

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

18 February 2015 \$2 (incl VAT)

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1 3 5 11 28 39 PB 10

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Dying Kete requested out but ignored by Demo Leaders

*Demo underbelly revelations triggered by death
The Bishop campaign experiment a disaster but saved by the bell*

The Democratic Party has a seedy underbelly that has been actively percolating away camouflaged by a controlling inner circle of power trippers and to most largely unnoticed, but which can now be brought into the light and exposed. Last week's tragic loss of 64 year old Kete loane after a short illness has triggered the fall of the first domino of political shakes which will continue rattle the Democratic Party for at least two weeks.

Friends and family of the Democratic Party candidate for the Vaipae/Tautu by election, the deceased Kete loane are fuming that his request to withdraw was taken lightly and ignored. Kete made this request directly to the leader of the Opposition Smiley Heather while he was hospitalised on Rarotonga before being referred to Middlemore hospital in New Zealand for medical treatment.

Kete told visiting friends Heather ignored his pleas but responded by advising him to go to New Zealand for his treatment. Kete knew he was fighting for his life after being treated by a local healer whose diagnosis of Kete's condition was confirmed after being scanned. The local healer identified the precise location of a blood clot and treated it with traditional medicine; the raw

material was brought on request from an outer island as it no longer is available on Rarotonga.

It's with great sadness the amputation of much of Kete's left leg did not prolong his life.

While waiting to be referred to NZ Kete confided in friends the experiment with One Cook Islands leader Teina Bishop as the campaign manager was not working, in fact it was having a negative impact. Kete wanted to withdraw on medical grounds so a replacement could be selected before ten days of the by election on the 17 February.

Bishop had some inclination Kete's medical condition was critical but publically professed all was well, in fact it was a strategic move to get some sympathy votes, Democratic Party leader Willkie Rasmussen continued the charade by saying during a Radio New Zealand interview Kete's condition was minor and it required simple corrective surgery to fix. While both were misleading the public and voters in Aitutaki they were at the Rarotonga Airport farewelling Kete for the last time.

Evidence Bishop was privately harbouring information Kete was unlikely to recover was confirmed when he without consulting the constituency's Demo Party chairman Boaza Ngataua, approached former



Kete loane - Wanted out
Cook Islands Party Member of Parliament for Vaipae/Tautu Thomas (John) Hewitt and asked him to be Kete's replacement. Unbeknown to Bishop, his misguided choice has health issues that may prevent this.



S.Heather - Ignored request
Kete would have been selected preventing the cancelling of the 17 February 2015 by election and another date being set within two months. If Kete had been withdrawn as he had specifically requested, with ten days of a death or for medical reasons from the election date the Electoral Officer would open a three day window of opportunity

otherwise a replacement for
Bishop, Rasmussen or Heather know what the Electoral Act says otherwise a replacement for
continued next page

From page 2

to receive nominations and continue to proceed with the 17 February by election.

It is understood since Kete's death Bishop has approached his brother the Island's Environment Director Bobby Bishop a staunch CIP member and a resident within the constituency to stand as the Demo candidate.

Democratic supporters in Aitutaki and Rarotonga have realised Bishop's self appointment as their campaign manager has failed to render the results him and Rasmussen projected and next time around they are adamant he will not hold that position. The Vaipae/Tautu Demo committee will select their own candidate and manage their own campaign. It hasn't helped that Bishop has a multi political personality, he readily admits on Radio he is a CIP member and his heart is CIP but he is the leader of OCI while heading an election campaign for the Democratic Party.

Despite the pre snap election talk that Bishop intended to grow the One Cook Island Movement, (he claimed he had eight candidates standing but could only muster four); he has reneged on every following opportunity to do so. Bishop failed to nominate a candidate for Mitiaro and Vaipae/Tautu instead preferring to ride on the coat tail of the Democratic Party. Demo supporters say he over confident Bishop should field his own candidate and test the support for OCI.

While he was a Minister, Bishop had a measure of influence in Aitutaki but as an ordinary MP he has little pull out side his own constituency. Now that the wider Demo Party followers on Rarotonga have realised this through Demos in Aitutaki communicating their views, Bishop and his sweet heart deal with Rasmussen has all but been rejected by the Demo masses. This will be made absolutely clear to all when the Democratic Party have their long overdue Party Conference on the 31 March 2015.

Watch the desperate Eddie Drollet and Sean Willis brigade do everything possible to defer this Conference date till August. Right now the Democratic Party is disjointed, dysfunctional, broke and heavily in debt with

a parliamentary leader Smiley Heather being lead by the nose by the paranoid Party Leader Rasmussen who in turn dances to Bishop's drum beat. For the likes of Selena Napa to blindly parrot the Party is united and stronger than ever is a manipulating fantasy about to become an Rasmussen's brother in law and future political aspirant Pliz Napa is the Party Treasure, it's in name only, in reality the Opposition Party Office CEO and Party General Secretary Eddie Drollet holds the purse strings. For over three years there have been no audited financial accounts

Kete wanted to withdraw on medical grounds so a replacement could be selected before ten days of the by election on the 17 February.

inerasable nightmare when the CIP swear in their new Minister a defector in her own backyard drastically reducing the Demo chances of winning the Vaipae/Tautu by election.

Smiley Heather's in ability to hear what he's listening to when his peers are speaking to him is a major reoccurring flaw in his leadership ability and an irreversible expensive fault the Demo Party is about to pay dearly for. Heather's blasé response to the ailing Kete's plea to be released from the campaign reflects the self interest priority of the Demo leadership. Simply and honestly put, Heather has manipulative advisors and is a follower not a leader and for the sake of the Party's chances of rehabilitation he should abdicate.

Riddled with the seeds of death the Democratic Party is headed for political purgatory during which time the Party must exorcise and purge itself of the corrupted leadership whose legacy is the loosing of an Election given to them on a plate and the utter wasteful squandering of hard earned supporter's money by Rasmussen and his power hungry greedy small band of followers who were obsessed in the pursuit of personal agendas at the financial expense of the whole, a debt that will take others many years to retire.

A grubby story of its own underbelly chapter to be exposed is that of the Demo Party financials. Though

provided for the Members despite many requests for them. The master manipulator Drollet has been successful in providing verbal gibberish as his financial report using fear and emotive tactics to conceal the true state of the finances.

It was Drollet's criminal misappropriating of public money that was his down fall while holding high office in the Prime Minister's inner circle and to covert secrecy void of transparency or the very basic elements of accountability to the paid members, it is questionable if Drollet has learnt the lessons that saw him gaoled for 18 months. What has the self serving Drollet got to hide? For a political Party wanting to control the nation's treasury while paying scant regard to the basic principles of good governance with their own member's money is clear proof the Demos under their present circumstances cannot expect the public's trust to govern.

Paid the exuberant salary of \$1134 a week plus some expenses to spend more of his paid time babysitting his grand children, picking and dropping them off to school and doing his own private business, Drollet the controlling micro manager is a dead weight the Demos must discard at their next Conference.

- George Pitt



SWITCH ON WITH
TE APONGA UIRA

3 things to remember about electricity and cyclones



When a cyclone warning is announced be careful around electricity because electricity and water do not mix. If power is cut during a cyclone:

1. Unplug your appliances at the power point before power is restored to avoid electrical damage or potential fire. If you experience tingles or shocks from an electric appliance or water taps call your electrician to check your electrical wiring immediately.
2. Stay away from power lines. Always assume that fallen lines are 'live' and dangerous.
3. Don't try to deal with electricity while any part of your body is touching water. If you're standing in water, you shouldn't be trying to turn the electricity off or touch any kind of electrical appliance.

www.teaponga.com

CIP Government go cap in hand with begging bowl to China for \$10million

If you are worried about our current debt to China, then you have got more worries coming. The Cook Islands Party government is on track to sink the Country further into debt and resource obligation to the People's Republic of China (PRC). Already locked into multimillion dollar loans to the PRC for the National Sports Stadium and the Te Mato Vai for \$24.3 million the CIP Government is polishing up its begging bowl to ask the PRC for another \$10 million.

While National budgetary constraints and competing priorities in other infrastructure sectors are used as the excuse the government are forced to seek development assistance from China the facts are our Treasury is empty and the incompetent management of our sovereign funds by the Financial Secretary Richard Neves positioned us on the brink of bankruptcy and confined us to being dependent beggars.

In a 14 page document called 'Te Tarai Vaka Aprising' prepared by the Cook Islands Investment Corporation, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, it refers to a summary under "Project Concept Note: Apii Nikao School Rebuild". It says;

In October 2013 the Avatea School in Rarotonga suffered significant fire damage due to an arson attack. As a result, large portions of the primary school were destroyed and



PRC Ambassador Lutong - Happy to give us more money have been subsequently demolished. The Avatea School is co-located with another primary school, Nikao Maori School, which specialises in providing full emersion in Cook Islands Maori. Following consultations with the Avatea and Nikao Maori communities and structural assessments of the remaining buildings, the Cook Islands government decided in December 2013 to merge the Nikao Maori and Avatea schools.

This merger would be enforced upon the completion of the construction of one new school to be known initially as 'Apii Nikao' to serve the Nikao



Richard Neves - Ready to plunge us into more debt. district.

The indicative total cost to merge and rebuild Apii Nikao is NZD 11.37 million of which the Cook Islands government is seeking approximately NZD 9.95 million in Chinese Grant funding. End

Over \$11 million for a primary school, is someone pulling someone's chain?

