

# COOK ISLANDS HERALD

25 February 2015 \$2 (incl VAT)

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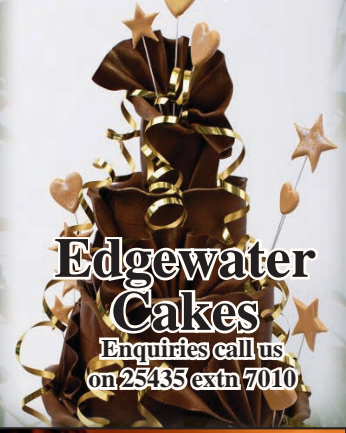
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# Neves reappointment to be massaged, another 10 months of Nenevanomics to endure

Last week's Cabinet couldn't unanimously agree to Minister of Finance Mark Brown's proposal to reappoint former controversial Finance Secretary Richard Neves. Neves' contract had expired last year and was retained by the Public Service Commissioner on a monthly basis while the position of Financial Secretary was being advertised.

Applications for the advertised position were moderate with a short list of two names being delivered to Cabinet, they being the expat Richard Neves and local Garth Henderson both employed in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM). According to the PSC Russell Thomas, Neves is a good performer and had his recommendation to be retained as the Fin Sec.

The two deferred proposals Brown brought before Cabinet were; Neves to be reappointed with Henderson his deputy plus the option of Henderson being appointed as Finance Secretary and Neves as his mentor for up to 18 months. In Cabinet talk 'deferred' is a nice way of saying rejected.

After discussions with Neves and Henderson, Brown has a third option that is likely to be favourable to his Ministerial colleagues, Neves to continue till mid December 2015 then Henderson takes over.

A former Police Officer for nearly 20 years, Henderson turned his back on the Police when he failed to be appointed as the Cook Islands Police Commissioner. Armed with a MBA completed during his police tenure Henderson directed his career attention to finance management in MFEM. After a stint in charge of Aid



Garth Henderson

Management, Henderson took up a regional appointment in Manila (Philippines) for three years with the Asia Development Bank as a Director's Advisor. He returned to the Cook Islands in May 2014, after three months Henderson surfaced in MFEM as a Client Representative working closely with the Te Mato Vai Project Management Unit (PMU). Discerning observers of MFEM and Neves performance are convinced Neves is desperate to remain Financial Secretary while the Ministry is in an internal shambles. Neves is buying time in the hope the economy and his Ministry will mysteriously right itself. Already this year Neves has blown his MFEM budget and some staff are on reduced working days.

Like Neves' fat cat obese salary of \$330,000 a year, MFEM is a bulging oversized operation that has more staff doing less. Once Neves is removed from MFEM, his incompetence this publication has recognised for the last two years will become clear to all as well as a mega embarrassment for his dotting Minister Mark Brown.

Neves imported brashness

and lack of sensitivity for cultural protocols have been abrasive and by the election results on Rarotonga a huge negative impact and political liability on the CIP.

For Neves the economy will not right itself, having no business acumen Neves hasn't the faintest cognitive that can breathe life into the economy. Neves juvenile remedies of putting up taxes, increasing fees and public charges along with borrowing more money on the international market is a recipe for fiscal haemorrhaging.

Neves has no business plan to repay the \$24 million loan from ADB for the Avatiu harbour development, in 2017 \$US95,000 a month instalments kick in, neither does he have on for the \$24 million borrowed from The Peoples Republic of China for the Te Mato Vai project. Then there are other loans that fall into the same gap. If Neves has a debt management plan can the rest of us see it as the liability for debt falls upon the tax payer? This is no different from the 1996 economic meltdown when the lenders came demanding loan instalment repayments.

Do we need any more of Neves? A domineering one man band that loves the prominence and limelight, Neves has failed to have a succession plan nor has he demonstrated evidence he values being a team player. Contrary to the verbal opinion of Mrs Neves, her husband Richard is dispensable. Will Henderson be paid the same salary as Neves? Like Neves, will Henderson's lack of accounting and business experience be a stumbling block?

51 year old Henderson obviously has accumulated leadership skills honed as the Admiral of our small Navy and as an experienced Vaka captain, he knows how to call the shots under life threatening pressure and navigate in the midst of unkind seas and tumultuous weather, but for sure he'll be tested in his ability to build a team at MFEM that compliments rather than duplicates his credentials. With Neves being paid nearly \$7,000 a week, he could consider that a portion of that amount being an absorbent for criticism, Neves scoffs at his critics because he is paid a critical factor, but it's doubtful Henderson will be afforded that luxury.

Neves is able to walk away from the dysfunctional mess he has created in the economy but Henderson being a local will have to live with his outcomes, he'll be offered unsolicited advice from all directions, carrying the burden of the business sector's expectations he will lead the nation out of the current indicators of an economic recession, Henderson must now be thankful the Police force was not his ending but a stepping stone to a role all that has transpired was preparation for.

- George Pitt

# Pre selected Teva Simiona the Vaipae/Tautu Demo candidate

Opposition Leader William (Smiley) Heather claims he is attending the Vaipae/Tautu branch by election candidate selection meeting to ensure they do the right thing but back in Rarotonga anything but the right thing is the order of the day for the Democratic Party. The Democratic Party Opposition Leader is expecting a tense meeting because he said he's going to Aitutaki to ensure the selection process is carried out peacefully without external influences at play.

Once again the unashamed hypocrisy of the Demo Party leaders is on full display. Dominated by a small inner circle of power elitists led by failed candidate Wilkie Rasmussen, Sel Napa, Eddie Drollet, Sean Willis and Tupou Faireka, they are conducting the affairs of the Party in total disregard of their Constitution which has been swept aside for their own dishonest agendas imposed upon the rest of the Party at their will and fancy.

Their blatant modus operandi is shrouded in secrecy, including the withholding of vital information, misleading the members; job promises, lying, and financial mismanagement are just a few adjectives that describe their immorality and despicable behaviour.

There is so much corrupted clutter littering the Demo Party a Conference can't come fast enough for the multiple layers of grievances to be aired and the current leaders rightfully dumped.

No other constituency has attracted such scrutinising attention in the selection of a candidate, left to themselves Chairman Boaza Ngataua and his committee are more than capable of selecting their candidate, in fact they've been proactive and have already done so.

In response to encouragement from the Demo headquarters

to select their candidate with maximum lead time to be fully prepared, in 2013 on the 5 May, the Vaipae/Tautu committee selected Vaipae resident Kete loane to be their candidate for the pending General Election. Tautu resident Teva Simiona, in the alternating village agreement was selected to be the stand by candidate for Kete as well as the nomination for the general election following. This was recorded in the minutes of the meeting and signed off by Chairman Ngataua.

A copy of the official minutes of the meeting was forwarded to the General Secretary of the DP Eddie Drollet.

As far as the majority of the V/T Demo committee are concerned the May 2013 decision is binding and still stands, it's Tautu's turn to field the candidate and Simiona is the Democratic Party nomination for the Mach 31 2015 by- election, end of story.

If Heather is going to be true to his word on no influences from outside forces, that must include the interfering Teina Bishop, then he must demonstrate leadership and ensure that the existing decision is not tampered with but endorsed with Teva Simiona being given the full wider support of the Democratic Party.

Some of the Demo Committee members who refuse to honour the pre selection agreement want participation by Teina Bishop in a new selection process. Bishop is the leader of the One Cook Islands Movement and not a Democratic Party member therefore he should refrain, better still constrain himself from interfering with the due process of the Democratic Party.

It's about time Heather stopped being bullied by Rasmussen and Bishop and stepped up to the plate with stronger testicles and demonstrate for once he is worthy to be a leader in the DP and ensure the President

Sean Willis endorses Simiona's nomination form with his signature. If Bishop wants to participate in the V/T by election then by all means but with an OCI candidate, he is most welcome to nominate the desperate to be an MP Rasmussen as his candidate.

On arrival in Aitutaki an annoyed Bishop met Heather at the airport to express his disappointment with some Demos meddling with the selection process. He told Heather to fix it and reminded him it was the OCI that was making the Demos government. Bishop then hopped on the plane and flew to Rarotonga in a huff.

Heather attended the meeting in Vaitau and like he normally does buckled and preached the OCI gospel as



Teva Simiona instructed by Bishop. During the meeting Heather was given some stern words and the candidacy was deferred to Wednesday night for the committee's decision.

- George Pitt



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# Demos mudslinging and accusations of party treason matched by political turbulence and contentious hostility in the CIP

*Both Parties in turmoil over the scramble to become Government*

If the Vaipae/Tautu by election coconuts fall on his side of the fence, the Prime Minister Henry Puna will have his back to the wall because he can't make seven fit into six. Something has to give if the Cook Islands Party wants to govern bad enough and the way things are shaping up Puna and his closest confident Mark Brown are prepared to do whatever it takes to secure the numbers to have exclusive control of government.

Once CIP candidate for the Vaipae/Tautu by election former Minister Moana Ioane got wind the Cabinet vacancy created by his High Court eviction for bribery was being offered to the Democratic MP for Ruatonga, Avatiu, Palmerston and Atupa (RAPA) Albert Nicholas Jr he has made threatening noises of defection to the One Cook Islands Movement that instantly caught the attention of Puna.

The same day (last Wednesday 18 February) the Prime Minister dispatched an official notice to the Official Secretary of the Queen's Representative Anthony Brown advising him of his intent to have Nicholas sworn in as a Cabinet Minister on Friday 20 February at 2.00pm. Puna flew out to Aitutaki to attend the Thursday 19 February burial of Kete Ioane. His early departure was precipitated by Moana Ioane's refusal to accept the news he was not returning to Cabinet if he wins the by election.

To pacify Moana and his constituency committee the face saving Puna assured them



Cook Islands Party Vaipae/Tautu MP Moana Ioane

if Moana won the bye election he would be returned to Cabinet. Under pressure Puna is prone to making panic induced decisions.

