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Lawyer Manarangi's public tirade disgusts bystanders

Three weeks ago on a Saturday morning just after 10am several shoppers at the Punanga Market were subjected to a shocking public display of intimidation and verbal abuse by the former Solicitor General Lawyer Tony Manarangi. The victim of his verbal abuse was the Mat Man Brian Morgan a board member of the Business Trade and Investment Board (BTIB).

Witnesses said Morgan was standing at the Tupa's food stall beside the rotunda being served when high profile legal professional Manarangi accosted and confronted him then without provocation launched a barrage of insults and abuse that shocked bystanders. At one stage Manarangi was full in Morgan's face with only a three inch gap separating them.

Manarangi a senior lawyer with a high society client list was intimidating and confronting as he verbally bullied Morgan. Witnesses say they expected Morgan to erupt and retaliate but to their surprise he stood his ground, exercised restraint, kept his cool and held his tongue.

Manarangi was heard to say in harsh tones and anger "You BTIB, you're gutless," plus "your days are numbered." Bystanders who knew Manarangi were disgusted with his behaviour and said they hoped Morgan will lay an official complaint with the Law Society.

Another witness, a local said they thought the two men were acting, "from where I first saw them with their heads up close it looked like they were doing the haka."

One witness a tourist who reported the incident said He (Manarangi) seemed to have a brain explosion then went off



BTIB Board member Brian Morgan

"For someone who moves in the high life of privileges, Tony's public exhibition of low life was despicable and a disgrace, he should take out a full page advertisement in the news paper and apologise to Brian."

his head verbally abusing the chap (Morgan).

Last November the Chairman of the BTIB John Tumutoa laid an official complaint of unprofessional conduct with the Chief Justice that was copied to the Law Society

President, it referred to a Board meeting on 30 October 2014 which Manarangi attended as a representative of Toa Petroleum. The letter of complaint in part stated:

"Mr Manarangi then spoke. He was drunk and could not

make sense. His tone was very threatening and unreasonable. The Board feels he was very unprofessional and did not behave as fitting a legal counsel. We humbly ask that your office consider this matter."

To date the BTIB have received no reply to their official complaint. After that meeting Manarangi boasted about his method of putting the Board members in their place.

When asked about his version of the incident Morgan declined to make any comments, friends with whom Morgan has discussed Manarangi's stand over bully boy tactics have urged him to make a legal response. One witness to the incident said Manarangi brushed them aside as he made a beeline for Morgan who was at least twenty meters away. They described Manarangi's unbecoming abusive behaviour as low life.

"For someone who moves in the high life of privileges, Tony's public exhibition of low life was despicable and a disgrace, he should take out a full page advertisement in the news paper and apologise to Brian."

A senior public servant who witnessed Manarangi's aggressive body language and heard the BTIB reference in his abuse of Morgan said he had written a letter of complaint to the BTIB with the request it be tabled at their next Board meeting. (Last Thursday of the month) CEO Terry Rangi said he was unaware of the incident and to date had not received a letter of complaint against Manarangi.

Manarangi was not available for comment nor did he return the phone call. - George Pitt

Aitutaki harbour and marina upgrade an election bribe?

It now appears government wants to fast track a project proposed back in 2011 to upgrade harbour facilities in Aitutaki to exploit and attract visitors be they yachties or cruise ship visitors and boost the local economy. The project would bring some benefits to Aitutaki but the heightened government activity is taking on the visage of an out and out election bribe aimed to impress ahead of the Vaipae by-election.

The Consultants who did the feasibility study back in 2012 reported there were economic benefits but the main benefactors would be small businesses and individuals. In view of this, the project would need to be funded by overseas donors due to the cost of construction. The Consultants said the \$15.4 million capital construction cost of the development's preferred option, had a "net economic benefit of only \$1 million". This potential return on investment may not be sufficient to cover any loan repayments or yearly maintenance and the danger is the upgrade may turn into a white elephant. The yearly maintenance costs were not stated. At a meeting in the Cabinet room with then NZ High Commissioner John Carter, Carter refused to a proposal that the NZ government fund the project. From whom does the government expect to obtain the funding for this project?

Some 100,000 cubic metres of sand, coral, etc would have to be dredged and dumped somewhere. Once dredged, the harbour would require regular dredging to maintain the required depth. There were environmental concerns in regard to larger vessels - "upgrading to take larger vessels through the channel and into the harbour is likely to cause significant adverse effects and we do not recommend this option be pursued."

The Herald reported on the project back in July 2012. See

below.

"Further discussions took place recently regarding the funding of the proposed \$15.4 million project to upgrade Aitutaki Port and Marina. (Refer to 2012/2013 Budget Estimates, Book 3, Capital Plan, page 19 for brief outline).

Overseas consultants Kahanui Ventures together with Burleigh Evatt, produced a draft conceptual report in July 2011 on the project.

The Aitutaki Port and Marina Development project which is to be actioned over four stages, was jointly developed by the Aitutaki community and the Cook Islands Government and has two main components:

Component 1

- o A deepening (to 5metres) and widening (to 30 metres) of the existing channel (Aratunga passage) to allow yachts, cruise ship tenders and ships to berth in the harbour.

- o The purchase of a second barge to speed up the turnaround time of cargo vessels loading and unloading at the port.

Component 2:

- o In addition to 1, developing a marina area for increased tourism earnings, with a focus on sports fishing, tours of the lagoon and visiting yacht cruisers.

- o Upgrading the island centre to create a commercial hub and community and visitor amenities.

A third component - to bring large ships to the wharf - has been considered and rejected as not viable on both environmental and economic grounds.

On the basis of a capital construction cost of approximately \$15.4m for:

- Dredging works to allow yachts, cruise ship tenders and small ships into the harbour;
- Renewal of the wharf infrastructure where condition is poor, including infilling a silted-up part of the basin to create more cargo handling space;

- Structural works at the port to improve resistance against the effects of sea level rise caused by climate change; and

- Tourism-focused development of the port and marina.

The net present value (NPV) of the net economic benefits of the project is \$1.0m.

The project report document was to be the basis for discussions when seeking potential donors to fund the project.

In the 2012/2013 Budget Estimates, Book 3-Capital Plan, page 19, it is noted government has allocated \$200,000 to develop more detailed design specifications, cost estimates and complete EIA before approaching potential funding

partners.

At a meeting last month of stakeholders, project funding sources were discussed with one possibility being accessing NZAid. It is said the meeting ended with no firm commitment on funding. It is not certain where the project stands in terms of priority over the infrastructure and renewable energy projects.

According to the consultants the benefits are mainly economic with just the one climate change benefit mentioned which is the upgrades will protect the port facilities against sea level rise.

There may be spin offs in the renewable energy area with the installing of solar lighting at the marina as has been the case at the Avatiu marina."



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Our official cyclone season runs from 1 November to 30 April.

The closest we've come to a cyclone was Niko in January 19-25 that passed French Polynesia. Then cyclone Ola impacted New Caledonia and New Zealand January 29 to February 3.

Thankfully, the warmer waters that breed cyclones have come late this season in our favour.

Still, it's important to stock torches and candles, a battery radio, and tinned food to be able to sit out a natural disaster. The fact is you can never plan the weather.

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Day of Glory for Avatiu Associates and Tom Toms' Commandos



It's been nearly thirty years since Avatiu (RAPPA-Ruatonga, Avatiu, Palmerston, Panama, Atupa) last had a Member of Parliament (Sir Tom Davis 1987) represented in Cabinet. Not only is it a proud moment for first term parliamentarian Albert Nicholas Junior to lift RAPPA's profile but also an equally emotional moment for the official who swore him in, His Excellency Tom Marsters a prominent Avatiu personality back in the day.

Sam "Gumby" Crocombe a key player in brokering and massaging the deal that resulted in his MP Nicholas adding weight to the Cook Islands Party government and others like orchestrators Makiuti Tongia, Teariki Buckley and Poko Keu have a connection going back forty years with Marsters.

Marsters has known Albert Jr since he was in nappies; his father Peto was an Avatiu associate that hung out together at their after business hours headquarters on the veranda of Pemberton's Avatiu General Traders store next door to Pupuke Robati's

beside the Avatiu stream.

Marsters had a presence about himself and a following of a younger set of associates that were called the Commandos. Whether by design or default Marsters was a leader and sports man and a pretty successful one of all the codes of the day he participated in be it tennis, rugby or boxing.

Those were the days of innocence where issues were settled on the sports field or in the ring and what happened on the field stayed on the field, those were the days before lawyers were invented.

Crocombe, Tongia, Buckley and co were put to go use by Marsters who was a rugby A grader for the Avatiu Rugby Club (ARC) plus a national boxing representative at the time. While playing A grade Marsters corralled the youngsters into a rugby team, the 1971 D grade team for ARC with the midget General Tongia captaining and marshalling the team from halfback. Marsters coached them to an unbeaten record with no tries scored against them, it is claimed not a

single point against was scored till the final.

Once a week Marsters' invincible 'Commandos' as they became known were subjected to boxing lessons under the big tree close to the Avatiu stream on the Ropati property (now Raro Cars). While Marsters was coach there was no idle down time to indulge in misadventures. Marsters honed their fitness with their training modelled on the military type of exercises Marsters had endured himself while a student at Avele College in Samoa.

