had the courage and conviction to take action and collectively display their unity; these displays are a wonder to behold, because it shows how our people when they've had enough, will back up and do something about it, knowing it's their democratic right.

If you have concerns about our nation, the politicians, the economy, the inequity of this dispensed justice, corruption, misuse of taxpayers' money by elected officials, then do something, make a difference. Talk to your peers, friends, work mates, family and initiate debate, then collectively brainstorm for solutions. Write letters to the papers. Talk to your Mapmaker your views known on Talk-back Radio. Little by little, bit by bit, your input will make a collective difference. Like the Chinese saying says To Move a Mountain, it starts with a bucket.

Another major concern for our people, is the huge cost of this 2014 Election and the resultant Petitions, Counter Petition and the eventual cost of the Appeals. Morally these respective costs should be borne by the tax payer/Government because all 24 constituencies and their respective nominated Candidates/MPs are there for the explicit purpose of representing their constituencies, and they do so on behalf as future servants of the Nation.

It is unfair and unjust that the governing CIP Government can use the tax payer's money like their own personal piggy bank to the detriment of the Opposition Demo Party. For instance, as was pointed out in the Court the cost of Henry Puna's outboard offer will be around \$210,000.00 plus (at around 70 households times about \$3,000 or thereabouts). Does Henry Puna himself pay from his own pocket or does the taxpayer/Government pay for this?

Remember, this was a personal pledge from Henry Puna while campaigning, falsely portrayed as an Aid Fund Project. That's a different scenario from the cost of Court processes Petition, Counter Petitions and Appeals which are matters to do with rule of law in the election process of 24 nominated candidates aspiring to represent their constituencies as MPs and server as servants to the people.

In these instances tax payer/ Government must bear all court cost, Petitions, Counter Petition and Appeals, while any and all campaigning costs will be borne by the constancies and their candidates. This is another area of a reform concern for a future Government to resolve and the sooner we elect a better quality Government who will lead the Nation with Good Governance and with the best policies supported by the Nation, the better off we will all be.

*Ka kite yours sincerely,  
Papa Williams Tauhunu,  
Manihiki, Pae Tokerau.*

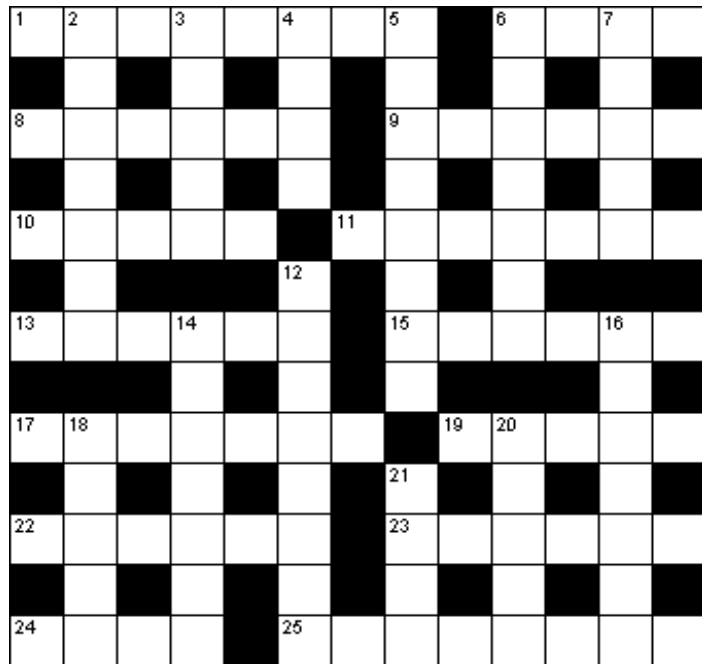
# Atiu Day a success

The fundraising efforts on Atiu Day through the sale of food at Te Atukura Park and the radiothon at radio Cook Islands last Friday saw more than \$50,000 raised from sales and pledges. The funds will assist greatly in the completion of work on the Atiu Hostel although additional fundraising efforts will still be needed. A large crowd visited the Park for produce from Atiu which included the prized Unga (Coconut Crab).





# CROSSWORD



**Across**

- 1. Inhabitant of an island (8)
- 6. Breathe convulsively (4)
- 8. Lunatic (6)
- 9. Burial cloth (6)
- 10. Swiftiness (5)
- 11. Sentimental songs (7)
- 13. Threefold (6)
- 15. Cold and damp (6)
- 17. Unlawful liquor (7)
- 19. Corpulent (5)
- 22. One who enjoys inflicting pain (6)
- 23. Person who wields an axe (6)
- 24. Tooth (4)
- 25. Large deer (8)

**Down**

- 2. Flee (7)
- 3. Spring up (5)
- 4. Pack of cards (4)
- 5. Investigate (8)
- 6. Ape (7)
- 7. Noise (5)
- 12. Runaway (8)
- 14. Necking (7)
- 16. Communication (7)
- 18. City in Nebraska (5)
- 20. Baked dough (5)
- 21. Worn by women in India (4)

## Handball: Update of competition Round 1 on Tuesday 07th October

It is evident that everyone is in attendance at the Manea Games hence the delay in games this week. Tuesday 7th October 2014 results are as follows:

Game 1 – TMKs vs PJs – PJs had a good practise run during this space as TMKz did not all show as most were in Mauke. But with the enthusiastic lot still on the Rock it was a non stop good sweat-out for the rest. It gave time for those potential national players to bring there “A” game as skills taught during the week at trainings. Commitment is essential to teamwork in handball. If you do not discipline yourselves to focus and be present at all trainings and games then how can you apply yourself to be an effective team-worker. Food for thought?

