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7 9 20 31 32 36 PB
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6 11 16 17 21 44 SUPP: **18 40**

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Politically protected Chinese a law unto themselves, NZ standards disregarded

It seems there is very little that can be done to enforce the Chinese contractor CCECC to comply with the New Zealand standards set out for the biggest contract undertaken by the Cook Islands. The shelf life of the \$64 million Te Mato Vai project is being blatantly compromised and severely shortened to a fraction by the shoddy sub standard worked being carried out by CCECC.

Unlike the substandard workmanship and designs of the two freebies the Court House and the National Police Headquarters, Te Mato Vai is being paid for by the Cook Islands people and we have every right to expect and demand the Chinese contractor delivers a product in strict compliance with the quality specifications.

Project Managers KEW Consultants are responsible to monitor the quality controls but try as they may they lack the political punch to exert full compliance by the Chinese contractors who are simply doing their own thing regardless of the consequences. When a New Zealand engineer monitoring CCECC for specification compliance John Batty put his foot down he was stone walled and in frustration went public over his concerns then was on a plane out of here. Concerns of local resident Andy Duncan have been documented and canvassed for attention but have gained no political support. Some of his concerns are published in this issue.

Latu Kupa of Kew Consultants said he appreciated Duncan's documented concerns and has had the appropriate ones attended to. He explained some of the quality NZ specifications could not be contextualised but

had to be flexibly adapted to the local conditions especially where pipes were being installed in sand and not soil. "We are certainly responsive to genuine public concerns." Some of the public concerns raised fall outside the jurisdiction of KEW Consultants pointed out Kupa.

Despite the highest levels of the Cook Islands Party Government being informed of the substandard work and specific quality breaches by CCECC, no action or responses have taken place. CCECC are a company with significant political clout in China and are backed and endorsed by the Peoples Republic of China.

What is being displayed in the Cook Islands is the arrogance of their political power as untouchables and with the CIP government having being diplomatically seduced and bought by the PRC with monetary gifts there will be reciprocity of silence.

When local contractors finally were able to access the TMV Master Plan documents it became very clearly evident the Chinese contract was excessively overstated and not worth \$24.3 million. Locally valued estimates were between \$12 and \$14 million. Disregarding the obvious overpricing the Finance Secretary Richard Neves continued to lead his dependent boss Minister of Finance Mark Brown into a Wonderland of self promotional gratification, he (Neves) could now add to his CV he was the Principal of the biggest and most expensive development project ever undertaken by the Cook Islands.

As Neves continues to stroke his over sized ego and self interests the Cook Islands will be financially indebted



Richard Neves

for generations long after his departure. KEW's inability to enforce CCECC's contractual obligations is further hampered by the \$6.5 million gift of machinery from CCECC. Why or how come the contractor CCECC can make such a huge gift? For one, is that the real value of the heavy machinery? It simply is the Chinese way of doing business, it is a contract kick back covered by the overpriced contract, it is nothing more than a public relations exercise designed to make CCECC look diplomatically good and earns politically points for the CIP government.

The CCECC multimillion dollar contract for TMV is a scam that has snared the CIP government and the Cook Islands people into unredeemable debt submission to the future diplomatic whims and fancies of the PRC.

Unless there is a change in government that has the political will to put an end to this economic colonialism by the PRC, this madness will

continue to the detriment of future generations of Cook Islanders. Minister Mark Brown and Richard Neves must now hang their heads in shame and be accountable for the shroud of secrecy both conducted in the signing of the CCECC contract and both removed from their positions by a new government.

Did Brown and Neves really not know there was going to be a sizeable portion of the contract rebated to the employer in the form of a physical gift? Further in the knowledge such a gift would be made who determined the time and setting of the presentation?

TMV is another substandard Chinese construction added to the economic burden the shrinking Cook Islands population are being suffocated with by incompetent public servants enthroned with unprecedented delegated power and authority by an equally incompetent and lazy bunch of CIP politicians.

- George Pitt

Bishop the key to outcome of Vaipae by-election

By Charles Pitt

Like RAF pilots during the Battle of Britain, the Cook Islands Party (CIP) hierarchy is scrambling into action. The balloon has gone up, the alert having been transmitted to airbase PM by the Court of Appeal of a by-election looming over Vaipae skies, Aitutaki.

Squadron Leader Cpt Puna is springing into action to head off the threat of a major loss over Vaipae. He hopes to enlist the help of his former ally Air Vice Marshall Bishop.

Bishop is the Grand Master of Aitutaki politics. Prime Minister Henry Puna knows it, current Vaipae MP Moana Ioane of the CIP knows it, the whole of Aitutaki knows it-Teina Bishop will play a key role in the outcome of the Vaipae by-election ordered by

the Court of Appeal on Tuesday.

It was Bishop who backed Moana's successful bid for the Vaipae seat and Moana has acknowledged his gratitude to Bishop for supporting him.

But there's an old saying, "What has been given, can be taken away."

Veteran Aitutaki MP Bishop, a former CIP Cabinet Minister, is not only firmly entrenched in his Aitutaki electorate, his influence runs deep into all three electorates on Aitutaki. Bishop's business prominence and reach ensures some impact on almost everyone in Aitutaki society.

Candidates who have his blessing are fortunate indeed. As Aitutaki's other two MPs well know.

Those within One Cook Islands predicted a long time ago the outcome of the election would

be 11, 11, 2. However, it could be 11, 10, 3. That's because Bishop may entertain the idea of standing a candidate in Vaipae.

A battered CIP needs Bishop's support if they are to survive as a government let alone a Party. Whether elements within the CIP can accept One Cook Islands firm policy stance on abolishing all taxes on pensions and rolling back the increase in VAT is another matter. To ensure this cornerstone of One Cook Islands policy takes effect, Bishop may want nothing less than the Finance portfolio.

However, politics on the edge, creates strange bedfellows. Forget party hopping, bed hopping is next.



Teina Bishop



Festive Season Trading Hours

Te Aponga Uira will close for the Christmas and New Year holidays from **1pm Wednesday 24th December 2014** and will re-open for normal operations at **8am on Monday 5th January 2015**.

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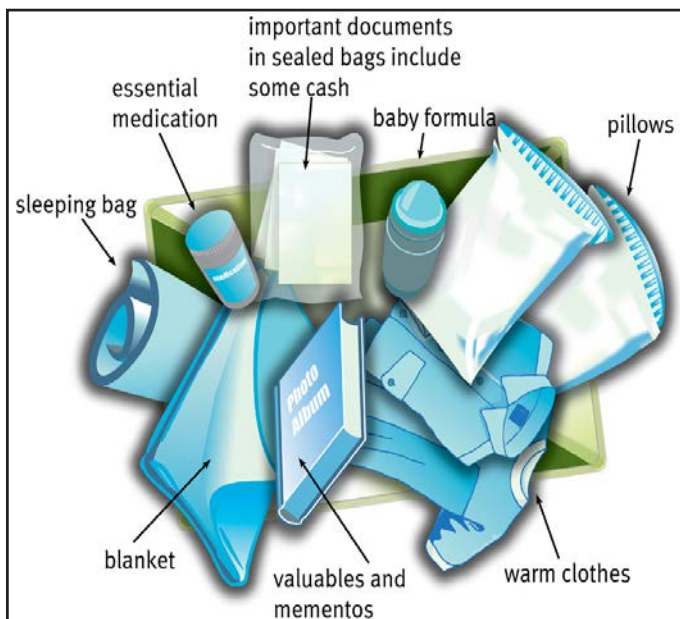
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Celebration wish list a brain explosion of grandiose fantasy

Try a little experiment with your friends from New Zealand. Some night over kai kai or a BBQ, tell everyone around the table you heard New Zealand was going to spend five hundred million dollars on a birthday party. People would be mostly outraged: it will be a highly entertaining night of conversation. The reasons would be obvious, '...are there not more pressing issues that need to be dealt with, with that kind of money?' Or, 'isn't that over the top?'

The number is easy to understand: it's the ratio between our gross domestic product here in the Cook Islands and the same figure in New Zealand, multiplied by the \$1,200,000 we are contemplating spending on our 50th anniversary.

But in fact, the number is a bit more troubling if you think about it in terms of personal or per capita out puts rather than national outputs. Because now the party would be much, much more costlier. Or tell New Zealanders that at their next general elections there would now be 3000 Members of Parliament to vote for instead of the current 120. Then sit back and watch the feathers fly. Oh my!

