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# A hotel project with benefits

*The proposed comprehensive development project to establish a chain of five –six star boutique hotels on Rarotonga and 11 outer islands will provide direct benefits for all levels of society*

*By Charles Pitt*

It's a unique tourism development scheme with a refreshing difference and it may signify a way forward for future development in the Cook Islands where unlike the present, all levels of Cook Islands society will benefit in a direct way as opposed to an indirect way.

The project proposes a five-six star hotel chain with a flagship hotel on Rarotonga and boutique hotels on 11 outer islands.

At present, major hotels are largely owned by non Cook Islanders. Local landowners benefit from land rentals and goodwill and if lucky, a small share of the profits. Locals benefit from employment opportunities but a disincentive for locals is the low pay rates. Hence many jobs are filled by overseas labour. Local producers benefit from sales to hotels. The economy and the general public benefit indirectly from taxation however, this benefit is stunted by the fact some hotels hold overseas bank accounts in which an estimated \$40 million sits avoiding our tax man.

The comprehensive development project is a visionary concept promoted by local development group Merchants of Paradise. In a nutshell, this project is a joint venture with China and totally funded by China. The Chinese will also provide labour for a major part of the project. While China will put up all the funds, the Merchants of Paradise input is the vision, the development plan, local liaison.

China will hold a 50 per cent share. The Cook Islands component will hold 50 per cent.

Making this project attractive for the Chinese is that their projected return



on investment will see them recover their investment within ten years based on an occupancy rate of 68%. Of the Cook Islands 50 percent, landowners will hold 25% and the developers (MOP) will hold 25%. A tithe (dividend) of 10% will be paid to the Traditional Leaders, the Island Council, sports bodies, Religious Advisory Council, and the Cultural body (to be formed).

Merchants of Paradise is made up of Cook Islanders committed to seeing the country advance and reduce its reliance on overseas aid. Upon completion the hotels will offer employment at close to NZ basic wage level (\$14 an hour). The company also wants to see a significant portion of future major developments owned by Cook Islanders and not overseas interests who drain finance out of the country.

While Chinese labour will perform most of the construction and finishing touches, there will still be a significant share of work for local companies and local

labour. During the construction phase an independent project management company will be brought in to manage the project.

While the Chinese are expected to scope the project, hotel size, design and layout will be by agreement with the Island Council and people. It is envisaged that the hotels will have no more than 30 rooms with Atiu possibly 50 rooms.

When completed, it is proposed that the hotel chain be managed by an international hotel management company such as Hilton. This ensures the hotels are away from government control.

So as not to put any strain on local infrastructure, each hotel will come with its own renewable energy generation plant, water supply and waste management facilities. Excess energy and water will be also available for the local supply system. Drought will not pose a factor with water to be provided by way of a desalination plant. This will also benefit the islands in times of drought.

The comprehensive nature

of this project includes contracting local growers to supply specific produce-vegetables, fruits, fish,-to the hotels. Growers will be assisted financially to establish market gardens, acquire a fishing boat, set up fish farms. Excess produce will be sold locally and/or sent to Rarotonga.

The joint venture with China is strategic in that it aims to avail itself of the very latest in Chinese technology in the areas of renewable energy and agricultural and fishing techniques and equipment.

In Penrhyn and Manihiki, the hotel development will include pearl farmers and will aim to assist the revival of the white and black pearl industries. Tourists will be able to involve themselves directly in aspects of pearl farming activity and purchase pearls at source.

With a significant interest in the project, China is expected to promote the hotel chain to its people.

Still to be announced by Merchants of Paradise are the new air and sea services. Which will support the hotels.

# On the horns of a dilemma

By Charles Pitt

Prime Minister Henry Puna has an important decision to make. You see, at this moment, he is sitting on the horns of a dilemma. Should he resign and step down gracefully while still at the "top" or wait until the last petition (Vaipae) is decided by the Court of Appeal, and decide his fate then?

Whispers are the Cook Islands party rank and file are contemplating a change in leadership and party executive.

Under Henry Puna's leadership, the Cook Islands Party promised much. That promise bore fruit at the 2010 elections.

The Cook Islands Party took over government with a healthy majority of 16 seats to the Demo Party's 8 seats. PM Puna

had the two thirds majority required to affect amendments to the Constitution.

However, it was not to be as first Norman George left the Party to join the Demos followed by Bishop and Maggie who left and formed the One Cook Islands Movement.

An ill fated decision to tax those receiving the NZ pension and later the local old age pension greatly affected the party's popularity. This was a party which was traditionally regarded as the guardian of the elderly.

A review of, then changes to the tax system are yet unproven in regard to effectiveness. Some say the exercise was flawed. The Cook Islands Party had no mandate from the wider public to make such comprehensive changes.

There is no dispute that the PM has worked hard to project the country as a credible participant in international affairs and on the world stage and this has earned him some kudos among other Pacific and international leaders however, the PM and his closest ally in Cabinet, his Finance Minister, have much ground to make up in terms of popularity at home.

What are the PM's options?

1. Do nothing-wait for both Mitiaro and Vaipae to be decided:

This means waiting for Court decisions. Vaipae could end up going to a by-election. The risk is the Demos could take both seats and form a government in partnership with One Cook Islands.

2. Call a new General Election:

Don't wait for the Appeal

Court decision on Vaipae, call a fresh election. The risk is this may not be popular as many may see this as a move by Puna to save his own bacon. The QR may ask the PM to wait for the Court's decision.

3. Do a deal with One Cook Islands:

Puna could negotiate a deal with One Cook Islands. The risk is that if accepted, the deal may not be popular among all the party and caucus.

What will be on the PM's mind is recent past history. If dissatisfaction among the rank and file arises, the PM may be forced to face a leadership challenge. If he is replaced as leader, he won't be in a position where he can retire "while at the top." Former Demo PM Sir Terepai Maoate found it very difficult to come back from the wilderness.

## Festive Season New Hope Love Offering

The leaders of the New Hope Church felt it was appropriate to offer support and encouragement to several Non-government Organisations that has been assisting our people especially the disadvantaged, the least privileged, the needy, and others.

Through their love offering of \$500 each to the Creative Centre; Are Pa Metua; Te Vaerua Rehabilitation Centre; and Te Kainga Mental Health the Church hope that this small gesture which was gifted in the "Spirit of the Festive Season" would contribute in a small way to the programmes of the recipients during this festive period and beyond.

In addition, a love offering of \$5,000 was also gifted in the "Spirit of Love and Compassion" to the Catholic Church for the challenges that the Church and the schools on Rarotonga are currently facing.

