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Private sector development slow to materialize after infrastructure upgrades

MFEM's capacity to stimulate private sector development questioned

By Charles Pitt

Government has taken up the multi-million dollar infrastructure upgrade road with the blessing of overseas donors and the participation of MFEM officials. Those involved probably believing the theory that if you develop infrastructure, private sector development will follow.

The troubling part of this approach is that government has ended up with egg on its face because no-one seems to have asked what the end game is. That is, what private sector development was to follow to utilise the infrastructure. It would be interesting to see how the whole upgrade exercise was justified and what the cost/benefit analysis revealed (if one was done).

At the opening of the upgraded harbour at Tauhunu in Manihiki, PM Puna was on CITV saying, "All we need now is a ship." A wise man would say, "You should have thought of that before the work started."

The belief that economic development will follow infrastructure upgrades, does not work well in this country with the constraints of distance, climate, restricted labour market and high foreign bank interest rates.

Still this has not deterred our government from upgrading ports and airports in the outer islands. Government has proceeded upon this course with no clear vision, policy or plans for stimulating private sector development.

As it turns out, no private sector development of any significance or of any note has followed the multi-million dollar infrastructure upgrades in the outer islands and none appears likely in the immediate future.

Successive governments have been slow to address the constraints to business development. While the current government dithers, we note an ADB team of consultants has arrived to advise the private sector on the matter of constraints. The constraints are already known having been identified following

two earlier economic taskforce exercises which produced over 200 recommendations for stimulating the economy. Is the ADB presence a delaying tactic on the part of a government bereft of any clear vision but wishing to be seen to be wanting to move things along?

Minister Heather, a person with some business acumen, is to be congratulated for realizing that outer island shipping needs to be subsidized (it was in the CIP 2014 election manifesto). While he among Cabinet may not be the only one to realize this, he at least has the courage to start doing something about it. He did not need any highly paid ADB expert to tell him this.

A glaring example of the failure of the development following infrastructure theory is Avatiu port. After sinking \$28 million of ADB funds into upgrading Avatiu Port, the new port sits like a giant lemon. Where are the ships that are going to pour additional port fees into the Port Authority's coffers? Is this the reason PM Puna and Transport Secretary Howard went to Auckland to hold talks with Matson Line over a third shipping license?

That \$28m would have been better invested in developing a brand new port at Nikao as suggested by former harbour master Don Silk many years ago. That new port would have attracted an increased number of cruise vessels and paid for itself within 10 years.

Last year, Chinese Billionaire Sam Chou advised our government of a strategy to increase revenue at Avatiu port. Government showed little interest.

These are just two examples of how our visionless governments have lacked the courage to think ahead and instead preferred to stay within the safety and comfort zone of thinking small.

In fact "thinking small" is something our government has become expert at. Even donor partners are beginning to nourish our preference for thinking small. Just look at the recent small grants from India (too small to mention)

and China (a paltry \$4.1m). These grants are way too small to get our economy moving.

With private sector development at a virtual standstill, public attention is now being turned to the two people within MFEM who are at the heart of the country's economic development, Finance Secretary Richard Neves and economist James Webb.

Neves undoubted value to Minister Brown, has seen his contract extended twice. However with his second extension about to end at the end of January 2015, there appears to be no signs of Neves briefing a successor as was the reason put forward by Finance Minister Brown for Neves extension.

Brown had explained earlier that Neves was being kept on to prepare the Budget (done) and brief his successor (yet to start). Just who that successor is, has not been revealed. Neither has there appeared any advertisement for the position. Is Neves staying or going?

As a Minister, Brown seems to have no clear vision or ideas of his own about what private sector development the country needs.

What is becoming clear as each day passes, is that Neves is propping Brown up. Even members of the public have been heard muttering Brown can't survive without Neves and with the political situation still unclear, this gives Brown a reason to retain Neves services a bit longer. A Supplementary Budget was planned for February 2015 but Neves presence surely is not required for this.

Recently, the Herald detected undercurrents of dissatisfaction arising within the CIP ranks at Neves continued presence which is being regarded by some within the CIP as a bottleneck to development.

Should there be a change of government, the incoming Finance Minister may not display the same degree of patience and Neves, together with a number of other senior staff may find their cosy tenures ended somewhat abruptly.

A question mark hangs over James Webb's head. Of Cook Islands descent, one wonders how such a young person with severely limited practical experience as an economist in the REAL world, can command such a high salary (\$90,000) in MFEM. In fact all the salaries paid to senior staff within MFEM should be reviewed.

The previous Finance Secretary was on a salary of \$120,000. Some reality needs to be restored to salary levels given this is a very small country with a very small budget. The fact that one third of the budget is made up of foreign aid does not warrant a dramatic increase in the salary of the HOM. (Neves salary package is reputed to be about \$300,000).

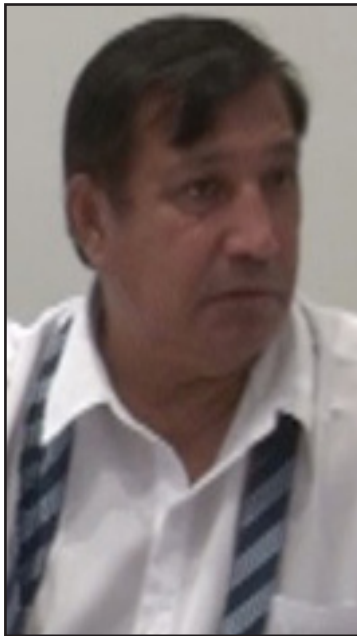
Do Neves and Webb possess the depth of experience and local knowledge required to advance the country economically? Both appear to be text book types with reliance on theory and outdated, restrictive and no longer relevant guidelines set some years ago by the ADB.

The ADB guidelines have served a purpose. They have assisted in stabilizing our economy and helped to reign in government spending at a time when these actions were vital. Now the country is ripe for the economic development phase, these guidelines are not considered to be a framework conducive to development and should be reviewed. They are seen to be acting as a bottleneck.

Some urgency is needed to halt the country's backward slide in terms of private sector development. Government needs to formulate plans to diversify the economy, increase exports, encourage innovation and prevent all our eggs are ending up in the one basket-tourism.

Government needs to take the same courage it applied in the areas of infrastructure and renewable energy development and apply it to the area of economic development. This is no time for weak knees. The time has come to get the country moving forward. There is much ground to make up.

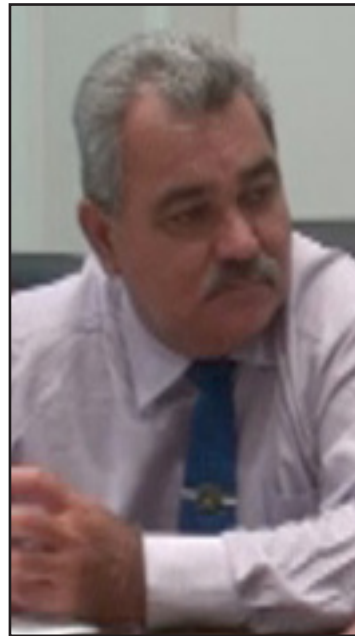
Fix our constitution crisis, time for Politicians to do the right thing



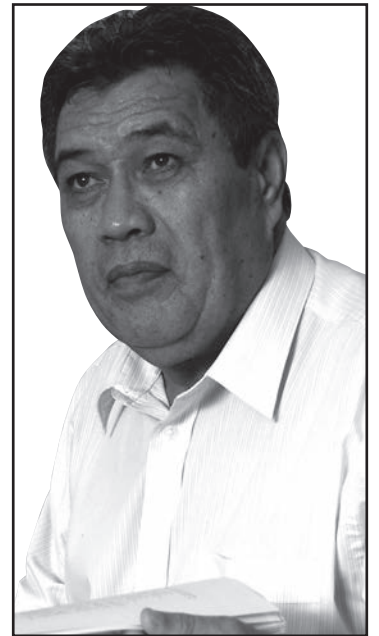
Tom Marsters



Eddie Drollet



Teina Bishop



Wilkie Rasmussen

With the likelihood of no clear Election winner after the Mitiaro and Vaipae/Tautu seats have exhausted the legal options of closure, the Cook Islands Party may push for fresh elections rather than compromise their governance position. In the event of a CIP 11 seats, Democratic Party 11 seats and the One Cook Islands Movement 2 seats result, Henry Puna has made it clear he will not compromise with any concessions to OCI, the DP Members of Parliament are equally resistant to a coalition with OCI unless directed to do so by a Party Conference after fresh elections for all Office bearers are processed.