The report also says the decision to build a new school has provided the Cook Islands with an opportunity to build an environmentally sustainable building which provides the capacity to serve the needs of students of both schools in a modern learning environment.

The new school will accommodate 500 students and 40 teachers; draw on the culture heritage of the local area; provide quality, comfortable and flexible environments; and address climate change by adopting energy efficient measures. End

Now this is where the concept report gets wacky, firstly it says the school is to serve the Nikao district. In a declining population are there currently anything like that many primary students in the Nikao district, did we read right, 500 students? Will the children be obliged to be taught Mandarin or is it Cantonese?

Prior to the destruction of the Avatea School had 286 students enrolled and 96 at Nikao Maori. (total 382) In 2014 there was approximately 1000 (slightly less than 2013) primary school students enrolled in Rarotonga. Where then is the sense in building a school for 500 students to serve the Nikao district?

Are we going to have a population explosion that the rest of us don't anything about? And 40 teachers, does that mean we are going to have an influx of more lifestyle expat teachers?

Considering the report says, "Due to the age of existing structures and condition of materials, most buildings need to be replaced to meet the modern demands of learning". Does this signal once the new Apii Nikao school is opened it

continued next page

will justify the closure of other used by date old redundant technology schools and the out of Nikao district students transported in by China donated buses?

As a Goal, the report wants to construct the new Apii Nikao school in 2015 with full completion by the start of 2016 school year incorporating modern education open learning concepts in its design and utilising quality materials that would set the standard for the replacement of dilapidated school buildings around the country over the next twenty years.*End*

Does this mean school buildings will not be maintained so they can become delapidated then justifiably replaced with the new learning wonder that will become outdated after ten years due to the rapid pace of digital technology development? Students may by then be receiving their entire learning via a gadget evolved from the convergence of the television, computer. I technology and mobile phone.

In a section called Lesson Learned the report says; The Cook Islands government has an excellent working relationship with the PRC, which has has seen us developing our experience with constructing key public buildings in Rarotonga.

The CIG believes that the lesseons learned from these construction projects as well as the ongoing Te Mato Vai water mains upgrade will be intergrated into a project to construct a new and modern school. For example, Cook Islands led design, ensuring standards are established prior to the tendering process so that bidders can price accordingly, and dedicated oversight team to work with the contractor.

Furthermore, the translation of all documentation provided by PRC and its Contractor into English, including specifications of materials, construction and shop drawings, operating and maintenance manuals and labels, is crucial to the successful completion and ongoing care and maintainence

of the new infrastructure. Two and three dimensional models of all shop drawings will also allow CIG to better understand specific details and their effect on the final building architecture.*End*

Its just a nice way of telling the PRC we don't trust their substandard material quality or their shoddy workmanship.

Another section of the report says; in a recent meeting between Honourable Henry Puna, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands and His Excellency Wang Lutong, Ambassador to the Cook Islands of the People's Republic of China in Wellington, New Zealand discussions were held regarding the possibility of opening the school on 4 August 2015, as part of the celebrations planned for the 50th anniversary of the Cook Islands independence. *End*

The PRC has no quarms about giving more millions of dollars to the Cook Islands. Our neighbours Tonga and Samoa owe so much money to the PRC they can't repay in monetary terms but that

doesn't stop the PRC lending and giving them more funds. The PRC will happily keep giving the Cook Islands more money irrespective of our ability to repay them in cash. One day at our current rate of financial dependence on the PRC, they will own the Cook Islands resources and that won't bother the politicians because our marine and mineral resources are out of sight therefor out of mind.

With the unidentified Rarotonga arsonist still at large, what's our government going to do if the arsonist torches more schools? The report indirectly credits the arsonist for the embracement of new learning technologies. The villan might begin to see themselves as an agent of change and advancement making a voluntary, positive contribution to society, carefully selected buildings torched could in effect propel sectors of the Cook Islands into the latest technological outcomes of modernism.

- George Pitt

The Ministry of Cultural Development (MOCD)
with

Te Mire A'tu 2015

“A Celebration of Cook Islands Song Composing”

The 50th Constitution Celebrations

- Date & Time - Thursday 7th May 2015 at 7.30pm
- Venue - ARE KARIOI NUI (National Auditorium)
- Entries - The competition is OPEN to all Cook Islanders.

All Composers are to fill in the Entry Form etc, and hand it into the Ministry of Culture National Auditorium events management before or no later than Monday 16th March 2015-4pm.
Entry forms -available from MOCD.

**Main Theme – THE 50TH CONSTITUTION CELEBRATIONS
TE KORONA O TOKU MATAKEINANGA**

Sub Themes:

1. Te Ui Tupuna I mua ake ka tae mai ei te Evangelia
2. Tae anga mai o te Evangelia e tae mai ki teia ra
3. Te tuatau o te kavamani 1965 e tae mai ki teia ra

The winning composition of the 2015 Mire A' Tu will become the 50th Constitution Celebrations THEME SONG to be performed at the Official Opening of the Te Maeva Nui (TMN15) Thursday July 23rd 2015.

**ALL ENQUIRIES TO BE FORWARDED TO: Ministry of Cultural Development
Robert Ioaba: Ph 20725 ext 219, email: robert.ioaba@cookislands.gov.ck**

Our Frontpage model Outer Islands dying

Radical change needed now not later

By Charles Pitt

A Cook Islander now based in New Zealand returned from a recent visit to the outer islands and remarked that from his observation, the outer islands were “dying.”

This sad fact has already been recognized by concerned locals and it comes as no surprise that some politicians are gravely concerned about the situation in the outer islands. One thing is clear, the time for “pussy footing” around is over. Radical change and drastic action is needed now, not in 5 or 10 years time but now.

Outer islands know what needs to be done to turn things around on their islands and we need to start listening to them and provide the resources necessary to assist them but without taking over.

Cook Islanders are asset rich but cash poor and the trick is to turn this around so the asset begins performing, begins generating revenue and jobs but in a process that Cook Islanders own, control and benefit from-not foreign middle men and foreign investor companies which drain revenues from the country.

Some believe that no foreign investment should be allowed unless it is at least a 50/50 joint venture with a local partner company that includes landowners holding not less than a 25% share.

As developer Tim Tepaki puts it, an appropriate economic model for our society involves ordinary people directly participating in and benefitting from joint ventures and shareholdings. At the moment ordinary people are too far removed from the “engine room,” the decision making, revenue sharing and economic direction. Bringing ordinary people closer to the “action” is what is needed.

Tepaki believes that turning the people in our society into western styled, dog eat dog, capitalists is not the way forward as our society is essentially a socialist one. We are a classless society of givers and sharers.

Political reform is certainly desirable but it must be accompanied by reforms in other areas, one being to bring about better outcomes from the way we handle and develop our assets be they personal (land and business) and national (resources like fish and sea bed minerals).

DVD sales will support opera singer



By Charles Pitt

Mike Tavioni is promoting a DVD which features rising Cook Islands opera singer Ridge Ponini. The DVD is on sale and part of the proceeds will go to assisting Ponini with his University fees. Ponini is studying music at Otago University.

On 18 December last year, Tavioni organized a concert at the National Auditorium which featured up and coming young talent with famed New Zealand actor Temuera Morrison as the main draw. Ponini was one of the highly talented youngsters who gave an audience of some 400 people a performance to remember.

The DVD, “Temuera Morrison and the Kiva Stars of the Cook Islands Concert” can be purchased for \$20 from Mike at his Atupa workshop or you can contact him by ph 24003 or mob 73667 and he will deliver.



Our frontpage model this week's Herald Issue 754 is Nio Oti. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck. and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald



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\$11.20
each

Special Value Cocoa
Cereal 794g



\$11.20
each

Zany Fruits Cereal
794g



\$12.30
each

Taula Beer



\$4.00
660mls



\$2.00
330mls

Police Commissioner considering bribery case and future action

Government of the Cook Islands

CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE COOK ISLANDS

Ministry of Justice, PO Box 111, Rarotonga, Cook Islands
Telephone (+682) 29410 Facsimiles (+682) 28610, 29610 E-mail: office@justice.gov.ck

30 January 2015

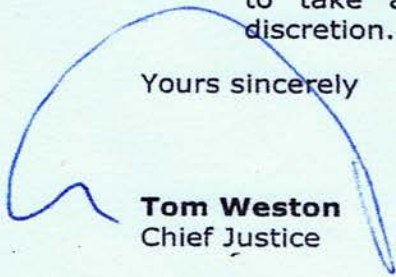
The Commissioner
Cook Islands Police
C/- The Registrar of the High Court
Avarua

Dear Commissioner

Mona Ioane

1. On 16 September 2014 I delivered an oral decision in relation to an electoral petition brought by Kete Ioane. A copy of the Judgment is attached.
2. Once the appeal was filed I thought it appropriate to await the decision of the Court of Appeal prior to notifying you as required by section 100 of the Act. The Court of Appeal subsequently issued its Judgment on 16 December 2014. A copy of that Judgment is attached. I have conferred with the President prior to writing this letter.
3. In terms of section 100, Electoral Act 2004, a Court which forms the opinion that an electoral offence has been committed by any person is to refer that matter to the Commissioner of Police.
4. Although I made a finding of bribery, the circumstances were unusual, and I suggest that when considering how you exercise your prosecutorial discretion it would be appropriate to consider the dissenting Judgment of Williams P as well as the Judgment of the majority. The unusual circumstances may lead you to conclude that it would be desirable for you to take advice from the Crown Law Office before exercising your discretion.