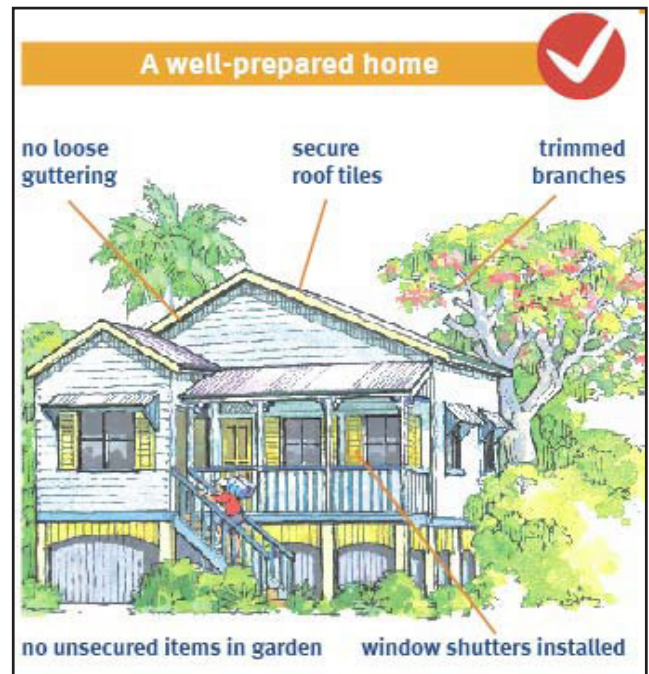
Another sum of \$500 each was also gifted as love offering to Pastors Lai and Flint of the Assembly of God Church who will soon be travelling abroad for the purposes of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Like the Philippians Church in the New Testament, the New Hope Church is not a wealthy Church, but whatever blessings the Lord provides the Church through its members these are channeled to those who need help and also to enable church members to be partners in Ministry for the purposes of God.

Through the Senior Pastor of the New Hope Church John Tangi, the members and friends, wish everyone Good Health, Prosperity, Peace and Joy during this Christmas period and the New Year 2015. God bless.



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# PM to open Rakahanga power project

The Prime Minister set out for Rakahanga Tuesday morning with a small delegation for the opening of the island's newly-completed solar power project. Rakahanga's conversion to renewable energy for electricity is the first of the Northern Group islands to be completed, and in line with the Government's 2010 declaration of RE targets. The opening of the project is scheduled for Wednesday afternoon. The Prime Minister's party will arrive in Manihiki Tuesday and travel to Rakahanga on Wednesday morning. He returns to Rarotonga on Saturday. According to reports from Rakahanga, the commissioning of the solar project has been very positive and the system is working well. The Northern Group project contractors are in preparations in Pukapuka where work is progressing toward an anticipated completion later this month.-PM Media release

## Revving up with renewable energy

The Northern Group atoll of Rakahanga is now powered by renewable solar energy.

Prime Minister Henry Puna, accompanied by Joseph Mayhew from the New Zealand High Commission, will officially commission the island's new solar hybrid mini-system power grid on Wednesday this week.

Rakahanga is just the first island to be completed under TeHuiraNaturakitePaeTokerau (Northern Group Renewable Energy Project). The project will see similar systems completed in Pukapuka, Nassau, Palmerston, Manihiki and Penrhyn.

"The systems are designed to provide at least 90% renewable electricity, and the project shows what can be achieved with great team work and a shared ambition to reach the government's renewable energy targets", said New Zealand High Commissioner H.E. Joanna Kempkers

The completion of the Rakahanga power system demonstrates that world-class renewable energy projects can be built even in the remotest locations in the Cook Islands, and that local contractors have a vital role to play in their success.

The Rarotonga Airport Project (Te Mana o te Ra) was also recently completed under the supervision of head contractor Infratec (with the support of local contractors Andersons Electrical and Mike Rennie Builders).

Together Te Mana o Te Ra and Te HuiraNaturakitePaeTokerau form a \$22.5m commitment from New Zealand to the Cook Islands renewable energy targets. The projects are both funded by New Zealand under the EU-NZ Energy Access Partnership for the Pacific.

Both projects have been overseen by a joint Cook Islands / New Zealand project steering group that today reported that Te Mana o te Ra has already prevented 200 tonnes of carbon

dioxide (CO2) being emitted into the atmosphere.

"Since October, the airport project has generated 215MWh of electricity from the sun, which is the equivalent of saving almost 60,000 L of diesel or \$120,000", said Elizabeth Wright-Koteka, the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff. "That's a phenomenal saving in less than 2 months."

The main contractor in the Northern Group, PowerSmart, finished the Rakahanga project last week, and is now putting on the finishing touches before the opening on Wednesday the 3rd December. But already the system is generating 6% more energy than the island is using.

In parallel, a large renewable

energy system on Pukapuka system is also nearing completion with the solar panels and the powerhouse being finished in the next few weeks. "Pukapuka is a much larger project", said Wright-Koteka, "as there is a whole new electricity network to install, and household wiring to complete, in addition to the installation of solar equipment. The electrical work has now been done and we plan to have the system up and running, on the diesel generator, before Christmas, for the whole island to enjoy."

Equipment for the Nassau and Palmerston solar systems has now been dropped off by the ship the Tiare Moana, and

in early 2015 a further voyage will take all remaining electrical equipment to those two islands as well as civil and electrical equipment to Manihiki and Penrhyn.

"The construction process has, so far, gone well but it is important to remember that renewable energy is not free, and that the infrastructure will need to be well maintained, if the benefits are to last", said High Commissioner Kempkers. "We are honoured to have gone on this journey with the Cook Islands Government and we are committed to helping the Cook Islands make real progress towards lessening their dependency on imported petroleum." Kempkers added.

Name	What	Facts
Te Mana o te Ra (Rarotonga Airport Project)	1MW solar project connected to the Rarotonga grid	Completed in mid-October 2014 and now providing 5% of Rarotonga's annual electricity demand. Generation starts at sunrise, before 7am, and peaks at midday, but is obviously lower when it is cloudy.
HuiraNaturakeTokerau (Northern Group renewable energy project)	Rakahanga renewable energy system	Already providing 60kW of power in the middle of the day, and avoided over 1 tonne of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions in the first week of operation. Will be officially opened on 3 December.
	Pukapuka renewable energy system	Large system and entire new electricity distribution network. Aiming to have the network and diesel generator operating before Christmas with the solar array to follow.
	Palmerston renewable energy system	Civil equipment recently offloaded, with completion of both systems due in early 2015.
	Nassau renewable energy system	
	Manihiki renewable energy systems	Two renewable energy systems being built, one in Tukao and one in Tauhunu. The next voyage of the Tiare Moana will take equipment for construction to commence. Systems aiming to be commissioned by May 2015.
	Penrhyn renewable energy systems	Two renewable energy systems being built, one in Omoka and the other in Te Tautua. Construction due to be completed by May 2015.



*Cook Islands*  
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Nikao Maori School Prizegiving

## Families in need? Why?

By Charles Pitt

**A**round 1,000 Christmas boxes will be distributed prior to Christmas this year to families in need on Rarotonga and the outer islands.

Unlike last year, when some boxes went to the southern group islands, this year, the northern group will be included.

While this is a wonderful gesture in the spirit of giving, the question which arises, is, why is any family or individual in need when government reformed the tax system to make things better for those on lower incomes?

The tax free threshold was raised by \$1,000 to \$11,000.

The old age pension was increased for those over 60 years and over 70 years.

The minimum wage was increased by \$1 to \$6 an hour.

There were other welcomed but minor increases to some welfare payments.

The simple fact is the increase in VAT from 12.5% to 15%, the taxing of the old age pensions (local and NZ) together with the lack of any control on prices, has

seen the cost of living increase and word is there are families and individuals who are finding it hard to make ends meet.