Game 2 –Justice League 24 vs Avengers 29 – Two top teams in the competition with very keen players illustrate the empowerment of past national players that we have taken away and have come back in to executive and management roles for us. Its true development of our local calibre who have experience our sport at the highest level. But also those who have played for some time now and have not had the time to take it to national level because of commitments personally. But we have some very experienced senior players that should not be underestimated.

Game 3 – Legends 26 vs NO Experience TCI – 18 CruzRobati banging n 9 points with female youngster DaimzelRongokea on 7 points for Legends. This girl is dangerous with much nurturing will be one of the strongest backs for us with her powerhouse shots. Top scorers Pabu John, DJ Hoeflich and Phillip Roi scored 4 shots each but with also young female Simone contesting and adding 6 goals to her team tally proved that Legends outshone tonight.

Happy handballing everyone and we look forward to seeing you at the games this week.

Draw for Tuesday 14th October 2014 is as follows:

Game 1 - 5.45pm – Avengers vs PJs

Game 2 – 6.35pm – LegendsvsTMKs

Game 3 – 7.25pm – Justice League vs No Experience TCI

## Exempting New Zealand Superannuation to 31 Dec 2012

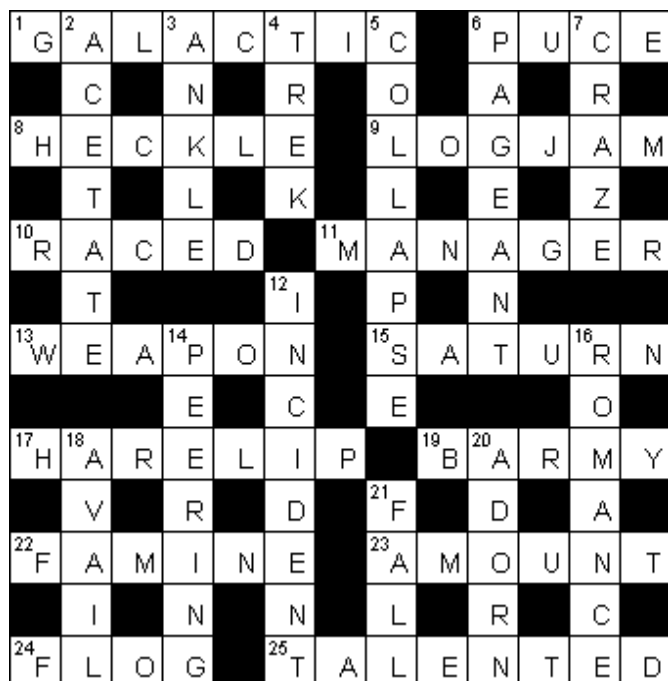
**O**n 8 October 2014 the Cook Islands Parliament passed an amendment to the Income Tax Act 1997 which retrospectively exempts New Zealand Superannuation as assessable for income tax purposes up until 31 December 2012.

People in the Cook Islands who have been in receipt of the New Zealand Superannuation are now able to have their tax returns reassessed. In situations where monies are owed to those individuals by the Crown, it can either be refunded or credited to meet future or outstanding tax obligations.

The Revenue Management Division will shortly be writing to its current list of people in the Cook Islands who are receipt of New Zealand Superannuation.

People in receipt of New Zealand Superannuation are still required to include their superannuation income received in 2013 in their 2013 tax return. If a person is unable to pay their tax by the due date of 3 November 2014 then they should contact the Revenue Management Division at MFEM and enter into an arrangement.

If you have any questions please contact officials in the Revenue Management Division at MFEM or call 29365.



# Southern Cook Islands Customary Law, History and Society Akapapa'anga, Kôrero Tupuna, e te kono'anga Ture 'Enea o te Pâ 'Enea Tonga i te Kûki 'Airani

By *Nadia George*

## Introduction

Ross Holmes and Ron Crocombe have now completed a collection of books illustrating the Cook Islands and its history, in a three part series. The three-part collection is due to hit our shores this coming week and can be purchased from June Baudinet's beneath the High Tide Bar and Grill at \$150 for the complete collection.

Baudinet had received a copy of the three books prior to its release and loves all the different aspects that the books are able to cover such as the Customary Law of the Cook Islands. For Baudinet, the book has come as an interesting read and a magnificent achievement for the Cook Islands, as we are able to now read these books and study the history of our Papa Tupuna.

Never before has she seen any books published about the Cook Islands and has been able to depict our countries history, culture and law, quite as well as this. Both Ross and Ron had spent several years researching and writing about the books and are finally able to share their written efforts with the Cook Islands community.

## Ross Holmes explains further

I have had 8 years to carry out the necessary research and write them.

I ask that you read the contents with an open mind, putting to one side what you have previously believed, and that you reach your own conclusions after reading the material in the book. While neither the late Ron Crocombe nor I are Cook Islanders, our wives are, and both of us have had a close association with the Cook Islands and Cook Islanders for many years.

All of Ron's, and a number of my, children and grandchildren are of Cook Islands descent.

Since Ron Crocombe wrote his pioneering works Land Tenure in the Cook Islands in 1961 and

1964 (when anthropology was still a fledgling discipline), and edited and published Richard



Gilson's 1952 thesis as a book, The Cook Islands 1820-1950, no other detailed analysis of Cook Islands history and customary law has been published.