How proud as the Queens Representative Tom Marsters must be, to have a son of Peto Nicholas, one of his back in the day associates, standing before him declaring the oath for his admittance to Cabinet and raising the flag of Avatiu in political triumph. Marsters might live in Arorangi but his home town Avatiu is tattooed on his heart above his smaller Avele one.

All of RAPPA can celebrate this fusion and synergising of former Avatiu Associates and the wider implication of Albert's merger

with the CIP government which unreservedly is for all of them. Albert's move was not for self interests but for his constituency at the request of the majority of his committee.

Contrary to Demo Party leader Wilkie Rasmussen's public sour grape comments that Nicholas acted hastily and on his own accord, the merger transition evolved over nine weeks during which time the RAPPA Demo committee under took a comprehensive due diligence and consultative process that was supported by 85% of those canvassed.

Strenuous efforts by the desperate Rasmussen to muzzle the move at the eleventh hour through heavy handed phone calls to committee members fell on deaf ears. When the One Cook Islands leader Teina Bishop realised there was no turning back despite his persistent counsel to stay, he graciously conceded and made the effort to meet and personally congratulate Nicholas and wish him the best prior to his induction to Cabinet.

- George Pitt

Quarterly Financial Statement for December 2014

Table 1 Overall Budget Balance

2013/14 Actual ('000)		2014/15 Budget ('000)	2014/15 Actual ('000)	Variance	
				('000)	%
59,530	Operating Revenue	65,078	65,934	856	1
54,762	Operating Expenditure	62,460	57,409	(5,051)	(8)
4,768	Net Operating Balance	2,618	8,525	(5,907)	(226)
547	Add Crown Depreciation	1,460	1,460	-	-
862	Add Ministry Depreciation	1,298	1,054	(244)	(19)
436	Add Pa Enea Depreciation	497	439	(58)	(12)
2,375	Less Capital Expenditure - CI Govt Funded	10,917	5,479	(5,438)	(50)
4,238	Fiscal Balance	(5,044)	5,999	(11,043)	219

The Quarterly Financial Statement for December 2014 is now available on the MFEM website. For the December Quarter the net operating balance of the General Government Sector as at 31 December 2014 was a surplus of \$8.5 million, made up of

- Operating revenue of \$65.9 million; and
- Operating expenditure of \$57.4 million.

The overall fiscal balance which excludes the effects of depreciation which are contained in operating expenditure, but includes capital expenditure was a surplus of \$6 million.

Total revenue collections for the quarter ending December 2014/15 were slightly higher than the Budget estimate and were mainly attributable to higher than estimated tax and fishing revenues.

Total operating expenses for the quarter ending December 2014/15 were lower than the Budget estimate and were mainly attributable to lower levels of spending by Agencies, the underwrite of the long haul Sydney (cost to December \$1.42 million) and Los Angeles (Cost to December \$3.05 million) routes and

Table 2 Total Gross Borrowings

	('000)
Total Gross Borrowings	94,403
Loan Reserve	16,866
Net Borrowing by the Crown	77,537
Avatiu Port Development	24,122
Airport Authority	2,057
Total Net Borrowings by the Crown	51,358

the TOA Apex Guarantee. Welfare payments were also below budget by 9 per cent, however, timing issues with the increase in the rate of the pension for those aged 70 and over of \$15 a month will see this expenditure come back towards the budget estimate.

Whilst pleased with the positive state of the accounts Minister for Finance, the Honourable Mark Brown pointed out that there were some considerable expenditures to go through.

“It is positive to see these surpluses coming through, however I am confident that we will be in surplus for the 2014/15 year but not at these sorts of amounts that we have seen for December. We have expenditure associated with a number of infrastructure activities coming through,

such as Project City and also the increase we gave to pensioners will also bring that number down.”

Minister Brown noted in particular that the performance of the underwrite to date was positive. “The underwrite is improving, with the oil prices beginning to factor into the equation, and we are hopeful that trend will continue on, additionally spending on the Toa guarantee were lower as well”

Gross borrowings of the Crown were \$94.179 million,

net borrowings of the General Government Sector (excluding loan reserves and borrowings by SOEs) were \$51.358 million. The net cash reserve which is essentially unencumbered increased by \$0.26 million since last quarter to a total of \$16.218 million.

As at 31 December 2014 the Crown held \$52.4 million in cash which was held in various term deposits, against this amount were \$36.2 million of commitments, leaving a balance of \$16.2 million.

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Our Frontpage model Public shares in Telecom available soon



By Charles Pitt

On Tuesday morning, Mike Tavioni told the Herald the public will soon be able to purchase shares in Teleraro Ltd (formerly Telecom Cook Islands).

He said the public shareholding will be in Units.

There are 10 Units. Each Unit is worth \$210,000 and is made up of 150 shares worth \$1,400 each. The total value of the public's share is \$2.1 million.

Tavioni said people can share in a Unit by either purchasing a share, which will cost \$1,400 or part of a share if they cannot afford the full price of a share. For example, a person may invest as little as \$100. He said he hoped this part share option would attract smaller investors.

Tavioni said a Trust has been formed which is made up of six local people, guided by a Solicitor. The Trust will look after the investors buying into a Unit.

There will be an application form for people to fill in when applying for shares. This is currently being prepared.

In the meantime those interested in obtaining more information on buying shares may contact Mike at ph 24003 or 73667.

This is an opportunity of a lifetime says Mike, to own a part of a national asset. He said Bluesky which bought Telecom NZ's 60% share, made a wise decision when offering 15% of its shares to the Cook Islands public (10% has also been offered to Telecom staff). Tavioni said if Cook Islanders do not take up this offer they cannot later on blame Bluesky for refusing to sell shares to the public.

Tavioni goes so far as to predict the government's 40% share will be on the market in due course.

Our frontpage model this week's Herald Issue 756 is 21 year old Susan Fotunga who was born here in Rarotonga but now lives in New Zealand.

Susan was here in Rarotonga on a holiday to help celebrate a good friends 21st birthday and returned home last week. She is a host/cashier at Sky City.

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Each

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\$2.70
Each

Protex Soap Gentle, Active, Herbal



\$1.50
each

Imperial Tuna Flakes



\$1.40
Each

Joi Bath Soap



\$1.00
each

Fresh Soap



\$1.50
each

Hello Angel Diapers Medium 28s, Large 24



\$12.00
Medium

\$13.00
Large

Anchor Chocolate Milk 250ml



\$1.30
each

Taula Beer



\$4.00
660mls

\$2.00
330mls

NEW STOCK ARRIVING SOON

Coalition tag team differ on Nicholas move - Rasmussen condemns Bishop congratulates

RAPPA Member of Parliament Albert Nicholas' astute move to end the political uncertainty of governance and add value to the Prime Minister Henry Puna's quest for national political stability has destabilised any deluded hopes One Cook Islands Teina Bishop had of becoming the Prime Minister and shattered his tag team member the Democratic Party leader Wilkie Rasmussen's equally self enriching fantasy of a back door entry to the inner sanctum of government as the seventh minister of Cabinet.

The trickle down ripple effect of new comer Nicholas' elevated political status in record time was immediate; the Democratic Party is now littered with stunned mullets disillusioned and distorted, their personal agendas of grandeur have evaporated.

Demo Vice President Tupou Faireka's expectation he should be rewarded with the Public Service Commissioner's job headed a list of others including Eddie Drollet, Paul Allsworth, Ken Bucahnan and Sean Willis who had staked out other high profile positions for themselves.

Seven of the proposed coalition MPs were clamouring and jostling for the four cabinet positions left after Bishop, George Maggie and Rasmussen had made their own allocations. Opposition leader William Heather, Deputy leader Aunty Mau, Selena Napa and Tangata Viava had secretly secured those seats while the others in the strictest confidence were promised a seat to keep the



Albert Nicholas flanked by Poko Keu and Sam Crocombe

team intact.

Totally seduced and hood winked by Bishop and Rasmussen's ear ticklers beginning in October last year when the Demos were told they were the government and a quick trip to Tom Marsters' private residence with a couple sheets of paper with fourteen names was sufficient to have the Queen's Representative over turn the CIP government. After the two returned from their unscheduled meeting with the QR and told the waiting supporters blatant lies there was going to be a change of government in a matter of days a frenzy of celebration exploded and the partying began.

While the Demos revelled in their ecstasy of fantasy at

the Office of the Leader of the Opposition in Ruatonga, Bishop headed to Tupapa determined and hard pressed to get Mona loane and Rose Brown to put their signatures beside their names confirming their support for the OCI and Demo coalition.

Despite Bishop's Oscar performance of tears and emotional heart tugging appeals neither loane nor Brown were prepared to incriminate themselves by signing his documents. While that approach captured the minds of influential power hungry Demos it only revealed to the two CIP MPs how desperate Bishop was to be the Prime Minister.

When it was apparent a few days later there would be no change in government

as Marsters had flown out to Mauke for the Manea Games, Rasmussen had to front up and answer to his caucus for an explanation. Rasmussen without hesitation put the blame entirely on Bishop and even stated Bishop was nuts, he said that twice in his address to the meeting, one witness said he also called Bishop crazy, this had an absolving effect and Rasmussen was given the benefit of the doubt over the misinformation and the premature celebrations.