With no clear governance in sight we are looking down the barrel of a political standoff where solutions will be forced. Financially neither major Party is campaign ready, the CIP with \$42,000 in their war chest with legal costs to be refunded are at least that much plus up to \$180,000 better off than the DP who are reverting to raffles to service the debts their Petition

and Appeal madness has reaped them.

Driven by the emotionally charged Wilkie Rasmussen who declared he would get his seat back through the legal avenues, he along with his side kick Party Secretary Eddie Drollet and vice President Tupou Faireka have virtually bankrupted the Democratic Party which right now is suffocated by unprecedented debt and insolvent. Guilty of losing the Elections, Rasmussen still desperately clutches to the Party leadership and refuses to accept responsibility.


DP Treasurer Piltz Napa, Rasmussen's brother in law along with Drollet refuse to provide financially fatigued Party members with audited financial statements despite many requests to do so. With the possibility of an early return to the polls the Demos are in complete disarray and vulnerable to being routed by the strengthening CIP who are proactively increasing their advantage and political superiority by the day.

Continued on page 4



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The DP are on the political ropes waiting for a planetary line up of good fortune and wishful thinking polling day results will be overturned, seduced by their own cognitive distortions of political realities any results that fall their way will only advantage the CIP. How Rasmussen and his loyalist can expect to lead from a position of defeat and unprecedented debt when they couldn't when victory was a certainty, is comical to say the least. The sooner the Demos have a Conference to test the leadership of Rasmussen and his team of losers the sooner he can be dumped and the Party can begin the arduous reconstruction of itself.

Legally all current office bearers of the DP are in question. Constitutionally all positions are vacant as no Conference has been held for three years, positions are not rolled over if a Conference is not held, they are now null and void. Rasmussen must demonstrate moral integrity and stop corrupting the Democratic Party Constitution in self serving interests, as a lawyer he knows better but is clouded by his insatiable thirst for autocratic power.

In the face of his critics Rasmussen even claimed God was on his side and would vindicate in his addictive quest to be the Prime Minister and despite Faireka's audible prayer and petitions to God in the Appeal Court room on the day of dismissals God did not intervene on behalf of the Democratic Party.

Rasmussen has even publically stooped to offering the Demos Messianic comparisons claiming there is victory insight because it is only through him Teina Bishop can be accessed to form a coalition government with the Demos. The fact that Rasmussen a CICC Deacon sees himself as the redeemer of the DP demonstrates how he might be suffering from a religious form of schizophrenia.

Talk in OCI circles is Rasmussen is prepared to sell out the Demos by crowning Bishop the Prime Minister in return for the seventh seat in Cabinet.

Drollet wants the Commerce Commissioner's job and Faireka has both hands up for the Public Service Commissioner's post. It's little wonder the three of them are counting on Bishop to join forces with them with an element of urgency.

So much so for the shenanigans in the Democratic Party, manipulating self enriching massaging of the DP are being recognised and will be publicised, individuals within clutching at manufactured obsessions must be challenged with putting the interests of the whole to the fore front of attention.

Despite the Constitutional crisis now engulfing the political

time.

Marsters must act independent of advice from the Prime Minister Henry Puna if he does not command a majority and initiate a political solution process before a return to the polls, anything less will only enhance the advantages of the care taking CIP. It is imperative that the QR chair a cabinet of National Unity comprising of five, two CIP, two Demos and one OCI to ensure the financial management of the Country is legally and prudently observed. Before a return to the polls the Electoral Act must be revised and Political reform instituted in Parliament.

Any return to the polls with

for politicians of all levels and public servants.

For the sake of the Country, Marsters has to bite the bullet and courageously step up to the plate with an interventional political road map of reform that leads the way for our next 50 years. The processes need not be rushed but diligently researched and formulated with feedback and contributions sourced from the widest collective of participants. This is not a band aid window dressing effort but a no stone unturned exercise that becomes a core foundation platform for the future democracy of the Cook Islands. Let the year of our 50th Celebrations have a focus of conquering the reform demon. All private and personal agendas harboured by our politicians must be voluntarily suspended till our Constitutional crisis is remedied.

While all political persuasions preach the need for political reforms there is a void of practise, evidence of political will is scarce as hen's teeth. There is no need for a referendum to start the process; the obvious is staring at us in the face. Referendums can be conducted when reform proposals are finalised. The accumulative failure over time to apply the political blow torch has been the catalyst for the Constitutional dilemma we are being confronted with.

While bigger countries like New Zealand and Fiji have had incident free elections this year with results known within days, the Cook Islands with a population of less than 15,000 and 24 Members of Parliament is caught in a time warp of repetitive self serving politicking that has finally come to a boiling point of unacceptable tolerance by the politically fatigued masses. Politicians can no longer take the voters for granted, perform or be dumped.

Genuine reforms initiated by the QR will ensure a level playing field where winning is a result of campaigning on policies instead of vote buying by the best cash strapped personalities who abuse their positions of power.

- George Pitt

After five months of governance uncertainty and the CIP virtually a care taker government since April 16 this year when Parliament was dissolved and no assurance the remaining court decisions will give either major Party exclusivity, the Queens Representative Tom Marsters needs to review the 1983 Constitution crisis and inject a way forward.

spectrum intervention is a high probability. After five months of governance uncertainty and the CIP virtually a care taker government since April 16 this year when Parliament was dissolved and no assurance the remaining court decisions will give either major Party exclusivity, the Queens Representative Tom Marsters needs to review the 1983 Constitution crisis and inject a way forward. In 1983 our first QR Sir Gavin Donne took the initiative and assumed political leadership to resolve the Constitutional crisis of that

the two components unchanged could see an unwanted messy repeat of recent events. Many aspects of the Electoral process have been exposed as a legal quagmire inadequately inappropriate and in serious need of reforming. The ball is in Marsters court as he is in a position to reset the sails for the next 50 years of self governing by leading a team under his oversight in genuine reforms to give equitable representation and explicit clarity to the rules of electioneering. Included in the political reforms must be an enforceable code of conduct

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*Merry Christmas
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Report proposing ADB financing for renewable energy in the Southern Group released

Seen at Trade Day

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) released a report today which outlines the impact of a proposed \$12.98 million loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for renewable energy investments across the Southern Group of the Cook Islands. Overall, the value of the project is \$27.2 million.

Table 1 Funding sources for the Renewable Energy Project in the Southern Group

Type of Source	\$m	% of Cost
Asian Development Bank Loan	12.98	48%
European Commission Grant	8.37	31%
Government of the Cook Islands	5.83	21%
Total	27.18	100%

Note : For the purposes of the activity the Cook Islands contribution also includes recognition of an amount of \$4.6 million which is provided through the Japanese Government's Pacific Environment Community Fund which is managed by the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat.