The purpose of this book is to re-examine primary sources, to synthesize other peoples scholarly work, and to place Ron Crocombe's and my own research into a book which provides a detailed record of pre-European Southern Cook Islands customary law and society, and the impact which Europeans have had thereon. Fortunately we are now in a better position to interpret and understand customary evidence than the authors and Courts in the Cook Islands previously were, as there is now a relatively large volume of source material, much of which has not been previously analysed or readily accessible.

The suppression of custom that occurred in New Zealand also occurred in the Cook Islands, initially through the LMS. Subsequently the New Zealand administration introduced the New Zealand education system in the Cook Islands, which prohibited the

use of the Cook Islands language in schools, and taught Cook Islanders to be good Europeans.

The inferiority of many of the customs and institutions was impressed upon the minds of Cook Islanders. The New Zealand administration had no interest in Cook Islands custom, despite it being aware that the rules and practice of the Land Court were an introduced system that was in many ways is opposed to custom. It refused to hold an inquiry into Cook Islands custom.

The Cook Islands Courts have from the commencement of the Court system in 1902 down to the present time made determinations on customary law in the absence of sufficient evidence as to what customary law was. One purpose of this book is to ensure that relevant information about Māori customary laws is available.

The detailed research which I have carried out over the past 8 years has re-written Rarotongan history which had been distorted by widely believed invented traditions. I have established that a number of the "customs" relied upon

by the Courts were European invented traditions (including the doctrine of primogeniture). I have also established that during the LMS era some of the Ariki of Rarotonga, and others, acquired substantial areas of land, and titles, that they had no customary law entitlement to. There are accordingly many historical injustices in Rarotonga that remain to be righted.

As updates are made to the Volumes which you have received they will be posted on

<http://www.rossholmes.com/index.php/about-us?id=82>. If you would like to receive advice of updates please email that advice to [rossholmes@rossholmes.co.nz](mailto:rossholmes@rossholmes.co.nz). If you know of any other Cook Islands manuscripts, or have any other material on the matters detailed in the Volumes that you believe should be included in any future reprint please let me know.

As soon as I have sold the 1,000 copies of Volumes 1 to 3, I will be printing the next three volumes which deal with the Colonial Period from 1888 to 1965, but will also deal with the operation of the Courts from 1965 until now.

# TE REO MĀORI

na Ruteru Taripo

## Kia Ūpoko-tū!

Ta`i, rua, toru, `ā!  
Ngō`ie `ua kia akatātā  
`Ō atu tātou kī mūa  
Rima, ono, `itu, varu!  
□ru 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!

## Nō te Ora/Taime, `ē te Tuātau

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. `E ora tēia  | 1. This is a clock                                     |
| 2. `E a`a tēia/tēnā/tērā?                                       | 2. What is this/that(near you)/that<br>(away from us)? |
| 3. `E ora tēnā.   | 3. That (near you) is a clock.                         |
| 4. <u>`E a`a te ora i tēia nei?</u>                             | 4. <u>What is the time now?</u>                        |
| 5. `E ora `ā (te ora i tēia nei)                                | 5. It is now 4 o`clock                                 |
| 6. `E ta`i-nga`uru-mā-ono meneti<br><u>`i pāti i te ora itu</u> | 6. Its 16 minutes <u>past</u> 7                        |
| 7. `E `āpa tēia no te ora iva                                   | 7. Its now half past nine                              |
| 8. Kua vaitata i te tuaero                                      | 8. Its nearly 12 oclock                                |
| 9. <u>Ā`ea koe e `akaoti ei?</u>                                | 9. <u>When are you finishing?</u>                      |
| 10. Ākonei ake i te ora rima                                    | 10. Later on at 5 oclock                               |
| 11. Āpōpō i te avatea-pū  | 11. Tomorrow at midday/noon                            |
| 12. Ā tērā`o atu pōpōngi  | 12. On the morning after tomorrow                      |
| 13. Ā tēia Varaire ki mua                                       | 13. Next Friday  |
| 14. Ā tēia mata`iti roa ki mua                                  | 14. Until next year                                    |
| 15. Ākōneinei ake!  | 15. Just a little, wee while yet!                      |

## Te au rā o te `Epetoma: Days of the Week

Mōnitē - Monday	Ru`irua - Tuesday	Ru`itoru - Wednesday
Paraparau - Thursday	Varaire - Friday	Ma`anākai - Saturday
	Tāpati - Sunday	



# I love that I live on an island, in the islands, of the Cook Islands

By Tiana Haxton

I would like to say that 'I love living in the Cook Islands' however, I can only speak of living on two of the islands composed out of the fifteen islands that constitute 'the Cook Islands'; For What Is An Island? An island is a mass of land that is completely surrounded by water.

I landed on Tumutevarovaro/Rarotonga the capital island with its international airport and travelled onward to Nukuroa/Mitiaro atoll my new island home with its coral landing strip. Rarotonga has majestic mountains and Mitiaro is the home of the itiki/lake eels with interior lake(s) named Roto nui and Roto iti. I have now lived in the Cook Islands for four years and six months and my experience(s) have been extraordinary; so much so, I am moved to want to experience living on all the remaining sister islands of the Cook Islands.

I reckon that these respective islands are unique too.

Nana insisted on travelling with us to the Cook Islands and settle us in on her home island of Mitiaro/ na Nanna e akanoo ia matou; tona rai tamaine e tona rai mokopuna i te enua nei. This is customary and a real blessing to have parents/grandparents.

Arriving in Raro, we were greeted by family who welcomed us and introduced my brother and I to delicious tiopu kuru/breadfruit stew. Mum bought me a 'ukarere' and Clay a 'Pate'. We experienced being doubled on motor bikes; our first motor bike ride...awesome; breezy and fun.