Back in Rarotonga Mark Brown has had to face up to an angry former RAPA CIP MP John Henry and members of his constituency committee. Brown was greeted with hostility and argument exchanges primary because they had been left out of the loop in the negotiations with the RAPA Demos.

It took the Demo RAPA group four weeks to confirm their acceptance of the offer to form a government with the CIP. During that time Nicholas and his team were transparent, consulting and canvassing known Demo



Democratic Party RAPA MP Albert Nicholas Jr

members and supporters. It wasn't a rumour nor was it a secret the courtship of the RAPA MP was being driven by Mark Brown but he cannot be faulted for failing to inform the RAPA CIP because nothing official had been confirmed by Nicholas till Brown returned from his Development Partner's meeting in Mitiaro on Thursday 12 February.

Brown advised Cabinet on Tuesday 17 February, it received the support of his fellow Ministers despite some of them being unhappy Brown and Puna were actively engaged in attempts to lure potential defectors to the CIP without their knowledge. Without

advising Cabinet, Puna had impulsively flown to Mangaia to open talks with the three Demo MPs there including the offer of a Cabinet position.

Brown then had a meeting with the RAPA CIP that night to relay the details of Nicholas' merger with the CIP to them. Despite Brown's best efforts to convey the political rational and the simplicity of political arithmetic he was unconvincing and his rhetoric largely fell on hostile and deaf ears. To his credit, it took a meeting initiated by the supportive DPM Teariki Heather to take the edge off the grievous tension Henry and his team generated.

On the same night the RAPA Demo Leaders had a meeting to cement their final decision in response to the CIP offer, 80% agreed to accept, those few who didn't were tearful and left before the conclusion of the meeting. Later that night, Brown was advised by telephone that the RAPA Demos had accepted the offer to merge and agreed on Nicholas being sworn in on Friday 20 February after both Parties had fulfilled their obligations for Kete's funeral.

On Wednesday 18 February news of both meetings began to filter through to each other as well as news of the contentious reaction by Moana and his committee. No wanting to create hostilities between themselves and the RAPA CIP, the Demos began to get concerned if both sides could not work together in

*continued next page*

harmony for the benefit of the constituency.

The Demos relayed their disappointment to Brown for not keeping the RAPA CIP in the loop and supportive of the merger. The Demos decided to stall the appointment of Nicholas to give the opportunity to the CIP to pacify their side a midday meeting with Brown on the Thursday did not materialise due to a no show by the Demos. Prior to that, at 10.00am the RAPA group met with a delegation of Demo leaders to update them the CIP offer was deferred.

On the same day unbeknown to RAPA an email heavily criticising the RAPA group by Democratic Party vice President Tupou Faireka was widely circulated, then forwarded on to even more recipients, it also called upon prayer support for God's divine intervention. Faireka accused them of being "evil", committing "Party treason" telling "lies" and making "hypocritical speeches" plus the emotive use of "betrayal".

If anyone was being hypocritical it was Faireka because the meeting was held at 10 am and his email was sent out minutes before midday, well after the meeting had concluded. The timing of Faireka's email and claim he was optimistic God moved in mysterious ways indicates he knew the result of the meeting before circulating his email.

At about 1.30pm Opposition Leaders Office CEO Eddie Drollet continued the charade when he circulated an email rejoicing God had moved in a mysterious way and answered the Demo prayers, stating the CIP offer had been turned down rather than the truth it had been deferred.

After members of RAPA had read the contents of Faireka's email their deep disappointment and anger has revived their decision to keep the merger offer on the table, as far as the RAPA Demos are concerned the appointment of Nicholas has been deferred till the CIP can resolve the reactionary issues resulting from the proposed merger. It is understood the CIP have up to two weeks to do this.

In the mean time some CIP insiders consider Puna and Brown's initiatives were done in haste, their view is

wider contributions weren't canvassed and the Mitiaro petition needed to be resolved first. Some even suggest the former CIP MP Tangata Vavia if he wins the Mitiaro seat would be a better choice than Nicholas. Strategically the CIP caucus are not all on the same page with individuals Puna and Brown doing their own thing not letting either the left or right hand know what the other is doing.

In the mean time PM Puna's assurance Mona will be returning to Cabinet and Brown's offer to Nicholas isn't careless political arithmetic, they both know seven won't go into six. If Nicholas does get sworn in as a Cabinet Minister and Mona Ioane wins the Vaipae/Tautu by election something has to give. Aitutaki will not accept having no presence in Cabinet, the expectation Aitutaki is in Cabinet is non negotiable.

Puna's solution to that predicament is to create another head ache for himself and his government by dumping a current Minister from Cabinet. If Puna and Brown think an existing Minister and his team will accept this lying down in lame silence they've in for a rude shock and a political shaking that will push Puna to the brink of prematurely going back to the polls with his leadership in hanging in the balance.

While most of the Rarotonga voters deserted the unpopular CIP, three of the ten constituencies kept the faith and should be acknowledged with none being dumped from Cabinet for the sake of political expediency. The three constituencies that returned seats for the CIP need to be rewarded with government concentrating on completing projects in their Punas before being very selective about any hand ups to the others.

Of the three Rarotonga Ministers, the Deputy Prime Minister Teariki Heather is likely to intervene and step down to keep the peace and stability of the Party. This would pay dividends for Heather should he put his name forward for the leadership. Heather's sacrifice will calm the turbulence and keep the CIP from self destructing, this will render his fellow MPs indebted to him and

obligated to return the favour.

With Tupapa's George Maggie persistently knocking on the CIP door for re admittance, he could be slotted back into the fold with a lot less divisive hostility and political drama. Without the collective considerations of the whole of Cabinet, Puna and Brown's individual attempts to booster the CIP numbers is fast turning to custard.

Brown could do well to resolve CIP Patron Papa Dan Kamana's and Maggie's difference, Maggie makes no secret that his heart beats a CIP rhythm but his pride is an obstacle he's got to overcome to get his constituency into government. 498 people didn't write his name into political history to be idle in opposition, the first ever Tupapa MP not to be in government.

Maggie deserves to at least be an Associate Minister with some specific responsibilities plus an office of his own in his patch. Instead of creating undesirable emotional turbulence in

three constituencies, Puna and company need to turn their attention on reducing and quarantining reactionary hostility to the one constituency of Tupapa. A sensitively reconciliatory approach in Tupapa will go a long way in bridging the political divide between the Kamana and Maggie CIP factions.

If anyone though the Democratic Party was rife with elements of mass self destructions they can be assured it was only a matter of time before evidence surfaces the CIP have become willing inventors of destructive political theatre of their own doing.

This week two Police Officers from Rarotonga arrived in Aitutaki to begin their criminal investigation into the Court of Appeal verdict of electoral bribery against Mona Ioane.

Puna may well be advised to render the African proverb, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

- George Pitt

## Faireka's controversial email

Kia orana All,

A situation eventuated last night in a meeting with one of our Rarotonga Constituencies (Puna) agreeing that its Member of Parliament will accept the offer by the CIP to be a Minister in the CIP Government. The rumour is that there is a swearing in for this person on Friday at Parliament. If this happens it would be a total betrayal and an act of party treason for this MP and the few evil minded committee that support him. The lies and the hypocrite speeches that were made in front of everyone (Puna meeting) just two weeks ago only go to show the people they are. I am utterly gutted? However I am an optimist and I am still praying that our friends in this constituency both the MP and the Committee will change their minds and do the right thing before Friday and I also believe that God does work in mysterious ways.

As your Vice President I urge all to stay calm, loyal and dedicated to the party we love. We have a by-election in front of us and once our friend Papa Kete is put to his resting place the Committee in Aitutaki will move on to seek his replacement. I am confident that we will win this seat and the bonus we have here is that Teina and George are still with us no matter what happens on Friday. The Mitiaro appeal is being heard now and we will know the result tonight or tomorrow at the latest. My hint is that we will still retain this seat.

God bless our Party,  
Kia orana and kia manuia.  
Tupou Faireka  
Vice President  
Democratic Party

# Bluesky to continue Telecom CI service legacy

By Charles Pitt

**A** relaxed Adolfo Montenegro, Bluesky Group CEO met with the Media on Tuesday afternoon at the Telecom Cook Islands (TCI) building.

On the Monday, a press statement had been issued by Bluesky Group concerning the purchase of the 60% shareholding held by Telecom NZ-Spark by Bluesky's Cook Islands subsidiary, Teleraro Ltd.

Montenegro thanked the TCI staff and the people of the Cook Islands following what was a long process. He indicated Bluesky was committed to providing exciting new technologies for the betterment of the people of the Cook Islands. Bluesky was committed to continuing the TCI legacy to serve all of the Cook Islands. He indicated Bluesky would add further services. The intention was to deliver services as they continue the progression of TCI into the Bluesky family. Bluesky would look to make services more affordable and to extend internet services and products and solutions.

Bluesky would also look to provide better connectivity with New Zealand where many Cook



Adolfo Montenegro, Bluesky Group CEO

Islanders now lived. Bluesky would look to introduce exciting new plans.

As to a change of name and branding, Montenegro said the name Telecom Cook Islands would continue in the meantime. TCI he said was a large operation which gives Bluesky a bigger footprint. A 120 day integration programme will follow and with the blessing of the Board, a new name will be considered.

Bluesky's views regarding the government's plans to deregulate the industry have not been considered as yet. From his personal experience he had some reservations with deregulation saying each scenario was

different. Competition depended on market size and a monopoly could do a country a disservice.

Regarding its Samoa TV station, Montenegro said Bluesky would look to extending Moana TV to the Cook Islands via the phone lines. He said while there were a number of challenges, Bluesky would explore actions required to bring pay TV to the Cook Islands.

As to extending it fibre optic cable to the Cook Islands, Montenegro mentioned Bluesky's long experience in submarine cable and said it was considering projects to create more connectivity in the Pacific.

As to banking via mobile

phones, Montenegro said Bluesky does not provide this service as yet but are reviewing it, along with the risks involved.