Yours sincerely



Tom Weston
Chief Justice

cc Tina Browne
Tony Manarangi
Catherine Evans

Honourable Chief Justice Tom Weston
P O Box 3976, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand. Telephone (+64 3) 374 5750
Email: tomweston@xtra.co.nz

Cook Islander on brink of lifetime opportunity

30 years old Policewoman, Constable Tupou Patia not only administers the law off the field she also blows the whistle on it. A soccer referee, this week she flies out to Portugal to undergo a series of tests to see if she is selected to be a referee at the Women's World Football Cup in Canada. The major global tournament contested under the FIFA banner will be held in July 2015.

Patia currently plays for the Tupapa club but has been refereeing for the last eight years. Representing one of the smallest FIFA registered nations in the world, the Cook Islands can be extremely proud Patia has even made it to the Referee's selection phase, an accomplishment in its self. Three referees from the Oceania region have been selected, one from New Zealand and the other from

Fiji. Patia has officiated internationally as a referee in four other Pacific countries including tournaments for the Under 17 and Under 20 FIFA World Cup qualifying matches in New Zealand.

At the two week Referee Seminar in Portugal the attendants will be tested physically and theoretically then assessed as part of the selection for those to officiate at the Women's World Cup. The women referees are highly valued by FIFA who pay all expenses plus a standard \$US500 allowance per day.

When asked about refereeing and the opportunities it has offered her Patia said "it's a bit like being a Policewoman except it's a sports police, on the field your decisions get challenged but my police training gives me



Tupou Patia - Policing off and on the feild the confidence not to be rattled by players and coaches". she's being rewarded with a great opportunity to elevate her standing as an international referee." *- by George Pitt*

Donor Partner visit to Mitiaro



Sour magoes (Vi Kavakava) in Papa Neke's stone garden.
Photo by Derek Fox

SERVICES FOR THE SUPERVISION OF

TE MATO VAI PROJECT STAGE 2 CONSTRUCTION TMV-RFP.001/2015

Te Mato Vai project invites Requests for Proposals (RFP) from qualified parties for the Procurement of Services for the Supervision of the Te Mato Vai Project Stage 2 Construction, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

RFP documents will be available from WATSAN www.watsan.gov.ck, Pacific Water and Wastes Association www.pwwa.ws/, NZ Government Electronic Tenders Service www.gets.govt.nz/, Cook Islands Government Procurement www.procurement.gov.ck/ and Te Mato Vai www.tematovai.com/

Interested parties who have not registered at the time of downloading a copy of the RFP document will not be eligible to bid. All registrations must be emailed to peggy@kew.com.ws

Proposals must be delivered to the address below by 12 noon (Cook Islands time), 04 March 2015 in sealed envelopes and clearly marked as specified in the RFP document, to: **Te Mato Vai Project Management Unit, Avarua, PO Box 3286, Rarotonga, Cook Islands**



All enquiries to:
Russell Abrams, Project Manager
Project Management Unit
russell@kew.com.ws Phone: +682 28 851

Bullying and violence a social disease

By Lynnsay Rongokea

I often use a quote by Martin Luther King Jr "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." I commend the two students who had the courage to put pen to paper and using their own names wrote articles in last week's paper raising the issue of bullying and cyber bullying in schools and condemning and discouraging this unacceptable behaviour. Cyber bullying is a form of digital abuse, it's harmful and it's dangerous.

According to the United Nations World Report on Violence against Children - children who are different from the majority gender norm suffer the most violence in schools, young girls who are not 'feminine' enough and young boys who are not 'masculine' enough are specifically exposed to mockery, abuse, exclusion and violence. Words are capable of harming vulnerable young people and it can affect their emotional, mental and physical health. Victims of cyber-bullying are literally humiliated in both a nation-wide and worldwide venue through face-book, internet and texting which can occur 24 hours a day and it is virtually impossible to get everything removed from cyberspace.

These two students have spoken out about a cultural societal issue that is pandemic across our society, in all areas of our daily lives and not just a concern facing school students. Bullying and violence is a social disease and exists in our homes, schools, workplaces and community, over the internet and in the media. It is a form of discrimination that can be physical, emotional, direct or indirect, verbal or non-verbal, racial and sexual. It is inappropriate behaviour that is racist, offensive, abusive, intimidating, malicious and insulting conducted by an individual or group against another or others and it tends to get worse if no action is taken.

It can be harmful to a person's mental, emotional and physical health and well-being. It results in unsafe school and work environments, absenteeism from school and the workplace, concentration and learning achievements, feelings of shame, anxiety and isolation.

In our communities and workplaces the most common forms of discrimination that many people experience or witness include; physical violence, malicious gossip or rumours, infighting (family disputes), backstabbing, pulling faces and raising eyebrows, failure to respect privacy and confidences. In the work environment; intimidation, withholding information, unfair favouritism and biases, unfair work assignments and inappropriate or unfair evaluations and criticism. People know that their behaviour isn't respectful of others, isn't okay but they still do it. The moral behaviour of an individual or group of individuals affects everyone in our society at large.

Does it happen in our community? Yes it does and here's a story, of victimisation, discrimination and inappropriate behaviour by adults, not children, living in our community who should know better. This national sports-code banned a member for life from its organisation. In my opinion they failed to follow the principles of natural justice and impartiality in their decision-making. The inappropriate behaviour of members of the committee contravened their own code of conduct and perhaps they should have received a life-ban also. Further after their decision, the committee, of mainly (non Maori Cook Islanders) and some of its members used email to carry out a dialogue between the individual, rather than use the appropriate complaints procedure. These emails reflect inappropriate, racist and derogatory comments, about the individual and family,

their financial position, their personal hygiene, accusations of being a thief (although he does not have a police record and no charges were laid), making snide comments, name calling "maggot", spitting on the ground when they passed them, ostracism, among other inappropriate actions. It only stopped when the wife made a complaint to the police. It caused ill-health, stress, anxiety and affected the emotional and mental well-being of the whole family. These well known sports people thought this sort of behaviour was okay.

Many people are afraid or feel powerless to stand up for others or intervene, because they are afraid of being bullied themselves, of losing their jobs, so they keep quiet and turn away. Others prefer to ignore bullying and anti-social behaviour or acknowledge that there is a problem because it's not their problem. When people tolerate anti-social, abusive behaviour, teasing, name-calling and bullying by not intervening, their inaction and apathy send the message not only to children and youth but society at large that hurtful words, hateful looks and this type of behaviour is acceptable and they have the right to treat others that way. We need to lead by example and speak out against violence and abuse against women and men, girls and boys and actively discourage abusive behaviour.

What can help is taking discriminatory practices seriously, developing self management skills and holding people accountable for their actions, in schools, the workplace, sports organisations and beyond where disrespectful behaviours are not tolerated. This requires strong leadership from parents, the schools, the workplace, the church and community involvement in promoting universal human values and developing prevention and intervention programmes. We need to work together

to create a compassionate community promoting human values for the well-being of all, that is safe, loving and respectful of everyone's inherent dignity.

When people join together by speaking out against discrimination, that includes bullying and violence they can accomplish a great deal. By speaking out against any type of violent and inappropriate behaviour your voice can make a difference like the two boys and their teenage friends in Canada whose actions resulted in the International anti-bullying campaign (Pink Shirt Day).

In 2007, in Nova Scotia, Canada, two boys and their teenage friends decided to take a stand to defend a male ninth grade student who was bullied for wearing a pink shirt on the first day of school. They all turned up the next day wearing pink shirts, and Pink Shirt Day was born. It became an annual event across the globe and in 2012, the United Nations took a stand in the anti-bullying campaign and declared the official day as May 4. On this day, those who participate wear pink, blue, or purple shirts (depending on location) to symbolize a stand against bullying. The Day of Pink is more than just a symbol of a shared belief in celebrating diversity - it's also a commitment to be more open minded, accepting differences and learning to respect each other.

The annual National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence also occurs on different days and months of the year, February 26 being one of those days and is a day for students, teachers, parents and the whole community to take a stand together against bullying and violence. When you experience an injustice then you become the voice for those who don't have a voice. You can make a difference, you can change the way you treat people, and stand up for each other, you can change your community.

Qatar 2015: Handball Cook Islands, where to from here?

By George Turia

The impact of the Qatar experience has certainly left a lasting effect on the media team who visited this amazing country and while first impressions are always precious, it is important to put into perspective the reality of how the status and sport of handball is positioned in future for the Cook Islands following the amazing experience of the 24th Men's World Handball Championships.

Who said there was no politics in sport, hogwash! From observation, were it not for the political intervention and support from the Government of Qatar, the success of these championships would not have been possible and the Qatar Handball National Federation would possibly have struggled to host such an event. Sounds familiar doesn't it especially here in the Cook Islands and the relationship between Government and the sporting fraternity.

Perhaps an assessment of the status of handball in the Cook Islands would be a good starting point for those in charge to determine its future bearing in mind it is competing alongside other sports codes for members, players and resources. For a tiny country like the Cook Islands, it is an arduous task to contemplate based on traditional sporting interests e.g. rugby, league, soccer, netball and golf to name a few. They receive some kind of support at the national level by comparison to other upcoming sports codes e.g. Vaka Eiva, kayaking, canoeing, bowls, volleyball, tennis and of course of late, handball who I understand receive very little.

Handball is an official Olympic sport yet in the Cook Islands, it has no real official recognition. From meagre beginnings, it has slowly built itself from ground zero with no actual facilities from which to play from, to over the past few years, building its capacity to compete at the regional level through participating in the Oceania competitions the latest being in NZ last December where



it finished 9th overall in its pool competing against other Pacific nations that form the Oceania Region.