On May 7th, we flew to Mitiaro in a much smaller plane. On arrival there, we were given garlands/akaie in welcome. With our cargo loaded onto a truck, we were driven inland to the house where we would stay. We unpacked and organized ourselves till comfortable; this took about a week to achieve.

I remember our first Sunday for it was also 'Mother's Day'. Nana needed some peace and quiet so mum suggested we accompany her inland on foot. We enjoyed walking together nattering and collecting nature trinkets like the rubbery, ruby red petal of a banana tree flower, stunning red nuts/matakoviriviri, distinctive leaf of breadfruit tree; even an ironwood honed coconut husk. Mum was humoured that I wanted to keep a coconut after she explained just what it was. I didn't recognize the coconut with its husk on.

The following day was a Monday and my brother and I were ready for school dressed in new uniforms. Clay in navy shorts and a white shirt; I wore soft green and white checker dress; a gingham pattern. Thankfully everything is cotton. I was also required to tie my long hair up in symmetrical twin plaits. With enrolment paperwork completed by mum and the principal, the principal took us to our new classes; Clay in preschool and me placed in grade 5. My teacher introduced me to everyone; peers; new friends in support of each other.

Life is amazing here. It has been four years and six months with a several short trips away and back again. Nature has revealed many things to me. I am learning a second language/te reo, I am moved to Ura/dance with expression, sing not always in tune but with joy; learning and contributing to Mitiaro Culture; Cook Islands culture.

# Goodbye high school

By Nadia George

As we edge even closer to the final term of the school year I now realize that this term might very well be the last of my high school experience. Unless I repeat of course, which isn't something I plan on doing.

A few of my friends and family have asked me what my intentions are for my life outside of school, you know my goals and aspirations, I honestly had no idea how to answer that question. I've spent the past decade of my life being reliant on my parents and had always thought that my schooling years would never come to an end. I wish I could say I was looking forward to this chapter of my life finally being over, just as most of my friends are, but the honest truth is that I'm not, because I know that no matter how much I despise going to school every single morning, my years at school will probably be some of the best years of my life.

So as my final years of high school come to a close, I am forced to look back on and reflect on my time at not only Tereora College but also the many other things that had come with those years and have lead me to believe that I am truly blessed.

Of course there's the friends that I have made and the friends that I have lost along the way. There are the amazing memories that are now etched into my brain and there are the teachers that I've had the opportunity to learn from and become friends with, then there were those who weren't so pleasant to get along with.

There were the highs and lows of my academic



achievements and also the many countries I have been able to travel to over the years. There's my paddling team that have accepted me as one of their own for the past year now and have become like a second family to me and there's also the many tears, laughter and arguments shared with my two, "ride or die" parents.

To say that I have had a dull childhood or upbringing would be an understatement. I am grateful for all the experiences that I have had, for they have helped shape and mold me into the person I am today. With only a few weeks left of high school, I will continue to struggle with my plans for the future, for I can only hope that it will plan out to be an awesome one.

So bring on my final weeks and bring on exams, I may not be ready for any of it but I sure as hell will give it my all. Am I scared of what is yet to come, of course I am. The future is a very scary thing to think about, but it's going to come anyway so I may as well embrace it.

# Workshop to determine Nation's state of health



By Norma Ngatamariki

On Tuesday 14th October, a workshop was held at the Cook Islands Red Cross Headquarters to discuss the preparation of the State of Environment Report. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) in conjunction with the Cook Islands National Environment Service has seen fit to prepare this report, which will oversee seven main themes: Marine Environment, Inland Waters, Biodiversity, Built Environment, Land, Atmosphere & Climate and Cultural Heritage. The workshop will run for a period of three days and will involve presentations and a practical training program.

The overall aim of this

particular workshop is to review the assessments undertaken for each of the indicators that were agreed too at the State of Environment (SOE) workshop held earlier this year. This is so the current data collected can be updated or improved and where further information can be contributed.

Mark Graham, a representative of SPREP, says that this is an important step for the Cook Islands because it will enable environment officials to identify key areas which need to be improved on. "The report works as a health check on the nation." Graham also acknowledges the contribution of WATSAN (Water, Waste and Sanitation) and other non-government organisation.



# Having a lasting impact on others

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

The purpose of this article of encouragement is to encourage you to live a life that will “positively help others”. In I Peter 5v.1-7 in the New Testament of the Bible the Apostle Peter is sharing with us his experiences with Jesus. Peter saw that Jesus lived a positive life and it impacted so many people in a positive way. Peter is saying “Here are the 3 things I learned from Jesus that can help improve your life to positively impact the lives of others!”

## I. START SERVING

Jesus said in Matthew 23v.11 “...To be the greatest, be a servant.” The greatest impact that any person can have in life is influencing another person’s life. Jesus is saying that the greatest way to impact another person is by serving. This applies to every situation of our lives – work places; in the home; in the Church; wherever! Jesus is saying, “Be a servant”. To be a great Christian, “Be a great Servant.”

Peter was saying to the people during those days that “When you’re trying to influence other people here’s what works and here’s what doesn’t work.” 1). Choose Desire over duty, 2). Choose Giving over getting, and 3). Choose Being An Example over being in control.

### 1) Choose Desire over duty.

Peter wrote to the leaders, serve “not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be.” Many of the things we enjoy in life, we do so because someone had a desire to invent them. Desire is what makes the difference in life. The ability to say, “I have a willingness to do this.” Peter says, “Learn to want to do it.” That’s where influence and impact is found in life.