Regarding the purchase of shares in the company by members of the public and Telecom staff, he said a trust has been started for people who wish to invest. The offer will be open for six months. 15% of the company, Teleraro Ltd, will be open to the public and 10% to TCI employees.

Bluesky are yet to announce further details regarding the shares for example, how much shares will cost and whether a minimum number must be purchased.

## Bluesky Group Expands to Cook Islands

**T**he Bluesky Group has welcomed Telecom Cook Islands as its newest operation. On 23 February, 2015 Bluesky's Cook Islands subsidiary, Teleraro Ltd, completed the purchase of a 60% interest in Telecom Cook Islands from Spark New Zealand. The Cook Islands Government maintains its 40% ownership in Telecom Cook Islands. Teleraro's ownership structure also includes participation for Cook Islands investors and Telecom Cook Islands employees.

Telecom Cook Islands Limited is a leading telecommunications services company in the South Pacific providing fixed telephony, mobile telephony and Internet services for the population of

the Cook Islands.

"We are delighted to have completed this important expansion for the Bluesky group, which is in line with our regional growth strategy and further strengthens our capability to deliver world class telecommunications services to our Pacific island markets through local partnerships. It is a significant milestone for us, as Bluesky expands its operations to cover three Pacific Island territories. With the addition of Telecom Cook Islands to the Bluesky group, we expand our collaboration with our Samoan investment partners and welcome our new Cook Islands partners." said Bluesky Group

CEO, Adolfo Montenegro.

The 60% stake in Telecom Cook Islands was purchased for approximately NZD\$23 million with financing provided by a regional bank.

"We are pleased to have the Telecom Cook Islands team join our Bluesky family. As we integrate the operations, we look forward to building upon the delivery of outstanding customer service and high quality telecommunications solutions to the people of the Cook Islands, in line with our vision of being #1 at connecting Pacific people." said Mr Montenegro.

About Bluesky

Bluesky Communications was established in American

Samoa in 1999 and expanded its operations to Samoa in 2011 with a successful bid in the privatization of SamoaTel. Bluesky acquired Pacific Island Cable in 2009 and is the sole provider of cable television services to Samoa and American Samoa through Moana TV. Bluesky's affiliate company, American Samoa Hawaii Cable LLC, brought submarine optic fibre cable connectivity to the Samoan islands in 2009. Bluesky's commitment to quality, coverage and service has made it a technology driver and leader in Samoa and American Samoa. Bluesky was acquired by eLandia Group in 2006 and now forms part of Amper Group.





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# Cook Islands Ratings Affirmed At 'B+/B' On Modest Debt Burden; Outlook Remains Stable

**M**ELBOURNE (Standard & Poor's) Feb. 25, 2015--Standard & Poor's Ratings Services affirmed its 'B+/B' issuer credit ratings on the Cook Islands. The outlook remains stable. The Transfer & Convertibility assessment remains 'AAA'.

The ratings affirmation reflects the Cook Islands' moderate per capita income level and modest government debt burden. However, vulnerabilities associated with the country's weak policymaking culture and institutional settings constrain the ratings. These shortcomings hamper the country's economic growth potential and leave scope for a weakening in fiscal discipline.

In addition, the Cook Islands economy is vulnerable to the impact of cyclones and changing tourism preferences on its major revenue earner, the tourism industry. Further moderating the ratings are the country's lack of monetary policy flexibility (reflecting its use of the New Zealand dollar and absence of a central bank) and data deficiencies that constrain our analysis of the Cook Islands' external position.

Income is high compared to that of peers, with GDP per capita estimated at

US\$22,200 in the year ended June 30, 2014. We project Cook Islands' real per capita GDP growth will average 2.5% over 2015 to 2017, partly reflecting further expected declines in its population. Emigration is high in the Cook Islands, averaging 1.6% of the population annually during the past 18 years, reflecting Cook Islanders' rights to live and work in New Zealand and Australia. This labor mobility

acts as an important safety valve, though, with citizens having access to much greater employment opportunities than what is available in the Cook Islands.

We expect moderate further increases in tourist arrivals to support economic growth, with tourism remaining the primary economic activity in the Cook Islands. Yet tourism growth may be held back to some extent in the near term by a high exchange rate, which in particular may encourage New Zealanders to travel to some of the Cook Islands' competing holiday destinations in the Pacific. While there is no data on the Cook Islands' real effective exchange rate (REER), it is likely closely related to that of New Zealand. New Zealand's REER remains elevated compared to historical levels, despite having recently declined from a multi-decade high in 2014.

In our base-case scenario, we project general government debt will rise by an average 4.4% of GDP annually over 2015 to 2017, with net debt expected to average 23% of GDP over the same period. The government's

sizable infrastructure program currently underway is leading to rising, albeit still modest, debt levels, thus reducing fiscal buffers somewhat. But the focus on water, sanitation, and road infrastructure, could increase amenity for tourists and help bolster this key sector of the economy if the private sector can capitalize on this. This could then support government revenues.

The concessional and long-term nature of current government borrowings, as well as the government's low debt level, means that general government interest expenditure to revenues is low: estimated to be 1.6% on average between fiscal years 2015 and 2017. But while government debt remains low, a large portion of this debt is exposed to foreign currency movements.

We equalize the local currency rating with the foreign currency rating, reflecting the Cook Islands' absence of both monetary policy flexibility and a domestic capital market, and its use of the New Zealand dollar. The transfer and

convertibility assessment for the Cook Islands is 'AAA', which also reflects its use of the New Zealand dollar.

The stable outlook balances the Cook Islands' sound economic growth prospects and low level of government debt, against the challenges it faces in overcoming weak political and institutional settings and fostering more robust economic growth.

We would lower the ratings if a weakening in global economic conditions reduces tourism sector receipts and, in turn, worsens the government's finances. A weakened commitment to uphold past fiscal gains through high operating spending, resulting in its debt burden rising by significantly more than we currently expect, could also bring pressure on the ratings.

Improvements in the sovereign creditworthiness could come with sustained gains in policy making stability and effectiveness, evidenced by the reduction of sizable data deficiencies, and progress in increasing economic opportunities for residents.

## January 2015 tourist arrivals decline from record high

**D**ata released by the Statistics Office showed that 6,621 tourists arrived in January 2015, a 196 person decrease (-2.9 per cent) as compared to January 2014.

Despite the decline from 2014, the 6,621 arrivals is the second highest on record for a January (January 2014 being the highest January on record).

55 per cent of total visitor arrivals (3,624) came from New Zealand and 19 per cent (1,234) came from Australia.

Compared to January 2014, the decline was driven almost exclusively by Australian tourists (down 236) with other markets either flat or experiencing small improvements.

"For the last three months (November to January)

Australian arrivals have been disappointing, being 1,128 down from the same three months the year before." MFEM Economic Advisor James Webb said. "Hopefully this trend corrects as 2015 wears on, but growth has typically not occurred in the low months of January through March. Our forecasts have been conservative, with actual arrivals tending to exceed expectations, so we are comfortable with our current outlook of low or no growth in total tourism arrivals for the remainder of the financial year."

"As always, destination development, improved productivity, and improving the value for money of tourism services (particularly for accommodation) should remain the industry's focus going forward."



## *Congratulations to Mrs. Fever Okirua Teira Taana*

**M**rs Fever Okirua Teira Taana, also known as Piva

Congratulations to Mrs Fever Okirua Teira Taana Woman of the Month for February.

She was nominated by the Rarotonga- Manihiki Vainetini Group in recognition of her contribution to the community during her long service as a Public Servant, especially in the Northern Group where she spent most of her younger days.

### **Family Background**

Mama Piva was born in Tauhunu, Manihiki on the 25th of February 1944, and on Wednesday she not only celebrates being the Woman for the month but also her 71st Birthday.

Her Father, Nato Temu, was the first member of parliament for Manihiki in 1965, and her mother is Mama Metua Vaikou, also from Manihiki.

There are 15 children in her family, 12 girls and 3 boys.

In 1966 she married Teira Taana in Manihiki and they had 8 children (7 girls and 1 boy).

### **Education**

Mama Piva attended Primary School in Manihiki until grade 7.

From 1956 to 1961, she attended Tereora College and she lived in Nikao with her aunty Mere Paitai.

In 1962 when the Hostels in Takamoa were opened for the outer islands students, she moved to Takamoa where she was selected as head prefect at Takamoa, during the time of Reverend Thorogood.

At the end of 1962 she passed her school certificate in Mathematics, English, Geography and NZ Maori (for language).

### **Occupation**

In 1963 she started in the Treasury department for Housing Loans with James Brown, the brother of the late Henry Keta Brown.

In 1964 she was sent to Manihiki as the Junior Clerk for the Island Administration where she worked with a Mr. Hopley from New Zealand. Two months later, he was replaced by Brian Newnham who was married to Rebecca, mother of Raymond Newnham.

In 1982, Mama Piva was sent to Fiji for a two weeks course for the island council.

On her return she was sent by Richard Chapman to Manihiki as the Chief Administration Officer for Manihiki (which is the same as Resident Agent) as there was no one holding the position at the time.

Later she became the first Woman Resident Agent in the Cook Islands for Manihiki.

She was also the Senior Admin Clerk and the Deputy Registrar of Manihiki.

In 1983 she was sent to Rakahanga for nine months where she held the same three posts she held in Manihiki.

At the end of her 9 months in Rakahanga, she went to Pukapuka for 3 to 4 months to take on the same three posts she held in Rakahanga and Manihiki. Unfortunately there was no one to replace her, so she stayed in Pukapuka for 5 years, from 1984 to 1989. Mama Piva was still in Pukapuka when Cyclone Martin hit Manihiki and her husband went missing with two grand children.

She returned to Manihiki after the cyclone to find that the rest of her family had been relocated to Rarotonga by

Hercules. She was then brought to Rarotonga by Hercules to be with her children and family.

Mama Piva returned to Manihiki after, and finally retired in 1995. She returned to Rarotonga to look after her family and grand children.