It is expected that the project will provide increased energy security in an environmentally sustainable manner. The outcome will be an increased access to a higher share of electricity generated by renewable energy sources. The project has two major outputs, solar photovoltaic power system development, and institutional strengthening and project management support.

The MFEM report outlines several considerations around whether the Cook Islands Government should proceed with the project. Key among these are:

- That the net debt to GDP ratio not go above 30 per cent. When including the proposed debt, the debt ratio rises to approximately 25 per cent of estimated GDP in 2015/16.
- That debt servicing only just exceeds 5 per cent of total revenue. Inclusion of the proposed debt would increase debt servicing to 5.1 per cent of total revenue in 2017/18.
- An economic assessment of the project was undertaken, and showed that it positively contributed to the country and was a sound financial investment.
- That the Loan Reserve Fund be adequately resourced to cover future repayments.

MFEM believes that the borrowing is sustainable and recommends that the investment proceed with the use of ADB funding.

"Donors have come to the table to assist us with our investment in renewable energy, but this does not mean that the investment has come at no cost. As we are taking on a portion of the project as debt, it is even more important that we strengthening our management capacity to make sure that this investment continues to provide renewable energy for future generations of Cook Islanders." Said MFEM Secretary, Richard Neves. "Financial and economic cost-benefit analysis has been undertaken to show that this is a good investment, and we have made sure we are investing our loans in a sustainable and well thought-out manner."

A copy of the report is available at www.mfem.gov.ck/other





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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, Ngatoe, 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

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

Procurement guidelines released

New procurement website <http://procurement.gov.ck>

Public procurement, the process by which government purchases goods, works and services is an important economic activity in the Cook Islands where the balance needs to be struck between getting value for money for the taxpayer's dollar and allowing local suppliers to supply to government.

This will become an even more the case over the next two years as the Government pursues a greater investments in the infrastructure area.

Ultimately our public sector procurement processes needs to have integrity where Cook Islanders taxpayers believe that balance is reasonable and that development partners also have faith to use Cook Islands systems instead of their own to ensure that their own taxpayers are satisfied that value for money is being achieved with their money.

Public sector procurement in the Cook Islands is a decentralised process. The responsibility for procurement is predominantly conducted by agencies who are guided by the policies and procedures provided through the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM).

A review of the Cook Islands'

sector public procurement systems was conducted in May 2012, unfortunately it highlighted a number of weaknesses that needed redress.

In the past two years many of the issues raised in that review have been addressed in a gradual and methodical process. The major areas addressed include the:

- the creation of standard procurement templates and contracts which are now available;
- revision to the government procurement policy which is now implemented and available to the public;
- development of a central procurement information portal on <http://procurement.gov.ck>;
- development of job description for a procurement officer with in MFEM;
- continual publication of the capital plan – Budget Book 3 to aid in procurement planning;
- publication of contracts awarded through the public tender process;
- training and development on best procurement practices using the CIGFPPM conducted; and
- annual procurement planning sessions being conducted.

The Cook Islands Procurement Guidelines

On 2 December MFEM released the Cook Islands Procurement guidelines (CIPG), these form part of the overall Cook Islands Government Financial Policies and Procedures manual which guide agencies with their public financial management responsibilities.

The CIPG consolidate the procurement guidance in one area and incorporate a number of changes to the overall procurement policy framework specifically aiming to ensure more activities go to the market and that local suppliers are aware of those opportunities. This is obviously balanced by the need to ensure value for money is being achieved and the provision of information relating to the final outcome of the tender process.

Improved transparency around the procurement process has been a significant issue in the past. The new procurement portal provides a significant amount of information including all upcoming tenders (as agencies are now required to list on the portal) and the actual outcomes of tenders.

Additionally a mechanism to manage complaints is a major feature of the new framework.

The principles underlying the CIPG have varied from those previously issued to include some variations around contracts and greater clarity is provided around the special circumstances which could see a waiver the tender process. Thresholds still remain are, that any:

- purchase greater than \$30,000 must go to tender; and
- purchase between \$1,000 and \$29,999 must provide quotes.

In terms of asset sales, all vehicles and any assets with a value of greater than \$500 must go to tender. If they are valued at under \$500 then the agency may advertise it internally.

Procurement.gov.ck
The procurement portal has now been updated and is live. It aims to improve access for all suppliers to tender opportunities, procurement policies, Capital and National investment plans and other procurement related activities.

Users can register to get email notifications on current tender and latest bidding opportunities will soon be made available via the site.

All Cook Islands Agencies are now required to publish all tender opportunities on the portal.

Thresholds for Procurement

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	Pipeline replacement		
	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	Pipeline replacement		
	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

Investiture of Te Ara Rangatira

The investiture of Mark Brown with the title of Te Ara Rangatira was conducted at the Vakatine Palace, Maraerenga on Saturday morning. The title of Te Ara Rangatira was previously held by Brown's late father Henry and prior to that his late grandmother Mata Brown. - *Shona Pitt*



Vakatini Ariki with his Rangatiras



Kairangi Samuela with her son Va Nic



Mavis Aitu and her brother Alex Brown

The China Experience *Part 3*

The final part of 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.



A normal skyline view in Shanghai

Shanghai leg

The Shanghai stint was great. We met with the Foreign Affairs staff who took our baggage to our hotel, the Shanghai Central Hotel. It's really nice here, I am on the 13th floor, room 1307 (a corner suite) with a nice view of the streets and city below. Left Guangdong at 9.00am arrived at Shanghai at 12.30pm. It was a one and a half hour flight. We toured the Shanghai Exhibition Centre. They have a map of the whole of Shanghai on the floor and on one particular floor, a 3D model of the whole city. It was well labeled, buildings, parks and even the waterways. We went on to Tian Zi Fang Park to do some shopping. The place is like a large mall and is somewhat of a maze. You could easily get lost and there are always people coming up to you trying to sell something, it's real pressure to buy something from the stall owners. From Tian Zi Fang we left to watch a really interesting Acrobatic show. The acrobats were as flexible as they came, they must have trained since a very young age.

From the entertaining acrobat

show we returned to our hotel, had dinner and then headed out for a walk around the area. After less than five minutes walk, we came to a shopping mall, and decided to hit the Karaoke bar. Several of the delegates took a shot at the microphone; myself included... it was more of a bonding exercise. The amount of music available was great and it pretty much included some of the most recent hits. So by 11pm we were back in the hotel, showered and ready for bed.

The visit to the Cultural Centre was good. We saw several interesting things. The community centre they have has so much to offer, children spend some time in the book/library section for them learning to read both Mandarin and English. All this is funded by local government; they have activity areas for the community members where they can create things. Metal works, miniature 3D models of planes, buildings, and even a gym area, dancing area and they even have music class. We moved on to a local residents home, they were so hospitable and even had us join them for karaoke, and a light brunch.

Lunch was great, we chatted with the Shanghai Vice Director for Foreign Affairs. We were told that Shanghai was somewhat smaller in area compared to other places in China but from an Islanders experience, this place was huge. From there we left for the Oriental Pearl tower which stands at 468 metres. Once there we toured the Museum on the lower floors of the tower. After the museum tour we made our way to the Sky walk club. Took a walk on the glass at 271metres above the ground, took some photos of the surrounding area including the newest building that will be the second tallest building in the world. Hopefully I get to do this again and visit that building. We had dinner in the Revolving restaurant, towering at 267metres in the air. Some of the delegation had a fear of heights but managed to keep it together for the dinner area. Following dinner, we went for a river boat cruise on the Huangpu River which is Shanghai's gateway to the world. At about 7pm we were on a boat, going up and down the river. We left the docking area to come back to the hotel and everyone went out for a walk through the

shopping district. This was our last night together as a group as everyone started to leave for their respective home islands.