The VAT increase was deceptive. Outer islanders were already paying up to a third more for goods than those on Rarotonga due to increased freight rates. Their increase in take home pay failed to close the gap.

Noticeable on Rarotonga, is the increase in the number of householders selling produce by the roadside. The number of persons fishing off the reef and seeking sea food in the lagoon has risen. There are petty thefts of produce from plantations.

Several churches now report they are distributing more food parcels a month to needy families than two years ago.

Government needs to pay close attention to what is happening in our society or the Finance Minister will lose more than just the hair on his head and his Finance Secretary will have egg on his face along with the beard he is growing.





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## Public Notice and Declaration

Dated 20 November 2014 Ref/Rarotonga Waterworks Ordinance, s3 (see table on next page)

Rarotonga public water supply is provided by intake sites located around Rarotonga on 12 streams: Avana, Turangi, Papua, Avatiu, Takuvaine, Matavera, Tupapa, Ngatote, Taipara, Rutaki, Totokoitu, and Muriavai.

As part of Te Mato Vai Project most of these intakes and their trunk mains have been recommended for refurbishment and replacement. In addition, treatment works and storage reservoirs are required to be installed to improve public water supply into the ringmains that distribute water around the island to the public.

**Invitation to Land Owners** - The Government seeks the support of land owners of the parcels affected by the

proposed construction works. The Government intends to host meetings with affected land owners.

Where possible, invitations will be delivered to land owners to attend. Invitation may also be published in the newspaper and on television. All attendees must provide confirmation of their status as land owners in order to gain entry to the meeting.

Affected land owners are invited to register their interest in meeting with the Government to discuss the proposed construction works. You can register your interest by contacting **Peggy Turua, Te Mato Vai Project Management Unit Office, CCECC Compound, Avarua** - Telephone + 682 28851 email [peggy@kew.com.ws](mailto:peggy@kew.com.ws)

Map showing the proposed location for construction works is available from the **Te Mato Vai Project Management Unit office, CCECC Compound, Avarua**

Any objection to the use of water or land in the manner specified in this notice may be lodged by any person within 90 days of the date of this notice to: Hon Minister Heather, Minister for ICI

C/- Te Mato Vai Project Management Unit Office, CCECC compound, Avarua, Rarotonga

Signed  


Honorable Teariki Heather  
Deputy Prime Minister

Minister for Infrastructure Cook Islands

# Cook Islands to join global climate change talks in Peru

The Cook Islands will be joining over 15,000 delegates at the 20th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Lima, Peru from 1 to 12 December this year.

The annual gathering that brings together all Parties to negotiate a global agreement on climate change is of strong significance for the Pacific islands who collectively contribute to less than 0.03% of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions however are amongst the most vulnerable to the impacts. The Cook Islands is amongst these.

"We have several key agenda items that we will be following," said Ms. Ana Tiraa, Head of the Climate Change Division and the Cook Islands delegation attending the UNFCCC COP 20.

"This coming conference is very complex with many different agenda threads all being negotiated at the same time, but for us we have very specific issues to follow, issues which impact our nation directly."

Loss and Damage, Climate Change Financing, Adaptation and the Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action will be followed by the Cook Islands delegation.

The members consist of Ms. Ana Tiraa, Office of the Prime Minister, Ms. Amelia Fukofuka, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration and Ms. Lavinia Tama, Ministry of Finance and Economic Management residing on Rarotonga. They will be joined by Cook Islanders residing in Samoa working for the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) - Ms. Diane McFadzien, Mr. Ewan Cameron and Ms. Nanette Woonton. Also to make up the delegation is Ms. Linda Siegele who has provided technical assistance to the delegation for many years.

"These agenda issues we will be negotiating on behalf of the Cook Islands may just seem like technical terminology however they have real implications on our people. Loss and Damage for example looks at impacts from extreme weather events and slow onset events such as sea level rise and ocean acidification," said Tiraa.

"These are impacts we feel but we are not the cause of them, so we are negotiating how best we can be accommodated for our loss caused now and losses that are to come as well as how to stop it from happening."

Another important agenda



Cook Islands Team to Peru

item followed by the Cook Islands is the Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action also known as the ADP. This is a new body under the climate change Convention to develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force applicable to all Parties that will help slow climate change. This new agreement will be considered for adoption by Parties at the 21st Conference of the Parties to be held in Paris 2015. The upcoming negotiations in Lima are important as it sets the foundation for Paris.

"Having the Cook Islands in

the room when these issues are being negotiated is important for our survival, we must persevere and be hopeful. While the results aren't immediate you must remember that climate change isn't immediate also - the impacts we are feeling now are from greenhouse gas emissions from over a hundred years ago. We must persevere to negotiate favourable outcomes for us all."

The 20th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is hosted in Lima, Peru from 1 - 12 December. For more information please visit [www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int).



# Public Notice and Declaration

Dated 20 November 2014 Ref/Rarotonga Waterworks Ordinance, s3

For each stream Government proposes the following construction works:

Intake	Parcel affected	Proposed construction works	Land area required	Proposed start date
Avana	9N (Turangaare)	Intake	35m2	February 2016
		Settling tank	235m2	
		Filtration device	210m2	
		Storage tanks	1,200m2	
	9K, 9N, 9J, 9I, 9G, 9E, 9F, 9C, 9A, 9B, 6Z, 6X, 6W, 6V, 6U2A, 6S, 6R, 6T, 6P, 6E, 6D	Pipeline replacement and access roads rehabilitation	Pipeline underground, access road per area shown on map	October 2015
Muriavai	No construction planned			
Rutaki	No construction planned			
Avatiu	109F, 109E, 109D1	Intake	78m2	June 2015
		Settling tank	235m2	
		Filtration device	170m2	
		Storage tanks	1,200m2	
	77B2B, 109E, 109D1, 109B	Pipeline replacement and access roads rehabilitation	Pipeline underground, access road per area shown on map	June 2015
Turangi	15L, 15M, 15N (Te Arapepe, Te Rua Kura, Ruamoana)	Intake	75m2	June 2015
		Settling tank	230m2	
		Filtration device	170m2	
		Storage tanks	1,300m2	
	15L, 15K, 15I, 15G, 15H, 15F, 15D, 15E, 15B, 15C, 15A, 14Z, 14Q, 14A, 13J, 13I, 13K	Pipeline replacement and access roads rehabilitation	Pipeline underground, access road per area shown on map	June 2015
Matavera	15A (Ngaoro)	Intake	35m2	June 2015
		Settling tank	325m2	
		Filtration device	180m2	
		Storage tanks	160m2	
	15A, 15C, 14Y, 14X, 14V, 14U, 14T, 14S, 14Q, 14P, 14O, 14G, 14H	Pipeline replacement and access roads rehabilitation	Pipeline underground, access road per area shown on map	June 2015
Tupapa	129G, 129H (Noakoa, Te Au, Uka)	Intake	35m2	June 2015
		Settling tank	230m2	
		Filtration device	170m2	
		Storage tanks	160m2	
	129G, 129F, 129E, 129D, 129C, 129A1, 129A3, 128I, 129A2, 127M2, 127M1	Pipeline replacement and access roads rehabilitation	Pipeline underground, access road per area shown on map	June 2015
Taipara	24B (Tuikatoti)	Intake	75m2	February 2016
		Settling tank	240m2	
		Filtration device	170m2	
			24B, 24A, 21B, 21A2, 22LOT3	
	24B, 24A, 21B, 21A2, 21A1D, 21A1C, 21A1B	Access roads rehabilitation	Pipeline underground, access road per area shown on map	April 2015
Totokoitu	25B (Totokoitu ki uta)	Intake	75m2	February 2016
		Settling tank	235m2	
		Filtration device	170m2	
			25A, 23C, 23A, 26B1, 26B3B, 23B	
	25A, 23C, 23A, 23B	Access road rehabilitation	Pipeline underground, access road per area shown on map	April 2015
Papua	4A (Papua ki uta)	Intake	35m2	February 2016
		Settling tank	235m2	
		Filtration device	180m2	
		Storage tanks	1000m2	
	4A	Pipeline replacement and access roads rehabilitation	Pipeline largely underground, access road per area shown on map	April 2015
Takuvaine	116, 117, 119	Intake	35m2	January 2015
		Settling tank	240m2	
		Filtration device	120m2	
		Storage tanks	700m2	
Ngatoe	Uninvestigated	Intake	35m2	February 2016
		Settling tank	230m2	
		Filtration device	170m2	
		Storage tanks	900m2	
	91H4, 91H3, 91H2B	Pipeline replacement and access roads rehabilitation	Pipeline underground, access road per area shown on map	TBA