There was sufficient greed permeating within the Demo camp to be further hood winked by Bishop's desperate thirst for power. Backed by financial business associates

continued next page

whom Bishop and Rasmussen had convinced Bishop would definitely be the Prime Minister, both were coming under pressure to deliver on their promises.

By December Bishop and Rasmussen were under serious pressure to have their personal predicaments cleared, for Bishop the corruption investigation was taking its toll in more ways than one and for Rasmussen the financial readjustment and resulting stress of no longer having his face in the taxpayer's trough was gathering momentum.

With Mitiaro now virtually in the bag by finding of the Court and a ruling for a by election in Aitutiki, Bishop and Rasmussen had a new spin to revive fading hopes. Once again the "we are government" mantra was beating louder than ever with a God is on our side Christmas celebration at the Opposition Leader's Office.

Bishop had done enough to persuade CIP insiders he was interested in returning to them if their incentive was favourable. The DPM and Ministry of Finance was put on the table then Bishop proposed they accommodate Rasmussen whom he explained was having issues. It was agreed Rasmussen could be Bishop's legal advisor.

With this proposal it became Bishop's leverage to secure the Prime Ministership in a Demo coalition. Bishop then advised the CIP he wouldn't accept their offer because he was going to be the PM.

Bishop's continuous dribble the QR and him were very close was his advantage once the 17 February Vaipae/Tautu by election was won. Knowing he was stringing the Demos along Bishop now pointed to the 17 February as being the day of transition.

Bishop's plans took a tumble when Kete Ioane passed away and the Vaipae/Tautu Demos no longer required his input. His knee jerk impulsive reaction was to nominate a OCI candidate Amiria Davey and in a panic kept plaguing the PM with texts



Teina Bishop concedes and congratulates Nicholas four hours before being sworn in.

and phone calls while Puna was overseas to get a meeting with him.

When Puna eventual met with Bishop, he requested the PM put the offer with the exclusion of Tupapa MP Maggie back on the table. When this request

Bishop is yet to be cleared of the ongoing Police investigation of corruption.

After the welcoming pleasantries in the cabinet room on Friday 13 with Albert Nicholas and his committee members, the Prime Minister

Minister in the CIP government triggered shockwaves through the Demo camp. Friday the 13 certainly was a bad day for the Democratic Party and without question the blame falls squarely on the conniving Rasmussen and Bishop.

On the morning of Friday 13 in an act of desperation Rasmussen made phone calls to RAPPA committee members Poko Keu and Sam Crocombe who both refused to be intimidated with threats of expulsion and other pressured suggestions. No longer were they willing to listen to Rasmussen's lies and excuses let alone believe them. At the heart of RAPPA's move was they became intolerant of Bishop and Rasmussen's repetitive false hopes and pretence the QR would intervene and that they could be made the government outside Parliament.

Nicholas must be commended for enduring the immense pressure and emotive blackmailing not to move. At one point he was on the verge of walking away from the time wasting self enriching political nonsense the Demo leadership revelled in. Nicholas has been in dark holes before and decided to ask deeper questions. Nicholas and his committee didn't just

continued next page

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was tabled before his caucus there was an overwhelming rejection of Bishop coming back to the CIP inner circle. It was pointed out Bishop showed no loyalty to the CIP and now not showing any loyalty to his single MP Maggie. Added to that

forwarded a text message to Bishop he was taking another option.

That announcement and the live Radio Cook Islands and Matariki FM joint broadcast covering the unfolding events of Nicholas being sworn in as a



RAPPA MP Albert Nicholas in his first Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 17 March.

continued from page 9
blindly accept Bishop and Rasmussen's distorted claims but did their own research and canvassed legal opinions.

The more they probed and carefully evaluated the inconsistent chopping and changing versions of reality the two leaders were propagating it was clear to RAPPA they were being deliberately misinformed and the benefactors from a change of government were a small group of self serving Demos who were loyal to Rasmussen. Also the secret meetings and the selective invites became a concern some MPs were being prepped before caucus meetings.

The realisation by the Rarotonga Punas they were being dictated to by a failed unwanted Saku politician and an Aitutakian began to wear thin and their overuse date expired. While the outer island candidates had poor returns, the Rarotonga constituencies returned good results. In the minds of many, a Party conference would provide the polite opportunity to farewell Rasmussen and get the proposed

coalition in its right proportional balance with a Rarotonga MP as the coalition Prime Minister.

While the distressed Rasmussen was defiant in defeat and harassing Nicholas' advisors with condemning threats and sour grape comments in the media, Bishop who made the effort to track Nicholas down was in contrast dignified and in a private meeting at about 10am last Friday at the Avatiu sports field prior to Nicholas being sworn in congratulated him, acknowledging it was the right decision and wished him the best.

Later before the RAPPA team headed to the PM's office Nicholas without revealing all the details of their conversation told his committee Bishop was unexpectedly gracious, he showed no animosity but was positive and offered helpful advice.

After Rasmussen spent most of the weekend fuming and finger pointing condemnation at Nicholas his tirade was readily picked up and given front page prominence in the daily paper. Rasmussen used imaginary sources to vent his anger and silly

baseless accusations, if anyone has been motivated by greed and hunger for power it is himself. Nicholas made a commitment to hang tight with the Demos but when he got lied to once too many times the glue melted. Nicholas and his team have no moral or political obligation to support lies and those who propagate them as fact.

In Rasmussen's warped thinking he reserves the right to break promises and dish out fabricated dreams and hopes that he knows will never materialise but expects all others to be punished for any breaches of their comments.

The support Nicholas has received over the nine weeks it took to canvas the community became the beaming green light to move for the people's sake. Under Rasmussen's autocratic leadership the Demos have declined in popularity and have lost touch with reality. When tested, Rasmussen's inherited leadership faulted and cracked, under pressure the erratic Rasmussen could only muster a self defence of anger that he vented at others, absent was

the inner character to accept he is responsible for the demise of the Demo Party.

The legacy of Rasmussen's dysfunctional leadership in tandem with Eddie Drollet will be the descent of a Party that snatched defeat from the jaws of certain victory. The instant he lost the Penrhyn seat to his former CEO Willie John, Rasmussen should have conceded defeat and moved on but his prolonged defiance has only served to grind the Demos into a deepening hole of despair and humongous debt of over \$200,000. It will have to take a Conference vote of no confidence to prize the baton out of the grip his two hands have super glued to it.

Rasmussen's scaremongering, jealous gripes and demeaning criticism of the smarter Nicholas and RAPPA's aging wise heads only serves to amplify the reasons why political leadership is obviously not his calling. Not content to wait for Rasmussen's exit at the Conference two more Demo MPs are on the verge of voting with their feet.

- George Pitt

PM welcomes the confidence of Avatiu MP



This was the scene in the Cabinet room last Friday when Prime Minister Henry Puna welcomed RARRA MP Albert Nicholas and his delegation. The Prime Minister said he was pleased to receive the confidence of Nicholas and to announce that the Government will continue to provide stability and forward-planning initiatives for this Anniversary Year. Puna says the support of the Avatiu MP will be an important part of these national objectives by Government. "The confidence of Albert Nicholas is for the whole administrative team," the Prime Minister said today. "He will provide crucial input to Government initiatives and serve the national interests for stability and the commemoration of our historic milestone." Nicholas was later sworn in as a Minister of the Crown at Government House, in Titikaveka at 2pm before family and friends and supporters. As to which Portfolios Nicholas will be assigned, has not been decided as yet.

Pasefika Fusion Festival

Planning is complete and the stage is now set for The Hihiaua Peninsula, the green open space at the end of the Town Basin, Whangarei to be transformed into a tropical island paradise next Saturday 21 March.

The Whangarei Pasefika Fusion Festival, a first for the city, will bring together peoples of the Pacific to celebrate and share their food, arts, crafts, dance and music with the public.

The festival, which will be opened by Mayor Sheryl Mai at 10 am will see the peninsula, on the Hatea Loop Walk next to the Waka and Wave Sculpture, transformed for the day with all the sights, sounds and fragrance of the Pacific Islands. Dozens of local Maori and Pacific

Island community groups, and education and service providers are participating to showcase their skills and talents at the free event.

There will be guest appearance by comedy duo, The Laughing Samoans and free tickets to their show to be won, along with lots of food, arts and crafts to buy, dancing, music, kids activities, sports, demonstrations and waka ama on the Hatea River.

Keeping the festival running and provided lots of fun will be MC, Tongan actor John Tui. John is well known, having 10 years of experience on screen with roles in Shortland St, Power Rangers, Outrageous Fortune, Go Girls and Sione's Wedding. He recently worked in Hawaii and the United States

on in the Hollywood sci-fi movie Battleship alongside Liam Neeson, Rihanna and Taylor Kitsch. John is excited to be part of the first Whangarei Pasefika Fusion festival and really looking forward to working with the Northland community.

The idea for the festival came from a newly formed group, Te Moananui A Kiwi Trust. Trust chairman, Maualaivao Ueli Sasagi said they were inspired to host the festival for Northland after seeing other similar events elsewhere.

"We were inspired to create an event where our people, Maori and Pasefika, showcase their cultures, arts, crafts, food and music. Our main aim is to promote and enhance cultural diversity and appreciation

and to attract more visitors to Whangarei," he said.