We aren't a big country. Income opportunities are hard to find. It's so tough here that many people leave to find meaningful work that pays enough to support their families, in fact we read about it in the paper just this week on the front page, it's on the lips at international conferences, depopulation. Even on relatively-prosperous Rarotonga, where over 1,000 Christmas food parcels have been delivered to households, many of our people will struggle this festive season. But spare a thought for our families and friends in the outer islands.

Transportation costs both by air and sea are punishingly expensive, and they are only going to get worse. Things there

have been described as dire... as extreme. Peter Singer, an Australian moral philosopher who is teaching at Princeton University, in an essay on hard times, makes a very clear point:

Poverty will lead to more migrants seeking to move ... to rich nations.

In his book, "The Life You Can Save", Peter Singer is adamant that, when a society has to choose between luxuries and alleviating suffering, the moral choice is clear: our duty is to alleviate suffering.

As the population in the outer islands continues to shrink, we will see fewer and fewer cargo sailings and suffering will increase among the shrinking population. The problem isn't unique to us: it is a common

problem all over the Pacific. Today most of the cargo is in one direction: this only accelerates the problem, since it forces cargo carriers to charge higher prices to help pay for the fuel and labour on the long, empty trip home.

And yet it is within our power to make a big difference for the outer islands.

Public money is often not spent wisely, as we all know. We send dignitaries to every conference and to every nation, who might want to talk to us, but the fundamental infrastructure needed to foster economic diversification is often ignored, sometimes in fact we get assistance that isn't targeted to any particular national policy document or national economic initiative.

We aren't a big country. Income opportunities are hard to find. It's so tough here that many people leave to find meaningful work that pays enough to support their families, in fact we read about it in the paper just this week on the front page, it's on the lips at international conferences, depopulation

problem all over the Pacific.

How could those who want to remain and be industrious possibly succeed? The prohibitive transportation costs, among other things make self-support nearly impossible. Yet in years past the vibrancy of the outer islands commercial activities was a sight to see. Silk & Boyd's ships were sailing away laden with sacks of copra, pandanus mats, rito hats, and fish. The service was subsidised by the Government and it helped propagate economic activity. Current operators neither have the support or the economic activity on those islands to make

A good example to view would be the 6.5 million dollar machinery grant from China of graders and heavy machinery. There currently exists no public business plan or maintenance schedule and it is likely that this equipment will sit idle in the outer islands after its initial use and form a rusty monument of gifts of significant waste.

You may well ask why gifts aren't wrapped in their own national policy initiative targeting specific areas of urgent and planned need. Like purpose built hybrid vessels for inter islands shipping to alleviate a long standing challenge or

equipment that can kick start bio fuel manufacturing in our outer islands. You'll have your own list I'm sure, of where aid can be better targeted.

I recall one of our early thinkers on renewable energy Tom Wichman who now resides in Auckland asking at an international conference in Germany 'why send us all these machines we didn't ask for? It's not for any specific purpose because all you are doing is wasting your help and at the same time causing waste disposal problems and future cost for our country'.

We take out loans for large projects but many of our most-talented people won't stay in the Cooks to work on them, in fact. We are contemplating an expensive grandiose party, but we don't have a plan to make life in the outer islands more affordable and two-way commerce there more feasible. As Peter Singer asks,

Do we think that our interests are best fulfilled by a lifestyle that displays our economic success by our ostentatious consumption ... or do we include among our interests ... helping others?

In the real world, we aren't forced to make such absolute choices between one thing and another, and that's a relief. If we're clever, we can probably have nice (if not grand) buildings and find a way to retain national talent, to participate in international dialog but to find a way to improve the economy. We can have a party, a modest one and do something much more useful with our funds.

We have an important anniversary coming, and of course we will celebrate. But let's give careful thought and have a full and rational public debate about how big and expensive that celebration will be, and about how else such a large sum of money might best be spent to improve the lives of Cook Islanders. - George Pitt



Leadership Trainees graduation last Friday.

Cook Islands
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Tourism growth attracting overseas investor interest

*Chinese, PNG and Italian investors
are sniffing at our door*

By Charles Pitt

Recent events appear to indicate an increase in interest by overseas investors in the Cook Islands.

Sustained growth in our tourism sector coupled with untapped local markets, spells "opportunity."

"Opportunity" has a certain smell to it which is why investors are sniffing at our door.

Lets hope it does not result in a "gold rush" mentality which is often attractive to the wrong elements looking for either a quick return or somewhere to hide dubious gained funds.

While there is no firm evidence as yet, it would be fair to say that a key part of this development has been the heightened international projection by the Prime Minister of our country as a stable, clean, green, safe, welcoming destination with strong emphasis on environmental and marine conservation and sustainable renewable energy. The PM has certainly played a part but whether his efforts will pay dividends is not yet known.

Helping to spark this interest from overseas investors is the growth we have been experiencing in the tourism sector. Each year growth has been sustained at around 6-7 per cent and with available accommodation almost at capacity in the on season, opportunity exists for those with the funds, to cash in.

In our favour is the fact we have two untapped local markets. Firstly, we have room to establish a new five to six star accommodation market. Secondly, we have the outer islands.

The latest to indicate an

interest in investment is the Italian Ambassador. The Herald has learnt that the Ambassador in one on one talks with a local entrepreneur, has advised there are investors in Italy who are keen to be involved in hotel development in the Cook Islands. Interest from wealthy Chinese businessmen is well known. In recent months separate groups of wealthy Chinese have made low key visits to Rarotonga and Aitutaki to explore investment opportunities.

The fact that we have been able to sustain growth in the tourism sector over the past few years at an impressive level must be attractive to overseas investors.

With hotel accommodations from budget to three star level approaching capacity, potential for growth in the four to six star level range is an enticing prospect considering the next wave of tourists are likely to be wealthy Chinese who will expect nothing less than five star facilities and services.

Future developments then are likely to be in the five to six star range meaning a boost to revenue which should please government and locals as long as the visual, social and environmental impacts are tightly controlled and minimized.

It is expected that China will soon begin direct flights to Fiji and this may bode well for the Cook Islands if travelers were able to fly on to the Cook Islands. Initially it is possible flights could extend as far as Samoa.

It is already known that PNG investors are looking for investment opportunities in Fiji. PNG investors have also been considering opportunities in the Cook Islands.

Letter to the Editor

11 December, 2014

Editor

Cook Islands Herald

Dear Sir
In response to a Letter to the Editor published on 10 December entitled Te Mato Vai Notice to Affected Landowners "Published Without Authority" I'd like to advise your readers of the following:

The Public Notice and Declaration dated 20 November 2014, was gazetted in the Cook Islands Gazette on the 21 November 2014.

Copies of the notice are also being published in the print media because the Government wants as many people as possible to know about what it intends to do in relation to land for our major water project Te Mato Vai.

The second phase of Te Mato Vai is about to get underway and it will begin with discussions with the people who own the land around the Rarotonga water systems 12 intakes.

Phase two involves reconstruction of the intakes and the building of storage capacity and filtering facilities downstream from the intakes; and where necessary, the trunk mains that feed water into the ring mains will also be replaced.

As the notice states, the Government intends to meet with land owners. It also invites land owners to register their interest in finding out more about the proposed works.

The Rarotonga Waterworks Ordinance 1960 provides for the construction and maintenance of infrastructure on Rarotonga for the public supply of water. If procedures in the Ordinance are properly followed, the Government can enter onto private land to lay pipes and construct water tanks and other water infrastructure.

This right of entry does not affect the land owner's right to receive compensation for their land, including for any damage to the property as a result of the works undertaken.

In accordance with the Cook Islands Ordinance 1966, which the letter writer may not be familiar with, section 3 (2), states that ministers are to administer ordinances in lieu of the High Commissioner. This is why the notice was published by the Minister of Infrastructure and why any person may lodge an objection to the Minister rather than the Queen's Representative. As is quite clear in the Rarotonga Water Ordinance, any such objections shall be heard in the High Court of the Cook Islands.

We look forward to consultations with landowners in the New Year.

Tamari'i Tutangata

Chief Executive

Cook Islands Investment Corporation

2014 November Tourist Arrivals

November 2014 visitor arrivals were 9,417, a decrease of 934 (-9.0 per cent) compared to visitor arrivals in November 2013. November arrivals have been performing well for the last 2 years (November 2012 and 2013) with arrivals exceeding 10,000 in both years.