# Nikao Maori School has final Prizegiving

Tuesday evening saw the Nikao Mapri School has its final Prizegiving at the Nikao Hall in Tepuka. This will be the closing of a chapter in the history of the school and the merging of Avatea and Nikao accompanied with the construction of the new open learning school premises.





# The China Experience *Part 2*

*A three part story on the recent Joint Pacific Press Delegation to China from the 13th to the 20th of November by the Cook Islands Herald Layout Design Artist turned Journalist Nga Glassie.*



On the way from the Airport in Guangzhou

## Guangzhou Leg

**A**fter leaving Beijing at about 9.00am, the three hour flight to Guangzhou city in the Guangdong province was good, we flew business class. We touched down in Guangzhou and although we had just had a meal while in the air, went for a late lunch at the Pullman Hotel which was literally next door to the airport. After a 40 minute drive to our hotel, The Victory Hotel of Guangzhou, we picked up our room cards and were told to just drop off everything in our room and jump back on the bus as we were off to the Canton Tower, the world's third tallest building. Standing at 600 metres tall it towers over the Guangzhou City area and

has won two Guinness World Records. I jumped into the lift and rode it to the 108 floor, took a few pictures of the surrounding area and even went on the glass walkway at 430 metres above ground. From the Tower we had dinner with the Director of Foreign Affairs in Guangzhou, the meal was great.

After Dinner, some of the delegation members and I went for a stroll around our block. In Beijing, we were in the middle of the area and there were many shops around. In Guangzhou, there was a 7/11 store, and some small stalls and that was it. We have a river next to our hotel, but that looks really polluted. The water is brown. Victory Hotel is ok, the rooms have been upgraded and the shower is somewhat smaller than Beijing, but I am only here

for another 24 hours, I can't wait to get out of my room. As I write this, I am waiting on the rest of my colleagues to arrive from breakfast and the Foreign Affairs personnel are doing their sound checks for our meeting that will commence in the next fifteen minutes.

We visited a fishing company in the province after our lunch and meeting with the Foreign Affairs guys of Guangzhou, it has ties to Fiji with a processing plant and boats stationed there. We spent some time in the administration building, the docking area for the boats on the wharf and the processing plant. After the fish plant visit we decided to split up and go shopping. I was accompanied by one of the two translators, Linda (Song Xintao) who took us to a shopping mall. Before arriving to the mall we stopped at China

Unicom, a telecommunications company to purchase a new sim card for my phone.

So after an hour of shopping, we decided to take the subway to the closest point near our hotel and walk the rest of the way. The subway was a great experience I thought seeing the busy streets in Auckland CBD and thinking that was packed, well I was wrong, The China subways are so packed that I spent half the ride time wondering how we all fitted in the subway car. After nine stops on the subway that was really crowded by any standards and a short five minute walk...we were back at our hotel, Dinner was late as we arrived a short while before the kitchen closed. After a good meal of a Burger, Fries and a glass of Orange Juice it was off to my room for packing to catch the early morning flight to Shanghai.



# The China Experience *Part 2*



Victory Hotel in Guangzhou City.



River way at Guangzhou



Canton Tower





Canton Tower, 108th Floor, 433.2 metres in the air

Observation Deck of the Canton Tower







Pacific Delegation with Foreign Affairs Staff in Guangzhou





# A fun-tastic week

By Nadia George

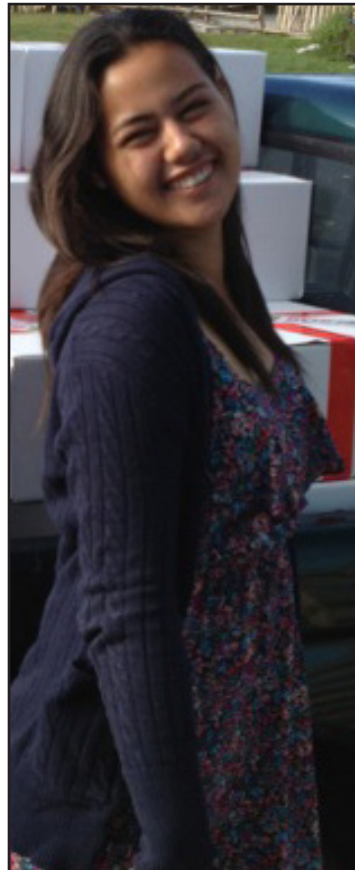
Nothing can compare to the rush of excitement one feels when they're out on the water battling it out for the title of best paddler(s), whether it be by themselves or with a full paddling crew.

Last week saw the annual Vaka Eiva Paddling festival run for its eleventh year and was a full jam packed week of hectic weather, challenging water conditions, races after races and most importantly, a bucket load of fun that was had by all. With this being my second Eiva experience I was determined to make the most of it with my crew, the Ngakau Toa Juniors.

However, not many junior teams from overseas had participated in this year's event, which was a little depressing for some of us but we were all set to do our best and come out on top. Another exciting and new aspect of this years Eiva festival was the GPS gadgets that they had attached to each boat that went out on the water for all the singles and six man iron vaka canoe races. That was a real wow factor for everyone, myself included, as we were able to keep track of our favorite teams progress while they were out on the water competing to take home the gold.

The best day of my 2014 Eiva experience would have to have been the Mapu Oe Vaka day that was held out in the Muri lagoon for all the junior sprints and long distance races. What a challenge it was for everyone out there on the day as the conditions were terrible but neither wind, rain nor rough seas could dampen our spirits and our determination to race and compete. V3, v1 and v6 races were in full swing throughout the day however the racecourse had kept changing over time due to the horrible weather, but like I said, neither rain nor wind could dampen our oe vaka spirits.