### 2) Choose Giving over Getting.

A second encouragement Peter gives is in I Peter 5v.2(b) which reads “Don’t be greedy for money, but be eager (keen, willing) to serve.” Acts 20v.35(c) reads, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

It is not what we have that is important but what we do with what we got. By nature human beings are more interested in getting rather than giving! Peter is reminding us here, that you don’t make a lasting impact by what you get, but rather by what you give in life. Psalm 112v.9 reads “He gives generously to those in need. His deeds will never be forgotten. He shall have influence and honor.” Influence comes from giving. Giving, through serving, is what it’s all about.

### 3) Choose Being An Example over being in control.

I Peter 5v.3 reads “Don’t be like a ruler over people you’re responsible for, but be a good example to them.” You don’t make a lasting impact by telling people what to do, but by showing them how to do it. In the home environment, children learn from their parents. If we want to be a great Christian? Be a good example. The Apostle Paul said, “You must follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.” (I Corin. 11v.1)

## II. STAY HUMBLE

I Peter 5v.5-6 read “God gives special blessings to those who are humble, but sets Himself against those who are proud. Humble yourselves, therefore under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.” Humility is when you turn to God and say “God, I’m depending on you. I need You in my life.” Peter is saying if you humble yourself like that, God will lift you up. The words “in due time” means God’s timing and His timing is always the right timing. God will lift you up to a place of greater positive influence in the lives of others. Jesus said to His disciples in Matthew 23v.12 “But those who think themselves great shall be disappointed and humbled; but those who humble themselves shall be exalted.”

## III. STOP WORRYING

People who worry most of the time don’t have any positive impact on the lives of others. One of the reasons for worrying is because a person

## Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



tends to focus on themselves. As long as the focus is on the self you can’t do any of the things I’ve talked about to make a positive impact on the lives of others. So, stop worrying. God never meant for us to live a worried life. Because it will destroy us - physically, emotionally, spiritually, and even our relationship with others will be destroyed. That is why Jesus said in John 10v.10

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that you may have life, and that you may have it more abundantly.” In other words Jesus is saying, I did not come to give you worry! Worry is not of God it is of the Devil. So, stop “worrying”. Peter encourages us in I Peter 5v.7 to cast our worry on Jesus because He cares for us.

God bless, te Atua te aroa.

# The Teen Blogger Chooks extra

By Norma Ngatamariki

Hi everyone! How is everybody's school holiday going? I hope y'all are having fun and staying out of trouble at the same time. Meanwhile, I'm back in the CITV building writing up articles and earning a little cash on the side (But I still find myself broke at the end of the week. I wonder why that is?) I see all these lucky teens driving past me in town with so much free time on their hands. But to be completely honest, I would rather earn money then drive around in circles all day. Think of the petrol money!

Anyways, I want to talk to you guys about blogging. With the social media being such a powerful tool nowadays (You know the drill. Updating that status of yours on Facebook, watching funny clips on YouTube, posting selfies. Just the norms) It's not a new trend, but it's gained popularity over the past few years. For those of you still trying to figure out what a blog is, it's kind of like a personal diary that you put online for the whole world to see. So you basically express your thoughts and opinions online.

There are quite a few teens who are famous for their blogging expertise. People like Serenity and Faith Lina Sola who blew us away with their "Keeping up with the Solas" blogs on YouTube. They actually made it on Fresh because of their ingenuity. And how about Kris Fox (A Day with Kris Fox on YouTube), the feisty Indian from Mangere. He managed to get interviewed by Woman's Day magazine because of his strong opinions, his admiration for pop diva Beyonce and that DGAF attitude. They entertain us because we can relate to whatever blog. I, for one, always crack up when I see Serenity and Faith pulling them ratchet facials. (But they still manage to stay pretty though)



I've even seen a few attempts at video blogging here, at Tereora College. We have some pretty awesome local talent here in the Cooks, it just hasn't been exposed yet. My favourite bloggers on Facebook at the moment are Katakata with Me and the Cougar Boys. They do everything with a Pacific island flavour and they're always blogging stuff that's real: things that we've had experienced with. I seriously recommend that you check out their video blogs on Facebook and You Tube.

However, blogging can also be used not only to entertain, but to teach and inform people. Right now, I am writing a blog in the paper informing my reader about blogs. However, you have to be really careful about what you say on your blog. You might offend a few people and then start receiving hate messages and threats. (Hey, it's happened before) You don't need that kind of negativity in your life. So, before you start blogging, get the facts right and look at the issue from both sides. Oh, and make sure you have good internet access before you start blogging (unlike me, who only goes on once a week if I'm lucky)

State of the parties now is that the Demos will need to win the Mitiaro by-election and at least one appeal plus get the support of the two OCIM seats to have 13 in the House. If they win only Mitiaro or just one appeal, then the numbers will be deadlocked at CIP 12, Demo/OCIM 12. It will then be bound to be a new election! Unless of course, someone walks. But who has the guts to walk the talk?



The big demand for umpteen millions of dollars in penalties dumped on our PM and Cabinet from overseas, is not new and did not happen just yesterday. All the details and copies of past letters have been on the internet for the best part of a year! Chooks, it has already been in the world-wide public arena for yonks so do not act surprised.



Whisper on CNN-Coconut Network News, is that there will soon be a re-shuffle on the Tourism Board. A high flyer could be in for a bumpy landing. You heard it first from Big Red via his big crystal balls which he has been rubbing.



Best job in town must be the one unloading fish at the wharf. \$13 per hour we are told. (Legal minimum wage \$6 per hour) But how much does the actual worker get after deductions by the State? That part has been Black-ed out.