The decline was driven mainly by a fall in Australian arrivals of 715 (a 30.2 per cent fall compared to November 2013), with a further 284 fall coming from New Zealand arrivals (a 4.6 per cent fall from November 2013). European arrivals were the only market to show an increase, with 195 more arrivals than in November 2013.

While the monthly visitor arrivals for the last three months have been volatile, the overall performance has been consistent with the 2014/15 Budget forecasts. The Australian market continues to be a key focus for the Cook Islands so the performance of their arrivals will be looked at closely over the next few months. -MFEM release



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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

Development Awards launched

The Minister of Finance – Mark Brown – is calling for nominations for a series of special awards to celebrate 50 years of development next year.

The winners of the awards will be announced at an awards dinner with the country's Development Partners during the Development Partners Meeting in February next year.

The awards and the Development Partners meeting will be one of the many special events taking place next year to celebrate half a century of self-government in the Cook Islands.

There are 7 categories in the awards, they are:

Five Best Decade Development Awards for each of the decades for 1965-2014; Supreme development 1965 – 2015, and a People's Choice award.

"The 2015 Development Awards will recognise the country's best development achievements over the last fifty years. These awards will honour organisations, individuals and the public and private sector for their efforts in creating positive change in the Cook Islands" Minister Brown said.

Nomination forms can be found on line at www.mfem.gov.ck or can be collected from the Development Coordination Division offices.

Winners will be recognised at 2015 Development Partner's Meeting Awards Dinner on Tuesday 10th February 2015.

Additional Notes:

Over the last four years the government has hosted an annual meeting to allow Cook Islands government, civil society and private sector development partners, to meet and mix with international development partners.

The big meeting will be centred on the National Auditorium and the pa enua hostels with various meetings and functions being spread around the auditorium precinct, again Journey to Development: 50 years in the Cook Islands: 9-13 February 2015 generating a picture of the many facets of Cook Islands life with the auditorium representing Rarotonga and the hostels their sister island homes.

The meeting will be held between the 9th and 13th of February next year; the visit to Mitiaro will be on the 12th of February with an overnight stay.

Te kimi'anga note ka tau no te au Akairo Turanga Akapuapinga

E kapikianga teia nate Minita o te Moni Mark Brown kite katoatoa rava kia tuku mai me kore kia tamanako mai i tetai au ingoa tangata me kore taokotai'anga tei tau kia oronga'ia tetai au Akairo no te Turanga Akapuapinga i roto nei i te Basileia ei tuanga no te akararangi'anga i to tatou 50 mataiti a teia mataiti ki mua (2015).

Ko ratou te ka manuia no teia au 'Akairo Turanga Akapuapinga' ka oronga'ia te reira kia ratou i te tuatau kai'nga'ma'nga ate au Patana Akatupu'puapinga te ka rave'ia i roto i te marama ia Peperuare a teia mataiti ki mua.

Ko teia oronga'anga Akairo, e pera te Uipaanga a te au Patana Akatupu'puapinga ko tetai teia o te maata'anga angaanga te ka rave'ia no te akararangi'anga i to tatou 50 mataiti i te tupu'anga Basileia.

E 7 au tuanga no teia au Akairo:

E 5 au Akairo no te Turanga Meitaki Maata note au mataiti

e 10 mei te mataiti 1965-2014; te Akairo Papa'nunui rava no te Akatupu'puapinga; e te Akairo i ta te Iti'tangata Iki'anga.

"Ko teia au Akairo o te 2015, e aka'meitaki'anga teia nate Basileia kia ratou no te au angaanga meitaki tei raveia i nga mataiti e 50 i topa. Ko teia au Akairo e akangateitei teia i te au Taokotai'anga; te au tangata takitai; te tua o te Kavamani; e pera te tuanga Pitiniti, no te au angaanga ta ratou i rave ei puapinga no te Pae Enua Kuki Airani." i tuatua ei te Minita Brown.

Kote pepa note tuku mai i te au iki'anga ka kite'ia te reira i runga i te rorouira www.mfem.gov.ck me kore e tiki atu i te reira ki ko i te Minitiri o te Moni i te tuanga "Development Coordination Division".

Ko ratou te ka manuia i teia au Akairo ka oronga'ia te reira kia ratou i te tuatau kai'nga'ma'nga ate au Patana Akatupu'puapinga te ka rave'ia i te Ruirua ra 10 o te marama ia Peperuare 2015. Te Mataara no te Puapinga: e 50 Mataiti i roto i te Kuki Airani 9-13 Peperuare 2015

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



Congratulations to Mrs. Carmen Temata JP

by Poko Utia

Congratulations to woman of the month Carmen Tuakanakore Temata JP.

Nominated by the Apostolic Church, Carmen served the Government of the Cook Islands for many years and is currently serving as Justice of the Peace. She has served in other NGO organizations such as the Cook Islands Library and Museum and is now an active member of the Breast Cancer organization.

Mrs Temata is an active member of the Apostolic Church of the Cook Islands. She is one of the most outstanding sisters who is still supporting the many different ministries even at her retiring age. She has served as the Secretary of the church for many years. She represented the church on the Women's World Day of Prayer Committee during her tenure as Secretary. Carmen and her husband are founding deacons of the church.

Carmen married Upokoina Temata on 30th October 1965 in Wellington, New Zealand. They have 2 sons and one daughter, 11 grandchildren and two great-grand children; she is the second born child in her family with three brothers and one sister. Carmen Temata was born in Otorohanga, NZ, on 15 August 1944.

Raised on the island of Aitutaki by her grandfather, aunty and uncle she later moved to Rarotonga in the early 1950s. Carmen enjoys reading and says, "Reading, of course is my favourite hobby and I just love reading fiction and non-fiction books. However, today I enjoy reading the Word of God more." Not only does she enjoy reading but she also likes gardening.

Education

Attended:

- i. Araura Primary School
- ii. Avarua School
- iii. Tereora College
- iv. New Plymouth Girls High School

Qualifications:

- i. 1962 NZ School Certificate
- ii. 1967 NZ Library Association Certificate
- iii. 1975 Archives Management Certificate – East West Centre,
- iv. Honolulu, Hawaii
- v. 1999 Diploma in Public Sector Management (DPSM) – Massey University

Awards:

- 1963 - Government Scholarship to NZ to study at New Plymouth

Girls' High School
1980 - 2 weeks
Observation Tour of Libraries in London as guest

of the London & Home Counties Branch of the Library Association

1990 - Nominated as Regional Vice President for the Pacific, of

the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA) and attended meeting in Malta

1993 - Also attended a COMLA workshop in Porto, Portugal and

attended the International Federated Library Associations (IFLA) Barcelona, Spain in my role as Regional Vice President of the Pacific region.

1996 - Invited to attend IFLA Conference in China and present a

paper on the Library Service in the Pacific but due to ill-health could not attend

2003 - Sworn before H.E. Queens Representative, Sir Frederick

Goodwin as Justice of the Peace of the Cook Islands.

Employment:

1967-1991 Librarian, Cook Islands Library & Museum Society (Inc.)

1991-1997 Chief Librarian, National Library, Ministry of Cultural Development

1997-2000 Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Development

2002-2012 Senior Performance Analyst, Office of the Public Service Commissioner.

Retired from the public service in January 2012 after working for government for over 40 years.

Beliefs /Spirituality

Carmen is one of the foundation members of the Apostolic Church of the Cook Islands. She strongly believes in the teachings from the Word of God, and says there is no other God but our Lord Jesus Christ because he paid for our sins by dying on the cross at Calvary.

Today, two of their children and their families are serving in the Ministry as preachers of the Word of God. This is their own personal decision. She prayed for them that God will touch their lives to bless them.

For all her achievements in life today, she says she acknowledges and gives honour and credit to Lord Jesus for his wisdom, knowledge and understanding in every aspects of their life since the day they gave our life to him through repentance, baptism in Jesus name and filled with his Holy Spirit.

Carmen says her most memorable experience is when she got the award to travel to England as guest of the London & Home Counties Branch of the Library Association with all expenses paid is one that appreciate and grateful for. The whole two weeks was spent giving speeches and talking



Woman of the Month of October, Mrs. Carmen Temata, visiting about the Cook Islands, visiting key institutions such as the

British Library, British Museum West Minister Abbey, The British Parliament – House of Lords & House of Commons and meeting up with the Rev. Bernard Thorogood over lunch. Their conversation over lunch was in Cook Islands Maori. She said it was obvious that he missed speaking our Cook Island Maori language. Therefore, for anyone to say that they forgot the language because they were surrounded by people who do not speak the language is utter rubbish. Rev. Thorogood is a living testimony that if you love the language you would never forget it!!