Finishing up the day with a long awaited kaikai at Staircase



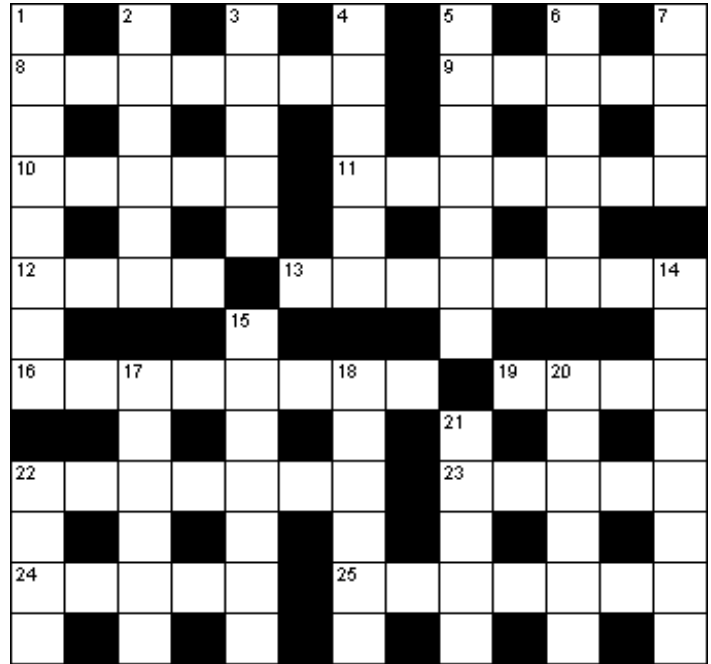
Restaurant and bar, all the Mapu paddlers attend for the Mapu prize giving and the honor of claiming their well-earned medals and prizes.

Wrapping up the week's events saw the completion of all v6 iron challenge races and of course the prized 'Round Raro Relay' Race. An exciting event to watch and be apart for those lucky few. With more than twenty crews out on the water battling it out on a course of 36 kilometers, this course surely was a crowd pleaser and nail-biting race.

The fun-tastic week of paddling and comradery ended with another prize giving that included both senior and junior prizes and of course the annual 'Paddles Up' wrap up party that saw live band entertainers playing great music and awesome company. Did I mention that there was also yummy food as well?

What an amazing week of paddling and testing conditions. Here's to another successful Vaka Eiva Event made possible by all the officials and organizers of this year. Bring on 2015.

## CROSSWORD



**Across**

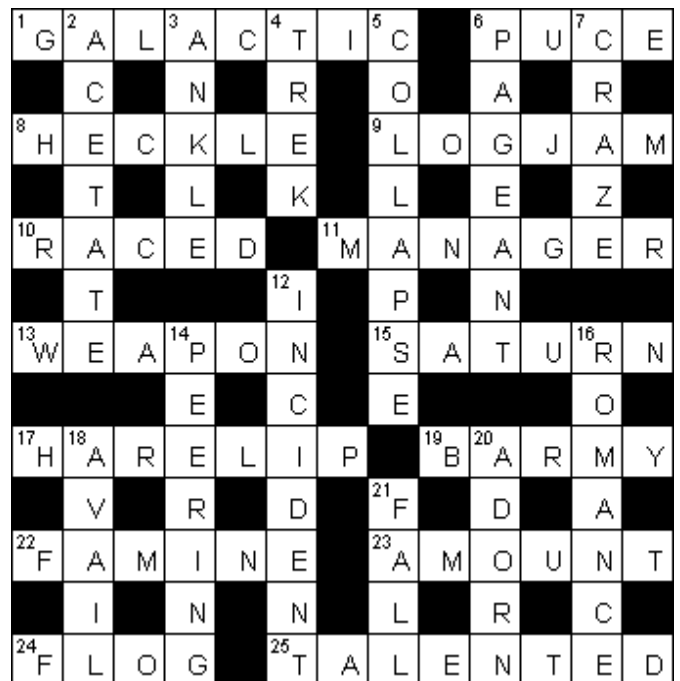
- 8. Pear-shaped fruit
- 9. Capital of Vietnam
- 10. Religious recluses
- 11. Foretell
- 12. Having eyes
- 13. Deeply respectful
- 16. One who surveys
- 19. Injure
- 22. Holy
- 23. Easy pace
- 24. Move to and fro
- 25. Make larger

**Down**

- 4. Dead body
- 5. Having wheels
- 6. Immature
- 7. Wither
- 14. Tied up
- 15. Dizzying sensation
- 17. Dried grape
- 18. One-fifth of the atmosphere
- 20. Not yet born
- 21. Each day
- 22. Scarf

**Down**

- 1. Innocuous
- 2. Spring suddenly
- 3. Stern





# Vaka Eiva 2014 comes to a close

By Courtney Matai

The closing of the Vaka Eiva 2014 took place at the Avarua harbor last week Friday with spectators enjoying the mix races and having a few to drink and eat at Trader Jacks. Paddlers from the Ngakau toa team and volunteers were there throughout the whole of the vaka eiva event to assist with bringing and taking the canoes/vaka's into the harbor for the next race.

Also present at the Vaka Eiva was the Red Cross team who assisted with injured paddlers coming in after their races. Almost every day, you would find an ambulance making its way to and from the Vaka Eiva.

While paddlers were out on the water, spectators watched their (Canoes) from the flat screen provided which showed where exactly they were positioned from the satellite. Fans and supporters would gather around the monitor to see how their team was doing in the race before heading back to browse around the few stalls selling on the day.

From the mix races, Ngakau toa came out triumphantly, winning silver/second place in the mix races.

Along the shoreline of Rarotonga, people dining or relaxing on the beach could see the races, as the Canoes made their way to a certain point before turning and heading back towards the finish line at the Avarua Harbor.

Overall, everyone enjoyed the Vaka Eiva despite winning or losing as it was a great event despite the numbers of paddlers that participated.





# Vaka Eiva mini market

By Poko Utia

It was a rainy day down at the Avarua harbour but the wet weather didn't seem a problem to the vendors selling their products. There were some lovely bikinis, pearls and crafts. The food on offer ranged from chicken rolls, waffles and sandwiches. The popular items on sale were the caps and bikinis. Due to the wet weather the vendors didn't exactly get the large crowd they expected but were pleased to sit and wait for people to come. Everyone there had big bright smiles as customers came to their stall and were very helpful. The majority of the crowd was seated around a TV set watching the race on TV.





# TE REO MAORI



## Tēta`i Au Kōrero Pakari ā tō tātou `Ui-Tūpuna

Some Wise Sayings of our Ancestors

E mānganui `uātu rāi te au Kōrero Pakari, te au Tuatua ta`ito `ē te au Mānakonako`anga `o`onu ā tō tātou `Ui-tupuna te kā riro `ei tauturu i tō tātou au `akakoro`anga `ē te kaveinga tau tā tātou e umuumu nei. Te vaī ra, te vaī ra `ē te vaī ra kia māro`iro`i tātou i te kimi makitoro atu.