### **Cultural**

She's a member of the local Mama's weaving and arts group and helps out with any island groups events. She sometimes joins dance teams on the Northern Group Islands but she enjoys mostly the singing.

### **Church and Beliefs**

Mama Piva grew up in a religious surrounding. Her parents were deacons of the CICC. She and her husband became deacons themselves for the Tauhunu Ekalesia in Manihiki and also a Sunday School Teacher.

She was also a leader for the Girl Guides for many years both in Manihiki and also in Nikao when she was staying with her Aunty Mere Paitai.

Mama Piva does not belong to just any particular group, but she will always be there ready to help out anyone where ever she can.

After Cyclone Martin when she lost her husband and 2 grand children, that was a turning point in her life. She returned to Rarotonga.

On February 25th 2000, her birthday, she was baptized in the Church of Jesus Christ, Latter Day Saints.

### **Sports**

Mama Piva played tennis, volley ball, netball and athletics in her younger days. She carried on her love for these sports during the time she was working in the Northern Group. In Manihiki, they also

had canoe races and swimming competitions for both men and women. In Pukapuka she joined with the local cricket teams for both men and women. Nowadays she supports any sport in one way or another.

### **Favourites**

Her favourites are her children and grand children. They are the main reason for her now living in Rarotonga. She also visits her family in Australia and someday she also hopes to visit a daughter and grandchildren in Pukapuka.

Mama Piva just wants her family, her children and grandchildren, to know that she loves them very much.

Her favourite colours are blue, purple and green.

### **Hobbies**

Sewing (dressmaking), weaving mats, baskets, tapakau, rito hats. She admits that she still does not know how to make the "Pare Ukarau."

Fishing is one of her hobbies. She used to fish for tuna, maroro and koperu with her husband.

Cooking is another hobby she enjoys, especially cooking the Northern Group delicacies. She loves baking cakes, scones and faraoa pana, often in the local umu.

What is important to her

1. Lord God Almighty who is our creator and our Saviour.

She is very passionate with her Religion and Faith in God Almighty.

2 My Children and grand children. For them to have a good education and live a good and peaceful life. Be good role models, and be good to each other.

Like Jesus said "Love one another just like I love you."

## Woman of the Month Sponsors:

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

# PM presents submission to Select Committee



PM at Select Committee

The Prime Minister is pleased that today's presentation by the Cook Islands to the New Zealand Parliamentary Select Committee on the Social Assistance Bill was received very positively. Puna led a high level delegation to Wellington that also included the Premier of Niue, Toke Talagi. The Prime Minister spoke first, delivering a prepared statement on the arguments for New Zealand to consider in the proposed change to the law on Superannuation. The Cook Islands supports fully the change proposed in the law to scrap the 'resident and present' requirement but has also

asked that consideration be given to change the Special Portability Arrangement (for the Pacific Islands), as well as the five year residency requirement in New Zealand after the age of 50. The change sought to the SPA would allow Cook Islands to collect the full NZ Super after 10 years instead of the current 50%. The Cook Islands believes it should be treated separately from the rest of the Pacific on the basis of it being a member of the Realm of New Zealand. In addition, changing the 5 year requirement would allow Cook Islanders to qualify for the NZ Super without returning to reside

in NZ. The Cook Islands submission was very effective and resonated with the Committee. The Committee is chaired by National MP Alfred Ngaro and includes fellow Cook Islander Poto Williams, MP for Labour. Also present at the hearing was NZ First Leader Winston Peters. Peters was supportive of changes to the law for equity and for the benefit of assisting Realm countries, which are experiencing constraints from outward migration and an aging population. The Cook Islands was given half an hour with the Committee.

- PM release 24 February



PM delegation to Wellington



# Social Assistance(portability to Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau) bill

25 February 2015

Presentation to Social Services Select Committee

Prime Minister Hon. Henry Puna

Acknowledgements to the Chair and Committee Members  
Acknowledge the presence and accompaniment of:

Premier of Niue

Minister of Internal Affairs

Mr Chairman – Kia Orana

The Cook Islands has deemed this Bill to be of such significance that we have brought our leaders together – as national representatives and as members of the Realm of New Zealand.

We appreciate the opportunity to present our submission to the Committee, and remain willing to provide any additional information should the members require further comment.

I'd like to firstly make reference to the announcements of last November, when the Honourable Minister Anne Tolley said this about the Bill, and I quote:

"This change will be restricted to the Cook Islands, Niue, and Tokelau to recognise our close constitutional relationship, shared citizenship, and unique legal arrangements."

In addition, she said this:

"The numbers may be small but New Zealand is a proud Pacific nation and we want to ensure New Zealanders have as much freedom as possible to choose where they live."

We deeply appreciate those comments – and share those views. Historically, the smaller countries of the Realm have contributed to New Zealand's development and growth. We were in fact, actively encouraged to travel to New Zealand and help build a developing country – as it was during the 1950s and 60s – even to take up jobs that New Zealanders didn't want.

Today I will be speaking to the two points of our written submission on the Bill – the first being our full support for the initiative to remove the 'resident and present' requirement for New Zealanders residing in the Cook Islands, and the other Realm countries and territories; and secondly, our request for

consideration to also change the 5-year requirement for qualifying residents to live in New Zealand after the age of 50.

We certainly welcome the first and believe there are compelling arguments to also include the second.

In presenting this request for the consideration of the Committee, the Cook Islands also takes this opportunity to ask New Zealand to review its conditions on the Special Portability Arrangement for the Realm countries, which we believe to be inconsistent with the spirit of Minister Tolley's words expressed earlier.

Fifty years ago, Decolonisation, the formalisation of the Realm of New Zealand, and our Constitutional status, gave us the political framework to evolve with greater competency as a State actor – while remaining as New Zealand citizens.

Those provisions opened the door to considerable impacts and the Realm is now characterised by accelerated rates of population flows to New Zealand. To some degree, New Zealand has been a pivot for our residents to travel further afield.

The consequences are that we must turn our full attention to how mobility can be better analysed and managed to serve the interests of us all. All the members of the Realm.

Mr Chairman, the Cook Islands is therefore more than willing to work closely and cooperatively with New Zealand on how we can address the imbalances and alleviate the pressures of accelerated population drift. The governments of both countries have talked about this as a priority for many years but I believe there is real commitment to do what we can – now.

In this instance, we may appear to be just talking about our aged – our middle-aged and older. That would be too simplistic. The context is our struggle over population trends and the sustainability of our countries. The question is about the future, and having the capacity to build that future.

Truth be told, we can't

compete with New Zealand. But we're forced to. Despite our efforts to improve working conditions, we're currently struggling with the prospect of raising the minimum wage in order to provide better incentives for our people to stay home and not move to New Zealand or Australia.

Qualifying for the New Zealand Super is a highly regarded option for many Cook Islanders, particularly those who have made the commitment to live and work in New Zealand for decades.

They have a strong sense of loyalty. But the demands of the criteria threaten that sense of loyalty.

The requirements in fact, present a double-edged disadvantage for New Zealanders.

Cook Islanders resident in New Zealand are discouraged from returning home and contributing to our development until they reach at least 55. And if returning home after 10 years, the portable pension is reduced by 50%.

Portability was supposed to help entice the older generation to return home but the present conditions provide a reduced incentive for us as members of the Realm. There is no such recognition of the Realm when the Cook Islands, Niue, and Tokelau are subject to a catch-all basket, which can remove 50% of your entitlement.

Presently, we have a lot of difficulty attracting the younger ones home because they know they'll have to go back to New Zealand at some stage after turning 50.

Those who have moved home before the age of 50 or since turning 50, quite understandably feel punished – especially those who have worked for 20, or even 30 years. Essentially, they are being told to sacrifice any sense of loyalty they may have had.

There is no equity when a resident of New Zealand can satisfy a requirement with a minimum of 10 years – compared with someone who has served for 30 years but not met the five years above 50.

Conversely, many Cook Islands'

residents are being forced to move to New Zealand to meet the 5-year requirement at an age when they are being most productive at home – and most certainly, less productive in New Zealand.

Cook Islands' residents over the age of 50 are business owners, senior civil servants and managers, community and cultural leaders. Sadly, these people are being uprooted from their responsibilities, and their productivity. Jobs are left. Homes are left. Family are left. The costs run broad and deep in a small country.

If Cook Islanders were free from the conditions and requirements and allowed to continue residing at home:

They would strengthen our capacity for sustainable development.

They would contribute to the stability of our growth.

They would add value to our community base.

They would improve our national well-being.

In addition, amendments to allow Cook Islanders to continue residing at home would be consistent with other New Zealand commitments.

It would be consistent with other arrangements for New Zealanders who reside in countries outside the Realm.

And it would be consistent with a requirement placed upon applicants for New Zealand citizenship. One of several requirements for those applying for New Zealand citizenship is residency within a Realm country for a period of five years.

If New Zealand accepted the five year residency in a Realm country as one fulfilment to attain citizenship, the same principle could be applied to accept a five year residency in a Realm country to help fulfil obligations for the New Zealand super.

Mr. Chairman, the Cook Islands submits a case based on equity, national capacity building, and sustainability.