We said our goodbyes to six of the ten delegates. The Tongans Salamo and Anna, the Samoans Marj and Pio and my Vanuatu bros Raymond and Tenzlee. Gonna miss these guys, the laughs, random cracks at each other and the strolls thru the mall grounds being offered Local Massages...

Tomorrow morning I depart with Maika and Fred Wesley to the airport in the morning, spending the whole day there in the terminal. My check in time will be about 11am and then I fly out at 2.15pm. We Leave behind Mere. The two translators Tang Hao (Trent) and Song Xintao (Linda) will also be leaving at 9.30am to return to Beijing. I am going to miss them, especially Linda, she has spent some time abroad so she loves talking and all of us in the delegation enjoyed their company and practically made them part of the family... so this is it.... the final farewell before the long commute back to Raro. Auckland, I'll see you in the morning.

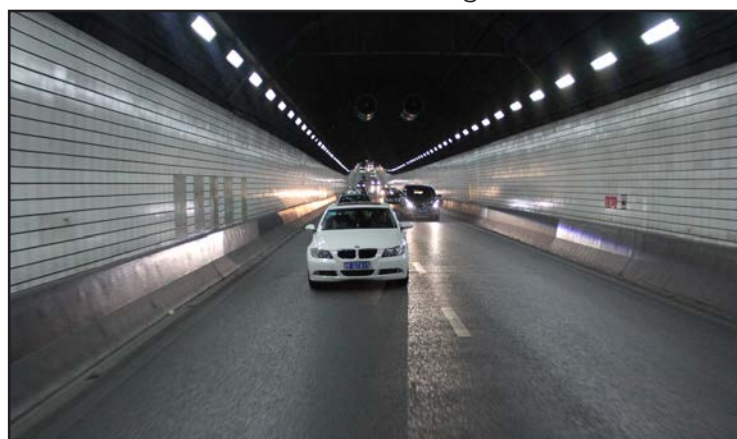
The China Experience *Part 3*



Shanghai Exhibition Centre with a Map of Shanghai on the Floor



3D Model of Shanghai



One of the Tunnels that go under the Huang Pu River



Shanghai's Oriental Pearl



Shanghai Skyline after dusk on the Huang Pu River.



Translator Linda and I on the Observation Deck of the Oriental Pearl



Our Pacific Delegation with the Foreign Affairs Shanghai Officials



BTIB Trade days

Photos by Teriu Woonton



Avarua school Parents day



Te Uki Ou school



Friday fun

By Poko Utia

Rising from the whole debacle of almost losing their school, students and staffs of Nukutere College spent their Friday playing fun activities and eating sausage sizzles before enjoying their time swimming in the Muri beach lagoon.

Piho, a former Mathematics' teacher at Nukutere helped organize the games with Ms Paitai for the students as well as provide delicious food such as Watermelon and fresh nu (coconuts). Joining the school on the day were two passing tourists that stopped to enjoy the company of the students and staff of Nukutere as well as assist with serving the sausage sizzles to the students.

Upon arrival, the students seemed really happy and excited as this was one of the many things they've done for the past two weeks, which includes students going onto the reef to feed of the abundance of Kina and other sea food. The students attending Nukutere enjoyed going out doing these education out of the classroom, which got them excited for Friday's picnic out at Muri.

After a hard day's work and fun in the sun, the students were relieved to hear the sound of the Pate which indicated that it was time to eat. But before they headed off to have lunch, Mr Piho did a few yoga demonstration which got the students up and doing it while laughing and trying to master it as it looked a bit difficult to do.

Both students and staffs participated in the activities while other staff members sat along the side in the shade, observing and cheering them on. Watching the students mingle with each other and share their lunches from the side made me remember how my friends and I were like when we attended that school. We never had the chance to do activities such as this. However the weather on the day didn't stop them from enjoying their day out in Muri, with a few yr 11 students joining in on the activities after having finished their exams.



Five minutes with the McNabbs!

Hayley-Rose (16yrs), Michaela and Gabrielle (twins-15yrs) have just arrived from Fielding, NZ for a holiday with family in Rarotonga. They were last here six years ago! They're Cook Islanders who have been living in New Zealand and are pleased to be back home.

Hayley-Rose

1. *When was the last time you were here Hayley?*

• "The last time we were here was in 2008 and I was ten years of age and we had come for a family visit and for Christmas"

2. *How has Raro been treating you so far?*

• "Very good, nice weather and everything, except for the mosquitoes! I have so many bites."

3. *What have you done so far?*

• "Well this morning I went for a run with my sisters and cousin down to my great-grandmas road then ran back. We've cycled around on our push bikes that nana brought us, been down to the Tupapa Valley for a swim, been to the beach and have gone for a drive around the island."

4. *What have you eaten while being back at home?*

• "Well...we've basically eaten everything ahahaha, we've missed the fruits such as nu, rock melon, pawpaw, starfruit, mangoes, guavas and so on"

That's it with Hayley, Thanks Hayley-Rose, I hope you enjoy the rest of your time here on Raro!

Michaela:

1. *So Michaela, when was the last time you've been in Raro.*

• "Same year when we came for Christmas in 2008 when I was nine"

2. *What have you missed about Raro?*

• "The hot weather, the nice clean beaches, the delicious fruit, the island food and family"

3. *What are your favourite things about Raro?*

• "My favourite things would be the beaches, the small town and the nice people"

4. *Who have you seen so far in Raro?*

• "Mainly just family and some people who I can't really



The McNabb Twins Michaela and Gabrielle

remember, but they remember us"

Well that's it with Michaela, thanks Micky!

Gabrielle:

1. *Have you enjoyed your days here in Raro so far Gabrielle?*

• "Yes, very much I have enjoyed my days here, especially to see family who I haven't seen for years!"

2. *What have you enjoyed doing?*

• "Going down to the beach, seeing family and eating

the cultural food."

3. *What beach have you been to?*

• "I'm not actually quite sure what the beach is called, but it's the beach across the road from my nanas"

4. *What have you got planned for the rest of your holiday?*

• "Fitness, working in nana's garden, cycling around the island and going to Palace Burgers"

Thanks Gabby! Have fun here in Raro!

A Life Without School

By Norma Ngatamariki

Starting today, I have officially gone a month without school. It's a weird thing, knowing that you no longer have to dress in a school uniform, do homework or put up with nagging teachers. I've spent nearly all of my life in a classroom and now I have to face the real world. I'm my own boss and I could do whatever I like, whenever I like (Not really. I still have to get up and go to work) I never thought that I'd hear myself saying this, but I miss school. Even the nagging teachers. Ugh.

At the beginning of Year Six I was like, "Gosh, I can't wait until I finish school. I'm sick of all this homework!" That was about seven years ago, back when I was just a little squirt who didn't know anything about anything. I didn't know that the work force was going to be a cruel place.

Bosses didn't come running after you if you missed a deadline, like teachers did. They just dock your pay without a word of warning (not that it's ever happened to me, though) When I look back on it, I think "Wow. You really had it easy back then, Norma."

The one thing that I really miss about school is seeing my mates every single day for five days a week, forty weeks a year. Nowadays, we barely have time for each other because we've got things going on in our lives. I thought that it would be nauseating for me to see the same old faces at school over and over again, but now...Now I actually have to set up a time and travel a long distance if I just wanna see ONE friend (the struggle is real). Since we did meeting up with friends have to be so carefully planned out and timed perfectly? Oh, right. Since

we left school.

Every time I see a Year Nine or a Year Ten student, it reminds me of how carefree and chilled out I was. I didn't have to worry about money because mum and dad would happily provide. That is so not the case now. I'm struggling to save every cent in my bank account just to get by (now that I'm working, my parents think that they can neglect me all of a sudden) However, I'm grateful for all the skills and knowledge that I've obtained from thirteen years of education. I can proudly say that I made it through the ordeal.