The trust, in partnership with The Hihiaua Cultural Centre Trust received support from the ASB Community Trust and is supported by The Northland Pacific Islands Charitable Trust to organise and host the event.

"The festival is a step towards bringing people together. We do not have to travel to Auckland to see a Pacific Island festival but instead we are creating our own. We hope it will become an annual event and grow year by year to include sports, particularly waka ama, and other activities."

For more information, please visit our Facebook page Pasefika Fusion Festival 2015 – Whangarei.

Data from NCD survey on Pukapuka in 2012, finally analysed - part one

After lying dormant for two years, data collected from an NCD (Non Communicable Disease) survey on Pukapuka in 2012 has finally been analysed. Former employee of the Ministry of Health, Tevita Vakalalabure, has taken it upon himself to conduct the analysis after being sent the information by the Doctor who conducted the survey.

Introduction

The following report is based on a statistical analysis by Cook Islander Tevita Tangaroa Vakalalabure of the data from the Pukapuka NCD survey, approved by the Ministry of Health and conducted in 2012 by Dr HLA Thien, to determine the prevalence, gender and age distribution of common NCD risk factors in a rural island community in the Cook Islands.

Tevita Vakalalabure is currently attending the School of Management, Jiangsu University, 301 Xuefu Road, Zhenjiang, China. Part one of Vakalalabure's report deals with the collection and analysis of data. Part two will deal with monitoring and evaluation.

Purpose of this article

In 2012, MOH had tasked DR Hla (former Pukapuka Doctor) now residing in Ba, Fiji to initiate a Community NCD risk factor Surveillance. It's the first type of Community driven NCD Surveillance undertaken in the Cook Islands (or the Pacific for that matter especially in remote rural communities), since the STEPS Survey in 2004.

When Dr Hla's contract expired in 2014 it was not renewed. As to the outcome of the project, Dr Hla indicated that while he completed the task, no one from the Ministry appeared interested in following up the

data. According to Dr Hla, the Ministry never asked for a report on the outcome of the survey, or data, or outcome, although all documents, survey and data, were sent to the Ministry. He said there was no follow up or expression of appreciation from the Ministry.

The purpose of this article is to put the survey findings before the public for its information.

Vakalalabure questions the Ministry's apparent non-use of the data and asks why the Ministry's strategies do not translate into better health of the population?

He believes the Ministry should be moving beyond the "advocacy and awareness stage."

Summary

The target population was 133, consisting of everyone on Pukapuka who was above the age of 20 years. We conducted a "before" and "after" test, and used the World Health Organisation ("WHO") standards and protocols to measure body mass index ("BMI"), blood sugar level and blood pressure of the participants. The smoking statistics were recorded from self reported by the participants. The data was analysed using SPSS version 18.

The results showed that females were more likely to get hypertension than men (0.001<0.05). The risk of getting diabetes increases with age and though the results are insignificant, younger people are smoking more and are still susceptible to be victims of other NCD risk factors.

This study demonstrates that that a cost effective NCD risk factor surveillances can be undertaken in resource poor rural island communities and there is a need for innovative

surveillance approaches undertaken by health workers within their routine health care system.

Background

There are four behavioural factors that underlie the majority of NCDs, tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, insufficient exercise, and unhealthy diet. Eliminating these harmful behavioural risk factors could prevent 80% of adult onset diabetes, stroke and heart disease. Recent studies in the PIC indicate that the majority of the adult population have a high risk of developing NCDs, and in every country, there is a high prevalence of overweight and obesity (Secretariat of the Pacific Communities 2010). In the Cook Islands, the numbers of patients presenting with chronic diseases and complications such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, renal failure and stroke are increasing (Health 2012). In 2010, the leading rates of NCD risk factors for Cook Islands patients were hypertension (1,413), diabetes (862), and obesity (1,213).

The purpose of this study is twofold (1) to determine the prevalence of common NCD risk factors of smoking, +25 BMI, high blood sugar, hypertension and diabetes on both gender and age in one of the remotest outer islands of the Cook Islands and (2) to enrol the islanders to implement a localised version of the "healthy island" concept. This paper forms the first part of a two part series reporting on the outcome of the study.

Methodology

Study Setting and Population

The setting of the study was the island of Pukapuka. The population census on the island as of 2011 was 451 with the majority being children. There

are three villages on Pukapuka: Roto, Yato and Ngake. The study sample was island residents over 20 years of age which brought the total number of participants to 133 (63 females and 70 males).

Study Design

The corresponding author and the resident doctor were responsible in designing the study, with the assistance of the MOH health promotion unit. Due to the small number of NCD kits available for the study, it was decided that the study sample needed to be limited to residents over the age of 20 years.

Central to this study was the idea to enrol the community to take ownership of the program with the Resident doctor and his staff playing a supportive role and collecting the relevant data. As such, all the island stakeholders and leaders were approached by the resident Doctor and the three hospital board of visitors' members. The stakeholders included traditional leaders, church groups, women's group and each government department. The program activities were drawn out and endorsed by all the stakeholders. NCD Committees were established in the three villages to monitor the planned activities in their respective villages.

Health promotion awareness workshops were held every second Friday at the island's cyclone centre. Apart from NCD issues, the workshops included a whole range of public health issues, gender and human rights mainstreaming, health and environment, food and water quality and safety, natural disaster alert and response capacities, emergency risk and crisis management, epidemic

Continued next page

and pandemic – prone disease, sexually transmitted infections (STI), adolescent sexual and reproductive health, women and men’s health, children’s health, nutrition, infectious diseases, vector borne diseases and vaccinations.

The daily physical activity component of the program was designed and organised by the heads of the government departments in consultation with the respective village NCD committees. The activities included daily walks, sporting activities of weekly inter-village football, and volley-ball and cricket games for both gender and all age groups.

The vegetable gardening component was designed and organised by the Mayor, Island Administration and the Agricultural Department staff in consultation with the respective village NCD committees. Each household established a vegetable garden that included the following vegetables, Chinese & English cabbage, reddish, cucumbers, lettuces, tomatoes, cauliflower, bitternut, long beans, French beans, watermelon, rock melon and corn. Visitors to the island also sponsored the purchase of numerous vegetable seedlings to support the program.

The Ministry of Health (“MOH”) provided the NCD Kits for the surveillance component of the program for the pre and post testing of the program participants.

Data analysis

From the data collected, the report contains an analysis of Prevalence of NCD Factors by age, gender and village. Space does not permit the printing of this analysis which includes charts.

Discussion

Health studies in the PIC are scarce. This is the first community level NCD surveillance study in the Cook Islands, and the first surveillance since the STEPS study in 2004. This study highlights

the achievability of continuous innovative approaches to health surveillances in resource strapped communities by working within our current healthcare resources, in partnership with local communities and stakeholders. These results demonstrate the feasibility of scaling up a cost effective surveillance program on a national level in the Cook Islands with the use of its patient information system (“Med Tech 32”).

In our study the highest prevalence of smoking is seen in the younger age group from 20-29 years old and the middle age group from 40-49 years old. This finding is different from the STEPS study which indicated that smoking prevalence decreases with aging; however, our study shows that smoking prevalence in the middle age group is higher than the younger age group. An explanation for this difference could be that the STEPS study was a nationally representative sample compared to the current study sample. However, our finding is consistent with other studies in the Asia Pacific region where smoking prevalence is higher in the middle age groups, suggesting that smoking prevalence increases with aging instead of decreasing as shown by the STEPS study.

Gender specific differences in our study is limited to hypertension, it shows that prevalence of hypertension in women is higher than that of men. This finding is consistent with the STEPS study but differs from studies in other third world countries, where women had higher BMI’s compared to man but no differences in prevalence between the genders in terms of hypertension. These findings indicate the need for carefully designed intervention programs and activities targeted at specific gender instead of a one suit fits all design.

The study also shows that age and not gender is the

decisive factor with regard to the propensity of a person getting diabetes. It shows that prevalence of diabetes for both gender increases with age. This finding is consistent with the STEPS study and studies from other developing countries, that confirms that age is a dominant factor in majority of NCDs. These findings indicate the need for a carefully designed intervention programs and activities that will address diabetes issues across all age groups; with emphasis on prevention advocacy at the younger age since studies have confirmed that in the PICs, adolescent obesity tends to persist into adulthood.

Overall the results of our study show that apart from smoking, younger people are modestly prone to high blood pressure, high sugar level, diabetes, higher BMI and hypertension. The results show the possibility of younger people becoming victims of the NCD risk factors. These findings are consistent with the results observed in the STEPS study.

Limitation of the Study

There are a number of limitations in this study and any general interpretation of the study should be made in light of those limitations. First, this study was conducted with no quality control checks established during the collection and management of the data. The lack of quality control checks can be interpreted as affecting the reliability of the data. Second, the study did not cater for social desirability in the self reported component of smoking, especially in this part of the Cook Islands where contextually, it is common among women not to smoke due to cultural mores. These limiting factors could be overcome in the future with better study design that includes a quality control checking system and making provision for social and cultural sensitivities that can affect the validity of the data collected.