New version of the "hybrid" car is government's preferred choice to replace diesel and petrol driven vehicles. The savings on fuel are expected to be enormous. Hybrid cars are those powered by either petrol or electricity. The version government is examining runs on either; giant, tightly wound rubber bands or pedal power employing running feet through holes in the floor ala the "Flintstones of Bedrock."



Whisper on CNN-Coconut Network News, is that an Audit sniff around one high flying Mandarin agency, has ended with a recommendation its Head Guru get the flick! Remember you heard it first on CNN.



Word chooks is number of forward bookings in the tourism industry for hotels is not looking healthy. Tourists are looking at other pacific destinations which offer more and are cheaper to get to. Why are airfares to Rarotonga so high compared to other Pacific nations? Air NZ are doing us no favours chooks.



How come air fares to Mauke went up during the Manea Games? Where is our Commerce Commission? Where are our Consumer Affairs people? How can increases in air fares happen without some investigation into the justification? Bring on the fast ferry and a second airline says one developer.

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THE  
COOK  
ISLANDS  
HERALD**

There is no Parliament for six months then when forced to convene for its only one sitting to bulldoze some Bills through and erroneously have a vote of confidence in the most unpopular Prime Minister in the entire 50 years of self governing. Had there been a secret ballot Elvis would have left the building with his tail between his legs. After the one sitting the House is adjourned so Elvis can fly first class to Australia to make a cameo appearance on our vaka as it enters Sydney harbour, what a joke when there are pressing issues back home. Do your job the tax payers sacrifice to obesely pay you neneva Taliban Neves and stop the deficit getting bigger by this wasteful stupidity of self gratifying travel that hasn't the slightest benefit to the rest of us or pack your bags and go back to Timor.



Noticed on the local TV news last week, at the signing of the Chinese donation of \$6.4 million worth of heavy machinery for the outer Islands, the well dressed suited up Chinese delegation on one side of the Cabinet table and on the other side facing them the local delegation dressed very casually with the newly sworn in Rakahanga MP Toka Hagai wearing his sunglasses on his head unlike the stand out Atiu Princess Rose well dressed with a traditional head ei.



One losing political candidate is going even further into debt and more than broke now that he is having to fork out the loot to pay for his electioneering promises. Assuming he would win the seat he presumptuously promised to deliver if they voted for him when he should of said "if" I win. How dumb can you get? His voters are demanding he keep his lavish promises.



The PM's residence at Nikao had a mega face lift including a high wooden fence. A court case from a complaint by Elvis last year revealed the accused was peeping through the window observing private stuff which was banned by the Court from being published. Well there will be no more free Adult entertainment with the security fence now in place (barbed wire on top?). By the way the accused was found not guilty.



Demo Party Leader by a thin string Rassie claimed in the daily dribble his coalition deal with One Cook Islands was done according to the Demo constitution is just another one of his misleading face saving statements. The Demo constitution is very clear when it states there can be no coalitions without the approval or endorsement by a Party Conference. So who over looked the facts? Of course Rassie not the Demos can expect there will be criticism in the media if he continues to talk nonsense.



On the same day in a letter to the acting Editor, Rassie apologised that another opportunity to become government failed again. First one was in April this year he failed to seize the moment when with 11 MPs plus Bishop

and Maggie the Demos were across the line. Rassie's no coalition stance and his public declaration he wouldn't touch Bishop with a ten foot barge pole preceded the second failure, to win the Penrhyn seat then the third failure to become the government on 9 July. The fourth failure was the very expensive emotionally driven Petition debacle and the fifth failure was the Coalition's failure to lure two CIP renegades to make up the 13. Rassie is now leading the charge to fail again for the sixth time through appealing the impartial CJ Weston's judgments. Surely after three strike outs it's change the Leader. When it is all said and done the Demos will have spent over \$300,000 and still failed to get sufficient numbers to be the government. How many more times does Rassie have to pathetically predict victory only to fail before he hands over the reins to someone who can lead the Demos out of failure?



Minita o te Moni Brownie's comment business is ticking over only highlighted he's on another planet with talebany neneva Neves. How can the highly paid tax funded spongers not see businesses closing their doors and the owners leaving for Aussie? After one family returned to invest in a new home and business they are selling up and heading back to Aussie. Notice the advertised

garage sales every week Minita? What about the growing number of businesses who are renegeing on their VAT payments simply because they can't pay?



The Teflon Don PM Tuna, was in his element in the House last Wednesday manipulating his mesmerized crew with his knowledge of Standing Orders. First he gets the big threat to his leadership to propose a motion of confidence in his leadership which was swiftly seconded by Tuna's sucker fish, Brown Marks. The DPM was caught out hook, line and sinker by PM Tuna! The DPM did not realize that under Standing Orders, such a motion requires his letter of resignation to be tabled and sit in the House for six months. This means he would not be able to challenge the slippery PM Tuna for the leadership for at least six months. Lucky for the DPM, Standing Orders was not followed but the DPM has now got the message.



Chooks, why did a top engineer on the water project suddenly up anchor and head back to Kiwiland? He was supposed to be here to see through all three stages of the project! Is he unhappy with some aspect of the doings? Is something not up to scratch? Is after all, overseeing quality.