I'm working now. Not a lot has changed except for the fact that I won't be going back to Tereora College after this. I'll need to be earning that extra cash to store away for University (which is basically another school for adults, except that it's



harder and more scarier) Avarua School and Tereora College. Two education facilities which have helped mould me into the person that I am today and for that, I'm grateful

How God meet your needs his way *part 2*

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

In Part 1 of this article I was talking of what God expect us to do before He could bless us according to the Bible in Philippians 4v.19 which reads "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

Many want to take this promise of God and apply it to their lives while avoiding the conditions in v.14-18. When we are generous to others, God will be generous with 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." 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.

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. 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!"

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."

When you give generously you become more like Christ! And it pleases 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).

We must remember that the condition comes before the promise. The Promise of God in Philippians 4v.19 does not:

1) Include laziness. God expects you to work. This promise is not an invitation to sit with folded hands and say, "I'm just trusting the Lord to provide." He has not promised to meet your needs if you sit around and do nothing. I Thessalonians 3v.10 says that people who are unwilling to work should not be given handouts. "Let him who does not work not eat."

2) Cover all our wants. James 4v.3 reads "You ask for something and when you don't get it's because you're asking with the wrong motive. You just want to consume it on your desires." God has not guaranteed to provide us with all our luxuries.

God is interested in having our needs met. If you spend all your money on some unnecessary things and your needs were not met, and you say, "God, Your promise isn't true!" That's not God's fault. It's your fault! Who knows you might blame the devil! It's not his fault either, it's your fault! What's covered in v.19 are 'All legitimate needs!'

If you're a faithful giver you have every right to ask God to meet your financial needs! If you're not a faithful giver you have no right, to ask God to help you. In II Corinthians 9v.6 8 it shows us the condition (man's part) and the promise (God's blessings). "Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give whatever he has decided in his heart to give, not

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver." This is the condition (man's part). Then the promise (God's blessings) "And God is able to make ALL grace abound to you, so that in ALL things, at ALL times, having ALL that you need, you will abound in EVERY good work." The main lesson is this: If you are a giver, God will take care of your needs.

Giving guarantees God's

provision. Be a Generous person, helping those in need. The happiest people are the most generous people. The most miserable people are those who are mean! God wants to bless us! Be a faithful giver, and also a generous person with others and watch what God does in your life.

May you find these words encouraging in helping those in need. God bless, te Atua te arua!

A fun-tastic week

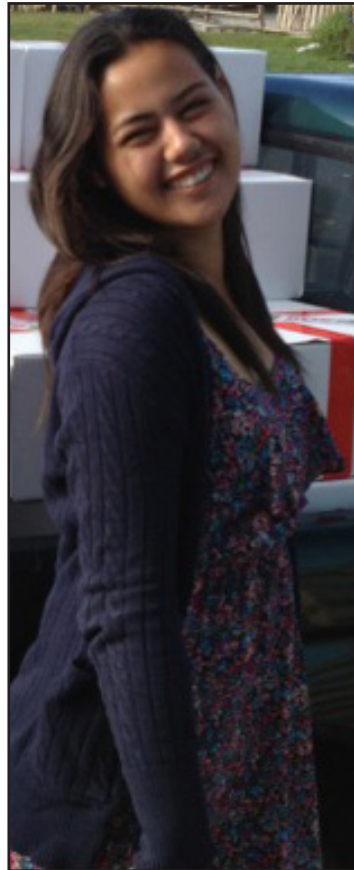
By Nadia George

Since its humble beginnings back in 2012, the Christmas Box project has doubled in sizing going from five hundred boxes to a thousand for Christmas of 2014! I was one of the lucky few that were around during the initial start of this project that we had adopted from a church in New Zealand called Life Church. Each box costs \$50 to produce and contains an assortment of dried goods for families to enjoy during the Christmas period.

The aim of Christmas Box in New Zealand is to help people in need during the Christmas period by distributing boxes from the top of the north island right down to the bottom of the south, with thousands of boxes being delivered to families, children and individuals, all across New Zealand. The small team of Aroa Mou Trust brought this great idea right here to the heart of the Cook Islands, Rarotonga.

In its first year, Christmas Box saw five hundred boxes being delivered to families and individuals all around Rarotonga during the Christmas season over a distribution period of two days. Last year we were back at it again with a stronger team and even bigger goal. In 2013, Christmas Box was able to extend its blessings out to five of our sister islands, Atiu, Aitutaki, Mangaia, Mitiaro and Mauke as well as Rarotonga. But that year however, we had done things a bit differently.

Christmas Box had gotten its very own packing day, for another five hundred boxes. With dozens of volunteers showing up bright and early on a Saturday morning to help build, pack, tape up and distribute boxes around Rarotonga and to the airport where some boxes were flown over to the outer islands for distribution. This year the Christmas Box team is back at it again, with their target of a thousand boxes and the idea to spread the blessings right throughout the Cook Islands to

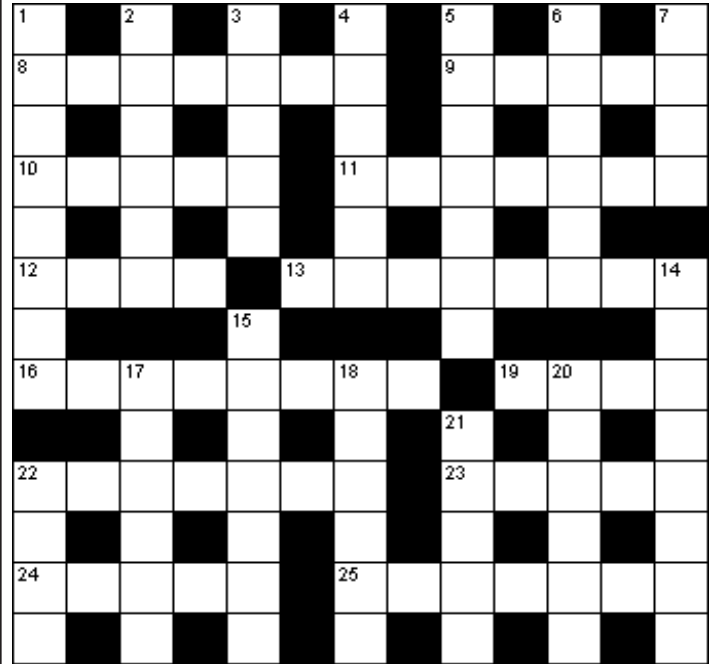


as far out as the Northern Group.

Now we have another packing day heading our way this coming Saturday 13th December starting, again, at 6am sharp! So if you and your friends wanna be a part of this amazing experience of sharing the Christmas love to families in need across and around the Cook Islands then come on down to the Princess Anne hall at Tereora College this Saturday and lend a helping hand.

Or, you could even donate to the charity through the coin boxes that have been distributed in banks and shops around the island or by depositing your donation into the Christmas Box account set up by 'the peoples bank', BCI. Since its start in 2012 and three merry years later Christmas box has not only grown in size but in blessings, so from the Christmas Box team here in the Cook Islands, we would all like to extend a warm thank you to all our sponsors, families and individuals for your continued support and donations. For more information on the Christmas Box project, call up Vaiana on mobile# 72927. Merry Christmas everybody.