Despite these limitations, the findings provide useful information that can be used effectively by health and policy planners. These results can be a benchmark for all the northern islands of the Cook Islands (but not the southern group of islands) because of their shared similarities in lifestyle, environment composition, diet and extreme isolation from the centre of development at Rarotonga. The northern island communities’ isolation from urbanised villages of Rarotonga has allowed its population to maintain their traditional life style, traditional diet and culture which have inherent protective factors against chronic diseases. A similar study could be replicated in an urban village on Rarotonga to allow for comparisons to be made between a rural and an urban community. The outcome of such comparative studies will lead to a better understanding of the NCD risk burdens in both rural and urban communities in the Cook Islands.

Lastly, these findings add to the scare literature on NCDs studies undertaken in the PICs.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This study demonstrates the capability of remote communities to effectively undertake a cost effective NCD Surveillance that gathers valuable information about NCD risk factors in their community. Further, it illustrates that much can be achieved in resource poor settings with resourcefulness and creativity on the part of the MOH in utilising its workforce to undertake health surveillances in their locality. Finally, these findings confirm the need for consistent NCD surveillances of all communities within the country to be followed up with well designed gender and age specific public health initiatives to prevent and reduce the NCD burden in the Cook Islands



Organics consultant, Brendan Hoare collecting compost samples to take back to New Zealand for analysis

Organics - key component to developing a green economy

Organic is the fastest growing food sector in the world. In a bid to assist the Cook Islands vision in developing the organic component of the nations desire to build a green economy, the Chamber of Commerce approached Organic Systems Ltd (NZ) to help scope, develop and deliver a plan to achieve that vision.

Brendan Hoare, Managing Director of Organic Systems Ltd and multi disciplined practitioner in sustainable organic production systems has 28 years of experience in the organic agriculture field and is in Rarotonga to meet with a variety of growers in a program to help progress organic growing in the Cook Islands.

"I have had the pleasure of meeting a wide range of people and it has been a fantastic insight. From a production perspective, organic offers a lot of framework and I feel you have most of the ingredients together, I sense there is a lot of opportunity but it needs to be coordinated. So there's good vision, and values but we need good strategies and correct resourcing," he says.

There are three stages to the program; to increase awareness of what organics is and help with the already existing organic produce in the Cook Islands, identify areas that need guidance and adding

by Teriu Woonton

value to that through training, marketing, promotion and sales concepts and help with nutrient recycling and composting.

'Organic' is the farming or growing methods which produce food/vegetables without the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides or other artificial chemicals.

Although a number of local growers in the Cook Islands practice organic growing methods, there is only one enterprise that is certified as organic; Noni Marketing Ltd. The Cook Islands Noni Marketing Ltd has been the producer of 100 percent pure Cook Islands noni juice for the past fourteen years.

Brian Tairea of the Ministry of Agriculture says out of standard process, the batch of local noni grown by outside local growers taken to the noni factory to be processed, is inspected and assessed to ensure that it complies with its organic regulations. Enterprises such as Vanilla Growers practice organic methods; however it does them no justice without having the organic certification.

Vanilla grower Teariki Matenga says as much as they would like to be certified, fund allocation and concern of certification standards

has made it difficult.

“There should also be different standards for certifying, not everyone (agricultural estate) is the same, so the regulations should be different for each one”, the local vanilla grower says “and now that the Chamber of Commerce has come on board, hopefully we get allocated some funds to become certified”. One of the scheduled visits, and more so important for Hoare was the composting centre based in Papaaroa, an important site for organic growth.

The Titikaveka Growers Association operates the large scale composting venture, and it is coming into its fourth year of operation. The piles currently at the site are about 4 months old, and it is providing valuable organic inputs for farmers; a fair amount of it is for the use of local growers, at a reasonable charge rate.



The TGA Compost Centre accepts green waste from anyone.

Hoare says he will be taking a sample of the compost back to New Zealand to test how much nutrient is present, and will hopefully become something local growers will look more into.

“Compost is very precious on the island, so you must not burn it, it’s like taking its nutrient and putting it into smoke, people must stop doing that, it’s time to start recurring methods of returning waste to the soil to produce the food that nurtures us,” says Hoare. That is exactly what’s being done at the compost centre, the caretakers are collecting and receiving a range of organic material and when ready, it will be turned into fertility.



Hoare takes a look at some of the compost being created.



Hoare chats with 23-year-old Helen George who is operating the digger about the compost practise at the TGA Compost Centre.

“it is a priority for young people to get more involved with agriculture and become excellent compost makers”

Teava Iro, Chairman of the Titikaveka Growers Association(TGA) tells Cook Islands Herald that apart from a couple of small operating businesses, there are two major accommodation operations that contribute to the compost centre, and Hoare believes that is something the two operations should be proud of.

Under the leadership of Iro; twenty-three year old Helen George and her partner, twenty-four year old Gary Tangiiti are the caretakers of the composting centre and TGA nursery and they will become a key aspect of the programme, as it is a priority for young people to get more involved with agriculture and become excellent compost makers. The pair will receive training that will cover areas from machinery to different methods of maintaining and measuring compost.

“ National Organic Standards needs to be set up”

While Hoare will not be undergoing any certification while on this trip, he says outside knowledge is like a catalyst and not required as a necessity, “my role is to assist people from our experience as a business and my experience in leadership and experience in certification, I’m just here to take you through steps and guidelines for that”.

Dr. Matairangi Porea, Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture believes a National Organic Standards needs to be set up, and it is no doubt that with the program put in place by the Chamber of Commerce and the knowledge and expertise shared by Hoare, it will help pave the way forward for the Cook Islands ‘organic growing’ plans for a better green economy. Hoare departs our shores this Friday.



How to be great God's way

Part 1

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

For this Article of Encouragement I want to share with you something that has been holding us back, limiting our capacity to move forward. As individuals we are to challenge any mindset that has the capacity to limit us from doing the good and positive things we desire doing. If we think negatively, then we will act negatively, if we have limiting thoughts, then we will be held back on our views on certain things. There are people who have been brought up in a belief system which is often not founded in the word of God. One of those thought pattern is How We View Humility.

In Matthew 18v.1-5 is a brief story of what took place between the Lord Jesus Christ and His disciples. The disciples were developing something whether we admit it or not, lie deep within the hearts of every human being. The disciples "...came to Jesus..." and asked Him, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven? Let's talk about this! We want to know!"

In response, Jesus called a little child to come to Him, placed the child in the middle of these adults and said in v.3 "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." Jesus was saying that until you become like a little child you can not access the things of God. In v.4-5 it reads "Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And

whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me."

If you look at the behaviour of a little child, this is how we ought "to humble ourselves" says Jesus. Many people were raised up to believe that, to be humble – you must be a person of low esteem, a softly spoken type person, someone who is not forceful, not harsh, very gentle, very quiet, etc... you can even hear others say "oh what a humble person!"

True humility is not an external way of presentation, but it's the condition of the heart. Jesus is saying that we need to back-track a little and live out the characteristics of a 'little child'. "Do you think that little children are that 'humble?" Most of the time little children goes around playing and getting dirty and sometimes making other children cry, you wouldn't think that this is the picture of humility, but Jesus is saying, 'I want to teach you something'.

When you ask a little child, "Lets go and do something!" They will say "No problem! Come on let's go and do it!" Children have that sense of willingness! That sense of believing! That sense of confidence and daring! Little children have that sense of determination! That sense of dependency!

These are characteristics Jesus said that, 'to advance in life you need to have these characteristics in your own life!' You have to 'become like a little child in the inside.' Proverbs 22v.4 reads "By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honour and life." The Bible is saying

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



that the key to riches, honour and life, is 'humility' and the 'fear of the Lord.' The fact is that God does great things through us! The Question is "How Should We Become Great Through Humility?"

Firstly, "TRUE HUMILITY BRINGS TO PASS OUR FULL POTENTIAL BY OUR GROWING DEPENDENT ON GOD." Jesus said, you're going to be like kids. Humility is the key for greatness, but you've got to depend on God. Sometimes 'self' dominates our lives and we need to change that and put God first. John the Baptist said in John 3v.30, "He (Jesus) must increase, but I must decrease." In II Chronicles 7v.14 it says that 'true humility' brings national revival. "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then

I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." If we 'humble' ourselves, and pray, and turn from our wicked ways, then our land, this nation will change for the better.

Secondly, "TRUE HUMILITY BRINGS GUIDANCE AND UNDERSTANDING." Psalm 25v.9 reads "The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way." In other words humility in spirit will cause us to understand how God works. Too often the pain of the past, the influences and the expectations of the people around us guides us rather than God. We need to say "I will let God be my guide!"

I will continue with Part 2 of this theme in the next issue of the Cook Islands Herald. May you have a God blessed and enjoyable week – te Atua te arua.

ANZAC

By Teherenui Koteka

Last week Thursday I along with five others entered a speech competition based around the theme 'WW1 and the Legacy of Sacrifice'. By listening to my fellow competitors speeches it came to my attention that not many people in my generation realize the importance of ANZAC day. So what is ANZAC day and why is it so significant?

Here's some background information on ANZAC day. ANZAC day is a national day of remembrance in the Cook Islands, New Zealand and Australia. It broadly commemorates all Australians and New Zealanders (as well as the Pacific Islanders) that served in previous and current wars. ANZAC day is observed every year on the 25th of April. It marks the anniversary of the first that led to major casualties for the Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. The acronym ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, these soldiers are known as ANZACs.