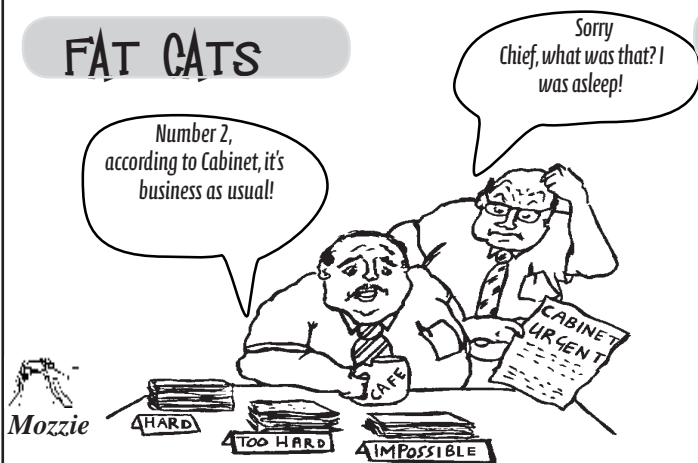


Yikes chooks! Is that a member of the Taliban we spot in MFEM? No, on closer examination, it's Richard!

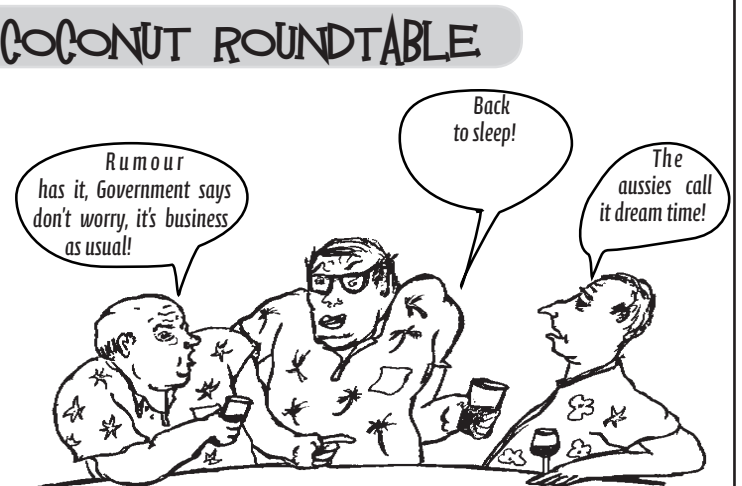


Chooks is the country going to come to a standstill on October 15? Is the public service going to going to a halt? You see it's World Hand Washing Day! Another one of those global events dreamt up to give us all something to do throughout the year! Perhaps the Teflon Don Tuna will give us a demonstration of washing his hands, ala Pontius Pilate!

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



## TE REO MAORI

### ‘Tāku Kiri-Moni’

#### Pukapuka`anga

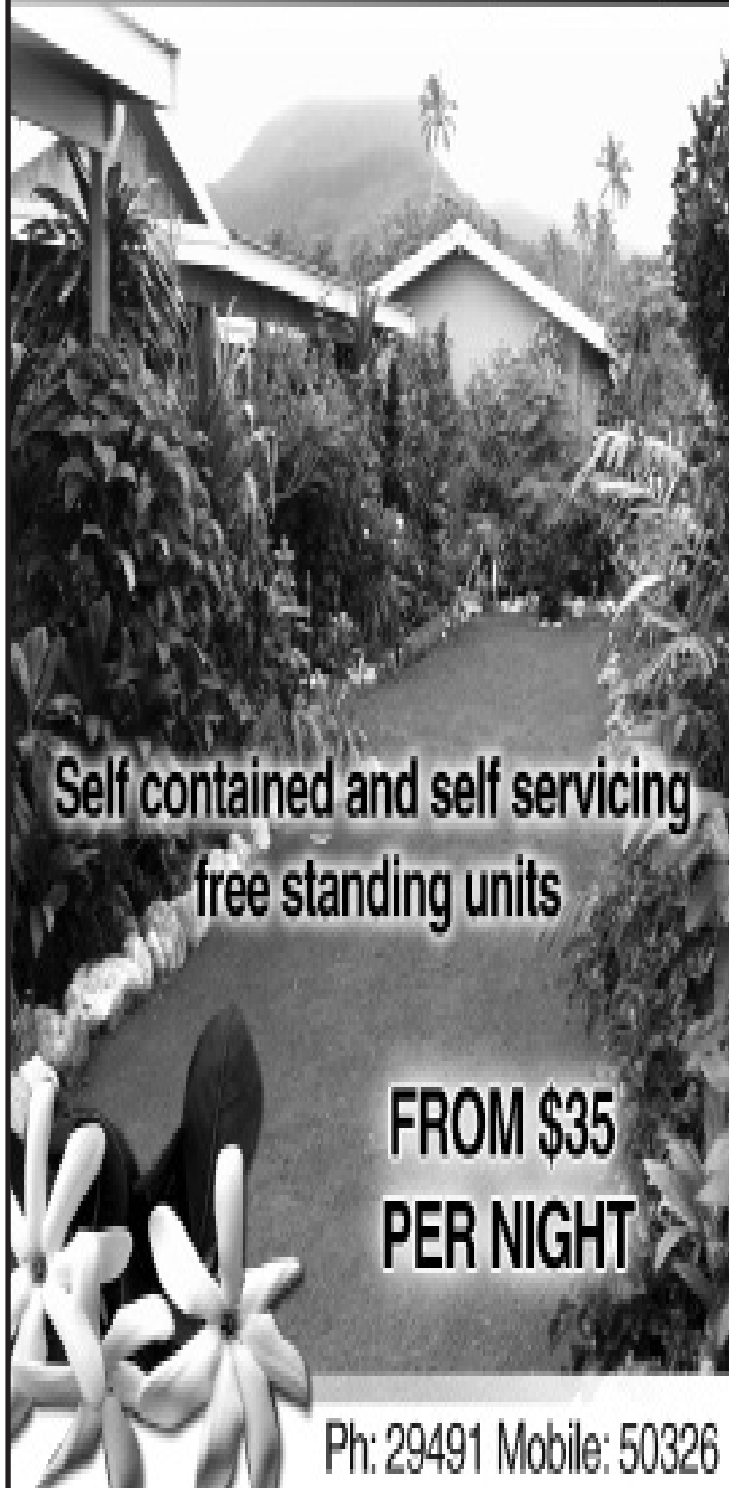
1. a) Pōpongi mānea kiā koe.  
Nā`ai tēia kiri-moni?  
b) Ōo! pōpongi manea.  
Nāku tēnā kiri-moni.
2. a) I kite koe ki`ea?  
b) I kite au ki raro ake i te ro`i/  
no`o`anga/tōpa, etv
3. a) `Ē `ia moni i tā`au kaingā kai?  
b) `Ē itu-nga`uru rāi tārā
4. a) `E a`a tō roto i tā`au pū`ao-pēpa?  
b) `E `ānani, `ē rēmene `ē ngā tōmati
5. a) `Ē `ia te moni?  
b) `Ē ta`i rāi tārā. Māmā, `e ā?
6. a) Kā tuku au ki`ea?  
b) Tukuna atu ki roto i te pirīti
7. a) Mānea tā`au umu-uira. Nō`ea mai  
tā`au?  
b) Nō raro `ua atu i kō
8. a) `Ē mamao mei kōnei atu?  
b) Kāre. Mei te rua-`ānere mita rai  
pa`a i te mamao.  
c) , vaiata `ua mai i reira, `e ā?  
d) e, kāre i mamao roa
9. a) Nō `ea tā`au tiāki-uira?  
b) Nō kō mai i te toa `oko-pātē  
i te taoni.
10. a) `E a`a te au mea e oko-pātē `iā ra?  
b) `Ō, `e `apinga tikāi!