Unlike other European nations where handball is their national sport, the tendency for Pacific nations is to gravitate towards mainly traditional full contact sports like rugby, league and netball where fitness, physique and ability are key components to successful participation. With handball, it is more about a combination of factors involving fitness, skill, motivation, commitment, discipline, teamwork and strategy. Sounds familiar doesn't it but for sports in general, how often do our codes apply these principles?

Handball in my view is considered still very much in its infancy stage and the Cook Islands has a long way to go and a lot of work required to bring it up to international standards and compete at that level. Witnessing the level required to attain participation at world championship level is somewhat at this stage beyond the grasp of the Cook Islands however, that does not mean that the Cook Islands cannot achieve credibility and success by competing at the regional level and focusing on other handball initiatives such as beach handball.

If anything, the Cook Islands is

very progressive in pursuing such initiative and the recent World Presidents Conference in Doha during the World Championships highlighted the potential Oceania (including the Cook Islands) has to offer as well as having a lot of potential to learn and to offer the sport of handball if given the opportunity.

Certainly, regional is the way to go but for the Cook Islands, education and awareness as to the benefits handball has to offer should be the starting point targeting a "handball in schools programme" funded by the International Handball Federation to teach young people the skills and benefits of handball. There is no doubting some of the European countries are taking an interest in the development of handball in this part of the region and would be willing to assist through coaching, workshops and training clinics.

There is of course the issue of funding in terms of resources and infrastructure so it is important to strengthen the regional approach so that the IHF will appreciate the seriousness Oceania has towards this sport and to assist build its capacity to achieving their goals. If we are to participate seriously in this sport, then our attitudes need to change as this is a dedicated

sport involving years of training and commitment in order to perform at the top with the best.

A pipe dream perhaps but not unachievable. The Cook Islands has the potential but we need to be serious about committing to this sport and more importantly, obtaining full support from Government. Qatar has proven that and the outcome prior, during and after the World Championships has provided untold benefits for not only the sport itself but also to the country due to the global media exposure undertaken.

The role the media had to play in Qatar was vital because it not only showed the sports event to the world, it also exposed the inner beauty of a country where there is mystery, uncertainty but very much a vibrant and thriving developing nation. Now, we see every day, advertisements on tourism in Qatar promoting hotels and sightseeing activities in a country full of fascinating history, culture and development. This was definitely an opportunity too good to miss and certainly sets a benchmark to other sporting codes of the important role the media plays through participating in national and international events. Let's hope other codes will follow the Qatar experience!

Mitiaro story

By Derek Fox

Towards the end of last week the Development Partners meeting in Rarotonga upped anchor and moved. The new venue was only a 45-minute plane ride away but for the international aid providers it was a step back in time, and a major change from their normal comfort zone; but they came away the better for the experience and more acutely aware of the problems facing the country's outer islands.

The decision to spend a day and a night on Mitiaro and to hear from the local people and the mayors from the pa enua, was designed to show the donor partners from other countries and aid agencies, that there is more to the Cook Islands than Rarotonga and Aitutaki – and it worked.

From their resort hotels in Rarotonga they were transported to a place where they travelled on the back of a truck sitting on plastic seats, the best roads are made of coral; the huge kai kai provided by the locals were consumed 'island-style' with your fingers, a bowl of soapy water and a hand towel were provided to clean up after your meal. There is no air conditioning, and all the visitors were billeted in the homes of locals.

Mitiaro – or Nukuroa as the locals most often called their home, is just under half the size of Rarotonga, it has one village, and it is likely the resident population is only about 150; maybe 170 on a good day. There are 36 children – including preschoolers – at the island school; secondary students need to move to Rarotonga or further afield.

There are jobs on the island, most of them government jobs. There are two shops on the island, both tiny. There is also a very hard working group of 37 women who produce the islands only export maire ei.

What the donor partners



Clean Comfortable friendly home stay accommodation on Mitiaro

saw, and what anyone going to Mitiaro cannot help but notice, is that first and foremost this is a 'community'. An old-style community still largely operating the way old style communities did. They are inter-dependent on each other. The development partner's forum was the one of the most significant events on the island ever.

But the local people carried it off with aplomb. They largely subsist; they have community gardens in the relatively small pockets of arable soil in the otherwise makatea covered landscape. I never really understood makatea until I went to Mitiaro. I thought it was confined to the coastal areas a bit like a reef left high and dry after the island was uplifted in one of the great shifts in the ocean floor. But in fact most of the island is makatea because it was once the ocean floor and has been revealed and exposed to the air since the last ice age, which froze the oceans at the poles.

There are plenty of little pigs running around and on the two days I was there about five of them made the way into the

umu, and were part of the feasts that fed visitors and locals during our stay.

Naturally the locals also fish, but the tiny dugout canoes they mostly use, mean that they tend to be quite limited in how far they can travel and what fish they catch. The three sister islands of Mitiaro, Atiu and Mauke have a tradition of huge numbers of maroro – flying fish – schooling there at certain times of the year. And while the locals believe God gave them the maroro to sustain themselves. They're not sure he sent them to be caught and sold. Ironically on the day I left I saw a Rarotonga based fishing boat out in the ocean between Mitiaro and Mauke; no doubt a day or two later it would have been back in port with mahimahi, tuna and other fish for the Rarotonga market.

I also watched two young men take their dugout from the little harbour just on dark to fish for mackerel. They have an interesting technique. They travel to a likely looking spot. One of them then dives overboard down into the deep water under the canoe, taking with him some grated coconut; which he uses to

feed and tempt the mackerel to the surface.

Back on board he and his mate use whippy little rods and a barbless hook with a piece of coconut attached, to catch and flick the small fish into the canoe. Half an hour later they're back with enough fish for the feast the next day.

In rock pools adjacent to the harbour a crew fresh from butchering the pigs are cleaning the stomachs and entrails for a local delicacy – probably too good to share with the visitors – because I didn't spot it on the table at any of the feasts.

Everyone on the island had a job to do entertaining the visitors. The elders and leaders and the local MP did the welcoming. The ministers led prayer services and said grace, and a ready made choir sang –'imene' in soaring powerful voices.

A young woman I met while watching the 'pig-puku-cleaners' I saw next day was in charge of a gang of young people who waited on the visitors at the harbour-side-feast. Handing out nu and collecting up used plates and rubbish. A knocked

Continued next page

up string band played and sang a mixture of island, English and New Zealand Maori songs well into the night to entertain us all.

It was a beautiful cool evening watching the sun sink into the sea, in contrast to the fierce heat of the day when the visitors sat in the almost airless Catholic church hall listening to the locals and the mayors from all of the outer islands telling their stories of their lives and their needs, and giving some hint as to how they might be made better.

A young woman from the school gave a very polished power point presentation overview of the Cook Islands with specifics about Mitiaro. Her mother spoke next; she had spent most of her life in Rarotonga and New Zealand but returned to Mitiaro five years ago when she was widowed in New Zealand, taking her two children with her.

A fisherman from Rakahanga told of the huge volumes of fish he believed were available off his island and how they caught tuna and dried it for 'jerky' and exported it ---- to Manihiki.

And in one of the paradoxes surrounding aid projects he explained how Rakahanga had been given five outboard motors – without the boats to go with them.

The mayors of the outer islands sometimes 'pushed back' during the forum especially against things they felt were what 'Rarotonga wanted', as opposed to what they felt would be better for their island communities. Speaking for the rest of them John Baxter – the mayor of Aitutaki – was particularly scathing of the criticism carried in the media about the Chinese 'gift' of heavy machinery to the sister islands, "Our people need this machinery to develop our infrastructure." His message was keep your noses out of our business.

There was a stunned silence in the meeting when a senior government official advised the group that many of the projects people were advocating for could be underway already because available aid money had been seriously underspent,



Downtown Mitiaro

with only 53% of available funds taken up last year.

Many groups talked about working to change that.

Towards the end of the hot and tiring day, the donor partners were taken round the island to see a number of projects being carried out using their money. They included the new hospital, the site being cleared for the new solar power facility, an emergency water supply set up using underground water, a shade house at the school where maire seeds have been

planted so that the seedlings may be planted out in or near the village to save the maire pickers long and tortuous gathering out in the wilderness, and enclosed gardens where pigs getting at them and rooting up the plants.

Along the way they also saw some of the difficulties the maire pickers have in penetrating the jungle like makatea areas to find the precious plants. A stop was also made to look at one of the islands famous freshwater lakes.

And during a visit to one of the equally famous cave swimming holes, the cooling waters were too tempting for some who plunged in clothes and all.

At meetings back in Rarotonga before they went back to their homes, a number of the donor partners drew on their Mitiaro experiences in discussions about future projects including better communicating the availability of funds.

There's no doubt that the Mitiaro experience has been a beneficial one.



Local Transport

The rise and fall of Mark Lyon

From millionaire property developer to the drug-addled owner of a sex dungeon ... Scion of a well-to-do family and a former high flyer in Auckland's property market, Mark Lyon has seen his world tumble from riches to rags, from inner-city penthouse to a seamy underground world of drugs, sex and violence. David Fisher finds out how it happened.