In 2010 she was diagnosed with breast cancer and the analysis further confirmed that it was malignant and she needed surgery. She was not afraid and put all her trust in Jesus that he was taking her through this experience for a reason only he knows. Carmen says, she was confident that he would grant her complete healing

2014 Woman of the Month Sponsors:

1. WOM Organising Committee, **2.** Apii Urlich Flowers & Aunty Larry –ei Katu, **3.** Bank Cook Islands voucher & Wall of Fame, **4.** Fuji Image/CI Printing – Photo Production, **5.** Pitt Media Group- CITV/Herald, **6.** Farm Direct Pearls Lesley & Temu Okotai, **7.** Islander Hotel & Restaurant- Rohan Ellis, **8.** Staircase Restaurant- Man & Sisi Short, **9.** Nga Bates – Little Red Gallery, **10.** Aunty Kafo- kaforteria, **11.** Lydia Sijp – Foot massage Pamper session, **12.** Martha Makimare Tivaevaes, **13.** ANZ Bank -2013 new Trophy & Voucher sponsor, **14.** Beka – Peka & Ben, **15.** Melina Tuiravakai

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

In the last paragraph of my Cook Islands News letter of 13 October 2014 on the parliamentary shambles I presaged that I was working on a piece that questioned whether we may have been too hasty back in 1963 in choosing self-government. Here is that piece.

I am wondering whether it is time to rethink self-government especially now the 50th anniversary is looming and some politicians will see this as an opportunity to tell us how it has been such a tremendous success and by association a favourable reflection upon them.

But has it:

-when more Cook Islanders than ever before have chosen to emigrate rather than now live here

-when we have had 16 years since the Commission on Political Reform to reform the political landscape but have kept promising to address this vital issue but have steadfastly neglected to do so

-when the needs of the country have taken second place to endless travelling, self-enrichment, self-indulgence and the private interest of a privileged few who consider the public revenues their personal bank account

-when the Cook Islands is bogged down by political malcontents, naked ambition, minorities, inequalities, horse-trading, backroom deals, unnecessary political appointments and self-serving interests which pervert the delivery of stable government and a reflection of the popular vote

-when a culture of corruption is perceived to be the acceptable standard and any attempt to investigate and expose it thwarted by denial and frustrated by vested interests

-when the sanctity and integrity of the rule of law is threatened by a scarcity of defenders

-when Members of Parliament are denied opportunities to fulfil their representative role by the manipulation and abuse of parliamentary procedure so Government's management of the affairs of the country can escape scrutiny

-when our propensity to be forever seeking the handout rather than address our capacity to take care of ourselves creates an obsession with foreign aid which has become an industry in itself and promotes an abdication of responsibility and innovative thinking of how we might care for ourselves and avoid the appellation of international bludger

-when our boastful claims of being leaders in the region is an exercise in self-deception and is a misrepresentation to the people of the real position as our population and land area is miniscule compared with others like Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Papua New Guinea and consequently we should be doing much better than we are

-when our per capita GDP further inflates with each year's net negative migration and is a cause for serious alarm rather than foolish bragging

-when it is pointless having an economic development plan but no labour policy to address the shortage of workers

-when the appointment of people to positions they are inadequately qualified to fill continues with disastrous results and the wasteful and excessive expenditure on salaries and perks is an unacceptable burden on the taxpayers

-when Government uses the power of its office to retaliate and attempt to silence its critics by adopting policies calculated to undermine their businesses all in the spurious name of consumer interests and the global model meanwhile failing to heed cries for the enactment of Commerce legislation that vested interests have been able to delay for 13 years thus allowing predatory pricing practices and other restrictive non-competitive trade activities to thrive

-when the lower income worker constantly struggles with rising prices yet government resists a return to price control on basic lines misguidedly believing that the free market system would provide those controls

-when Government relentlessly pursues taxes, back taxes and penalties with a determination that takes no regard of the wider implications

-when fewer people contribute letters to the newspaper fearful of recrimination and those that do increasingly see it as an unsafe

environment and seek protection in anonymity

-when successive governments have failed miserably to address de-population

-when so many Cook Islanders now residing overseas tie up land which then lies idle and unavailable for agricultural use and no attempt made to find a formula which brings that land back into production by resident family members or interested farmers

-when in the 1950s, the 1960s, the 1970s and the 1980s we had the resources of economic self sustainability because we had the land and we had the people and while the land remains it remains under-utilised because we no longer have the people.

-when if we are unable to exploit the potential of the land because of political and official short-sightedness then our last hope is in and under the sea but what are the chances there when we cannot even effectively and transparently manage our fish resource.

-when the abundance we are constantly reminded exists on the seafloor is an opportunity whose time will come but the waste of public funds that we see now with the more modest sums at our disposal is seen as just a practice run for when those riches materialise and the real fear whether we could trust our leaders in the management of them.

-when we have fallen behind our regional neighbours in exploiting the seabed minerals because of suspicious manoeuvring, indecision and general dithering

Parliament, and the people, on Friday 31 October 2014, heard for the first time the suggestion that perhaps Cook Islanders did have reason to question its leaders' devotion to the self-government concept.

A radio interview where Murienua MP, James Beer in reviewing 50 years of self-government flagged areas where self-government had failed to deliver was the catalyst for a blistering attack from Minister of Finance, Mark Brown who, along with Minister Nandi Glassie pointedly demanded whether Mr Beer was promoting a return to the colonial days and a NZ administration. Mr Beer countered that that was not his intention at all but was advancing the proposition that as successive governments had failed the people those people should be given the opportunity to express, in a referendum, whether in fact they wished to continue with the experiment which was resulting in the demise of primary industry and the flight of its people in alarming numbers.

Minister Glassie referred to the UN policy on non-self-governing territories and attempted to explain the four options that were presented to the Cook Islands in 1962. He got three right but the fourth which was central to the issue at hand he did not. The three he stated correctly were: complete independence, a pacific federation and self-government. The fourth he described as being a colony of NZ or some other country which was quite wrong and he either did not know that or, if he did, was deliberately misconstruing it so as to cast it in the worst possible light as he considered it was this option that Mr Beer was referring to.

Now for some history. The United Nations Committee on Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, also later known as the Committee of 24 or the Special Committee on Decolonisation, was established in 1961 in pursuance of a Declaration in 1960 by the United Nations that Member States take immediate steps to transfer power to those non-self-governing territories. NZ was a Member State and the Cook Islands was a non-self-governing territory.

In 1961, Frank Corner became New Zealand's Ambassador to the United Nations, where he chaired the Trusteeship Council for two years, and served on the United Nations Security Council. Corner was the leading proponent of decolonisation of Pacific territories under New Zealand control and provided the leading intellectual arguments in favour of decolonisation of Tokelau, the Cook Islands, Niue, and Western Samoa. (Wikipedia)

I believe it neither unkind nor untrue to state that NZ in the very earliest stages of the Committee decolonising activities was eager to demonstrate its cooperation and willingness to comply with the applicable resolutions and in doing so engender a positive reaction amongst its fellow Members and an enhancing of its international profile.

Continued next page

The thrust of Resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 was however complete independence which was not thought applicable to the circumstances of the Cook Islands considering the stage of development it had then reached.

Clearly the United Nation also recognised its blanket demand for independence was not universally relevant and by a further resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 qualified in 12 guiding Principles how colonial governments should interpret Resolution 1514 (XV). Numbers VI to IX are quoted here:

Principle VI

A Non-Self-Governing Territory can be said to have reached a full measure of self-government by:

- (a) Emergence as a sovereign independent State;*
- (b) Free association with an independent State; or*
- (c) Integration with an independent State.*

Principle VII

(a) Free association should be the result of a free and voluntary choice by the peoples of the territory concerned expressed through informed and democratic processes. It should be one which respects the individuality and the cultural characteristics of the territory and its peoples, and retains for the peoples of the territory which is associated with an independent State the freedom to modify the status of that territory through the expression of their will by democratic means and through constitutional processes.

(b) The associated territory should have the right to determine its internal constitution without outside interference, in accordance with due constitutional processes and the freely expressed wishes of the people. This does not preclude consultations as appropriate or necessary under the terms of the free association agreed upon.