### Tātā`ia e Ruteru Taripo

#### `Utia te kura-ora, avai`o te kura-mate

Pull up the sacred emblem of life, but touch not the sacred emblem of death

#### Kano e, kanokano atu ki te paerangi

Move, and move onward steadily to the horizon

#### Kaura! Kaura! Kaura tapu vananga

Reveal! Reveal the sacred teaching

#### E ra kurakura teia, kua nakenakea mai

This is a bright clear day; it makes one cheerful and happy

#### Mātiketike! Mārangaranga! Ka roko`ia koe `e te pō kino, `e te pō `ara, `e te pō tapu, `āitu ē, e ara!

Arise! Be alert! Lest you be tempted by the evil night, the sinful night, the sacred night! Take care! [A saying of Encouragement]

#### Tēnā pa`a tei i ā koe, `akiā mai! Tikiri-rī!

Perhaps you have it! Give it your all! Tikiri-rī

#### `Ei tō rima rāi te rapa i tō `0e.

In your hands is the blade of your oar

#### Korokoromaki, E aruaru mārie atu rāi

Persevere and strive on relentlessly

#### Pākau rikiriki tei tae ki Ārangi-Rea, ākā `ua ia

What little that arrives at Ārangi-Rea is totally adequate (Arangi-rea is a marae)

#### E kariko pao ngatā

A shell in the sea that is very hard to crack –representing:

A very stubborn person

#### Moemoeā panako

The small fish which never properly goes to sleep

Be wary, watchful, wide awake, hard to beat

#### A`aere marie e aku pōtiki kia kite koe i ngā inapōtea

Go quietly my sons, so that you may see many moonlight

Go slowly and be careful so you may live longer



# How God meet your needs his way *part 1*

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

**M**any people including Christians have a lot of needs and some of these needs are not being met. We must understand that every promise of God has a condition. In Philippians 4v.19 it reads "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

Many people including Christians want to take this promise of God in v.19 and apply it to their lives while avoiding the conditions in v.14-18. The "promise" is Gods part and the "conditions" are our part. In other words God want us to do certain things before the "promise" applies. In order to understand and appreciate these verses let us look at the "Conditions" in v.14-18.

First, we must be generous to others. Proverbs 11v.25 reads "A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." When we are generous to others, God will be generous with us. He will bless us! Luke 6v.38, "Give to others, and God will give to you...The measure you use for others is the one God will use for you." If we are mean (karapii) then we are blocking the flow of Gods blessings in our lives and our families.

The Apostle Paul gives us three reasons why we should be generous:

1) Our Giving Encourages others.

Philippians 4v.14-16 reads "It was good of you to share in my troubles... as you Philippians know, in the early days .... not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only, for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need." The Philippian church was not a wealthy Church. Yet they were a generous and a giving Church. Paul said their gift encouraged him. Giving is

an encouragement. Both the giver and the receiver, receives a blessing and encouragement. The Philippians had a reputation for Generosity. In II Corinthians 8v.24, Paul calls them an example for the rest of the world. They gave out of their poverty. The Church had such a reputation for giving, that even more than 2,000 years later (now-a-days) we still talk about the Philippian Church.

2) Our Giving Is An Investment In The Future.

In Philippians 4v.17 Paul said "though I appreciate your gifts, what makes me happiest is the well-earned reward you will have because of your kindness." Giving benefits the giver as well as the receiver. Jesus said 100 fold will be returned to him who gives up for the gospel. (Matthew 19v.29; Mark 10v.29-30) In Philippians 4v.17 Paul says "I want you to receive the reward for your giving." GN Bible ". I want to see profit added to your account" We have an account in Heaven. God is recording everything we do. If you don't invest, don't expect a reward! Store up treasure in heaven by giving for the gospel and for those in need! I Timothy 6v.18-19 (LB) "...Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven -- it is the only safe investment for eternity!" God's bank never goes bankrupt.

3) Our Giving is a Sacrifice to God

Paul said in v.18 "I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God." Jesus Christ gave sacrificially for you and I. When you give sacrificially, generously, or even sharing

## Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



with others, you are becoming more and more like Christ. And it pleases God. Paul said the gift the Philippians sent him is equivalent to a gift to God. Jesus said, "In as much as you have done unto the least of these, my brethren, you have done it unto Me." (Matthew 25v.40). An act of generosity in our life is seen as a sacrifice to God. That's why Paul said it is important to be a Giver. There

are two kinds of people - the Givers! and the Takers! The happy people are the giving people. The condition comes before the promise. You can't claim v.19 unless you're doing v.18. Jesus said, be generous to others and God will be generous with you.

Next week we will look at the Promise of God in Philippians 4v.19.

God bless, te Atua te aroa.



# Final day for Vaka Eiva 2014 Photo by Poko Utia



## New approach works for Maori students

By Jonathan Carson- Waikato Times

Students at a Maori secondary school are achieving some of the highest academic results in the Waikato, outshining private schools and bucking national trends.

Nga Taiatea Wharekura, a decile 3 school in Rotokauri, Hamilton, has taken mainstream education, turned it on its head, and developed an approach to learning that caters to Maori.

And it's working.

Latest NCEA results show 88.1 per cent of year 11 students achieved level 1; 97.7 per cent of year 12 students gained level 2; and 96.7 per cent of year 13 students attained both level 3 and university entrance.

The results are some of the best in the Waikato, far higher than average figures for Maori students and decile 3 schools, and better than some private schools.

Principal Watson Ohia said lifting Maori achievement has to start with believing it's possible.

"You've got to ask the question whether our country, and whether our schools, believe that young Maori can achieve," he said. "We believe that they all can. We believe that they all want to."

"But it doesn't come from doing things like everybody else does them. If we were to repeat everything that happens in other schools we would get the same results."

Several initiatives at Nga Taiatea are driving success, Mr Ohia said.

A kaiarahi (mentor) is assigned to groups of 12 students and works as a link between the school and families to help develop and monitor individual learning plans. These goals include where they want to be up to 10 years after they have left school.

The school day is divided into three 100-minute classes, rather than the traditional five one-hour periods, and there are two lunch breaks in the morning and afternoon. Teachers run extra classes after school and on

weekends.

All students have to be able to speak te reo Maori, and the language, culture and heritage are integral to their learning.

A Tu Taua (Maori martial arts) lesson "has just as much prestige to us as a physics class".

There is a strong focus on cultural, physical, spiritual, academic and family wellbeing.

"I think that we're fortunate here because we can tailor our strategy for the students who come to us. We're built for those students, to serve those students and their families."

He said the mainstream education system in New Zealand was broken.

Nga Taiatea's academic record was proof that Maori could, and would, excel in school given the opportunity.

"I think schools are trying but you can't just do little changes to a strategy or the system. There needs to be transformational changes for transformational results," Mr Ohia said.

"The definition of insanity is doing the same thing and

expecting different results."

Most of the 270-plus students at the school are from poor families.

Many of them will be the first in their family to graduate from high school and go to university.

ADD IT UP

Overall Waikato Maori NCEA attainment 2012 (participation-based)

Level 1: 67.5 per cent of year 11 students

Level 2: 78.4 per cent of year 12 students

Level 3: 65.3 per cent of year 13 students

UE: 50.2 per cent of year 13 students

Nga Taiatea Wharekura NCEA attainment 2012 (participation-based)

Level 1: 88.1 per cent of year 11 students

Level 2: 97.7 per cent of year 12 students

Level 3: 96.7 per cent of year 13 students

UE: 96.7 per cent of year 13 students

Source: New Zealand Qualifications Authority



Something needs to be done to boost Vaka Eiva next year so we can attract some top overseas teams. Money needs to be put up for a series of races for prize money for professional teams. This will give our top teams some real stiff competition to put them to the test. Our Vaka Eiva is playing third fiddle to the Hawaiian and Tahitian events and this year the number of entrants was down on last year.