#### Conversational

1. a) Good morning to you.  
Whose purse/wallet is this?  
b) Oh! good morning.  
That's my purse
2. a) Where did you find it?  
b) I found it under the bed/chair/sofa  
etc
3. a) How much did your table cost?  
b) Only seventy dollars
4. a) What's in your paper-bag?  
b) Oranges, lemons and some  
tomatoes.
5. a) How much (were they)?  
b) Only one dollar. Cheap, eh?
6. a) Where shall I put them?  
b) Put them into the fridge
7. a) You have a nice electric-oven.  
Where did you get it from?  
b) Just from down there
8. a) Is it far from here?  
b) No. Its only about 200 metres  
away.  
c) Ah, its quite close then, eh?  
d) Yes, its not that far
9. a) Wheres your electric-jug from?  
b) From the shop having sales in  
town.
10. a) What things are on sale?  
b) Oh, lots of them!

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## TENDER



Ministry of Marine Resources  
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

### TENDER NOTICE

The Ministry of Marine Resources invites tenders to provide an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of discarded pearl farming equipment and other debris within Manihiki Lagoon, and a Feasibility/Cost Benefit Study into the removal and disposal of any significant pollutants. This is a bilateral funded programme for the Cook Islands Pearl Industry Revitalisation between the Cook Islands Government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Aid Programme.

The Tender Document is available on [www.procurement.gov.ck](http://www.procurement.gov.ck) and relevant resource documents are available electronically from <http://1drv.ms/1rjWgDm>. Tenders close at 2pm on Monday 3rd November 2014, and must be submitted in the tender box located at the Ministry of Marine Resources Office in Tutakimoa, Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands, in accordance with the specific requirements of the tender document. Interested contractors are encouraged to register their interest.

All enquiries to be directed to:

Contact Officer: Dorothy Solomona

Telephone: (+682) 28721

Email: [d.solomona@mmr.gov.ck](mailto:d.solomona@mmr.gov.ck)

# EAT LESS

# MOVE MORE

HEART FOUNDATION

# Te Mana o te Ra project opening



## Mrs Rattle deserves a better job than Speaker

By Charles Pitt

To those listening in to the first session of Parliament after the July general election and the 48th session of parliament since the first session in 1965, the business of the House did not go well.

After 49 years of parliament, members still do not have a good grasp of the Constitution and Standing Orders.

From the Clerk's tone at the outset, it appeared some urgency was necessary to progress matters within a compressed time frame brought about by the QR's absence in Mauke at the Manea

Games, and the late hour, 5pm.

It was clear there were to be no "hold ups."

As a consequence several important Standing Orders were not complied with by the Speaker. The Speaker allowed herself to be caught up in the drama unfolding in the House with points of order and motions. She needed to put her foot down and demand "order."

She needed to remind members of the requirements of Standing Orders and put the business of the house onto the correct footing.

The Speaker needed to firmly

establish her "independence" and "control."

It is disappointing and difficult to accept that the nation's prime institution has come so far but is still lacking in adherence to procedure and decorum.

The position of Speaker is not one to assign to just anyone. Whatever possessed the PM to nominate Mrs Rattle we will not know. His intentions may well have been honourable but it should be remembered that even a top All Black will not necessarily make a good coach.

After 49 years, it should have

become clear to members and Prime Ministers, what type of person makes a good Speaker. There are sufficient previous examples to draw upon.

Norman George for instance, was an excellent Speaker.

Mrs Rattle is a fine individual, intelligent, respected internationally however her skills and attributes would be better utilized by government elsewhere. For example, she would make a good roving Ambassador to represent our nation at important overseas events and meetings like at the UN or Commonwealth meetings.