Principle VIII

Integration with an independent State should be on the basis of complete equality between the peoples of the erstwhile Non-Self-Governing Territory and those of the independent country with which it is integrated. The peoples of both territories should have equal status and rights of citizenship and equal guarantees of fundamental rights and freedoms without any distinction or discrimination; both should have equal rights and opportunities for representation and effective participation at all levels in the executive, legislative and judicial organs of government.

Principle IX

Integration should have come about in the following circumstances:

(a) The integrating territory should have attained an advanced stage of self-government with free political institutions, so that its peoples would have the capacity to make a responsible choice through informed and democratic processes;

(b) The integration should be the result of the freely expressed wishes of the territory's peoples acting with full knowledge of the change in their status, their wishes having been expressed through informed and democratic processes, impartially conducted and based on universal adult suffrage. The United Nations could, when it deems it necessary, supervise these processes.

So it can be seen that while the 'self-government' Minister Glassie was referring to embraced free association with an independent state (in this case NZ) it could also include integration with an independent state and the way NZ presented the options to us was to add the fourth of integration as a clearly identified other option.

David Stone in an article in the Journal of the Polynesian Society wrote- *The alternatives given in Principle VII are precisely those which were offered the Cook Islands Legislative Assembly, with the addition of Pacific federation. 55 While it is admitted that the New Zealand Government preferred free association (i.e., internal self-government while retaining links with New Zealand), it would, under the set of Principles according to which it was acting, have had to have accepted integration or independence, if such a choice had been made. As it turned out, it seems to me that New Zealand suggested internal self-government because it was believed that this was the status most appropriate - 370 to the political, social and economic development of the Cook Islands, and the one closest to the aspirations of their people. 56*

And that is what the NZ Government through its Minister of Island

Territories and its local Resident Commissioner did. It quickly recognised that Cook Islanders would not seek to go in

the same direction as the newly independent Western Samoa but that integration with NZ where so many of its people already lived did remain a possibility. But it was never fully examined in fact Leon Gotz, the Minister dealt with it but briefly, and negatively, in his address to the Legislative Assembly on 11 July 1962 in which he said-

A few weeks ago the NZ Cabinet discussed what steps ought to be taken in the next few years and my principal purpose in attending this session of the Assembly is to let you know the views of my Government. We feel that our aim should be to establish full internal self-government in the Cook Islands as soon as this is reasonably possible.

Having stated the direction NZ wished the Cook Islands to take he, then, paradoxically, acknowledged that NZ wanted to do the right thing and to cooperate with the United Nations in seeing that the Cook Islands people are governed in accordance with their own freely expressed wishes.

Of the four options there were really only two which had appeal. Independence pretty much ruled itself out with the loss of NZ citizenship if nothing else and the complexities of a Pacific Federation could not even begin to be articulated. On the question of integration with NZ the Minister, consistent with the already announced position of his Government, tended to pour cold water upon the notion and no doubt was echoing a submission he taken to his Cabinet just a month earlier in which he referred to the disastrous social effects on the Islanders. He referred to the Cook Islands receiving the same treatment as say the Province of Taranaki; that NZ laws would apply - some that would be liked but also a number that would not be liked. Instead of a Legislative Assembly the Cook Islands would have representation in the NZ Parliament but because of its small population would probably need to share that and its voice would be less than currently enjoyed in its own Legislature.

Without any opportunity being given to more fully examine these competing options and consult with the people, the Assembly, two days later on the 13 July 1962 passed the following motion which had been drafted by the Administration:

That this Assembly-

(1) Records its appreciation of the Minister's speech and of the New Zealand Government's proposal as outlined by him for the future political development of the Cook Islands

(2) Declares that full independence as recently granted to Western Samoa is not the goal of the Cook Islands

(3) Requests that the New Zealand Government proceeds with its plan for giving the Cook Islands the fullest possible internal self government while at the same time preserving for the Cook Islands people their present status as New Zealand citizens

(4) Reaffirms its loyalty to the Crown and its faith in New Zealand's willingness to continue giving aid and assistance to the Cook Islands without thought of any gain other than the friendship and goodwill of the people.

On the strength of that resolution Constitutional advisers sat with the Assembly for a week in August 1963 to discuss in detail the constitutional framework which would eventually be incorporated into the Cook Islands Constitution Bill. There was no looking back and although

there was inchoate movement to get more discussion and understanding of the integration option it never really got any traction (nor support from the administration) and although some candidates stood on an integration platform at the ensuing general elections they were roundly beaten by the glamour, organisational skills, drive and dynamics of the Albert Henry CIP political machine which it would be fair to say handsomely won the election (14 seats to 8) not so much as a statement and endorsement of the future political status of the Cook Islands but more as a result of a coalescing of support behind the novel phenomenon of a charismatic and flamboyant leader. It was more a combination of an exciting new leader promising a new direction under a new polity and a rejection of the old establishment.

Does integration remain an option?-It would appear from

Continued next page

the foregoing that integration was not necessarily excluded from consideration at a later time. Reference to Principle IX above that(a) The integrating territory should have attained an advanced stage of self-government with free political institutions, so that its peoples would have the capacity to make a responsible choice through informed and democratic processes; presupposes that the Cook Islands could, after gaining experience with internal self government, opt for integration. Logically that would for all practical purposes imply NZ but integration with some other state would not necessarily be ruled out of consideration although the New Zealand citizenship factor would be a huge influence. But would NZ accept integration at such a late stage? David Stone took the view (vide: ante) that had the Cook Islands chosen integration in 1962 NZ would have been obliged to have acceded to that wish and accommodated it. It is a moot point now 50 years later on whether after satisfying the precondition of having attained an advanced stage of self-government the same obligation exists especially when NZ in 1962 was so clearly against it and carefully steered the Cook Islands in another direction.

The irony of course is that since 1962 when the Cook Islands resident population was around 19000 it is now estimated to be in the region of 12-13000. With net migration being negative in recent years, and extrapolated out, integration is occurring by default. In twenty years at the same rate the total resident population, unless depopulation is reversed, is expected to reach critical levels with all manner of social and economic consequences. As most of those migrants are now in New Zealand anyway, and more joining them every year, one wonders whether New Zealand would still be reluctant to consider integration especially when it is internal self-government, and not integration, which is bringing about the disastrous social effects that the Minister warned his Cabinet about in 1962!

A parallel case to this scenario occurred in Newfoundland where after 75 years of self-government a constitutional referendum in 1949 chose integration with Canada due to its economic collapse in 1933 during the Great Depression. David Stone wrote in 1965: *This underlines the fallacy of applying to the Cook Islands the argument that Commonwealth experience shows the unlikelihood of a change of status from internal self-government to anything other than independence. Exceptional as Newfoundland's example may be, it is precisely in the circumstances that led that country to turn to Canada (acute economic difficulties) and also the procedure it adopted to do so (a constitutional referendum) that the Cook Islands could consider it necessary or desirable to turn to New Zealand in the future should the recent experiment in self-government fail.*

And that is how New Zealand regarded self-government. It was an experiment-

"The experiment upon which both our countries have embarked - the concept of self government and free association - depends to a large degree, however, not only on the financial measures taken by both our governments for the future economic well-being, but also on the maintenance of trust and confidence between us as fellow New Zealanders." (Message from Minister of Island Territories JR Hanan read to the Legislative Assembly in 1966).

In this same context we should be reminded of the Exchange of letters between the NZ Government's Prime Minister, Norman Kirk and the CIs Government Premier, Albert Henry in 1973 wherein was identified that the unusual gesture of extending NZ citizenship to people beyond the reach of its own laws creates an expectation that the Cook Islands will uphold in their laws and policies, a standard of values generally acceptable to New Zealanders. If readers will go back to examine my when questions it would appear that we are not upholding our end of the bargain.

The Cook Islands Constitution has provision in Article 41(2) for a change in status by constitutional referendum. Section 2 of the Cook Islands Constitution Act 1964 provides that-

The Cook Islands shall be self-governing. This cannot be changed except by following the procedure contained in Article 41 (2) {2/3rds support in Parliament, 90 days wait, poll of electors and 2/3rds support in that poll}.