CROSSWORD

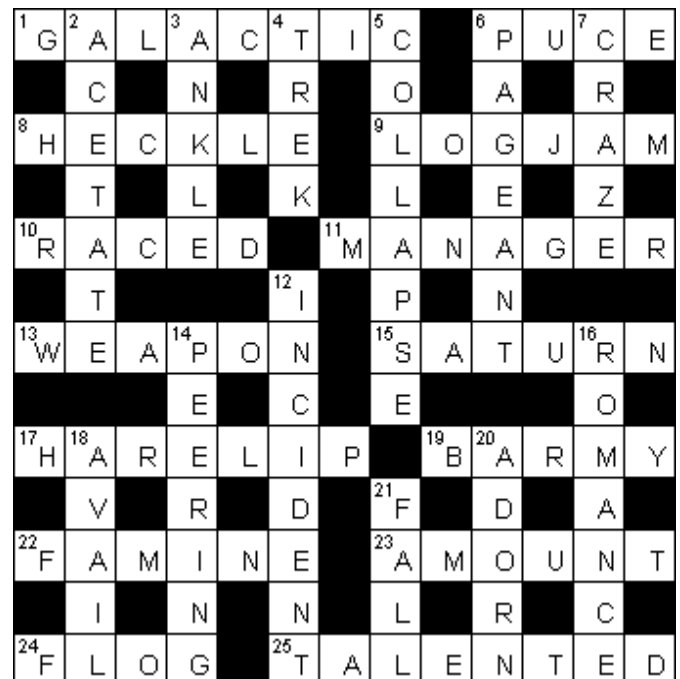


Across

- 2. Follower of Christ
- 7. Division of a hospital
- 8. Penetrating radiation
- 9. Pet term for dog
- 10. Person in the petroleum industry
- 11. Large cave
- 12. Posed
- 14. Pier
- 16. Tantalize
- 18. Fastener
- 21. Sign of Sagittarius
- 23. Man who waits on tables
- 24. Musical note
- 25. German Mrs
- 26. Combustible matter
- 27. Ritual

Down

- 1. Trumpet flourish
- 2. Become confused
- 3. Keyboard instruments
- 4. Trial
- 5. Burst violently
- 6. Unit for measuring gold
- 13. Affirmative vote
- 15. Having tact
- 17. Knitted jacket
- 18. Allow
- 19. Person that gains
- 20. Store that sells milk products
- 22. Comfortable



Front page of the daily dribble the Minita Brownie was crowing about educating the public about anti corruption must be Christmas codswallop, if anyone needs to be taught about anti corruption it's the Cook Islands Party and the New Zealand Judges presiding over the petitions and appeals. To keep a straight face about keeping the Cook Islands corruption free must be the biggest misleading comment of the year. Corruption free go look in the CIP mirror.



The Demo's \$1,000 a week plus expenses raffle rouser Drolley is on the gravy train promoting the Party's latest fund raising to pay for their humoungest debt of over \$250,000. His visit to Atiu to crow about the \$50,000 they had to cough up didn't get a reception, it got a rebuke. Until Drolley and his fallen Party Leader Only through me Rassie can produce an audited financial statement as required by the Party constitution, very few are going to buy any raffle tickets. It's time to give real financial reports not verbal nonsense that has no accountability. Drolley's excuse the financial disaster the Demos are in might fall into the dubious hands of the media is just scare tactics to conceal his incompetency.



Visitor to the Leader of the Opposition Office was surprised to see the Acting Opposition Leader Smilie Heta hosting his guests in the dining room while the former leader Rassie was using his former office to operate his legal practise from. Is Smilie so weak he can't remind the five time loser it's time he went back to his hut across the road at the Market, but then Rassie has to settle his long



outstanding debt with Alma first. Had she added interest and penalties like the expat vultures at MFEM do to the struggling local businesses it could now be in the thousands of dollars?



Although Miss Cook Islands historically does very well at the Miss South Pacific pageants-usually finishing in the top three and earning good kudos for the nation, this year government has been slow and reluctant to back the current Miss CI. \$5,000 is all the PM can manage. The Miss Sth Pacific contest does more for our tourism prospects that the failed rugby, rugby league and netball-three sports which government funded very generously for no return on investment.



How much further down the tubes can netball go in this country? The Netball in Paradise Tournament is a fizzler. The sport has chewed up so much government funds and public money for what? What could have been a good competition has descended into an end of season get together for social club level teams. No real competition here. As with rugby, the time has come to ditch pulling in overseas based players

and stick to local players only. Lets build some pride in our own local players and develop them.



It's fine for government to say go local and produce goods to satisfy the tourism market but hey, when that's done and dusted, what do you do with the left overs? Look at all the ripe paw paws rotting on the trees. Whatever happened to the plan to export paw paws to NZ? Growers can't even give paw paws away, there's too many of them! Who's idea was it to scrap the paw paw export initiative?



Whisper is there's a plan to film one of the upcoming James Bond movies in the Cook Islands. A sneak preview of the script reveals the CI PM will be played by Morgan Freeman (a black American) and the Finance Minister will be played by Jackie Chan (Chinese). The plot involves Bond boarding and disarming an abandoned runaway, out of control, Russian Nuclear sub as it speeds past Penrhyn, Manihiki, Pukapuka, Aitutaki and heads for Rarotonga where an accidentally activated nuclear missile on board, will explode-unless Bond can stop it. Miss Cook Islands is aboard the sub but how or why no-

one knows. The part of Miss Cook Islands will be played by Miss Venezuela. Hollywood has taken certain liberties with the Cook Islands where the people speak Spanish, dress like Mexicans and eat Italian food.



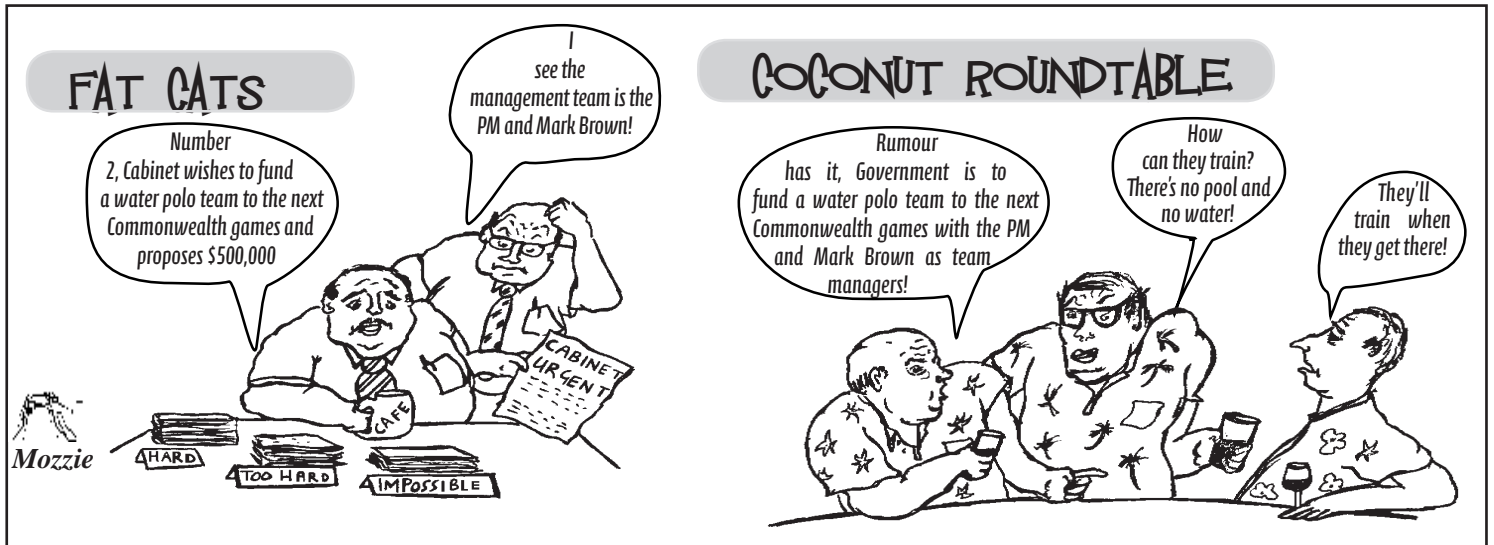
Latest on CNN-Coconut Network News, is that Nich Enere, the \$74,000 Events Organizer, is looking to sign up British reggae group UB40 to attend our 50 years celebration next year as the main attraction. How original. Just because they were the headline act at the Samoan independence celebrations does not mean they will show up in this backwater! Anyway, how much will UB40 charge? What about an invite for Jay Z and Queen B?