Mark Lyon slipped down the ladder of society, bouncing off every rung, until he came to a stop in Auckland Prison's cell block D. Master of the universe, property developer, millionaire, would-be gangster, drug addict and sexual deviant - Lyon transformed as he fell, submerged in the muck of increasingly dark and dirty worlds. Sentenced to 15 years in prison, aged 59, his prospects have gone from ripe to rancid. Alone in his cell at night, inmates say he screams when the lights go out. Whatever haunts Lyon in his cell, he's left plenty of nightmares outside it.



Mark Lyon is said to scream in his jail cell at night. Photo / Natalie Slade

The Auckland Grammar boy was born blessed, raised in a family buoyant on the success of patriarch and business supremo Cliff Lyon.

Mark Lyon finished school well enough. He was bright, with a flair for English and science, leaving for a marketing job in a publishing house.

But his money - and there was plenty - would come from property. He became part of Chase Corporation's development team, then struck out on his own.

The first millions came age 25, before the 1987 share market crash. Where others drowned under the financial tsunami, Lyon rose to the surface and then walked on it.

Lyon was tall - almost two metres - and handsome, flush with money and hungry to make more.

Through the 1990s, in his 30s, he bought and built and leased and rented property, creating a portfolio of wealth that would fuel his addictions in the years to come.

He created Mission Corporation, lived in the

penthouse of an inner-city apartment and greeted callers with a phone message saying: "Welcome to the Twilight Zone."

Lyon bought Queen St's Mid City Centre, filling shops with tenants, and developed Vulcan Lane. He had dozens of commercial tenants in Newmarket, then in other parts of Auckland.

Media-shy and part of the city's inner circle, Lyon was friends with Eric Watson, now a billionaire, and in 1998 outbid his rival for a lunch date with Kylie Bax and Donald Trump. The \$50,000 went to charity and Lyon went to New York, with his eye on the property magnate rather than the supermodel.

He loved it wild, though.

One-time friend and sometime bodyguard Jamie Lockett remembers Lyon tossing him the keys to an AMG Mercedes, newly bought. "He said 'take me for a ride'," jumping in the passenger seat as "hard-out petrol-head" Lockett tore around Auckland at speed.

By 2000, Lyon had swapped his swanky friends for the darker side of the city life. When the

Chancery opened that year with its designer shops and fine restaurants, Lyon's best years were behind him.

"Just too much money," says Lockett, 53, of Lyon.

Thinking on the money, Lockett sounds a little wistful. He's walked against the tide for years and just lost his latest hope for a balanced life - a 60-foot boat seized and being auctioned to pay bills.

"He was spending \$20,000 a day," says Lockett.

That was 2002. Lyon had a magnificent home in Omana Ave, on the slopes of Mt Eden and neighbouring Government House. It was opulent - velvet curtains, a grand piano, sports cars in the garage.

When it came to parties, though, things were a little different from over the fence.

There was booze, drugs and there were hookers and the carnage would go on for days. Lockett recalls people with P pipes in one hand and pistols in the other. "How come you didn't do something about it," he was asked, replying: "Why should I put my life at risk?"

Lifelong criminal and hardman Petar Vitali was there too. He always liked guns. One bedroom was for a senior Head Hunter. Other gang members were often present for parties.

It was a place where, eventually, there would be disaster.

In September that year, fire destroyed Lyon's home. Lockett - in bodyguard mode - kept the curious and light-fingered at bay for a few days with extreme menace and a samurai sword.

Eventually though, Lyon's decadence was there for anyone willing to take a look.

Amid the ruin, his bedroom was the most striking sight. There was a huge double bed with a large ornate iron clock behind it. On it, what would be Lyon's tragic signature - a painstakingly-created montage of pornographic images clipped from magazines - it was an effort repeated in home after home for years to come.

Methamphetamine, studies have found, fires sexual arousal. For Lyon, his addiction to methamphetamine was

continued next page

entwined with a hunger for sex.

One circled the other as Lyon sank further and further down.

"Such a beautiful home," Lockett recalls.

In the wake of the loss of Omana Ave, Lyon slipped out of normal life into its feral underbelly.

Home - for a brief period - became a basement area in the Chancery car park, the development he had financed before it all went crazy. It was completely sealed off from the sun. Dangerously, a large sheet of iron balanced above the only entrance. At the time, Lyon was facing charges of possessing a pistol and was haunted by those seeking him, drugs or money.

Inside, the stark concrete bunker was furnished with salvage from the mansion. Much of value had been taken - an estimated \$500,000 of belongings. At one end of the cavernous room, furthest from the door, was a mattress.

When Lyon walked around town, he wore dirty, ragged jeans held up by string and T-shirts washed less often than they could have been. He would wear wigs - there was a blond mane, like his own, and later, a bizarre set of dreadlocks. Strikingly, his front teeth were missing.

Solace was sought in Rarotonga. A residence permit was granted and a good behaviour bond - said to be \$150,000 - paid, in an arrangement the Cook Islands regretted within months.

Despite the calming presence of his then-partner Susan, the party went on. Rarotonga is a clean island, but Lockett claims there were drugs and wild times.

Lyon shipped across White Lightning, a 2000hp speedboat which produced an ear-splitting racket and infuriated locals. In a bizarre stunt, Lyon and partner blasted off into the Pacific, aiming for the distant island of Mangaia.

At top speed, they covered the 204km in just a few hours before ripping the bottom of the boat out on a reef and having to walk the final metres to shore.

On top of the parties, cars driven into the sea and White

Lightning, there were complaints from young women about Lyon's behaviour.

The generally relaxed locals marched in protest, Lyon left and returned to Auckland where he was given a last chance on existing charges.

Judge Philip Recordon gave Lyon a community work sentence where he had expected prison, hearing the millionaire had wanted to help gang members but had become entangled in their lifestyle.

The Judge told Lyon he was a "poor little rich boy" who was "out of his depth and hooked on drugs".

For Cliff Lyon, watching from the back of the court with Lyon's two brothers, it must have seemed the end of a chapter.

For Lyon, though, nothing changed except for the worse.

From the outside, the montage of pornography could be clearly seen lining the windows of Lyon's waterfront apartment.

Different place, same story.

He wandered Fort St, winding up in a coma after an altercation left him face down with his skull cracked. In brothels in the area, he was known for his drug abuse and the desire it created.

He was also known for thwarted desire. For Lyon, P abuse meant he had an itch no scratching would satisfy, and frustration at his inability would be directed at the women he had hired.

There were a constant smattering of charges - police arrested Lyon minutes after he thrust a paintball gun into the face of a man drawing cash from an ATM at 7.30am in September 2005. "Drug-induced", a judge later called it.

The same month Lyon took a samurai sword and a large hunting knife and went to visit his estranged partner and her two children, going into the house at 6am to find two men in a sitting room.

Two head butts to the face of one man earned him a new assault charge.

There was a spell in prison after the 2004 community sentence was appealed. Sentenced to 15 months in Hawkes Bay prison in

2006, his time was spent lodging numerous papers with the courts in an attempt to get out as quickly as possible.

When Lyon was released, he found parts of his fortune had slipped from his hands.

In 2007, he alleged in court that a commercial structure created to distance himself publicly from his fortune had been used to remove about \$6 million of it. It was the first of two such cases. In the other, in 2014, he claimed to have been cut out of a deal worth \$10 million to him.

Between the two cases, Lyon slipped further into the grey and murky netherworld in a constant search for that which would satisfy his addictions and desires.

From 2009, at least, Lyon had come to prey on the vulnerable. He owned a 29-apartment building called Artizanz in Eden Terrace, filling units with an entourage of the desperate and dissolute.

As at Omana Ave, although far less grandly, the parties went on forever. There were women - prostitutes - Lyon had known for years and, with them, he used methamphetamine like a leash. For others, he used it to bait a trap.

His co-accused, a woman in her early 20s with her name still suppressed, would find girls as young as 14, targeting those grappling with a new-found P addiction.

They would be brought to Lyon, who gave them methamphetamine in return for sex.

Detective Sergeant Andrew Saunders, who led the investigation, says: "She was effectively his pimp, if you like."

Whatever free will his addicted victims might have had was irrelevant to Lyon, the jury found in the case of one victim. Judge Russell Collins, who sentenced Lyon, said "when she did not willingly provide (oral sex), you took what you believed you were entitled to.

"In the broadest summaries, you played on addiction to methamphetamine or a desire on behalf of others for drugs for your own sexual gratification."

One victim in her mid-20s, called "K" in court, was believed by Lyon to have stolen money and drugs. She was taken from the street, "desperate for methamphetamine" and brought to Lyon. There, the court heard, Lyon had her taken to a room he called the "dungeon" where she was shackled with a collar around her neck, fastened to a device which left her hunched and unable to move freely.

Lyon forced her to carry out oral sex for what she said "felt like a couple of hours".

At one point, the court was told, she begged Lyon to rape her so it would be over. Lyon told her she was more beautiful when she cried, the court heard.

Lyon's "pimp" was co-accused and victim in one, says Saunders. She was also the reason the offending stopped when it did.

One day, for whatever reason, she approached a youth aid officer on Karangahape Rd. Mark Lyon was using her to get girls, she said, and "someone was going to die" if he wasn't stopped.

In thrall to Lyon, she disappeared back into his world. That one piece of information would have to be enough.

"She knew what she was doing and knew it was wrong, but she had her own dependency issues," says Saunders.

It took police work. A plan was hatched, with a three-month timetable; it took four months to crack.

There was a raid, arrests, and again, Lyon's signature montage of porn. Then came the difficult task of tracking down victims who would testify. Young girls and working prostitutes, living at the edge of society with methamphetamine addictions, were not willing witnesses.