Should we be looking at this?-The Cook Islands has in the view of this writer reached a crucial crossroads in its political evolution. There is an innate desire in all people to want to manage their own

affairs but of the estimated global population of Cook Islanders of somewhere between 80-100,000 all but 12-13000 have abandoned their homeland and chosen to live elsewhere. Successive Cook Islands Governments were slow to recognise that we were facing a population loss problem and then impotent in how to address it. Substantial investment in outer islands harbours, airports and renewable energy while admirable in principle has probably come too late to arrest the depopulation of those islands and foster the economic opportunity presented by this investment. Meanwhile loans associated with these developments need to be repaid and if economic revival in those islands fails the burden will be fall upon remaining taxpayers.

As the population diminishes so the cost of government per capita increases. More and more of our resources are disappearing into non-productive avenues. Millions of dollars are wasted in providing public and crown servants with vehicles, with associated running costs and maintenance, predominately chosen to suit their private lifestyle rather than job related. In years past official vehicle requirements were managed by a transport pool. Financial management which in years past was centralised in the Treasury has been replicated by as many times as there are Ministries all unnecessary and all operating independently and beyond the immediate purview and control of a central agency which is just a further invitation for profligacy and waste demanding more effective oversight by those Government agencies charged with protecting the taxpayers money.

A sobering fact is that if the economy in future years is still expected to operate at something like existing levels, but given the continuing attrition in the resident population, Cook Islanders will

become strangers in their own land as increasing numbers of imported workers arrive to fill the vacuum created by fleeing Cook Islanders.

Is self-government worth saving? Are people satisfied with our present system of government? Are we performing well within it? The howls of protest and derision that followed James Beer's posing of similar questions predictably came from that quarter which enjoys or aspires to recapture the good life of being in government. Is self-government delivering what the people expect from it or has it betrayed them? Why else are they complaining and leaving in droves? Is self-government actually serving the people or does the defense of it narrow down to those selfish few who benefit mostly from it. And is this why we only get lip service when the subject of political reform comes up - because political reform has the serious potential to disturb the cushy life of a tiny but influential minority?

Last chance. If we are going to give self-government one last chance to demonstrate that it can deliver the expectations of those that embarked us on this path 50 years ago now is that time.

There is no clear winner yet emerging from the general election of five months ago. It could go either way or it could end up as it did once before in 1983 and require a return to the polls.

So while there is no clear winner and therefore no compelling personal agenda would this not be, as James Beer suggested in a letter a week ago, the perfect opportunity for all three parties to commit to political reform and by that I mean serious political reform. Not just the tampering with a seat here and a seat there but a revival of the 1998 Political Review Commission of Laveta Short, Ron Crocombe and John Herrmann. I believe so and, as the final electoral landscape could be revealed in a matter of days and would have the capacity to dilute any cooperation and enthusiasm, that decision, that commitment, should be taken now before the final position is known. In the event of a hung Parliament, and that prior commitment, a government of national unity could be agreed and proceed along the lines James Beer has proposed with clear terms of reference and a tight timetable. Political reform could then be legislated and the country could return to the polls under the new arrangements. It will not be easy and it will not be without some losses and some pain but unless we are prepared to do it the Cook Islands has not got a great deal to look forward to if it retains the present system the way it is currently structured.

If we do not seize this opportunity then, in my view, we are destined to continue our downward spiral and we would likely be better off commencing negotiations right now with New Zealand on the terms of integration

John M Scott.

What I want for Christmas



Mareva

I would like a new bunch of books of interesting teen fiction books.



Vaineritua

I would like to win lotto



Nio

I just want to enjoy Christmas and new years with the family and friends



Shonelle

I want everything.



Annie

I would like a new Phone



Mavis

I want a new Phone



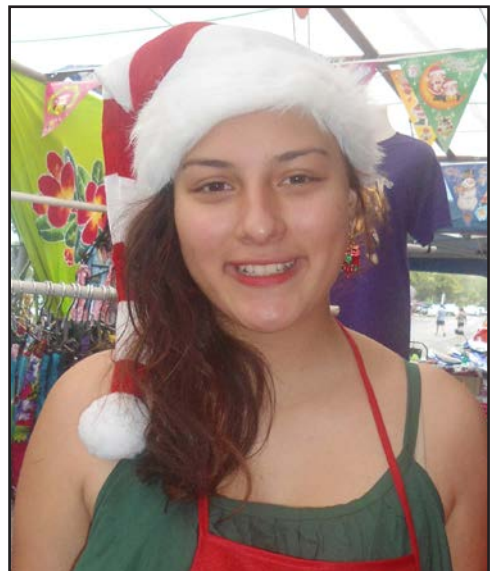
Teriu

I would like a new pair of glasses



Vero

I want a new Vega



Jewel

I would like a Iphone 5s

Morrison here for Concert

By Poko Utia

Visiting the Cook Islands for the fourth time is the well known New Zealand television and motion film actor Temuera (Tem) Morrison.

Tem has been roped in by his good friend local artist Mike Tavioni to perform in a concert at the National Auditorium on Thursday to raise funds for Mike's film project.

It is certain to be one of the highlights of the year as it will feature Tem performing some of his recent songs from a new CD and young local talent.

Tem is famous for his roles in TVNZs "Shortland Street" and films like "Once were Warriors," "Mt Zion" and "Star Wars."

I spoke to Tem at CITV on the morning of Monday 15th of December. Tem began by explaining how everything started off. He had been here earlier doing a BBC production called "Tatau" which was completed a month ago. While here, he met local artist Mike Tavioni as Mike was playing a part in the film as one of the elders. Mike had to go to New Zealand to do some filming and he took Mike down to his home town Rotorua. From there grew a close and good friendship. Mike gave him some of his writings to read and Tem believes that he wrote a wonderful script for a short film called "The Stove."

He says he was quite impressed with the Stove because it's not only about a stove. The story opens with a man who is trying to grow bananas to make money to buy a stove but in order to do that he has to clear some of his land. While he's clearing the land he comes across an ancient Marae and in moving some of the rocks, strange things start to happen. He starts to feel some strange things happening to him in terms of visitations. Tem thought it was a wonderful little story.

When Tem was last here, to attend a fund raising dinner for the Christmas Box project, Mike suggested that they should do a concert to start fundraising for "The Stove." So Tem is back to do the concert which will happen on Thursday the 18th

at the National Auditorium starting at 7pm.

Tem has also just released his new CD and he will be singing some of the songs at the National Auditorium. When Mike suggested they should start fundraising for the film, Tem said why not jump at the opportunity. Tem says the show on Thursday is just like planting the seed to their whole project and if they manage to get people there it will be great as all the funds will go towards the project. So now it's all about working for love and hopefully later they can benefit from it and make some sort of profit out of it. Tem is confident they will be able to fund the movie.

Tem is not certain if he will be involved in the new "Star Wars" but will find out when he returns to New Zealand. Tem says the last film he was in was the series filmed here for the BBC. There will be eight one hour shows which will commence in March next year. He is also getting ready to make a film in New Zealand and he will be working with the director of Once were Warriors. The movie is based on a book called "Bully Basher."

Tem thinks the site in Avana commemorating the departure of the vaka to New Zealand, should indeed to be more prominent. He believes there should be a big Vaka built there so that New Zealand Maori's can come back and see where they are from. He believes that the name Rarotonga means the south west which is the direction towards New Zealand. Tem says Mike shared his knowledge with him telling him that our ancestors were great sailors and could sail anywhere. Tem believes we should cherish our older generations because of their knowledge and that we shouldn't take them for granted.

Tem has brought his daughter on this trip. Tem says he loves it here and so does his daughter. She enjoys all the snorkeling and playing. Her name is Aiorangi, "Aio" meaning calm and "rangi" the sky. She is nine.

The Herald encourages everyone to go along to the concert on Thursday as it is for a worthy cause.



House of Ariki

Conversations about Te Mato Vai

What are the Issues?

1. The CCECC Contract versus the Te Mato Vai Master Plan
2. Cultural and Language Barriers
3. Quality of the work

Conversations about the Issues

1. The CCECC Contract and the TMV Master Plan

- The Master Plan cost \$250,000 in 2012 -2013
- Master Plan, Studies, and Oversight will cost \$533,000 in 2014-15 and \$450,000 in 2015-16 for a total of **\$1.233 Million**.
- The CCECC Contract was signed before the Master Plan was done
- The CCECC **Contract specifications are MINIMAL** and NOT the same as the Master Plan

Questions Arising?

- Who signed the contract and under whose authorization (was it a Minister or by Vote of Parliament?)
- Were there any irregularities with the Contract and Master Plan such as Conflicts of Interest under Section 394.4.C and Section 395 of the Standing Orders for Parliament?