416,000 Australians, 100,000 New Zealanders and 500 Cook Islanders enlisted in the First World War. 300 of these Cook Islanders saw active duty. This was a huge contribution towards the New Zealand forces. Especially considering the fact that we are only a small nation. The reason we celebrate ANZAC day is to commemorate the contribution and suffering these and so many more men have had to endure

while serving the region.

I think we often forget the fact that these men were not just soldiers but people to, people like you and I personally think that sometimes the term ANZAC begins to categorize these men and we begin to forget that at some stage they were just guys that roamed Rarotonga and swam in Muri Lagoon. Our Cook Island men made a huge sacrifice the day they chose to offer up their services. These men would have given up their families, homes, occupations and to some extent their individual identity to fight in a war that wasn't theirs to fight. These men would have left their all too familiar culture of everyday life to adapt to that of war. We do not know what these men thought about when they trained tirelessly to prepare for the war. We do not know who they dreamt about as they lay awake listening to the sound of gun fire, and awaiting a return that may never have come. We do not know!

For these reasons and so many more we remember them. These men underwent the torments of war to fight for our countries and our region. They did it to secure our future, to make sure that if we one day find ourselves in trouble we always have help. I hope that by sharing this I have given you a very brief understanding of ANZAC day, and the legacy of the sacrifice. I highly encourage you to investigate further into the topic and find out why our men deserve to be remembered.

Singing, dancing, paddling

By Haley-Rose McNabb

I had such a busy day on Saturday and I don't even know how I kept up with it all. Firstly, I had a working bee I had to attend for the Tereora cultural group that I recently joined. We had to meet at school at 7 in the morning so it meant I had to wake up at 6:30am and that was such a mission. I got to school and met with the other girls while we waited for more to come.

Once everyone had arrived the girls went down to the bush to collect some kaka and tuitui to help for the making of our costumes. While the girls were collecting these things boys were down at the beach cleaning and shredding the kiriau also for our costumes. When the girls had finished our job we went down to the beach and helped the boys.

Everyone had and still is working really hard

as we also have after school practices every day getting ready for the big performance in a couple of weeks. And I'm really enjoying getting to learn more about my culture and express it through singing and dancing. After this a couple of mates and I went down to the market to get a feed as we were starving.

Later on that day, I went to the Corporate paddling event at the Nikao beach next to Vianna's Bistro Bar. I teamed up with CITV team and it was really exciting because it was my first time ever paddling. We started off a bit mucky to tell you the truth but as our next races came we moved up a place every time. I absolutely loved it.

I had such a nice day at the beach with a barbeque and great weather. So now it's the start of a new week and I'm eager to see what will come.

The Chook that almost got away

Oh dear chooks! One thing everyone has overlooked in regard to the building of the round privy for visiting cruise ship passengers is that now hundreds of these visitors will be depositing their doo dahs ashore rather than in their ship board loos! Has anyone calculated the additional extent of this potential deposit of raw sewerage that we and possibly our lagoon will now have to deal with? Why are we encouraging tourists to leave their unwanted doo dahs on island? And what of the waste, soapy water from all that washing of hands? Where is this going to go?



Ministry of Marine Resources
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

Public Meeting: The Development of the Cook Islands Purse Seine Fishery, 16 March 2015

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What is the prime or average breeding age of skipjack tuna? (R.Tylor)

Skipjack reach maturity at 40-45cm, less than 1 year age. The average skipjack landed is 67cm. The active female skipjack tuna spawn almost daily.

2. How is total catch determined? (J.Bosanquet)

Vessels must report their catch. Observers also report catch. There is 100% observer coverage on purse seiners.

3. Is a vessel's catch verified again on landing?

Yes. This is a regional requirement by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) that stipulates the monitoring of landings of purse seiners at port.

4. Do purse seiners have to record/report by-catch? (J.Bosanquet)

Yes, they must report catch of all species, retained and discarded in detail and tonnage.

5. What do you have to compare our catch total in our EEZ with? Do you have catch data for other countries/regions?

In 2013, the total purse seine catch taken within the Cook Islands was less than 1% (7,500mt) of that in WCPFC region (1.8million mt). SPC have the catch data for other countries.

6. By-catch appears to be high compared to total catch for the region— do you have details on this? (J.Hosking)

We have contacted SPC to obtain data on regional bycatch levels.

7. You've talked about the tuna, but what is the by-catch (by species) and how much of it is there?

Of the fishing that takes place in our zone, other species include bigeye, yellowfin, silky sharks, black marlin, striped marlin, unidentified sharks, mahimahi, wahoo, rainbow runners, mackerel scad and yellowtail scad.

8. How many purse seine vessels are fishing in the region?

In 2013, there were 297 purse seine vessels fishing in the WCPFC area.

9. How many of these vessels fish in our EEZ?

Around 16-17 vessels are fishing in any one year or period under the US Treaty.

10. How many Chinese vessels are fishing in our EEZ?

There are no Chinese purse seine vessels, however, there are longline vessels that are Chinese-owned.

11. How accurate/honest is the catch information provided by the vessels? (T.Daniel)

We do have other sources of information to check their records against, and we will elaborate on this. They must provide detailed log sheet information including whether they are setting on a FAD or free school.

12. How do you track the vessels?

We use Vessel Monitoring System and a vessel must carry a registered GPS unit that transmits a signal via satellite.

13. Crew working on longliners are reporting the shooting of whales and dolphins. Do you know about these cases? (N. Hauser)

There was a case reported to us last year. We checked whether there were any vessels in the area and have yet to find evidence of these allegations.

14. What percentage of observer coverage do you have on longliners?

We have an average of 8% observer coverage. The minimum requirement for the region is 5% coverage.

15. Is it possible for illegal vessels to enter our EEZ undetected? (K.Passfield)

This is why we have random sea patrols and aircraft surveillance. It is very difficult to enter the Pacific Ocean without being detected.

16. What is the average catch per day while fishing in the Cook Islands? (K.Passfield)

The current average about 50 tonnes of all species combined per day which is higher than our long term average.

17. Do you receive data/info/reports from the Pa Enua on fishing activity? (J.Hosking)

Yes. We encourage this practice, we always need more information. The daily catch logsheets they provide gives us a clearer picture of what is happening in our entire EEZ.

18. How do you ensure that observers placed on fishing vessels are not bribed or hurt?

The observers are treated as first officers on the boat and report directly back to MMR not the Captain. We can cross check their observations with other data.

19. How long has MMR undertaken daily monitoring of fishing vessels in our waters?

Since around 2000. As technology has developed, we have made use of it to monitor vessels in our waters. Polls from longliners are 4 hours apart, while the polls from purse seiners are every hour, and we can drop this frequency to 15 minutes apart if we are suspicious of their movement in any way.

20. What about the use of FADs in this fishery?

Are seasonal prohibitions/conditions being progressed? (T.Ingram)

Currently, from July to October throughout the Pacific you cannot use FADs. Limits on FADs on the high seas are also in place. We would like the region to extend the FAD closure to 5 months but this will come at a cost. PNA is looking at charging vessels for additional day a FAD is used, and FAD monitoring systems trialled.

21. Local fishermen are fishing by bird sightings more than using FADs (coastal), so why are purse seiners using FADs? We also find FADs drifting with no markings on them, what can we do about this? (J. Iopa)

Purse seiners also use bird monitors for free school setting. FADs are a form of fishing technology and local fishermen also use FADs. All FADs should be marked and drifting FADs reported to MMR.

22. Can you clarify your own report that recommended that fishing not happen on FADs?

Our legislation talks about you having a duty to maintain and sustainably manage fisheries. Why are you relying only in the WCPFC provisions for FADs, which are not based on sound scientific principals and are not working? (R.Tylor)

Our report did not commit MMR to ban FADs and modelled a combination of FAD and free school sets to determine sustainable catch limits. We are aware of our legislative mandate. The tuna belongs to everyone, not just Cook Islanders and includes distant water nations when tuna pass through international waters. The WCPFC is helping turn the tables so Pacific Islands are getting better returns.

23. Have you asked the report writer (Dr Lehody) to reconsider the recommendation not to use FADs? (R.Tylor)

No. We are part of the fishery now and have come to understand much more than we knew before 2011.

24. The Act requires you to act on the best scientific evidence and its recommendations – are you doing this? (R.Tylor)

We have used scientific information.



25. What is the benefit of letting more purse seiners fish in the country? Local fishermen are seeing their catch decline and won't be able to sell it on the local market, and feed their families. It also impacts tourism. (A. Hauser)

Around a total of 100 tonnes of skipjack is consumed locally each year. We have hundreds of thousands of tonnes of skipjack in the north where there is no tourism. The fish caught in purse seining brings revenue to the country.

26. What happens to the revenue generated from the purse seine fishery? (T.Ingram)

This goes directly into government's general account for health and education. This year we have collected \$6.1M with a further \$5.8M incoming.

27. Is government selling this resource to make the MMR budget look good?

The Ministry's budget is around the same level 15 years ago of \$1.2M. The median salary for MMR staffs present is \$22K p.a dollars a year.

28. Who pays the costs of the Pago Pago field office? (T.Ingram)

Pago costs \$140K p.a. Government only provides around \$30K and MMR has to source project and donors for the remainder.