"You're asking young girls to stand in front of a bunch of strangers and tell them very personal things," says Saunders.

Five complainants showed up at court. "There's probably another six or seven we identified," he says.

It took two-and-a-half years

continued next page

for the case to come to trial. The victims needed constant support, particularly after some reported approaches from "associates of Lyon" with offers of cash if they pulled their testimony.

There was never any connection identified between the offer and Lyon.

"Those girls had been through enough."

The father of one of the girls agrees, describing his daughter as devastated by Lyon.

"She's depressed, she suffers from anxiety." The aftermath saw her successfully complete a drug rehabilitation, only to have tertiary study derailed by the court case.

The father encountered Lyon when he wound up working at the place where his daughter's abuser was receiving rehab treatment. Horrified, he went home, got drunk "and went to take a gun out of my gun safe. I just wanted to go around and shoot him".

In a moment of clarity, he rang the police and begged them to come and take his guns away.

"He's had so many chances from the judiciary in the past," says the father. "He's gone off into this world of perverted sex and drugs and firearms and gangs. I just see him as the devil."

He sat there in the Victim Support room, watching his girl leave to testify in court - proud of her courage and terrified at the ordeal she faced.

Distant from his own father, he had pledged at his daughter's birth to give her everything he had missed out on.

"It turns out I've failed her. I failed to protect her from this scum."

The father is pained beyond the comfort offered by Justice Collins, who told the court he hoped "as a society we have matured to the point where we can understand those sort of things are well beyond the control of even the best of parents and the best-intentioned parents".

There is little comfort, too, for Lyon's father, Cliff, so distant now

from his son.

Through the Weekend Herald, he offers an apology and sympathy "to any innocent people who may have been affected" by his son.

"Our family are deeply saddened at these 2012 charges and the changes to Mark's personality and conduct that appear to be brought about by the use of methamphetamine."

On bail, Lyon rented an apartment from car dealer John Murphy. Immediately, he bought cameras and had them installed to watch outside the apartment. Iron bars were put in to keep people out.

Inside, Lyon recreated his mad, mad world.

"I've had people who have been around to his house," says Murphy. "There's a mountain of methamphetamine. Young kids would go in there for days on end."

One morning, Murphy found a young girl - about 16, 17 - slumped outside the apartment.

"Her eyes were going backwards in her head. He just left her there like a piece of rubbish."

The tenancy ended badly "with a trashed building and a police raid and nothing but aggravation". Again there was the porn montage. In the rubbish, multiple prescription packets of Viagra-style drugs - the itch which can't be scratched.

One of Lyon's sons visited. Murphy recalls him saying: "This is just another event. This is how it ends up."

Murphy hopes prison will help but "he's just a drug addict".

Without Lyon and his money, the entourage will need to find somewhere else to buy drugs and some other way to pay.

The hangers-on, the money, the parties - Murphy says: "I truly believe Mark Lyon is the biggest drug distributor in Auckland."

He knows people on the other side of the law, does Murphy. Lyon, he says, is "what they call a screamer" in prison.

"Every night before he's going to sleep, he screams."

The party is over.

- NZ Herald

New poetry collection out



Audrey Brown-Pereira.

Samoa Observer release

Passages in *Between I(s)lands* is the new collection of poetry and storytelling from Samoa based poet Audrey Brown-Pereira.

Eclectic and vast in mood and tempo "Passages" navigates between Samoa, the Cook Islands, Aotearoa/New Zealand and the U.S. These poems reflect on the politics of family and identity in a rapidly changing Pacific.

Audrey is an innovative poet, who uses all elements of text to create colour and volume. "Passages in *Between I(s)lands*" is the long awaited follow-up to her first collection with artist Veronica Vaevae, "Threads of Tivaevae: Kaleidoskope of Colours" published in 2002.

Audrey notes, "Passages in *Between I(s)lands* is really a coming of age collection of poetry for me.

It is different in tone to my first collection "Threads of Tivaevae" which was written before the birth of my daughters. The cover of this collection is also symbolic, as it is painted by my Uncle Ian George, a renowned Cook Island artist who gave me the painting as a 21st gift, which now hangs in my daughters' room.

Audrey is of Cook Island Maori and Samoan descent born in the Cook Islands and raised in New Zealand. She lives in Vaivase-tai with her husband and their two daughters. Her poetry appears in anthologies "Whetu Moana" and "Mauri Ola" edited by Albert Wendt, Robert Sullivan and Reina Whaitiri.

She has performed at the New Zealand Fringe Festival and Poetry Parnassus in London. A graduate of Auckland University, Audrey has just completed her Postgraduate Diploma in Development Studies at the National University of Samoa and will continue into the Masters programme.

"Passages in *Between I(s)lands*" is published by Ala Press in Hawaii and is available from Amazon. It will be launched and made available in Samoa later this month. For more information please contact:

Audrey Brown-Pereira: audreybrown.pereira@gmail.com

Website link: http://www.amazon.com/passages-between-i-s-lands/dp/1505358620/ref=sr_1_10?ie=UTF8&qid=1423681370&sr=8-10&keywords=audrey+brown

Student Investitures at Tereora

By *Haley-Rose McNabb*

The 2015 Student Investiture for Tereora College was held on Thursday 12th February. This ceremony appointed the student leaders for this year and also announced a head boy and head girl for the first time in three years. It was my first time attending an event like this as we do not celebrate and acknowledge the student leaders, as much, at the schools I went to in New Zealand. All we had was just a simple announcement by the principal, clap and then go back to your seat. But even though I would have rather it simple and quick so we didn't have to cramp up and sit in the hot stuffy hall for an hour that just smelt like sweat I did really enjoy the fact they have been recognized for who they are and what they will be doing in the school to help make it a better place.

There were many invited guests that came to the event such as The Queens Representative Tom Marsters, Cook Islands Prime Minister Henry Puna, the Secretary of Education Sharyn Paio and there were also plenty of members from the prefects' families to support and praise them for their achievement. Each of these guests that were invited was given the honour to pin badges on each

prefect from a particular house. At Tereora College we have four houses, Te Manga (Blue), Te Kou (Red), Maungaroa (Green) and Ikurangi (Yellow).

The Queens Representative Tom Marsters pinned badges on Ngatokoiva Ratumu, Tiree Haworth, Mareta Potini and Joryna Pokura who were from Maungaroa (green). Cook Islands Prime Minister the Honourable Henry Puna had been invited to pin the badges on the new prefects Lucianne Vainerere, Myria Rongo, Ariana Kiely and Ake Turakiof Te Manga (blue). For Te Kou (red), the invited guest who took the honour to pin the badges on Mereina Herman, Cecilia Tearea, Robert Graham and Vanita Glassie the prefects was the Secretary of Education Sharyn Paio. Ikurangis (yellow) chosen prefects for 2015 are David Akemoeau, Vaite Poila, Teara Ama and Ioaha Turia whose badges were pinned on by whose name I unfortunately don't know.

The Head Boy and Head Girl who have been selected for the year is David Akemoeau and Lucianne Vainerere and their badges were pinned on by the Principal of Tereora College Mrs Morgan.

So in the end I would like to congratulate these students once again and hope they have an amazing last year at Tereora College being the top prefects.

Tavioni updates his controversial book on national resources

By *Charles Pitt*

Local artist Mike Tavioni's controversial book "Swim or Sink-Cook Islands Resources: What are they worth?" has been updated, for the second time, and an abridged version is out for comment after which a final copy will be printed.

Controversial, because when the book was first published in 1996, it raised much debate, often heated, and discussion about our local resources. In 2003, the book was updated, and included a rousing Foreword written by Sir Geoffrey Henry KBE, who was Deputy Prime Minister at the time.

With this update, Tavioni continues to challenge the reader to consider the nation's resources and their value, to consider alternatives and options for progress and development. The book is in four major parts dealing with resources under the headings of; People, Land, Sea and Tourism. The book also comments on; the Maori Concept of Ownership, Depopulation and Development Finance.

The abridged version is 48 pages long and a limited supply is available at a cost of \$20 each. Proceeds from sales will go towards the cost of printing the final version. Tavioni also invites comments and suggestions.

Tavioni acknowledges that this update does not cover all situations, possibilities or options and was not intended to. The thrust of the book is to invoke discussion and thought. People, says Tavioni need to start thinking carefully about our national resources, their value, how they contribute to society and what future use can be made of them for the betterment of all. The aim of his book is to prompt and stimulate discussion.

Sir Geoffrey put it this way," this book will trigger genuine interest in the management of existing resources and at the same time, instigate a search for others, beyond traditional resources, secretly waiting to be discovered, identified and exploited."

While Tavioni is best and widely known for his creative abilities across a wide field in the arts and crafts, his earlier training was at Massey University in NZ as a researcher in the field of agriculture. His knowledge of agricultural matters is extensive. Tavioni was among those who taught the Tahitians how to grow pineapples. Now that role has been reversed.

Why did Tavioni produce this book?
Sir Geoffrey again said, "Michael was never the kind of man who would lie down and cry when things go bad." Continuing on, Sir Geoffrey said, "He has always had thewisdom to know that to every dark cloud there is a silver lining."

If you wish to obtain a copy of the abridged version for comment you can contact Mike on ph 24003 or mob 73667.