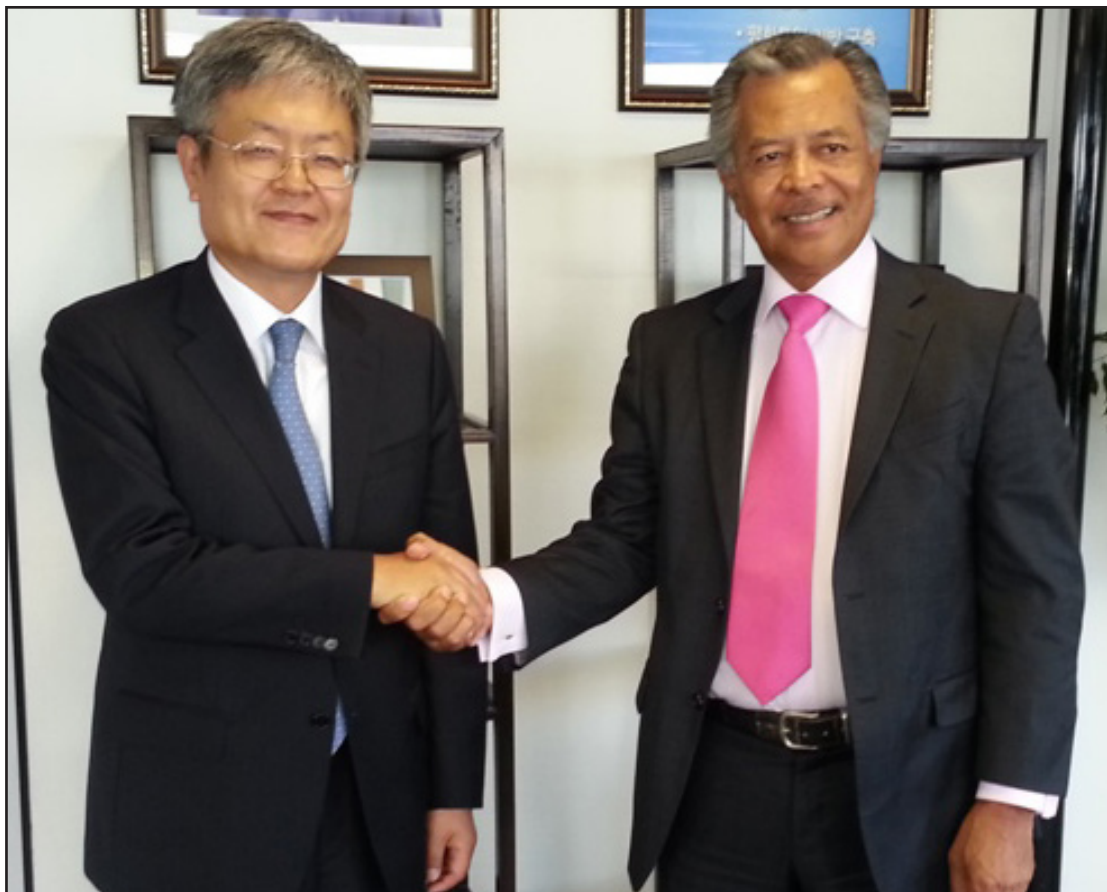
And it does so as citizens of equal rights and purpose, in the spirit of the Realm and its obligations.

Thank you very much.

# PM meets Korean Ambassador

In the afternoon, after the session with the Parliamentary Select Committee on Wednesday, the Prime Minister conducted a courtesy call on the Korean Ambassador to the Cook Islands Hae-yong Kim. Puna made a point of thanking the Ambassador on behalf of the Cook Islands people for the generosity in helping with the forthcoming 50th Anniversary Constitution Celebrations. The Government of the Republic of Korea is providing a grant of USD200,000 to acquire audio visual equipment from Korea for the recording of the celebrations, this year. The Ambassador responded that Korea was appreciative of the Prime Minister's efforts to strengthen ties between the two countries and said that the Prime Minister's role at the Korea-Pacific Islands Foreign Ministers Meeting last November made a positive impact on his government. The Ambassador is expecting to visit Rarotonga to present his credentials, in June.

- PM release 24 February



PM and Ambassador Kim



PM and Winston



# PM meets Cook Islands students



PM with Wellington students

**T**he Prime Minister also hosted Cook Islands students in Wellington this week, on the eve of appearing at the Select Committee hearing on the Social Assistance (Cook Islands, Niue, and Tokelau) Bill, on Wednesday. Puna was pleased to meet the students, telling them that he always

made a point of making contact with those studying overseas while undertaking travel assignments. The Prime Minister said he was honoured to speak to them and was impressed to learn about their various courses and disciplines of study. He had a soft spot for students on scholarship as

he could recall the life he had while studying abroad, and the types of pressures he had to go through. The Prime Minister said he agreed with a sentiment expressed during the meeting that Cook Islanders should stay true to themselves and remember where they came from and who they were as a

people. He encouraged them to return home after completion of their respective study because there were real opportunities to advance their careers. Minister Glassie also provided strong words of encouragement and shared with the students his own experiences as a young scholar.

-PM release 24 February



PM and First Lady



PM and Toke



# Tommy Gee coming to Rehab

Just a week after successfully hosting Deach, Pieter T, Ty, Jae'o, Drew, Mr. Lavalava- Carlos Ulberg and DJ Soutre, Rehab is excited to announce they will for the first time have guest DJ Artist from New Zealand, Tommy Gee rock a DJ set this Friday 28th Feb.

Scott Arlander, owner of Rehab Rarotonga says the event is being promoted under Rehab Ministry, which is Rehab's popular electro-house party nights that are held on the last Thursday of every month hosted by DJ Mark Zow and sponsored by Hi NRG vodka and Energy Drink at The Bond Store.

A bit of background on the Tauranga native, Tommy Gee has been around since the days of the Legendary Buddha Lounge and has been all around NZ, delivering a genre of hip hop and old school fused with the latest hits and trends in electro-house. "I was the Jagermeister NZ Party DJ for 3 years traveling around NZ doing all the Jager Club Nights and events on Jager Party Bus. I've also played at events such as Wellington 7s, Rythum and Vines and BW Camping Festival".

He currently holds residencies at Lenin, Kong, Bungalow8 and Carpark in Auckland, monthly residencies at Boiler Room Whakatane and Sugar Nightclub in Gisborne.

The DJ has also supported a number of international acts such as Skrillex, Datsik, Borgore, Elite Force, Krafty Kuts, A Skills and NZ acts including Shapeshifter, Tiki Tane, Optimus Gryme, Truth and Upbeats.

To get a feel on his music before his arrival, he has a couple of commercial mixes on Soundcloud "tommy gee 5", which is free to download. He says a number of tracks on those mixes are his own,

done live on turntables, not a computer program.

The night is expected to be a wild night out with the dance floor rocking to some good mash-up and original mixes, "I'll have every range of music at my finger tips and will play to the crowd. My commercial game is strong and fully up to date with loads of house mixes also. I'm looking forward to being there and apart of an awesome night. It will be awesome to just play in such a beautiful place!"

Doors will be open from 10pm to 2am with happy hour and free entry before 11pm. Similar to the last Rehab Ministry held just last Thursday there will be prizes sponsored by Hi NRG, which will be given out on the night. Don't forget, Rehab is an 18+ venue, so if no ID, no entry. There are also still a few seats available on the Rehab Party Bus for the gig, so call 29700 for bookings now.



## TV series leads up to International Women's Day

Punanga Tauturu are showcasing a documentary series on CITV over six weeks to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8.

The TV series brings awareness build up to International Women's day

It is International Women's Day on March 8, a day dedicated to celebrating women's achievements, whether economic, political or social.

Part of that celebration is increasing awareness of women's issues across all sectors of our communities. A powerful and necessary medium for spreading that awareness is through film.

In recognition of this and celebration of International Women's Day, Punanga Tauturu Inc have brought to the small screen the documentary series "Pawa Meri - Role Models to Inspire", chronicling the struggles

and achievements of six Papua New Guinean women.

"While this series shows PNG women's experiences - the issues it addresses, such as Sexual and Reproductive Health rights, women in decision making roles and community work, will resonate with all women across the Pacific in different degrees of access to services, basic health care and attitudes towards women's equality and basic human rights," says Kairangi Samuela of Punanga Tauturu Inc.

Each woman represents a different geographical area in PNG and different section of society. Their stories are uniquely Pacific and aim to motivate us to recognise that improving women's lives improves the community at large.

Developed out of a filmmaking project between Australia and Papua New Guinea, the series

seeks to promote gender equity, portraying strong female role models to inspire change and challenge existing stereotypes about women.

One episode in the series featuring 2012 political candidate Jenifer Baing Waiko, was selected for competition at the 2015 Pacific International Documentary Film Festival (FIFO) in Tahiti. The 26 minute gem reveals the determination of a young woman who wants to make permanent change in her rural community through entering politics.

Punanga Tauturu Inc would like to thank Producer Verena Thomas for allowing us to showcase the series and airing was made possible by NZAID through the Social Impact Fund.

The series began on CITV on Sunday February 15. The six-part series will show every Sunday up to March 22.



# China the key to future prosperity: Tepaki

*Developer Tim Tepaki believes the time has come to exploit the next logical phase in our relationship with China which is to utilize our improved infrastructure as a foundation or launch pad for economic development.*

*By Charles Pitt*

**L**ike it or lump it, says Tepaki, our destiny, indeed our future, is closely linked to China.

You may not realize it but China already plays a big part in your life. Most of the clothes you wear, the shoes, your household linen, appliances, all came from China or from companies in Asian countries manufacturing these products for China.

One in four persons on Earth is Chinese. Pretty soon, it will be one in three then one in two, then, finally, everyone on planet Earth will have Chinese blood in them. Already, it has been estimated that at least one quarter of Cook Islanders have Chinese blood.

Given that it is only a matter of time before China makes the transition to the world's dominant economy, the Cook Islands needs to examine what its policy should be towards China. Do we maintain our current position of friendly ties and cooperation or do we take the relationship to another level?

There are several gateways which could open up paths to a greater level of participation with China. There is a current agreement under the One China Policy document signed in 1997 to establish an Embassy in China. This has not been done as yet. An Embassy in Beijing would raise our status and lead to more opportunities.

There are MOU's relating to educational exchanges and technical assistance (in the

area of marine resources). These have not been fully utilized.

A limited amount of agricultural based products is exported to China such as Noni Juice and Tuna. It is in these areas that we can take the relationship with China to a higher level by increasing the quantity or diversifying into value added products. This may involve tapping into Chinese expertise, technical assistance and funding.

In agriculture, in tandem with export incentives from China, we could increase our productivity through a larger workforce working larger plots of land. There is land available in the outer islands and perhaps Cook Islanders could be enticed to return from overseas to work the land with the offer of higher rates of pay.