2. Cultural and Language Barriers

- We know from the Police Station, The Courthouse and the Arena that there are problems working with CCECC. What plans were made in advance to fix those problems this time?

3. Quality of Work

- How do we know is the work is being done right if CCECC is not following the Master Plan?

The following pages show a few of the discrepancies between the standards or specifications described in the TMV Master Plan dated April 2014 (*Italics*), and the actual on-site practice as seen and photographed by a number of observers.

“The Te Mato Vai project has a huge expenditure and it is important that all the material components are to a high quality, correct specification and installed correctly,”
(Section 14.0, page 97)

Problem Area 1: Section 14.2.3.1 Surveying and setting out (page 96) and Section 14.2.1.6 Work in private property

It will be necessary to establish all levels, construction marks and set outs in order to ensure the accuracy of all survey pegs and marks that are used for determining the location of the components of the works. Full records of all set-out and as-built measurements as well as any observations must be maintained in order to prepare as-built drawings.

The contractor shall notify private property owners at least one week prior to starting construction on their property.

- As far as can be determined, these surveys are not being carried out – we know because there are no survey pegs and marks by the works.
- The trespassing and incorrect pipe installation on Landowner's Property (Larson) in Ruaau.



Trespass on Landowner Property



Removal of pipe from private land



Note: No survey marks, pegs etc. Also note manpower needed to correct the error
Story to be concluded next issue



*Management and staff of Triad
Pacific Petroleum would like to wish
all our valued customers
a Merry Christmas
and a Prosperous New Year*

**To show our appreciation for the
support throughout the year we
are giving to all our Pensioner
customers (60+) food hampers**

**So come down and meet our friendly
staff at our Triad Petrol Station in
Tutakimoa to pick your hampers. (22nd
December to 31st December 2014**

What the stable & our heart have in common

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

In a few days time we will be celebrating the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. For this article of encouragement I want us to look at "What the Stable in which Jesus was born and our Hearts have in common." Stable is a place where animals live. It is dirty, stink and noisy. Yet Mary gave birth to Jesus in this place. The birth of Jesus means little or nothing to us if He has not been born in our hearts. Now let us look at what the Stable and our Hearts have in common.

1. BOTH ARE PLACES WHERE GOD HAS CHOSEN FOR HIS SON TO ENTER.

God made the choice of where Jesus was to be born. Micah 5v.2 is a prophecy of where Jesus is to be born. It reads "Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are one of the smallest towns in the nation of Judah. But the Lord will choose one of your people to rule the nation – someone whose family goes back to ancient times." Again, Galatians 4v.4-5 reads "...God sent His Son, and a woman gave birth to Him...so He could set us free from the law, and we could become God's children." God has also chosen our hearts, for His Son Jesus to dwell in. Ephesians 3v.17 reads "...Christ will live in your hearts because of your faith. Stand firm and be deeply rooted in His love."

2. BOTH ARE PLACES THAT ARE UNWORTHY OF DIVINE ROYALTY. The stable is a dirty place; it's a dark place, and a defiled place, so as our hearts. Jeremiah 17v.9 reads "The

heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked..." It is because of our deceitfulness, our unworthiness that Jesus was born in the stable to show us of the extent of God's love for you and I. Remember that the birth of Christ means little or nothing at all, unless He is born in our hearts. When Jesus was born in the stable, no one cleaned the stable, or remove all the dirty and the filth, or even chase the animals out, Mary gave birth to Jesus the way the stable was – dirty and unclean. Jesus was born in a dirty stable. God want His Son Jesus to be born in our stable our hearts the way we are.

3. BOTH ARE PLACES THAT GOD HAS CHOSEN FOR THE BIRTH OF HIS SON.

The birth of Jesus was a spiritual birth. Just as Jesus was born of the Spirit, so the Holy Spirit wants to birth Jesus Christ in our hearts. The birth of Jesus Christ is what made all the difference in the stable and He can make all the difference in our lives when He is born in our hearts. II Corinthians 5v.17 reads "Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new." Has Christ been born in your heart?

4. BOTH ARE PLACES FROM WHICH GOD HAS CHOSEN TO REVEAL HIS SON.

The greatest witness of Jesus is the witness from our hearts. Through the stable, people know Jesus Christ. Through our hearts others will know that Jesus is alive in us. If Jesus is to be revealed to the world it will

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



be through our stables.

5. BOTH ARE PLACES THROUGH WHICH GOD DESIRES TO REACH A LOST WORLD. The stable was the gateway of God to reach the world. Amazingly, God

also chooses a stable, you and I to reach the world. May the peace and joy of God be with you during this Christmas and New Year period. May God bless you. Te Atua te aroa.

Christmas Box is a wrap!



By Nadia George

We've finally done it guys; a year full of hard work, fundraising and one thousand boxes later and we've finally come to the end of another successful year of Christmas box Cook Islands.

It all started early Saturday morning with a few volunteers showing up at 6am to help build up the empty cardboard boxes and stacking them at the start of each assembly line, ready to be filled. There were three rows of tables for the day and in each row, there was a station that the boxes would stop at and a person would place one food item into the boxes. One by one the boxes slowly moved down the assembly line until finally, stack by stack we had reached our target of one thousand

Christmas boxes.

The air was electric as people of all ages jumped in line to help out, with our youngest volunteers being two little dudes that had their hands full, running up and down the hall collecting and breaking down the empty cardboard boxes. Runners and team leaders for the day had their fair share of exhaustion, running back and forth with stacks of goodies to refill each station and in just over two hours, our thousand box mark had been reached and cheers were let out from all around the hall but still, the work wasn't over. With a quick break and bite to eat, we all helped load the container with hundreds of boxes that would be sent on their way to the islands of both the Northern and Southern group

of the Cook Islands.

As many as four hundred boxes were kept here on Rarotonga and were distributed around the island on the same day with the help of our trusty volunteers. Truckloads after truckloads saw hundreds of boxes leave the confines of the hall and into the hands of lucky families, individuals and children.

The final lot of deliveries was made on Monday morning with nineteen boxes loaded and ready to go, our much smaller team of volunteers went down to the Creative Centre in Tupapa to bless the very special people there that morning. From a thousand to zero, each and every Christmas box that was packed and sealed on Saturday morning has made its way to a

well deserving family, person or child. I think it's safe to say that none of this could have been possible without the generous donations of everyone involved, the support from local businesses and the community as well as the awesome volunteers that show up and are ready to help out.

A big Meitaki maata is extended to everyone involved in this year's Christmas box project and hey if you missed out on this year's Christmas Box project, well there's always next year or you could even still donate to the cause by depositing into the BCI account or by giving Vaiana a call on mobile# 72927.

Bring on the festive season and another successful year of giving with Christmas Box 2015!

The dazzling Tupapa light show has got the wee chicks crying their eyes out. Depressed about the political shambles the country is in? If you want to see something amazing and have your children spell bound then head for the Island's premium water station and experience Christmas in the street. The wee ones don't want to leave and start crying. Full credit to Mr 500 George Action Maggie for the biggest decoration of Christmas cheer the country has ever witnessed. Mr 500 has even got into the energy renewal spirit using solar bulbs that recharge during the daytime. Each day Maggie adds a little more to the light out. If you want to see more added then make a contribution for that cause or bring additional solar lights to be added. Vote George Maggie for Papa Christmas. All you Westies who don't travel through Tupapa every day, make the effort for the sake of your children.

At the other end of the Island a usually noisy political activist and business woman is surprisingly silent about the aggravating potholes on the main road outside her friendly shop.

Good to see one Minister of the Crown keeping both his feet among the grass root local businesses. Instead of noshing up with his guest at the high end eateries like the five star 65 votes PM would he was spreading the love around at the Punanga Market with the food vendors buying two tax funded lunches. Good on you Minister you are leading by example.

Talking about our popular Cultural Market the produce on sale keeps diversifying and getting better selection wise. The dragon fruit are back for a new

season and you have to be in quick to feast on these amazing health benefiting delights, just absolutely one of the best fruits you can eat. Eatery chefs need to wander through the market and start putting the diverse fresh local produce on their menus, start with an innovative dragon fruit dessert.

Looks like the Takuvaine Sports teams are on the rise, after two seasons as the supreme champions of Rugby Union and a slow start to the Soccer due to prolonged Happy Valley celebrations they finally kicked in and won the Knock out competition last week giving Tupapa a big thrashing. Right in the middle of it all was their 50 year old Beckham Samania. After Christmas watch for Takuvaine flex their muscles and take out the third crown of Rugby League.