What further proof do you need that the country is on the go, accelerating production and working hard? Stand by the roadside early morning on a week day and you will see cars overtaking bikes and other cars at high speed, bikes overtaking other bikes and cars at high speed, dozens of workers speeding into their workplaces, eager to get on with increasing the country's production! Such loyalty, unselfish devotion to the country!



The chirp chooks is that the parliamentary fowls will not flock together while the result is tied up 12 eggs all. That is, CIP 12, and the opposing lot, the Demos 10 and OCI 2. All will hinge on the Court's decision after the 15th moon in December over Mitiaro skies. Then there's the real decider, the Vaipae Appeal. The speculation is the end result could see 11 eggs laid under the CIP hen, 11 under the Demo hen and 2 under the OCI hen. Who will OCI make the omelet with?



Te Turu nei te Kuki Airani i te Ra o te au Basileia katoatoa i te takore'atu'anga i te rave angaanga tau'kore

Monite 8 Titema 2014 Te akariro nei te Kavamani i teia ra akamaara'anga no teia nei ao i te takore'atu'anga i te rave angaanga tau'kore, ei ati'anga note tauturu i to tatou iti'tangata kia kore e tupu teia i roto i te Kuki Airani.

Kote Minita o te Moni ko Mark Brown kua tuatua aia e'e turanga puapinga teia note akamaroiroi i te au tangata e te au taokotai'anga e anoano nei i te ta'angaanga i ta ratou moni i roto nei i te Kuki Airani.

"E turanga meitaki to tatou i roto i teia nei ao. E ko tona aite'anga na te reira e

akamaroiroi i te moni kia apai'ia mai ki roto i te Kuki Airani ei tauturu i to tatou iti'tangata." i tuatua ai te Minita.

"E mea puapinga katoa kia'aku e kote Kavamani e te aronga angaanga, kia maoraora e kia kitea'pu'ia ta ratou au angaanga e te tangata i roto i te au oire i runga i te au enua katoatoa."

Kote ra akamaara'anga no teia nei ao i te takore'atu'anga i te rave angaanga tau'kore, e ra teia no te au Basileia o teia nei ao i te turu kapiti'anga i teia akakoro'anga. Kote Kuki Airani tetai Basileia tei taina'atu note turu i teia akakoro'anga i te mataiti 2005.

Te kite'ia nei e te riro nei "te akatere'anga tau'kore i te ta'kino i te ora'anga o te au tangata puta'ua, e pera katoa i te tamanamanata i te kimi'anga ravenga a te Kavamani note akameitaki i te ora'anga o te iti'tangata, te utu'utu'anga i te puta'ua, e te ta'manamanata'anga i te au tauturu no vao mai."

Kua tuatua katoa te Minita Mark Brown e "No'atu e te turu nei tatou i teia akanoo'anga note takore'anga i te akatere'anga tau'kore, te irinaki'anga ka anoano'ia kia marama to tatou iti'tangata i teia tumu'manako e ka akapeea ratou i te

tauturu'anga kia kore teia e tupu i roto i te Kuki Airani."

"I te ora 7 i teia aiai Monite ra 8 o Titema, ko au tetai ka tuatua atu na runga i te A'vata Tu no runga i teia tumu'manako e ka akapeea tatou i te paruru atu'anga i te reira."

"Ka tuku katoa ia'atu tetai au karere no runga i teia tumu'manako na roto i te roro'uira www.mfem.gov.ck e tetai atu au ravenga kave karere kia kite to tatou iti'tangata no runga i teia e kia akakite katoa mai i tetai au manamanata ta ratou e kite nei." i tuatua katoa ai te Minita ei akaoti i tona manako.

Paruru i te Kuki Airani mei te au angaanga tau'kore – te au tuatua pa'pu

Te turu nei te Kuki Airani i te Taokotai'anga o te au Basileia o teia nei Ao note Paruru atu i te au angaanga tau'kore.

Ko tona aite'anga ka rave tatou i ta tatou au angaanga mate maoraora e te kitea'pu'ia e te tau'meitaki.

Eaa te aite'anga o te angaanga tau'kore?

Kote angaanga tau'kore mari'ra kote riro'anga ei kite pikikaa ki tetai ke, me kore kote ta'kino'anga i tetai atu kia rauka mai tetai moni me kore tetai puapinga mate kore e angaanga tau kia raveia.

Te tu o te au angaanga tau'kore:

Akanauru – oronga atinga, tao'nga rima, me kore kote ariki'anga i tetai apinga puapinga mate rave i tetai tuku'anga tika me kore tetai angaanga tau'kore;

Akakoro'anga pikikaa – kia vare tetai atu note akakoro'anga kia rauka mai tetai moni me kore tetai puapinga.

Akanauru na roto i te

manono'anga – turanga marokiakia kia tupu tetai akakoro'anga tau'kore.

Rave kapiti no tetai akakoro'anga tau'kore – nga'puke tangata rave mate akatupu i tetai akakoro'anga tau'kore;

Keia, kaimoumou me kore kote ta'angaanga puapinga'kore ua i te au apinga a te Kavamani;

Te tai'i'anga o te anoano – kote turanga te ka riro i te akatai'i'anga i te tuku'anga tika i runga i te ngai angaanga, te au angaanga anoano kia rave'ia, e pera katoa te au tuku'anga tika;

Te au angaanga ta'manamanata – te tangaro atu'anga i tetai au apinga anoano'ia, te au tuatua taravake, te akakoro'anga ta'mate, vaerua akanauru, te ta'matakutaku;

Akakoro'anga kino ki tetai uatu tangata taritari'tuatua me kore ko tetai tangata tei riro ei kite.

Te tumu auraka e rave i tetai au angaanga tau'kore?

E maanganui te au tumu

auraka e akatupu i te angaanga tau'kore:

Kia vai tiratiratu ua rai to tatou turanga i roto i teia nei ao kia rauka ua mai te au moni ei tauturu i to tatou iti'tangata Kuki Airani;

Kia vai te parau no tatou e noo nei i roto i to tatou pa'enua mate upoko'tu mate kare katoa e rave i te au angaanga tau'kore;

Te turu i te au tuanga kimi puapinga kia rave uatu to ratou au akakoro'anga mate tau'meitaki i roto i te turanga tia'ma.

Kia tuatua "Kare" kite au angaanga tau'kore

Ko te au tangata katoatoa i roto i te Kuki Airani – i runga i te au ngai angaanga, i roto i te ngutuare, i roto i te au oire i runga i te au enua katoatoa, e rauka ia ratou kia:

Akakite i tetai uatu angaanga tau'kore.

Apii i te au tamariki e kare e ariki'ia te au angaanga tau'kore, e kia ariki' i te turanga tiratira'tu e te tau meitaki.

Patoi atu i te tutaki'anga

e te ariki i tetai uatu akakoro'anga akanauru. E patoi katoa i tetai uatu tutaki'anga tau'kore no tetai angaanga tei rave'ia me kore ka rave'ia, ei karere ririnui e te akara'anga no tetai uatu te ka manako i te rave i tetai angaanga tau'kore.