Smaller parcels of land on Rarotonga could be more efficiently used if intensively farmed. Rarotonga's interior, sheltered hills would be suitable for all year round fruit production.

We should also consider what produce we can add value to before export, including blast freezing of vegetables to order /drying of produce to order.

In tourism, we barely touch the Chinese market. This could be developed. A higher standard of accommodation and service would be required along with funding at competitive rates of interest to build new accommodation. In the outer islands, we have a whole new untapped market to

promote. Unlike other Pacific islanders, Chinese tourists will find Cook Islanders cosmopolitan in outlook, well educated, knowledgeable, at ease with visitors, friendly, approachable and modern in behavior and lifestyle.

Tepaki believes the Cook Islands should make the most of the current link with China and the opportunities this link presents. He believes the time has come to exploit the next logical phase in our relationship which is to utilize our improved infrastructure as a foundation, or launch pad for economic development.

Having witnessed China's willingness over recent years to assist and guide us through our infrastructure development /upgrade phase, (Courthouse, Police HQ, Indoor Sports Stadium, Roads, Water) the next phase is to develop an economy underpinned by the improved infrastructural framework (improved through use of the heavy machinery).

To stimulate the economy, Tepaki believes it will be necessary for government to acknowledge the private sector has an important role to play. Tepaki says government needs to develop a new financial framework to facilitate the transfer of Chinese government funds to the Cook Islands private sector.

Our government will not need to act as guarantor for any such funding arrangement says Tepaki because the model will involve joint

venture projects with Chinese investors who have been vetted and approved by the Chinese government.

Any new funding framework will require buy in at the political and community level. To ensure this, a new model which removes our government from a guarantor role (to remove any risk to the tax payer) and which returns the majority of the benefits to the community (through a unique community ownership formula), is preferred.

Tepaki believes further discussions with the Chinese regarding a new road map for economic development will not be likely until we have a stable government. In the meantime the likely matters which could be discussed informally are;

Tourism development-new accommodation/marketing in China/direct or indirect air links with China

Agricultural development-crops exportable to China/farming techniques/intensive farming/new cash crops

Fishing-onshore processing/training/development of local capacity/fish farming

Use of Chinese knowledge and expertise for Policy development-guidance for maximization of resources and processing options

Medicine-apply Chinese knowledge in development of local medicines

Health promoting extracts/supplements -using the medicinal properties of local plants and sea life (Te Tika is one example)

# Weathering food and nutrition security in the Pacific



The Regional Expert Roundtable on Climate Services for Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Security opened in Samoa today. It brings together a range of experts from the agricultural, climate change and weather sectors to provide guidance on how climate services can effectively contribute to food and nutrition security.

From 1982 to 2012, there were 615 natural disasters recorded in the Pacific, three quarters of which were weather related, according to a study conducted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. Findings from the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change tell us that our climate will continue to change in the future.

With these in mind, the Roundtable will help strengthen relations between the climate change, meteorology and

agricultural experts is an important milestone.

"A vibrant agriculture sector in the Pacific islands is not only beneficial economically and socially, it also has a broad reach into the homes of Pacific island residents," stated Mr. Gavin Wall, the Sub-regional Coordinator of the Food and Agriculture Organization. "It is critically important therefore that farmers continue to produce much needed food, and to do so reliably we need to be resilient to the climate impacts."

SPREP worked with the World Meteorological Organization and other partners to develop a draft Pacific Region Implementation Road Map for Strengthened Climate Services in 2014. The Roadmap was taken further with the establishment of the Pacific Islands Climate Services Panel, which developed an action plan for climate services in the

region – all of which is aimed at improving the climate services provided for different sectors.

"I am sure the deliberations over these two days will bring a fresh perspective to the meteorological community on how climate services can be tailored to provide specific information for decision making, including that at the policy level," said Mr. Kosi Latu, the Deputy-Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

"The agricultural sector is a key partner for which the meteorological community provides climate services to help them prepare for what weather impacts may come."

Agriculture and food and nutrition security are impacted by climate variation and having access to accurate climate information and meteorological

data can help the agriculture sector better plan to improve production of crops and livestock. The participation of agricultural specialists of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) contributed to the richness of the issues being discussed at the roundtable.

The team, led by soils specialist, Dr Siosua Halavatau of the Land Resources Division, discussed from the users of climate information services angle, access to accurate data collected on variability of rainfall, temperature fluctuations and sunshine hours. The aim is to help improve collaborative research to better provide technical assistance to national stakeholders.

"Partnership lies at the heart of this Roundtable and in the region's ability to address this important challenge," said Mr. Dean Solofa of SPC.



# Palmerston Island Solar Project

Reports have been received that the solar power installation project on Palmerston is expected to be completed by Saturday. The system has been operating on the island now since last Saturday night for testing during this week. The Palmerston people are very happy and have been extremely helpful in getting this project completed as they can now see the benefits of the system in their homes.





# Demos Smiley Heather lies and misinforms Vaitau Meeting

Last night (Tuesday 24) at a Democratic Party meeting in Aitutaki for the Vaipae/Tautu (Vaitau) constituency, the leader of the Demo Opposition William (Smiley) Heather disgracefully misled those in attendance and blatantly lied to them. About 25 were at the meeting. When challenged, Heather had no answer. Heather claimed they would be the government after winning the Vaitau by election, a letter to the effect the Demos commanded the majority would be taken to the Queen's Representative His Excellency Tom Marsters then he would swear the Demos in as the government. This arrangement has been already agreed to by the QR according to Heather. No such procedure can happen according to the Office of the QR. Marsters has not sanctioned nor indicated he will or can do as Heather is claiming. In fact he has stated the opposite, any change of government must be contested in Parliament, the QR will not

intervene unless Parliament cannot resolve a government. The CIP government will not be removed by the QR regardless of how many seats the Demos have after the by election.

To reinforce his claim Heather told the Vaitau meeting at a meeting of the Punas in Rarotonga the former QR Sir Fredrick Goodwin stood up and confirmed the Demos will be sworn as government outside of Parliament. Sir Goodwin said no such thing; He spoke for thirty seconds and to the effect said the Matavera puna would support a conference date after the Vaitau by election, nothing more and nothing less.

Heather must be chastised for his abuse of leadership power and stood down as the Opposition leader. Obviously he was coached by Teina Bishop and was under pressure to do Bishop's bidding. Heather is a disgrace to the Democratic Party. Resign Heather, you do the right thing as you want others to do and resign. - George Pitt



Smiley Heather

## The Red Bandit strikes

By Charles Pitt

You may have noticed your Avocado or Guava fruits have turned brown and wondered what has caused that?

According to Mya Poeschko at the Ministry of Agriculture, the culprit is a tiny pest called the "Red Banded Thrips". It is just 1mm-2mm long and has a red band around its belly. It was first noticed in Rarotonga in November 2011. It thrives in dry conditions and by the time you have noticed the damage on the fruit, the pest may be long gone.

According to Mya the pest scours the outside of the fruit and eats the sap. This gives the fruit its brown colour. The fruit is still alright to eat it's just that you can't tell if it's ripe.

There is a spray which will kill the pest but early detection and monitoring is needed to catch the pest.





# How to enjoy the people in your life

Part 2

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

The main scripture reading of this article is Philippians 1v.3-11. In Part 1, I mention of two important points in order for us to Enjoy The People In Our Lives. 1 BE GRATEFUL FOR THE GOOD IN PEOPLE. v.3 reads "I thank my God every time I remember you." Although Paul had some bad experiences in life, he never allows these to cloud his positive mentality towards people. He focused on the good in people and not the bad or negative things. Lesson 1 "Remember the Best and forget the Rest." 2 PRACTICE POSITIVE PRAYING v.4 reads "In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy." Lesson 2 "The quickest way to change a relationship from bad to good is to start thanking God in prayer for people."

3. Be patient with people's progress. Paul looked at people's future and not just their past. v.6: reads "Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Paul says what God started in your life at salvation He will bring it eventually, to completion.

We are great starters but bad finishers. We leave unfinished work, unfinished buildings, and unfinished projects. We don't always finish what we started but God always finishes what He started. He puts the finishing touches on everything He does and then He says, "It is good."

The Bible says when Jesus Christ starts working in your life He will complete what He started. In spite of my faults, my bad decisions, my sins, in spite of all the circumstances that I face in life, God is going to finish what He started in my life. And in your life too! The Bible says that one day when you get to Heaven you're going to become just like Jesus, because you will see Him as He is. And that's the goal. God starts what He finishes.

Lesson #3: God is not finished with people.

We need to be patient with people. Paul said, "I'm not the man I used to be, but thank God, I'm growing and changing."

In our marriages, if we want to enjoy our marriages, we've got to learn to enjoy our husband or our wife, while allowing for growth and development. If we're going to learn to enjoy our children we've got to learn to enjoy them in the process, while they're growing. Because there is no such thing as a perfect child. And there's no such thing as a perfect adult. If you demand perfection of the people in your life in order to enjoy them, you're going to be miserable for the rest of your life. Nobody's perfect.

Paul says that he enjoyed the Philippians because he chose to ignore the bad things that happened and concentrated on the good. He was grateful for the good that happened and he practiced positive praying, he prayed with joy and for specific things in their life. If you want something to change your attitude, start praying for that person who irritates you at work, that person in your home, child or mate, and see what happens to your attitude. Then be patient with their progress because life is a matter of growth.

v.6 "Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Paul believed in God's power to change the human personality. Paul believed that no person was hopeless. He never gave up on people. This is a great promise of God. Claim it for your children, for your workmate, for yourself.

4. Love people from the heart. If people are not on your heart, they're on your nerves. If you don't have your kids in your heart, they get on your nerves. If you don't have your husband in your heart, he gets on your nerves.

v.8 "God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus."

## Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



Paul is saying, "I've got a gut feeling of love for you." It's not a natural kind of love. It's the affection of Christ Jesus in him. Human love wears out and dries up and dies. This happens to everybody. And Paul is saying that the only kind of love that lasts in spite of heartaches and difficulties in tough times is God's love -- the affection of Jesus Christ. That's the only kind of love that lasts.

Romans 5v.5 "God has poured out his love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to us." God's love is something that is poured into

us by the Holy Spirit as we allow Him to live in us day by day. God's love is something He does in us and through us.

Life is too short to not enjoy the people in our lives. If we don't learn to enjoy the people that God has placed around us in our lives we will be miserable. People will rob us of our joy unless we learn how to respond to them the way Jesus did.

It is my prayer that you will find this article of encouragement helpful as you interact with people around you and in your life. May you have a God blessed week. *Te Atua te aroa.*

# Faulty connections

## How to Manage Your School Year



2015 Te Kura Uira Class and visiting Eirangi Masters (far right)]

By Tiana Haxton

For the past few weeks, Mitiaro has been having some really rainy weather. The great deluge was well needed to water the plants, cool down the parched land and refill our water tanks.

The stormy weather however caused a problem. The TV had some really faulty reception, mobiles couldn't get any service, landlines couldn't receive or make any calls and the internet connections cut out! People couldn't access money in the bank and the hospital couldn't contact Rarotonga regarding samples and supplies.

The faulty internet wasn't very good for the school (Mitiaro School/Apii Tematangarengare). Year 8 and 10 students (there are no year 9 students) partake in an online learning course. Since 2014, Te Kura Uira online learning (TKU) students have been conversing with the TKU classes of Manihiki, Tukao and Tauhunu schools and Omoka school of Penrhyn. We also converse with our tutor Luisa Tongatama currently situated in Rarotonga (Last year the teachers were Christopher Story, Luisa Tongatama and Te Kura Uira principal Kristina Crouch.) We communicate via Skype, download and upload our given assignments via Gmail and Canvas (a website made especially for online learning).

Well we had no way of accessing

the internet to complete our weekly requirements or contact Rarotonga to explain our challenges! We tried connecting to the internet often but to no avail. How then were we to get all our school work done?

But then one sunny Thursday afternoon, the internet reconnected! Immediately we went onto Skype to explain why we hadn't been in TKU for the whole week and we had a quick skype call with Luisa, Tukao and Tauhunu (to introduce ourselves to our fellow students). Unfortunately, we didn't have enough time after this to get onto canvas to complete a few modules. On Friday, we logged in ready to start work when we realised that many of the assignments were past their deadline! Well hopefully Luisa Tongatama (our course teacher) will re-open the canvas modules for us Mitiaroan students so we can enthusiastically catch up and continue our TKU programme with pride. We are proud we can represent Mitiaro in the Te Kura Uira programme and we hope this can continue throughout the years bringing technology and knowledge to future generations. If the connections are good, the schooling is good, the funding is good and so on, Te Kura Uira might be able to continue on.

Hopefully Telecom can track down and locate the problems before fixing it, enabling us all to have proper network connections on Mitiaro.

By Teherenui Koteka

As the school year begins to settle many of us out there are starting to receive more homework and more assessments. This week I'd like to dedicate my article to helping you deal with the heavy workloads you get as NCEA students by compiling the tips I find most useful.

### Tip number one: Manage your time

I know it's easier said than done, but learning the art of time management is invaluable. Having a day view diary is useful especially if you're juggling work, school and extra circular activities, but you can use the calendar of day planner on your mobile phone if that's easier for you plus that way you'll always have it with you. I find that sitting down on a Sunday for an hour or so just to outline next week's load of work/study/play is a great help when it comes to managing your time.

### Tip number two: Have a goal

Setting a goal for yourself each week if not each month can prove to be of great assistance when it comes to keeping a balance between your personal and academic life. Make sure one of your goals at the beginning of the week/month is always to complete if not at least begin assignments before fun. If you have a killer party to go to on Sunday but you have an assignment due on Monday try to prioritize by completing your assignment before hitting the party.

### Tip number three: Do not procrastinate

When it comes to starting or

completing assignments it's a lot easier to find other things more appealing than writing a 500 word essay. Sometimes even cleaning the oven or mowing the lawn is seen as a welcome distraction to the chaotic world of due dates. However try to remember that the earlier you start, the earlier you finish, and once you're finished you're free to do other things that are much more appealing like hanging with friends. Please don't put things off till the last minute because although what you're doing instead might seem fun at the time it's not going to seem fun when you're up at 2am trying to finish up.

### Tip number four: Remember that you are only human

Sometimes when it comes to juggling work, studying and extracurricular activities we tend to bite off more than we can chew. Studying like any other job has its demands, top that off with work and other responsibilities you end up with one big pile of pressure, so try to remember that you can only handle so much, only you know your limits. If it becomes too difficult to maintain your academic-social-work life maybe it's time to drop an extracurricular activity or if you have more than one job like me maybe it's time to give one up. Always remember that at our age your education is what matters most. However always make time to have a social life.

So here it is my four simple rules to maintaining a healthy balance between your academic, social and work lives. I hope they work for you as well as they do for me.



Tim Telucki's photo in the news paper attending the CCECC Chinese New Year party said it all. He sends a big suck up letter to the daily dribble Editor praising China to the hilt, it was published on the Wednesday morning and he attended the Chinese New Year later on the Wednesday night. What a way to get a free feed. But where was the maroro Tim?



Three interesting adverts surfaced in the daily tribble recently, Ravis Indian Restaurant advertising for reservations for Christmas party bookings, a situation vacancy for a farm worker with pay \$5/ hour and we all know how hard that kind of work is. Better still the office cleaning job for \$12.50 per hour.



The Ben Pornia incident is a serious breach of privacy, what Porny does after hours is his own business. After hours he is a private citizen and a New Zealand one at that so any so called incident in NZ is no big deal. If every Public Servant was accountable for everything they do after hours then we would have none left including those at the very top of the heap. Pony like everyone else has the right of free speech including amplified speech, so cut the chap some slack, some robust celebrating of a \$12 million deal for the Cook Islands is more than acceptable. He deserves a substantial pay rise, let Porny go out there and broker a deal for our sea bed noodles.



Rather than go to Wellington as part of the Elvis delegation on the important superannuation talks the Opposition Leader Willie Smilie Heta chose to stay put. That's the inadequacy and



incompetency of the Demo leader for you; At that level he's totally out of his depth, he factually can't function at an international level, his CEO Drolley can't either and Smiling William can't go anywhere without his just as useless mentor the paranoid Rassie. It seems everywhere he goes even his closest friends are telling him he hasn't got it but on a pay packet of close to \$90,000 a year why would Smiling William want to give the job up? And like the loser wee Willy he wants to be the Prime Minister without having his leadership contested.



With the by election in Aitutaki set for the 31 March the Demo CEO \$1,134 a week Drolley (not bad loot for 20 hours of unproductive work a week) and his greedy sidekicks can breathe a sigh of relief, they now have an emotional excuse to once again defer their overdue Conference. Let's hope the lazy Drolley will do something productive like getting the financial statements for the last three years ready for the delegates and paid up members.



While we are haggling over the minimum wage in the Cooks, some

employers think \$6 an hour is still a bit steep well give a thought to our counterparts in NZ, they now face paying a minimum wage of \$14.75c an hour, no wonder our youth have wanderlust.



Minita Mark B has gone off to Samoa to speak at a China in the Pacific Conference about the China/ NZ/Cook Islands tripartite Te Mato Vai project. Like the rest of the speakers Mr B will sing the glorious praises of the Chinese from a specially prepared information paper written by the "China in the Cook Islands" expert Tim Tepucky. These conferences are a load of bumpkin ignoring the other side of a lot more horror stories of criminal labour, prostitution, shoddy workmanship, poor quality materials, resistant cooperation and so the grubby list goes on.



Big Red has had a vision of taro jungle drums saying the chooks in the Big House are about to receive a mighty rooster from distant lands to the north who will lay a big golden egg! This golden egg will be so massive its worth will erase all the worries in the Big House as far as the national nest egg is

concerned. Interpretation of this vision? Endeavour Mining will front up soon with several million \$ for manganese nodule exploration licenses. You heard it from Big Red first.



Remember the Court of Appeal confirming a finding of bribery against Aitutaki MP Mona Ioane? Remember the letter from the CJ to the Police Commissioner? Well word is the boys in blue are in Aitutaki to begin an investigation! You heard it from Big Red first.



Good to see the hard working, dedicated crew of the good ship SS Daily are reporting six days a week from wherever the sun rises in the Pacific! "We're there!" The ship must be lopsided with all that crew on board because the other day, they were in Fiji (several places), Vanuatu, Solomons, Auckland and Australia! How is this possible?

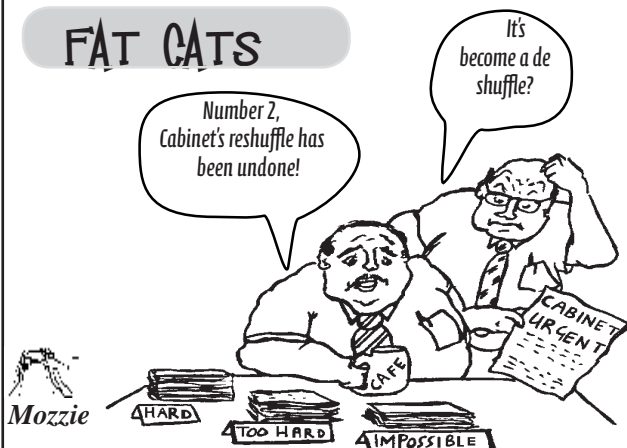


Maybe Puna and Brown marks were not confident Mona would win Vaipae. So that's maybe why they set out to woo Albert. Making Albert a Minister would mean a re-shuffle of portfolios but, it quickly became a de-shuffle after voices were raised. Is it a re-shuffle or a de-shuffle? Could it be an un-shuffle? With everything now on hold, maybe it's a side-shuffle?