29. How many purse seine fishing days were there in 2013/2014? (K.Passfield)

In 2012 there about 470 days fished, dropped much less in 2013, and rose to 500 plus days in 2014. This year 300 days are in the non-PNA US treaty pool, 400 days to Silla, and 100 bilateral days to US fleet.

30. Why sell more days if there has already been an increase? Why keep selling? Why not ban FADs if bigeye are being overfished? (K.Passfield)

We have 1250 fishing days allocated to us and we need to use it or lose it. We probably have one of largest skipjack fisheries in the Pacific. PNA have 44,000 fishing days and we think our entry point is conservative with minimal impact.

31. Rakahanga has signed a petition saying no to purse seining. Why can't we stop purse seining? (K.Passfield)

We have also visited Rakahanga and the main concerns was to ensure a fair share of the benefits since fishing is taking place around their island and not Rarotonga.

32. I understand we have to generate money for government, but given the concern around FADs, local fishing, and tourism, what will our future look like? What about the tuna stocks? Can we put aside government policy and think about the future? (the doctor?)

This is a valid sentiment and the information can be overwhelming. MMR wouldn't be investing in developing this fishery if we didn't believe it can be sustained into the future.

33. Does any of the revenue generated from the fishery go back to local fishermen and the wider community? (T.Daniel)

No, and this is an issue we would like to see addressed. We would

like revenue to come back to local fishermen for FADs, sea safety equipment and etc. Part of the licence fee for longline licenses goes to fishing clubs and fishing grants – around \$200K p.a. None of the purse seine fishery revenue goes into this kind of fund.

34. Tahiti doesn't have a purse seine fishery, why? (J.Bosanquet)
Traditionally they used pole and line fishing to catch skipjack and this is why they didn't want purse seining.

35. Where does this consultation go from here? Will you consider what has been said or will government do what it is going to do anyway? (K.Passfield)

We want to explain what we are doing and the process that we are going through. This meeting gives us the opportunity to invite feedback and for us to take your concerns into account.

36. The state of the ocean doesn't look good – purse seiners are targeting everything and taking all our fish. I fish all week and I can see the difference out there. Why are we allowing purse seining and FADs? (J.Iopa)

The longline fishery is far more indiscriminate than the purse seine fishery. The longline fishery targets albacore and 30% of what they catch is not their target species. Purse seining is highly selective and catch around 2% of by-catch.

37. The Antarctic Ocean was overfished by purse seiners. Have you studied what happened and related it to this fishery? (J.Hosking)

The Pacific is different from other oceans because we have a very strong regional network. Also our region has shown a willingness to constrain the target species which is skipjack tuna because of its by-catch and some credit must be given for this approach.

38. What about bribery and corruption? There are substantial amounts paid to officials for licences. The more revenue the fishery brings in, the more incentive for bribery and corruption. (R.Tylor)

This is a serious allegation. There is no evidence that of bribery or corruption in MMR and any allegation needs to put it on the table now. Our negotiations are straightforward and there has been no misappropriation of funds.

39. What are the figures for the longline fishery catch?

In 2013, 8,600mt of fish was caught in the longline fishery, 70% of which was target species albacore. The purse seine fishery is probably heading toward 30,000 tonnes of catch p.a.

40. As a small-scale fisherman I recently fished 5-6 times in Manihiki in one month and never caught a thing. What is being done to bring the fish back to our islands? (D.Apii)

The fishery is always evolving and we need science to help us answer these patterns. Catches fluctuate we had unusually yellowfin (a'ai) catches last year – is it related to El Nino? We don't know everything and we are trying to understand the interaction between local and commercial fishing which is why the artisanal catch data is important. We have a 50 km no fishing zone for purse seining around all islands and a 100 km close zone around Rarotonga, is it enough?

Head Girl so far

By Lucianne Vainerere

What's it like being Head Girl? For me, the first thing is it's important not to forget who you are. I've seen many people who've accepted titles and suddenly lost sense of who they are because they cloud their minds with the communities' perception of who they 'should' be. That's the worst thing that could happen. If in your heart you're confident about your role as a leader you don't have much to worry about. Although you do have to be mindful on how you dress, how you speak and how you hold yourself because your aim is to be a role model and inspiration to those around you. I strongly believe that accepting the role has a bigger impact on you then you have on others. It's a concept of self-development.

It's about being confident, having character, being enthusiastic, fun and critical. You also have to try and be on everybody's side because it's important to be nice. If generally you're not a very nice person, then things might be more difficult but that doesn't mean you can't do it.

A verse that I use to remind myself everyday is Titus 2:7 "Make yourself in all respects a model of good works." It's simply saying do everything with goodness. I struggle a few times to do just that especially with family but just like everybody else I'm only human and nobody's perfect. Time management is also of great importance as a leader, you need to be

able to manage your time appropriately with all the responsibilities you have as well as being flexible and willing to go out of your way to do the extra mile.

And just like everything else you do you need support. I have a great support team that involves my family, friends and teachers and as a believer in higher power, I couldn't have continued without the Father above. Being Head Girl can be frustrating and stressful AND time consuming but in its defense it's absolutely worth it.

Just like adding tomato sauce to your fries, this responsibility adds spice to my life. Its my final year in high school-I'm trying to pass NCEA level 3 with sparkling colours, paying off my transportation, organizing projects, staying productive in Girls Brigade and doing extreme thinking about my future career. It might sound like a lot on my plate (it kind of is) but nevertheless KEEP CALM AND SMILE.

If you're thinking of applying to become a student leader next year or in the years to come, I highly encourage you to do so. You learn more than you offer and build a great bond between your peers that will be greatly beneficial in the future. If no one in your family has been a leader in the community or anything, don't be afraid to be the first. That's part of being a leader, knowing how to be individualistic but learning how to work as a team. Kia Toa.

Mitiaro School Teeth Day

By Tiana Haxton

At Mitiaro School, straight after lunch break, students brush their teeth as part of the school schedule. However, many students cannot as they have no toothbrush or tooth paste due to the high price of toothbrushes in the shop.

And so it came to be, on Friday the 13th of March, the Mitiaro Health Workers visited the School. They brought a box full with tooth brushes and tooth paste and a big bag of empty Vai Ora bottles.

All of the 30 - 40 students gathered in the school hall and seated themselves before the health workers started talking to us. They spoke to us about caring for our teeth and what will happen when we do not brush our teeth.

They then called up the pre-school students and handed them each their very own tooth brushes. Pink or orange miniature brushes for the girls and blue or green for the boys.

The grade 1 - 3 class was next, followed by the grade 4 - 7 students. The TKU class (grade 8 - 10) was last. I was given a fluro orange one. Even the teachers received a tooth brush and bottle. The teachers were given a tube of tooth paste each for their class. After filing outside, we filled our bottles with water from one of the five tanks on the school grounds and waited patiently for our teachers to squirt out a little bit of bright fluro red tooth paste for each of us.

The Mitiaro Head Nurse then stood in front of us

all and demonstrated the proper way to brush your teeth. Aka punupunu, circling motion. A runga, scrubbing on the top of your teeth (the biting area), and a roto, on the inside of your teeth, flicking the bacteria out, aka pana ki vao.

After brushing our teeth, we all went back inside the hall and sat down. The pre-schoolers returned to their class. Grades 1 to 5 were given some slips of paper. Their job was to color in the image on the page. It was a competition. Grades 6 to grade 10 were given a pamphlet and a questionnaire. The Pamphlet explained how sugar can destroy your teeth.

We gave all our slips in and waited for the result.

On Tuesday, 17 of March, all the students gathered outside for a health inspection. Following this, the winners of the competition were announced. Tiana Haxton (me) won the questionnaire. I received my very own tooth brush and tooth paste. There was a draw for the colouring in completion. Jan-Marie Taia and Makirita Murare also won their own tooth brush and tooth paste.

I think this 'teeth day' was a good idea as Mitiaro does not have a Dentist and so we have to wait for one to come on an annual visit. If we have a problem with our teeth the nurses will do their best to fix the problem. If they cannot, they either pull the tooth out or send the patient to Rarotonga. Te Marae Ora would pay for them to travel there and back.

After the highly published anointing of Albert Nicholas into Cabinet at the QRs he was ushered into an Executive Council meeting to work, top of the things to do was the reluctant reappointment for 12 months of the incompetent, lazy, Kim Saunders as the Country's Solicitor General while the government head hunt a real lawyer to replace her. Elvis had hoped the controversial high flyer and lawyer to Rarotonga's rich and fabulous, Tony Manarangi, would take on the job but he turned it down, he's been there and done that.



In 2012 Micronesia's Marianas with a population of over 50,000 people had a budget of \$102 million. That same year the Cook Islands with a population of 15,000 had a foreign aid boosted Budget of \$174 million.



Bishop's phone calls to fresh off the boat MP Albert not to move fell on deaf ears, Bishop's free advice not to listen to those around him also fell on deaf ears. After one last ditch effort to neutralise the RAPPA MP failed, Bishop paid him a courtesy call in person to concede to a smarter politicker and offer words of encouragement.