No tetai atu au akamarama'anga e te au tuatua

E Komiti tetai i roto i te Kuki Airani tei akatupu'ia ei paruru atu i te au angaanga tau'kore. Tei raro'ake teia Kumiti i te tamaru'anga o te Opati o te Akinanga o te Ture.

Me'e manamanata toou no te angaanga tau'kore

Me'e manamanata toou note angaanga tau'kore e aravei atu i te Arataki o te Akinanga o te Ture me kore ko te Komiti no te Akarakara i te Akapouanga Moni a te Katoatoa e te Otita me kore ko te Arataki o te Opati 'Te Mato Akamoeau'. Ka rauka katoa te tauturu i runga i te rorouira www.smfem.gov.ck/ Anti-corruption

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- Health Coordinator- Red Cross (Rarotonga)
- Hair Stylist/Barber- VIP Hair Studio (Rarotonga)
- Make Up Artist/Nail Technician – VIP Hair Studio (Rarotonga)
- Head Chef- TeVara Nui (Rarotonga)
- Café Chef/Manager- Koru Café (Aitutaki)
- Front of House/Café Manager- Koru Café (Aitutaki)
- Farmer/Gardener/Plantation Worker – Paparei Bungalows (Aitutaki)
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Te Kavamani Kuki Airani te angaanga nei note turanga tiratiratu

Tuatua Akakite: Monite ra 8 o Titema 2014

Kua tuatua te Tekeretere o te Moni i roto i te Kavamani ko Richard Neves, e kote au Tipatimani o te Kavamani kare ratou e noo vare'ua i te paruru atu i te turanga tau'kore no te oko apinga nate Kavamani.

Kua tuatua a Richard Neves i teia i te Ra o te au Basileia o teia nei ao note takore'atu'anga i te rave angaanga tau'kore.

"Kote rave angaanga tau'kore, tei te au Basileia katoatoa te reira, inara e maata atu te kino o tetai au enua me aka'aite'ia ki to tetai pae. Ko tatou ra, e turanga meitaki to tatou i roto i teia nei ao e te angaanga maroiroi nei tatou kia vai tiratiratu ua rai to tatou turanga."

"Na roto i te turanga mata'kite e te akanoo'anga tau'meitaki ka kore i reira te timata'anga note rave angaanga tau'kore."

"Me'e akairo angaanga tau'kore tetai, kia ta'kore iaatu te reira na roto i te ravenga tau'meitaki kia kore e rave akaou'ia te reira."

Kua akakite katoa a Richard Neves i te karere akanoonoo oko'anga apinga a te Kavamani i runga i te roro'uira procurement.gov.ck ei akatau'anga note kimi'anga ravenga nate Kavamani kia kore e tupu tetai au angaanga tau'kore.

"Ko teia roro'uira maoraora'ua te reira kite katoatoa. Ko tetai ua'atu angaanga mamaata te ka anoano kia raveia e te Kavamani ka akatuera ia ki tetai ua'atu tangata me kore ki tetai ua'atu taokotai'anga te ka anoano i te rave, mate aka'ari mai i to ratou anoano e te akapou'anga moni. Kote ka manuia i teia akakoro'anga ka akakite'ia kite katoatoa rava."

Ma'anga'nui te atianganga e au aka'apa'anga tetai e tae mai ana kiaku note roa i te au akanoo'noo'anga note rave angaanga, A'e, e marie te akanoo'noo'anga e kare i aite kite tuanga kimi puapinga."

"Kare matou e akateretere'ana i ta matou moni, mari'ra kote moni a te katoatoa, e'e mea tau katoa kia kite pa'pu te iti'tangata e te tau nei te akateretere'anga i ta ratou moni."

Kua tuatua katoa a Richard Neves e kua akanoonoo te Kavamani i tetai au ravenga note iti'tangata kia tuku mai i to ratou au manamanata no teia au akateretere'anga ta ratou e kite nei.

Te vai nei tetai au akanoonoo'anga note raveanga i teia au angaanga e pera katoa no te katoatoa rava kia tuku mai i tetai au tu'kau'i i to ratou manako ta ratou e kite nei.

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Keep the Cook Islands Corruption-Free Fact Sheet

The Cook Islands supports the United Nations Convention against Corruption. That means we work to make sure that our country works in a way that is open, transparent and accountable.

What is corruption?

Corruption is intentionally misleading or harming someone else in order to gain a financial or other benefit or to avoid an obligation.

Types of corruption include:

- **Bribery** - offering, giving, or receiving anything of value to improperly influence a decision or practice;
- **Fraud** - misleading a party to obtain a financial or other benefit;
- **Coercive practice** – impairing or harming (or threatening to) to improperly influence someone else;
- **Collusive practice** – when two parties work together to achieve an improper purpose;
- **Theft, waste or improper use** of assets related to government activity;
- **Conflicts of interest** - a situation in which your interests could improperly influence official duties, responsibilities, or decisions;
- **Obstructive practices** – like destroying evidence, making false statements, and threatening, harassing, or intimidating others;
- **Retaliation** against whistle-blowers or witnesses.

Why we want to be free of corruption?

There are many reasons to aim for zero corruption including:

- Maintaining our international reputation so that we can access funds to help all Cook Islands people;
- Pride that we live in a country that values integrity and says no to corruption;
- Support for business owners so that they may establish and keep running their operations in a fair and legitimate environment.

Say 'No' to corruption

Every person in the Cook Islands – at work, at home, in villages on all islands, can:

- Report incidents of corruption.
- Teach children that corruption is unacceptable, and value integrity.
- Refuse to pay or accept bribes. Rejecting illicit rewards for work done or to be done sends a strong message not only to those who would attempt to solicit favours, but also to those working with them.

More advice or information

The Cook Islands has an Ant-Corruption Committee that promotes and strengthens measures to prevent and combat corruption in the Cook Islands. It is administered by the Crown Law Office.

If you have a concern about corruption

If you have a concern about corruption please contact the head of the agency involved or PERCA (Office of the Public Expenditure Review Committee and Audit) or the Ombudsman. Contact details are available on their websites or for more detail visit:

www.mfem.gov.ck/Anti-corruption

Letter to the Editor

Te Mato Vai Notice to Affected Landowners “Published Without Authority”

Dear Editor,
The recent Public Notice and Declaration dated 20 November 2014 released by the Hon Teariki Heather in the Cook Islands News on the 2nd December 2014 is unreservedly outside of the legal framework and therefore published without authority.

The Rarotonga Waterworks Ordinance 1960 Section 3 states clearly that ONLY the Queens Representative by notice published in the Cook Islands Gazette can issue any notice regarding any construction, extension, improvements or maintenance of waterworks.

So, when did Hon Teariki Heather take on the responsibility of the Queen Representative? Furthermore, when did Hon Teariki Heather take on the role of the High Court to receive objections to uphold, dismiss or state conditions relating to the Rarotonga waterworks ordinance 1960?

The release of this official government public notice and declaration to landowners highlights the incompetency of the Solicitor General's Office, Ministry of Justice and Cook Islands Investment Co-operation. Are these not the legal gurus or advisors to the Hon Teariki Heather? Or could it be that Hon Teariki Heather is permitted by Cabinet to openly disclose Conflicts of Interest, Coercive and Obstructive Practices? Or maybe Cabinet cannot control him and he will do as and when he pleases?

Believe It or Not

CORRECTION

In the 26 November issue of the Herald, in the story of the Ngati Uriarau investitures the names of two of the Rangitiras was not correct.

Tamapua Rangitira is Paoro Te Ariki not Charlie Tamangaro and Parutu Enea Rangitira is Charlie Tamangaro not Maryanne Pirake.

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