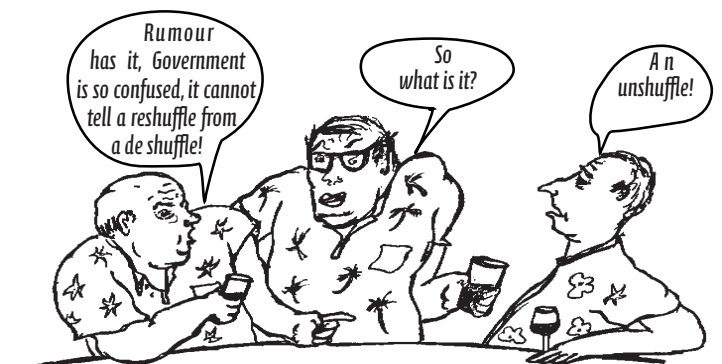


Were the Chinese trying to say something by providing peanuts at their New Year celebrations? The Chinese year of the Monkey? Putting on unshelled peanuts is quite a brilliant idea. Guests are so pre-occupied with breaking the shells to get to the nuts inside, they actually have less time for drinking!

## FAT CATS



## COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



# History repeats itself - The Cheap Fuel Madness returns!

*Yes; we all want cheaper fuel – but none of us want the Rena; right now stupid decisions are being made by some – at least – in Government. If NES grants a project permit for “cheaper fuel” that will have huge direct and indirect costs that no-one is owning up to. That is either stupid or dishonest. On a best case we end up with more expensive fuel – and on a worst case..we end up with our very own Rena.*

In 2008 FinSec, Sholan Ivaiti, signed “Heads of Agreement” with Toa in a stupid attempt to try to lower the price of fuel. Almost \$10 million later (and several million dollars still to come out of taxpayer pockets!) the foolishness and naivety of Government is plain to see. All of us are still paying for that stuff-up.

In 2009 Triad challenged Government over that madness. Government hit back. “Your depot is unsafe” it said “either you spend the money to carry on this dangerous business safely, or we will not let you conduct your business at all!”

Triad is still in business. Its fuel is more expensive as a result of the money it had to spend upgrading its depot, but we are all safer for that. The Poison Dwarf knew he had to comply with the law so he just shut up and spent the money.

## **But now..... History repeats itself!**

It's 2015 – another Government, another FinSec (sitting on the sidelines for now), and another half-baked scheme for “cheaper fuel” that ill – informed politicians have passed to equally ill-informed officials.

From Sholan Ivaiti came the cry “it's only a Heads of Agreement” - and look how much it cost us!

Now, from Vaitoti Tupa of NES we look set to hear the cry “It's only a Project Permit”.

**Vaitoti Tupa** – do your job and reject that non-complying EIA – Oh, and contact your counterparts in the Bay of Plenty – there are lessons to be learned from the Rena!

**Bim Tou** – get busy and contact your sister ports in New Zealand to find out how much it costs to do something like this properly - two big tugs, fire control, pollution control and rules to make sure this mooring cannot be used unless conditions make it safe

**Ned Howard** – have you asked for technical assistance from Maritime New Zealand to assess this proposal and give some decent advice? If not, why not? Your FinSec needs some high level advice to take to Cabinet that comes from a reputable, independent and qualified source.

**Tamarii Tutangata** – It will be oil and scrap metal on Crown land and waters if this goes Rena-wrong; surely you and your Board are seeking overseas independent advice

**Bredina Drollett** – we hear you are having a meeting to look over the Dangerous Goods issues – good on you; someone at least getting on and doing the job they're paid for.

The law is clear – either we do this properly or we do not do it at all. And from the calculations Triad has done, the Poison Dwarf knows the cost to do it properly will be more than the cost savings our politicians think they are going to make

**The Madness must End!! Get real; there are other ways of bringing down fuel prices if you are really interested in doing that.**

**Signed**  
**The Poison Dwarf**



VACANCIES



**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 [admin@intaff.gov.ck](mailto:admin@intaff.gov.ck) or phone 29370.

Applications must be addressed to the Secretary of the Ministry. Applications close Wednesday 4 March 2015, 4pm.



Business Trade Investment Board  
Cook Islands

**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION MANAGER**

An opportunity exists for a motivated and energetic person to join the team at the BTIB as the Finance & Administration Manager. The successful candidate will work closely with the CEO to achieve the outputs set out in our business plan strategic plan.

The ideal candidate will have proven experience along with qualifications in accounting and be able to meet the objectives of the Finance Administration division.

Skills in the following area are useful:

- Knowledge of Government policies & procedures, systems and its implementation
- Sound knowledge of accrual accounting and accounting software
- Able to produce accurate financial reports (monthly and annual) and meet specific deadlines
- Conduct reviews and evaluations for cost reduction opportunities
- Good all round skills in the office administration and human resources
- Knowledge & understanding of Cook Islands Maori language, culture and the economic environment

Written application together with current Curriculum Vitae may be sent in confidence to:

Terry Rangi  
Chief Executive Officer  
Business Trade & Investment Board  
Private Bag  
Avarua, Rarotonga  
Or email [agnes.parker@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:agnes.parker@cookislands.gov.ck)  
Applications close 4pm Friday 6th March 2015

VACANCY

AIRPORT AUTHORITY



**RECRUITMENT**

The Airport Authority is recruiting personnel to train as security officers.

- You must be at least 17 years old
- Have NZCE Level 1 or higher
- Medically fit and willing to work with people
- English is the primary language of the job but ability to speak Maori is an advantage

Application forms can be uplifted from the Aviation Security main office at the airport.

Applications close Monday 2nd March 2015 and must be addressed to:

Mr. Tony Wearing  
Director of Operations  
Airport Authority  
P.O. Box 90  
Avarua  
Rarotonga



Pacific Resort  
HOTEL GROUP

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- Porter/ Security (Rarotonga)
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- Chefs and Cooks
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We are always on the lookout for talented individuals interested in a career in the tourism industry. If you want to be part of a high performing team then feel free to visit one of our resorts in person to complete an employment application form.

To apply : email – [work@pacificresort.com](mailto:work@pacificresort.com)

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DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Applications are invited from qualified and experienced individuals for the position of **Chief Executive Officer**. For more information on the position please visit our website [www.cookislandsfinance.com](http://www.cookislandsfinance.com)

Applications should be addressed to  
Brian Mason, Chairman  
Financial Services Development Authority  
PO Box 3255  
Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Applications may also be delivered to our Parekura House Office or via email to [Jeannette.mcbride@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:Jeannette.mcbride@cookislands.gov.ck). All applications received on or prior to 4pm 25 March 2015 will be considered

**EAT LESS**

**MOVE MORE**

HEART FOUNDATION

## FOOTBALL UPDATE

Hyundai A-League 2014/2015

## Phoenix Maintain Position

A shell-shocked Wellington Phoenix fought back from a sloppy start to earn a 2-2 draw with Newcastle Jets at Hutt Recreation Ground on Sunday evening.

The home side found themselves two goals down inside 18 minutes after conceding two soft goals from corners, but then turned in a fine attacking performance with only some wayward finishing denying them all three points.

As it was they needed a superb free kick by substitute Jason Hicks in added time to take a point after Roy Krishna had cut the deficit in the 68th minute by converting one of several chances that came his way.

There was a sense of disbelief in the packed stands when Manny Muscat unluckily headed into his own net from a Jets right wing corner, and minutes later Scott Neville added the visitors' second from a left wing corner.

From that point there was only one team in it but with Newcastle packing their penalty area and committing foul after foul, the Phoenix found it tough to create clear cut openings.

When they did get in behind the chances were squandered till Krishna found the net.

With time running out and Newcastle down to 10 men after Ben Kanterovski received a second caution, Hicks stepped up to curl a superb left-foot strike into the top corner of the net.

While Phoenix coach Ernie Merrick was frustrated by the



number of scoring chances that went begging he was more than happy with the way his team performed.

The Wellington Phoenix now sit at 4th place on the Hyundai A-League with 30 points, while Adelaide United are in 3rd place

on 33 points, Melbourne Victory are on 2nd place on goal difference with 33 points, and Perth Glory on 1st place with 35 points.

## Hyundai A-League Top Six Standings:

Rank	Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
1	Perth Glory	18	10	5	3	30	22	8	35
2	Melbourne Victory	17	9	6	2	37	21	16	33
3	Adelaide United	18	10	3	5	33	18	15	33
4	Wellington Phoenix	18	9	3	6	32	21	11	30
5	Sydney FC	18	7	8	3	30	22	8	29
6	Brisbane Roar	16	6	3	7	21	22	-1	21

## UEFA Champions League Update – Round of 16

An update on the UEFA Champions League after 16 teams qualified to the knock out stage to be played home and away.

The results and draw for the first leg of games are as follows:

**Tuesday 17/02/2015**

Paris Saint-Germain 1 vs. Chelsea 1

Shakhtar Donetsk 0 vs. FC Bayern Munchen 0

**Wednesday 18/02/2015**

Schalke 04 0 vs. Real Madrid CF 2

FC Basel 1 vs. FC Porto 1

**Tuesday 24/02/2015**

Manchester City 1 vs. FC Barcelona 2

Juventus 2 vs. Borussia Dortmund 1

**Wednesday 25/02/2015**

Bayer Leverkusen vs. Atletico Madrid

Arsenal vs. As Monaco

The top two standings for each group are as follows:

**Group A**

1 Atletico Madrid

2 Juventus

**Group B**

1 Real Madrid CF

2 FC Basel

**Group C**

1 AS Monaco

2 Bayer Leverkusen

**Group D**

1 Borussia Dortmund

2 Arsenal

**Group E**

1 FC Bayern Munchen

2 Manchester City

**Group F**

1 FC Barcelona

2 Paris Saint-Germain

**Group G**

1 Chelsea

2 Schalke 04

**Group H**

1 FC Porto

2 Shakhtar Donetsk