It sounds like anyone with a say in the 50 year dependence on aid celebrations has got loose screws in their heads, Minister Heta wants to sign up Lorde and Nicki Henre wants to ring up and invite the UB40 Reggae band just because they were at Samoa's Independence celebrations. The Samoa gig took two years to put together and cost super

mega bucks and backed by international sponsors.

Apia Park was filled with as many people that make up the entire population of the Cook Islands. Why don't Nick just get our 72 votes PM Puna to do a few Elvis impersonation songs and his favourite hit "I'm the great pretender."

It seems Elvis Eleri may just beat Rassie to the gun and sign up the Bishop in a deal with the CIP, Maggie "I'm a CIP in my heart" has already caved in and is on his way back into the fold. Rassie claimed he was the only one who could strike a deal with the Bishop, well Elvis snuck out via the domestic terminal bypassing the self appointed guardian of the Bishop's kingdom. But wasn't it the fallen angel who publically announced Bishop could not be trusted and he wouldn't go near him with a ten foot pole.

Word is there are rumblings about a revival of the National Party lead by Bulldozer Heta and four CIP deserters ready to do a deal with the Demo mob. That will teach Elvis to offer the Deputy job to the Bishop as an enticement.

Las Vegas has arrived in Tupapa! Each

evening, a blaze of bulbs lights up the night and for a brief moment, any tourist would think they were in casino land! With a flick of the switch, the gauges in TAU's operations room go haywire and the spare generator kicks in consuming more diesel fuel as increased power is needed making a mockery of the PM's plan to save on fuel! It's a wonder vehicle crashes are not more common in this area.

The whisper is the CIP member for Pukapuka is all for a regular shipping service to the island but is somewhat cold on the proposal for a regular air service. Why is that? But what about a flying mini-bus instead of an aircraft? These days there are cars which have been adapted to fly with fold out wings and a propeller. What about a flying taxi? No airstrip needed. Land on the main road! Pick up a fare, fly off!

Proposal plucked out of the air last night chooks! Allow the top trainee from future NZ Defence Force supervised leadership courses to try out for the SAS. That may provide an incentive for the young bucks to get fit and have a go at the toughest fitness tests on record. If they pass all the tests and wish to enlist in the SAS, give them the opportunity.

Te Minita o te Moni Brown Marks, his money bag carrier Tricky Dickie and batman Webb ought to have accompanied those volunteers out delivering Christmas Boxes to the needy! But hang on, this trio does not believe there are any needy people out there! They altered the tax system and hey presto! All needy people disappeared! Or did they?



FAT CATS

Number 2, due to the court decisions, Cabinet is kaput!

Oh, I thought it was bugged!

Mozzie

HARD
TOO HARD
IMPOSSIBLE

COCONUT ROUNDTABLE

Rumour has it, Government is in disarray after the court decisions on the elections!

The court has confirmed!

What we already know!

VACANCIES

Cook Islands Jobs

The Cook Island's premier Jobs Website
www.cookislandsjobs.com

This week's top vacancies available on Cook Islands Jobs as at 16/12/14

- Store Manager, The Good Life Store- Perfumes of Rarotonga (Rarotonga)
- Head Chef- TeVara Nui (Rarotonga)
- Café Chef/Manager- Koru Café (Aitutaki)
- Front of House/Café Manager- Koru Café (Aitutaki)
- Farmer/Gardener/Plantation Worker – Paprei Bungalows (Aitutaki)
- Full Time Barista- Reefside Rarotonga (Rarotonga)

To view full job descriptions and to apply for any of these roles, please visit www.cookislandsjobs.com today.

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PUBLIC NOTICES



Business Trade Investment Board

Cook Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Business Trade Investment Board (BTIB) would like to advise the public that our office will be closed for the festive season from Monday 22nd December 2014 and will re-open on Monday 5th January 2015.

On behalf of our Minister, Board members and staff we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and an enjoyable, safe and prosperous New Year. For any enquiries during the holiday season please contact the CEO Terry Rangi Ph (+682) 54299.

PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES PUBLIC NOTICE

The Parliamentary Services Office will close on Monday 22nd December 2014 and will re-open for normal business on Monday 5th January 2015. For urgent matters please contact the Clerk John Tangi on 54411 or the Deputy Clerk Helen Maunga on 54099 or the Senior Administration Officer Ina Pierre on 54081. The Speaker the Hon Niki Rattle and all staff members wish everyone an enjoyable and safe Christmas festivity and may the New Year bring greater prosperity and abundant divine blessings to all. God bless. Te Atua te aroa.

John Tangi
Clerk

New Hope Church

Parekura Conference Centre

Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you

Sunday at 10.30am

We will be closed Xmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day & Day after New Years - so play now!

Merry Xmas and have a prosperous New Year to all our TattsLotto customers!

NOMINATION FORM

The 2015 Development Awards - Honouring 50 Years of Development in the Cook Islands



- Closing date for nominations is **Friday 23rd January 2015**.
- There is no limit to the number of nominations made by individuals.
- Winners will be chosen by a judging panel representing business, civil society, youth, traditional leaders and others.
- Winners will be recognised at the 2015 Development Partner's Meeting Awards Dinner on Tuesday 10th February.

Jaewynn McKay, the Awards Coordinator, is happy to answer any questions you may have.
Contact Jaewynn by email: development@cookislands.gov.ck or by phone: +682 55 486

BACKGROUND

The 2015 Development Awards will recognise the country's best development achievements over the last fifty years. These 7 awards will honour organisations, individuals and the public and private sector for their efforts in creating positive change in the Cook Islands.

CATEGORIES

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Best Development 1965 – 1974 | • Best Development 1995 – 2004 | Special Awards |
| • Best Development 1975 – 1984 | • Best Development 2005 – 2014 | • People's Choice |
| • Best Development 1985 – 1994 | | • Supreme Development 1965 – 2014 |

CRITERIA

Recipients of the 2015 Development Awards will have demonstrated to our experienced panel of judges that they or their project were at the forefront of the country's development.

These awards will recognise the most successful and innovative, people, projects, programmes and partnerships; entries will need to demonstrate how they have improved the physical or environmental quality of an island or islands within the Cook Islands or the economic or social well-being of a community within the Cook Islands.

Other criteria that might be incorporated include:

- The contribution and benefit to society and impact on community or nation by the individual/group/event or project being nominated.
- Their personal interest and involvement in the wider community.
- Details of any challenges faced and how they were overcome.
- The length of time living in the Cook Islands.
- Outline contribution to the Cook Islands development.
- Outline degree of difficulty in achievement.
- The involvement in establishing and/or setting the direction of a group, organisation or cause in which they have been involved.
- Value of contribution to the Cook Islands.

TIMELINE

- Call for nominations opens Monday 15th December 2014.
- Nominations close Friday 23rd January 2015.
- Judging panel convenes Monday 26th January to consider nominations and to short list up to three nominations per category.
- The People's Choice Award will be voted on by the public from the short list published on Monday 2nd February.
- The Supreme Award will be chosen from the category winners.
- Announcement of Awardees at the Development Awards Dinner Tuesday 10th February.

NOMINATION

Nominee name/project/programme: _____

Contact name (if different from above): _____

Contact email: _____ Phone: _____

Category, tick one:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Development 1965 - 1974 | <input type="checkbox"/> Best Development 1995 – 2004 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Development 1975 – 1984 | <input type="checkbox"/> Best Development 2005 – 2014 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Development 1985 – 1994 | |

Supporting information

Please tell us the reasons why you believe your nomination should receive a Development Award (in about 250 - 1000 words). You can provide additional material in support if you wish. You can use this section to list the achievements. Please feel free to add additional pages or attach a separate document to this nomination form.

NOMINATOR GENERAL STATEMENT OF INTENT

I agree to the Development Coordination Division (MFEM) recording the personal contact details provided in this nomination, retaining and using these details and disclosing them to the judging panel for the purposes of selecting recipients for the Development Awards 2015.

I understand that my nominee's name and brief details about this nomination may be released to the media or appear in publicity material.

Your name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

SUBMIT NOMINATION

- email to development@cookislands.gov.ck
- Post to Development Coordination Division, Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, PO Box 120, Rarotonga
- Deliver by hand to the Development Coordination Division, Ministry of Finance and Economic Management