First it was the free drinking water chooks, then the public phone now the area is lit up Vegas style with Christmas lights! Well done the member for Tupapa! Now you can enjoy a refreshing glass of cool, clear water while talking on the phone to your stock broker while enjoying the flashing coloured lights! All in the presence of the local MP! Mr 500!



What fantastic presents will Santa be bringing the kids in Cabby-Net this Christmas? Heather Hiab will get a new toy remote controlled, GPS fitted, dump truck, Pambi Glassie is to get to play doctors and nurses with his own hospital kit complete with artificial ebola viruses, Brown Marks will get a Monopoly set complete with Chinese bank notes, Henri Poona will get a new suitcase and guitar for his travels, Moba Idone gets some model cruise ships to play with and Kilio Tupetu gets a battery operated, ride on, toy tractor!



Spotted on the goggle-box, a new high speed transport system to Mangaia! A newly built speed boat skippered by the Her-Man, complete with a new hair style and dark glasses! Last person to complete the fast paced journey was none other than druggie Mark Lyons. He



did it some years ago on a Sunday with the noise upsetting the locals!



Word is the Chinese may soon be sending a big plane with loads of wealthy Chinese tourists, direct from China to Fiji. Is there just the faintest possibility that aircraft could skip on over to the Cooks?



Perhaps government wants our donor partners to experience the "real thing." Why else would government schedule a visit by donor partners to Mitiaro during the worst part of the cyclone season? The part where every Met Office in the Pacific is predicting two or more cyclones! February!



It must be a world record worthy of entry into the "Guinness Book of Records" chooks. One of the world's smallest countries, the Cook Islands, still hasn't achieved an election result for six months! If one of the last two seats up for decision goes to a by election, then make that seven months! But! Both seats could still be subject to appeals depending on what happens next! Whisper is, one seat my end up the subject of an appeal to the Privy

Council in London!



The wallet bulging ADB wallahs are back to identify constraints to business development and to advise anyone who will listen, what to do to overcome such constraints! As if no-one here had any clues! We've already endured two economic development working party exercises and over 200 recommendations were made for business development. How many more times do we have to endure such exercises before someone listens? The ADB needs to focus its efforts on getting our politicians who lack the courage to think out of the square!



Seems there was a pow wov of business types among the bamboo recently for one local entrepreneur to raise support for his proposal for a cycle and skateboard park on reclaimed land adjacent to the market! What was unclear was who would benefit financially from this proposal. One chook reckoned the one who stands to make the dosh is the one who can provide cycles and skateboards to users! And who is that chooks? The one who organized the pow wov! Wonder if any of the cycles and skateboards are powered

by fossil fuel?

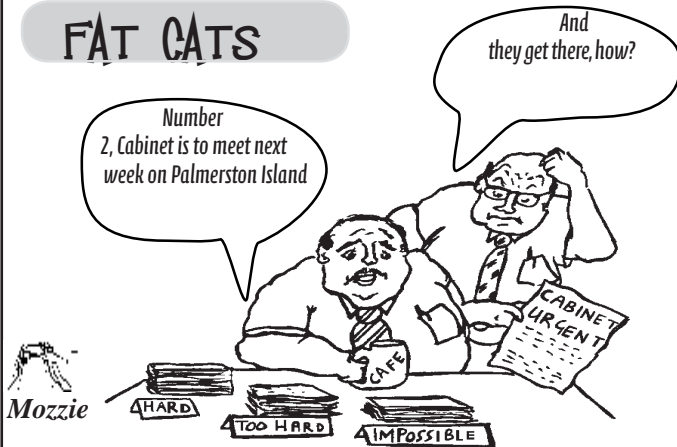


As part of a top secret dramatic political reform plan chooks, Cabinet is to get a huge shake up with new names for each Minister. Minister for Health will now be called Mr Touchy Feely, Minister for Infrastructure will now be called Mister Fix It, Minister for Foreign Affairs will now be called Mister Chinese Business and Loans, Minister for Internal Affairs will now be called Mister Local Knowledge, Minister for Agriculture will be called Mister Green Fingers, Minister for Education will be called Mister Know All. The Prime Minister will be called The Leader of the Band and the Deputy Prime Minister will be called Follow the Leader.

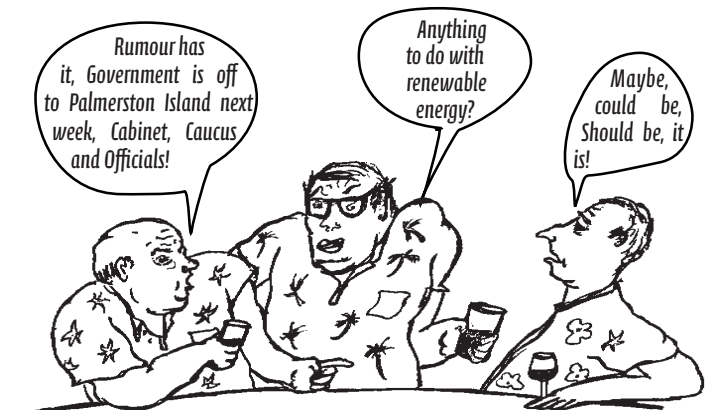


As early as next week government may announce drastic cut in the number of Public Servants. The Public Service numbers could be slashed in half. Those remaining will suffer a 70 per cent cut in pay and move to a three day week. This is expected to be met with some resistance but the PSC reports (from the 17th hole) that a highly paid overseas consultant has discovered following a six month survey that most Public Servants only work two hours a week. The other 38 hours are spent attending meaningless workshops, reading magazines and newspapers, roaming around town picking up rubbish or discarded underwear or nappies as part of some UN international day, driving to and from golf or the takeaway, flying to outer islands by chartered plane to deliver the mail, making endless cups of tea and coffee, attending to facebook, downloading movies or sitting in cafes all day chatting.

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE





# Senior Students at Mangaia College learn about the Global Implications of the Marine Park



Mangaia School senior students

The senior students of Mangaia College and their teachers were an enthusiastic audience for the Koutu Nui reps who were there to promote the message of conservation and how the ancient practice of Raui can be used in a 21st century context.

The presentation was designed to link Raui to the marine park and the students and teachers were astonished to discover that such an 'old fashioned' concept could still have application to the world of today.

They were astonished that

the Aronga Mana proposal to extend the 12 mile territorial sea area out to 50 nautical miles for the exclusive reserve for local fishing had been agreed to 'in principle' by the current Government after they learned that it had been officially endorsed by the House of Ariki in session at their recent annual general meeting.

The students were fascinated that international philanthropists were so interested in providing donor funding toward the marine park concept such as IUCN and Global Blue, Oceans 5,

Conservation International, Living Oceans and Global Environment Fund and UNDP, just to name a few.

For instance, that a Saudi prince had offered the use of his beautiful ship the Golden Shadow to take the marine reps to Palmerston in early 2013, or that the Waitt Foundation had sent their research vessel to take Cook Islands marine park scientists led by Teina Rongo, PhD on their research of the health of coral reefs in the Southern Group.