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Business Trade Investment Board

Cook Islands

Foreign Investment - Investment Opportunities

Recently the Foreign Investment Division of the Business Trade Investment Board (BTIB) had advertised in local papers seeking interest from local business owners who are looking for Foreign Investors for their business. The office received many enquiries about the advertisement and received 5 registrations that were sent off to the Auckland Pacific Trade & Invest Office. The Pacific Trade & Invest Office will promote these business opportunities in the Cook Islands through their offices in Auckland, Sydney, Beijing and Geneva. The Foreign Investment Division is working on developing a portfolio of local business owners seeking foreign investors. The division handles many face to face and email enquiries from foreign visitors interested to do business in the Cook Islands and with locals. The portfolio is intended to promote our local business owners and assist foreigners in finding local partners and business opportunities.

If you are interested in seeking a foreign investor for your business, please come and talk to the Foreign Investment Division at the BTIB or visit The Pacific Trade Invest website www.pacifictradeinvest.com

Support LOCAL- Atiu Coffee.

Recently the Business Development division of Business Trade Investment Board have been assisting with the sale of locally grown and produced Atiu Coffee. BTIB has assisted Mata Arai, producer and owner of Atiu Coffee by linking her to key retailers on the island including CITC Supermarket. Retailers are impressed with the turnover of the product and have requested for more Atiu Coffee to be supplied. Previously the sale of the Atiu coffee was through Mata's sister who sold the coffee to anyone interested. Currently with the assistance of BTIB, the sale of Atiu coffee is through CITC Supermarket. For further information come and talk to the Business Development staff. Go Local, Buy Local, Support Local.



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How to enjoy the people in your life

Part 1

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

Now-a-days we see on television and read in newspapers about problems people are facing. Many of these are to do with our relationships with each other. In the Book of Philippians written by the Apostle Paul it deals a lot with the problems in life that we all face. The words "joy" or "rejoice" or "be glad" are used 17 different times. Therefore I want to speak on how to be joyful in spite of circumstances or problems we face.

In Philippians 1v.3-11, Paul starts talking about people. The question is "Do you enjoy the people around you? The people that you work with? The one that you're married to? The people in your family?" The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 9v.9 "Husbands [men] enjoy life with your wife whom you love." The problem I find is that many marriages are more of a matter of endurance rather than enjoyment. We don't really enjoy the people in our lives, we tolerate them, we put up with them, we endure them. The question is 'What does it take to enjoy the people in your life?' There are four points I want us to look at. We will look at 2 in this article and 2 in the next one:

1. Be grateful for the good in people. v. 3. "I thank my God every time I remember you." Paul said I like to remember the good things about people, focus on the good times, remember the positive experiences. What do you remember about people? The good experiences or the bad experiences. When Paul said this he had not had an easy time in Philippi. Acts 16 tells us the background of this story. When he went to Philippi he was arrested illegally, whipped, humiliated, thrown into prison. While in prison there was an earthquake. He was asked to leave town. Paul did not have a good time in Philippi, he had a bad time. Yet he says, "When I think of you I remember the good things." "I thank God every time I remember you." Paul chose not to remember the negative and painful memories, but rather he

focused on the things he could be grateful for. Maybe you have been hurt in the past by your parent or your partner and you're still holding on to that hurt. As a result you can't enjoy them today. You're still focusing on the bad and the negative. Be grateful for the good in people. Pleasant memories are a choice. You can choose what you're going to remember about your past.

LESSON #1: Remember the best, forget the rest.

I hear people say "He's a good man, but ... " Anytime you hear "but" it means the emphasis is on the negative not the positive. Be grateful for what you've got! Mr Perfect does not exist! Be grateful for the good in other people. Paul appreciated people's loyalty. v.5 reads "You have helped me from the very first day until now." Who has been loyal to you? Maybe somebody at work, a friend, a husband or wife. Maybe they didn't do anything really spectacular, but time and time again, when they had every opportunity to walk out on you, they didn't. They hung in there. When you were going through a crisis in your life, they stayed with you. You ought to appreciate that! If you want to enjoy others, you have got to focus on their strengths and not their weaknesses. You can find something good in everybody.

2. Practice positive praying. v.4 reads "In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy." Isn't this encouraging knowing that people are praying for you when they are remembering you?

LESSON #2: The quickest way to change a relationship from bad to good is to start thanking God in prayer for people.

This will do two things: change your attitude and change them. Positive praying is much more powerful than positive thinking. People may resist our advice and reject our suggestions and not listen to our help, but they are powerless against our prayers. Most of us are good at praying in a crisis but on a normal basis what do you pray? "God, bless them?" That's too general. The more specific you are in prayer the more specific you get an

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



answer. This is how Paul prayed for people. In v.9-11 it reads "And this is my prayer, that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight so that you may be able to discern what is best and be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God." There are four things Paul prays for other people. You can pray these for people in your life and they will be answered because they are God's will.

1. Pray that they will grow in

love. "... abound in love ..."

2. Pray that they make wise choices. "... discern what is best..."

3. Pray that they will do the right thing. "... be pure and blameless."

4. Pray that they will live for God's glory. "... the fruit of righteousness."

Paul says if you want to enjoy people in your life, first You must be grateful for the good in people; and secondly You practice positive praying.

I will continue with Part 2 of this article of Encouragement next week. May you have a God blessed week.

Te Atua te aroa.

Treat yourself Chooks Extra

By Lucianne Vainerere

There are a lot of people who do that extra dose of work, or who never seem to do anything other than working. Don't get me wrong, it's a great quality to have, being hardworking and determined. However all the hard earned money gets spent on paying bills or contributions to certain social events and things like that until their last dollar is gone. Yes! All these things are great and that's just how life is but sometimes, once in a while, even if it's in a blue moon you just need to spend money on yourself.

If you're one of these people, you're most likely to be constantly stressed or worried, frowning or complaining and the most obvious, tired and unhappy. Now these are sacrifices and what not's that come with being responsible and independent or co-dependent, I've seen it with my parents, my siblings, friends and relatives and honestly it can be frustrating to the people around you because we can feel your tangled vibes radiating and bouncing off of us.

A blue moon rarely occurs, it's either the fourth full moon in a season or the second full moon in a month of the common calendar. When you do see it, it gleams with a wistful light so calm and beautiful. Treating yourself 'once in a blue moon' lets you relax and calm all the tension worked up in your shoulders and allows you to experience that wistful light and beauty

of 'ME' time.

Treating yourself doesn't necessarily have to be spending money on your materialistic desires, especially if you're not a spender. It could simply be taking a day to clear your mind and enjoy the natural things around you that help you loosen up and just be you whether it be recreational activities, spring cleaning, reading under a tree or an all time favourite: sitting comfortably on the couch watching movies.

The main point is although you have a lot going on in your life and you have A-class responsibilities that need to be taken care of immediately; at one point your body can only do so much and it'll need a well respected rest to just shut down for a bit. If you don't like doing things alone, grab a friend and do it together

It may seem too much to be put into your busy schedule, but I'm afraid your well being may go insane if you end up doing the same thing over and over again only to expect a different result. It's not going to change. You'll keep paying bills and contributing to social events and to my dismay you'll be unhappy. I believe everyone needs to taste their own hard work.

So grab your calendar, close your eyes, put your finger on a random day or week and TREAT YOURSELF you beautiful lowly person, because you deserve it and its ok to relax once in a long while. Make it fun, make it exciting, make it you.

How disappointing was the recent donor chin wag on a scale of 1-10? Well it was pretty much a low key affair according to one chook who had attended several in the past when some high flyers used to front up. When you see the Japanese First Secretary signing a document with a Minister's Support Office CEO and a rep from Mangaia, how low can you get than that? The EU Ambassador for the Pacific who is based in Suva, showed up but must have felt lonely with no other Ambassador in the diplomatic tent. Where were the Big Boys from Brussels? The Chinese Brass came earlier for the high falutant handover of the outer island tonker toys, an event they deemed more important than the donor pow wow. Excuse was the event was too close to the Chinese New Year. That's no excuse when you consider 40,000 Chinese tourists flocked to NZ for the Chinese New Year. How come no Chinese tourists flocked here? They went the other way! Should there be a donor chin wag next year? Don't bother! Save money.



An observant chook asks, how come Aussies chew and swallow their national icon-the Kangaroo- at BBQs, in burgers, fast food shops and yet, the Kiwis do not chomp or munch on their national icon-the Kiwi? What does this tell us about Aussies?



The Tupapa Panthers and their testicle grabber specialist (TGS) didn't do themselves any favours when there was a no show up to the League's kangaroo court. The TGS was preoccupied and sent a message he would come another day, until he does he'll be a spectator.



"Data!" "Figures!" Those are the toys MFEM Junior wannabe Economist Jimmie Webbie wants as he told the Minimum Wage Panel when on radio the other day. Of course this is where Junior falls down, topples over so to speak. There is no scientifically reliable data to measure stress, to measure disappointment, dissatisfaction and anger with government.



A chook calls for the Tourism Board to start thinking outside the box on Chinese tourism or quit their warm seats! That ain't the answer. Those on the Board are doing a sterling job with what little they have to play with and consider this-who out there in the private sector has the deep pockets to afford to erect 5-6 star accommodations for the multitudes of Chinese who will come? You can't market the outfit unless tourists have beds to kip in and 5 star beds at that! With bank interest rates so high, who on this piece of dirt can afford to build any hotel? It's the foreign banks that are halting our progress and our government is too gutless to legislate to force the banks to lower their rates!



How do we get the dosh loaded Chinese tourists to venture down this way and spend up large? First we tell the Beijing Masters of the Universe if they give us the dosh to enter into joint ventures to build 5 star hotels, we will welcome the wealthy Chinese visitors with open arms including open wallets, pockets and our petty crooks will even get in behind and support the move!



You have to hand it to the Samoan PM. He has enormous balls! Mighty coconuts! As far as he is concerned, if the Tuna strays into the local EEZ, catch it! Haul it in and make millions for the Samoan economy! Samoa is his concern. He is no ditherer, bum scratcher, seat warmer, gutless wonder like some, one could mention. Here is a PM who is direct, authoritative, a walking, talking, smoking gun! A big Kahuna! Look out!

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The Te Mato Vai land grab without compensation as predicted is about to become the project's biggest stumbling block. Landowners are resisting Bulldozer Heta's power play to take their land and the amendment to the Water Ordinance to give him more power will be another antagonistic reactionary force the CIP government will have to contend with like none they have ever encountered. Before the landowners have approved any land access the government is tendering the stage two contracts internationally, talk about carts before bulldozers. All the pre TMV project talk about public and landowner consultations to ensure public acceptance is just a load of crap nothing but putting lipstick on the pig, dress it up all the greedy government wants to, they can't hide the fact it's still a pig. Of course the no testicles Eddy Drolley and the dumb paralytic opposition will silently sit on the fence expecting the media to do their work for them. With a former NZ Maori land rights activists advising the landowners the government is in for a torrid arm wrestle that they may win but at a great cost and loss.



How come a proposed solar power plant in India will be able to sell a unit of electricity for less than 15 cents? The sun here is free; the equipment is a comparative price so why does our solar power cost over 80 cents?



Word out is the whole of the CIP Cabinet will be heading to Aitutaki to attend the former Demo Party Member of Parliament Ioane Kete's burial. Already there are rumblings about why the same sodality and support was not given to two long serving CIP MPs,



Kura Strickland and Inatio Akaruru a 31 year parliamentarian. In the mean time the disorganised Demos are waiting for someone else to lead the way for them. Just another reflection of the dopey Smiley Heather being given the run around by the incompetent Drolley.



Already at least five possible candidates are expressing interest in being Kete's replacement for the next Vaipae/Tautu by election. The megalomaniac Drolley who should be kept well away from the campaign is running around proposing Kete's wife is his pick and Bishop was already approaching people before Kete had passed away. Red Rooster tips a woman candidate with solid family links in the constituency. If not, then a multi gender man.



Good to see some expats turn up and sweat it out with locals at a working bee in the Rutaki area. This should be a prerequisite for permanent residence applicants. The expats are the biggest grumbling complainers about the local environment so full marks to those who turned up out west for the water course way clean up. Word is the volunteers

were so busy working, the biggest fresh water prawns ever seen on the Island were ignored and there were multitudes of them crawling up the banks.



Who would want to live in the outer islands? Its little wonder half the voters in Mitiaro want to see the back side of their MP Tangata Vavia who has been in the post for 20 years, due to his absenteeism there is a whole generation who have no idea who he is except that he owns the only surviving shop on the island that sells a Rarotonga purchased \$25 ten kg carton of chicken for \$120. At that price there's something seriously wrong. Is it the Air Raro freight charges? Is it the stupid 15% VAT? Is it the Mitiaro electricity costs or is it just plain exploitation? A family member or friend could send a carton over for landed costs of less than \$80.



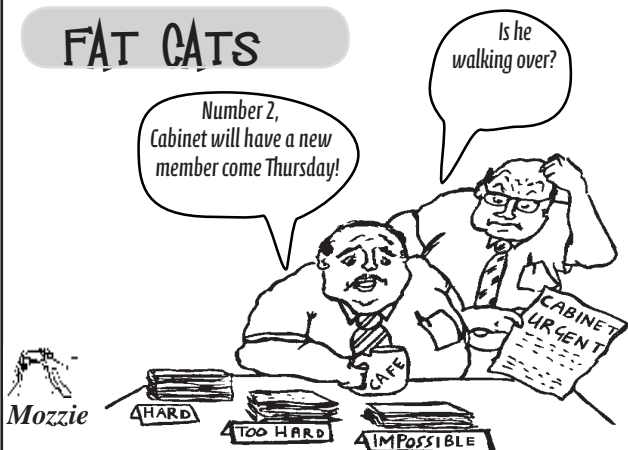
One surprising omission from the 50 year Celebration Awards was for a real contributor of technological advancement none other than Mr 500 George Maggie. His reward for taking Cook Islands telecommunications into its biggest leap forward was a lengthy spell in the taxpayer's Arorangi hotel.

Maggie, AKA Mr Burn cleared the way for the biggest advancing economic tool of any nation otherwise we would be still putting a finger in a hole to dial a telephone number. Maggie also cleared the way for the modern architectural monument; the new China funded Court House. Considering the Education category, in years to come the Nikao School arsonist will be revered by the current and future students for instigating the most ergonomic and technologically advanced \$11 million learning centre in the Pacific Island states. Advances in bread and baking technology (the Food category) are a welcomed acquisition courtesy of the phantom arsonist. Who needs the Marvel comic heroes when we have our own that made their contribution as unpaid volunteers? Government should recognise Maggie's advanced technological insights and appoint him the Chairman of Telecom Cook Islands as an achievement award.



Chooks, don't bother going to the theatre to see that movie "50 Shades of Grey." Simply go further up the road to Pue Village where nightly for the past fortnight, there has been much "heavy breathing," loud moaning and yells of "Yes! Yes! Yes!" So much so, residents alerted Police who investigated and informed the loved ones to tone it down. But that has fallen on deaf ears and word is neighbours are contemplating whipping up some seats and charging \$5 for the public to attend a real life event and not one "on screen!"

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



Solar project progress in Palmerston

The solar project in Palmerston is going well and could almost be ready for testing by this Saturday. The solar project contractor is Power Smart, the distribution lines contractors are Top Energy,

and the Renewable Energy Development Department (REDD) team, are made up from one electrician from Atiu, one from Mitiaro and Anthony Whyte from Mangaia, plus there are extra workers from Palmerston

re-doing the homes to bring them up to standard. The island government is really working together to get the solar project completed successfully and on time.- *Story and photos courtesy Anthony Mangaia TV*



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Rarotonga

Application closes 4pm on Monday 23 February 2015.



Te Marae Ora is seeking applications for the position of:

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This position leads the development and delivery of all community health services for the Ministry of Health.

Public Health postgraduate qualifications are essential with experience in project management, public health administration and an advanced knowledge of international health issues.

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This position reports directly to the Head of Ministry. To discuss any of these roles please contact Mrs. Elizabeth Iro, Secretary of Health or the Human Resources Manager Ms Temarama Anguna.

An application form with a comprehensive Curriculum Vitae (CV), including original or authenticated copies of qualifications, should be addressed to Human Resources Manager, P.O. Box 109, Ministry of Health, Rarotonga. For a copy of the job description email: m.anguna@health.gov.ck or phone: 29-664 Applications close 17 February 2015.

VACANCY



**VACANCY – SENIOR INSPECTOR –
EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS**

The Ministry of Internal Affairs has a vacancy for the position of Senior Inspector – Employment Relations within the Labour and Employment Relations Office.

If you are interested in the position, a full job description and information pack is available upon request. Please contact Eva Mapu, email employment@cookislands.gov.ck or phone 29370.

Applications must be addressed to the Secretary of the Ministry. Applications close Monday, 23 February 2015 at 9am.

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Mr. Tony Wearing

Director of Operations

Airport Authority

P.O. Box 90

Avarua

Rarotonga

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FOOTBALL UPDATE

Trophy sparkles Down Under



Australian football is on a high after victory in last month's AFC Asian Cup on home soil. In fact, the Socceroos' achievement is a hurdle the nation's women's team have already scaled. The Matildas became the first Australian side to be crowned Asia's best with a landmark win in 2010.

Now the Aussies are chasing another dream – glory at the FIFA Women's World Cup™ in Canada this June/July. And some of the Matildas had a chance to

get up and close and personal with the silverware they will be chasing in Canada when the FIFA Women's World Cup 2015 Live Your Goals tour made its latest stop in Melbourne over the weekend.

In touching distance of a dream

Kellond-Knight, a classy ball-playing left-footer who impressed on her Women's World Cup debut four years ago in Germany, the trophy was a tangible and even emotional reminder of what lays ahead.

"Being up close and personal with the trophy gave us goosebumps," said Kellond-Knight. "We spoke about it being the pinnacle, and that is why we train and devote so much time to football... to try and achieve such goals."

Canada dreaming

For many, Kellond-Knight included, the trip to North America will be a first visit to Canada, one of the strongholds of women's football. "We got some more information about the tournament, with ticket

sales very strong, and finding out just how big this event will be," Kellond-Knight said. "The tournament is getting close now, really creeping up on us. To see the trophy and hear more about the organisation going into the event was really exciting."

"Canada, like Australia, is a multicultural country, as are their neighbours in the USA, so I'm sure we will see plenty of support for every nation represented. I'm sure all Australians are looking forward to supporting the Matildas in June."

National Women's team begin training

The Cook Islands National Women's team has started their training earlier this week in preparation for the upcoming Pacific Games which will double as an Olympic Qualifier to be held in Port Moresby, PNG from the 4-18 July this year. Training sessions are well underway under Head Coach Tuka Tisam.

Although most players have been identified from previous tournaments and from the domestic competition in 2014, any player who feels they can make the squad are most welcome to attend trainings on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5pm, and Saturdays at 4pm at the CIFA Complex in Matavera.



Caption: Cook Islands National Women's team with their bronze medal at the 2014 OFC Women's Nations Cup in PNG last year.