And while the students were familiar with the Marae

Moana concept, they had not realized that the EEZ of the Cook Islands was large nor that our marine park was linked to the global push under Oceanscape and of Big Oceans to try and declare up to 20 percent of the oceans of the world as marine protected areas.

Acting principal, Michael Papatua thanked the Koutu Nui reps for updating the school on the need for conservation and the update on the progress on the marine park. The team were Turi Mataiapo, Itaata Rangatira and Rio Rangatira.



# Mangaia Traditional Leader support the Rauai under the Marae Moana Marine Park



Ivirua Community Meeting

The traditional Aronga Mana of Mangaia have indicated their support of reviving Rauai in their island in support of the Marae Moana. That is the consensus of opinion amongst the Aronga Mana and community after taking part in a series of meetings with reps from the Koutu Nui working on the need to conserve the nature and how the ancient practice of Rauai can assist them to do so.

The Koutu Nui were taking part in the IUCN-Global Blue funded Rauai project intended to promote the use of the ancient wisdom of our ancestors in relation to Rauai as a way of protecting their natural resources and of conserving nature.

The initial meeting was with the traditional leaders of Mangaia and held on Monday 24 November at the palace of Numangatini Ariki where the chairman of the ui Kavana welcomed the tere party representing the House of Ariki and the Koutu Nui to Mangaia. The chairman has the traditional title of Pange Miro and has recently been appointed by Numangatini Ariki as her official mono in addition to his acting as the chairman of the ui Kavana.

He had arranged a series of meetings with the Aronga Mana and community in the three districts of Mangaia: Tamarua, Ivirua and Oneroa and also a visit to Mangaia College and address the senior students on the role of Rauai in the conservation of nature in Mangaia.

During the various meetings, such as when in Ivirua, it was said that the visit was a wakeup call for Mangaia to look more closely at their conservation efforts, instead of allowing the old ways of

Rauai to die away. Itaata told them of the saying that 'no man is an island' which in the context of the marine park, means that everyone should help in the cause and not leave it to others and that what affects others will eventually affect them too.

The leaders acknowledged that although Mangaia has a small population and at first sight, does not appear to need Rauai, that is far from the truth. They say there are many species that are much diminished or

almost disappeared: arii, paua, schools of ature, the ungakoa, unga (coconut crab) and even the remu. The leaders were very impressed with the 50 mile and 50 mile zone concept.

By the end of the week long visit, the traditional leaders indicated that they intend to discuss the matter in more detail within their own Are Ariki in council and the various Puna early in the new year. This is according to their own protocols, but with the intention of declaring Rauai in areas that they deem are appropriate. The Parekura of the Koutu Nui said she was delighted and announced that her team would return in the near future to see how Mangaia was progressing with their proposal. - Noeline Browne



TENDER



**TENDER –POWER STATION - SCADA SYSTEM PROJECT**

Te Aponga Uira is inviting suitably qualified groups to submit a tender for the design, procurement, supply, installation, commission of new SCADA system for its Power Station, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

Registration and Tender Documents can be requested from the following contact person:

TAU Project Manager – Alex Napa  
Te Aponga Uira, Rarotonga, Cook Islands  
Ph: +682 20054  
Fax: +682 21944  
Email: alex.napa@electricity.co.ck

Closing date for the Tender submission is 12NOON Wednesday, 3rd Dec 2014, Cook Islands time.

Visit us on our website [www.teaponga.com](http://www.teaponga.com) otherwise located on [www.ppa.org.fj](http://www.ppa.org.fj) or [www.mfem.gov.ck](http://www.mfem.gov.ck)

For general enquiries please contact Alex Napa on 682 – 20054

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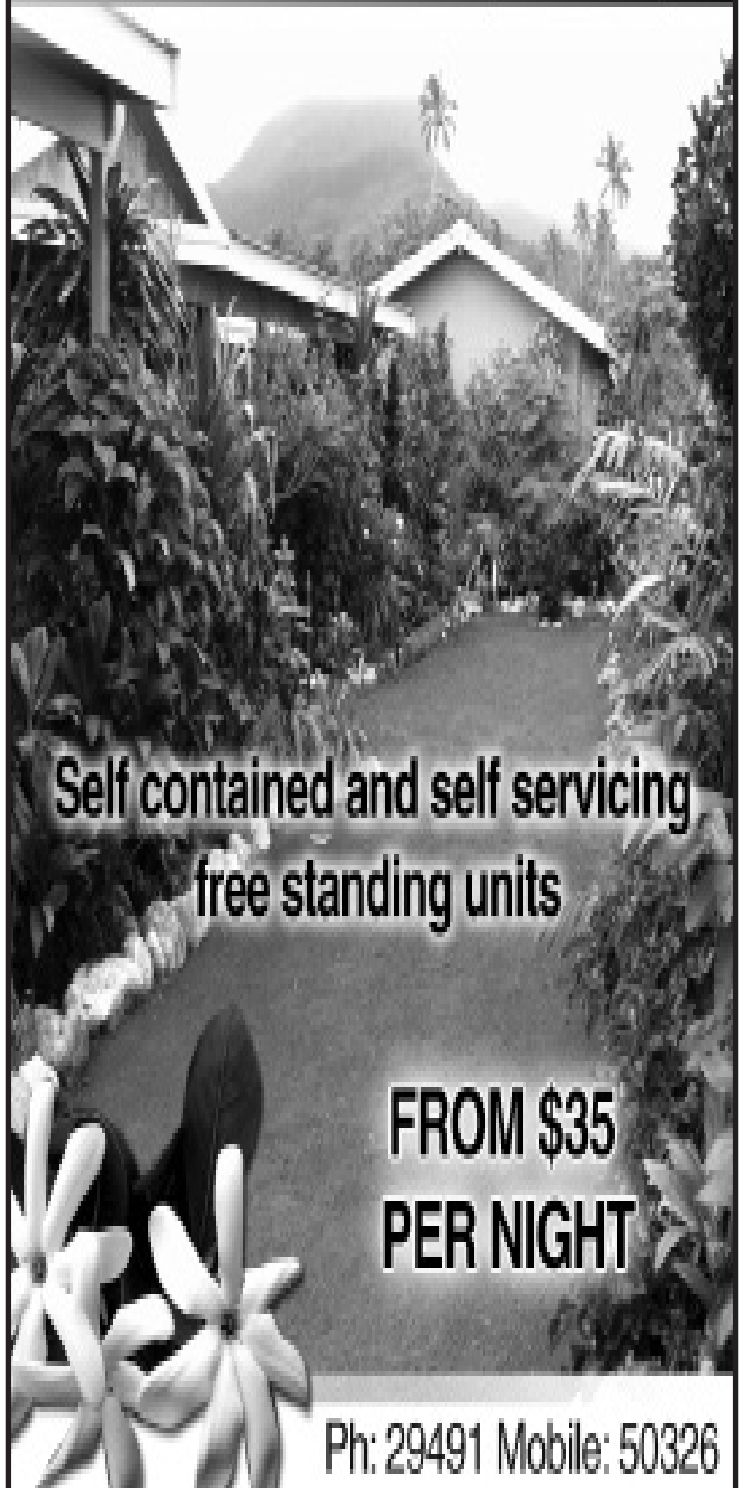
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