The daily tribbles so called juvenile political reporter Flipper Bew's erroneous reporting needs some serious attention, her headline Albie Nickolas was now a CIP is a load of chicken manure. She's beginning to embarrass her Editor a former Government media spin doctor. Big A is still a Demo and so are his aging wise men. Loser Rassie's childish rant they are going to get busted and turfed out of the Demo Party for being smart and loyal to their



constituency is more chicken droppings. Ranting Rassie should read the Demo constitution and ask why he hasn't followed it himself. Rassie should go back to Saku land and get some advice from his elders and keep his forked tongued mouth shut. It is he and his side kick Drolley who should be given the boot for bringing the Party into disrepute and a \$200,000 debt they won't spend a cent towards. The Demo leaders have made the Party bankrupt like their uncreative brains, Rassie and the Lost in transition, I'll sue Smelly Hefer, are trying to create a diversion and scape goats for their dysfunctional greedy for power leadership, all they have done is sink the Demos into the political wilderness for the next ten years, what a legacy!



All this scaremongering about over the reef fuel pipe lines and oil spillages, last week's NZ Herald reported two oil leaks; one spread 10km from the Raroa platform 70km off the Taranaki coast while oil was being transferred to the oil tanker Nectar. The other was at Marsden Point which had to be swept up at beaches in the Whangarei Harbour. A 200 metre long Liberian registered tanker had

been discharging a load of Kuwaiti crude oil. Quick action by an oil spill response team plus refinery staff attended to the spillage. Two in one week, a spill is a spill. Scared? Of course not! It will never happen here, this is the Cook Islands, oil spills are banned.



Head Demo rooster Smelly Hefa has got a new paid advisor and media spin doctor, with Drolley being media illiterate and dumb when it comes to speech writing he's hired the former highly paid Auditor General Paul Allsworth to do the job. Despite all that's happening around them none of the three highly paid Opposition groupies have enough brains to make any media statements. That's why Rassie has had to come to the rescue to remind everyone he's still hanging on to his Leader of the Demo Party position. Drolley's got no intel, he gets things fourth hand then goes into a paralytic trance, Smelly can't wait to go home and feed his pigs and Paulie panics every time he hears someone knocking on the door. Talk about a bunch of flightless chooks. None of them knows what's going on till they read about it in this glorious award

winning publication.



What next for Bishop? It's for him to know and for us to find out but the word is the Aitutaki Bishop is looking for new additions to his flock. Desperate to get back into a cabinet seat he has his sights on tempting the CIP Deputy PM bulldozer call me the DPM Heta. He hopes Heta will be tempted to bite the PM apple and bring three others with him, two as Ministers, which leaves three positions being Bishop as DPM and Minita of Finance, Vavia and Sel Napa with Rassie as seventh Minita. There'll be no place for Smelly Hefa who will object to the deal because he and his bro don't see eye to eye. Like all other of Bishop's failed strategic endeavours it will be denied then it will all turn to inedible custard.



The Lord High Mandarins of the Emperor's purse have issued their latest papyrus on the state of the official Treasury and once again the Wizards, Bone Tossers, Tea Leaf Readers and Dream Interpreters propaganderize that a surplus looms in the state coffers. But! An omen from the Chief Caster of Monetary Spells! More expenditure is yet to be accounted for which the Scribes say will decrease the likely surplus predicted by the Soothsayers! Summon Joseph from the Dungeons!



The obvious answer to the Purse Seining controversy is staring us in the face! Instead of issuing more licenses to catch even more skipjack tuna, cut back the number of licenses, put the fees up to compensate but to also make a handsome profit and set the catch quota the same as previously!

FAT CATS

Number 2, Cabinet wants a cunning way to sneak new items into the budget!

One, the public doesn't know of yet!

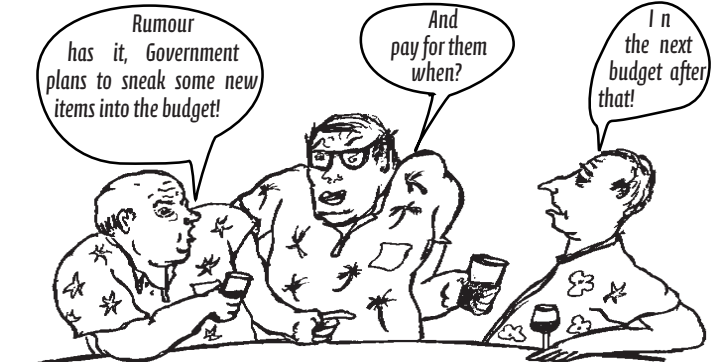


COCONUT ROUNDTABLE

Rumour has it, Government plans to sneak some new items into the budget!

And pay for them when?

In the next budget after that!



News Briefs By TeRiu Woonton

CI Red Cross to raise funds by Radio-thon for Vanuatu

Over the weekend the president of Vanuatu, Baldwin Lonsdale appealed to the world for immediate assistance. He said that the category 5 Cyclone Pam with winds up to 300 kilometers per hour had wiped out all recent development and that his country would have to rebuild everything. More than 90% of buildings has been destroyed. Aid agencies say that this is the biggest disaster to hit this region. Australia, New Zealand, and some of the other Pacific islands have already responded carrying much needed supplies to the territory. The Cook Islands Red Cross Society will be supporting its member national societies by broadcasting an Appeal through a radiothon on Radio Cook Islands this Friday 20th March from 12 o'clock till 6.00 p.m. Red Cross is appealing to all in the community to donate generously to this plea for help. All donations received from the Cyclone Pam Appeal radiothon are to be shared between the three countries; Vanuatu, Tuvalu and Kiribati. Red Cross is humbly requesting that all pledges through the radiothon be paid on the same day, to the members who will be based at the Radio Cook Islands station during the radiothon. For those who will not have transport, donations can be picked up by one of the members. This is to ensure that they are able to send funds immediately, rather than a number of weeks after, while CI Red Cross staff chase up remaining pledged funds. A BCI account has also been created for donations, account number is 829 25 S21 and narration is 'appeal'. Donations can also be made using the Red Cross boxes which are distributed to a number of outlets around the island. The United Nations reported that 24 people are confirmed dead and 3,300 have been displaced by Cyclone Pam in the South Pacific archipelago of Vanuatu.

ANZAC speech competition winners

The overall prize winner for the ANZAC Speech competition held last week Thursday went to Tereora College student, Moeroa Ben. She took out top honours in the Year 13 division, with her awe-inspiring speech performance on the topic of "World War One and the Legacy of Sacrifice". The young talent won a fully funded return trip to NZ for herself and one guardian/parent to attend the ANZAC day WW100 commemoration ceremony in Wellington, NZ. She will be accompanied by speech competition winners from Samoa, Niue and Tonga. NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will be facilitating the week-long visit programme which will include visits to places like Narrow neck camp and Devonport naval base. She also received a certificate of participation, police puppy and Bouquet of flowers. First prize winner for year 11 is Tereora College student Sinano Vaeau, first prize winner for year 12 went to Teherenui Koteka of Tereora College. Second prize winner for year 12 went to Sayesha Neha Kumar from Imanuela Akatemia, first prize winner for year 13

went to Shekinah Marsters, Imanuela Akatemia and second prize winner for year 13 went to Teremataiapo George, Tereora College. The winning recipients received a certificate of participation, dictionary, WW100 History book, bouquet of flowers, stationary gift basket and police puppy.

Cook Islands scholars leave Vanuatu

After the devastation of cyclone Pam in Vanuatu, all scholarship students based in Vanuatu under the New Zealand Regional Development Scholarship, funded by NZ Aid have been evacuated, for their safety. Cook Islander Kikore Charlie is based in Vanuatu and is in his 3rd year, studying towards a Bachelor of Law. The New Zealand High Commission and the Ministry of Education will host him this Friday. Full interview with Kikore will be on CITV news on Friday night.

Bike safety workshop

A Ride Rarotonga Safety workshop will be held next Wednesday for those who cycle, commute or simply enjoy family bike riding. The free workshop is focused on improving bicycle control and mastering practical road safety skills. You will learn how to perform a bike safety check before each ride, how to make a good use of the gears and brake safely in all conditions. There will be a presentation of practical tips on how to stay safe and avoid dangerous situations on the road, with special focus on the local hazards, how to make yourself visible to the traffic and handle common road situations in a safe manner. Both adults and children are welcome and demo bikes and helmets will be provided. The workshop is free but numbers are limited so those interested must phone 27433 or email contact@riderarotonga.com to book. The workshop will begin at 5pm and finish up at 6pm.

VACANCY

FRONT OFFICE OPPORTUNITIES

**Night Auditors
Front Office Receptionist**

Visit www.TheRarotongan.com
Or contact hr@rarotongan.co.ck
Ph 25800

PUBLIC NOTICE



PORTS AUTHORITY ACT 1994 - 1995 HARBOUR DUES AITUTAKI AND RAROTONGA

Proposed By-laws imposing new price schedules for harbour dues and other charges made by the Ports Authority for Aitutaki and for Rarotonga have been printed and a copy of the proposed By-laws are open to public inspection during office hours at the office of the Ports Authority, Arutanga wharf, Aitutaki (in the case of the Aitutaki By-laws) and as its Avatiu wharf, Rarotonga, offices (in respect of both ports). Any queries or comments on the proposed By-laws should be addressed in writing to the General Manager of the Ports Authority, Bim Tou, and delivered personally to the offices of the Ports Authority at either of those offices.

Cook Islands Jobs

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

Jobs of the week

Hair and Makeup Stylist- Anderson Ltd
Farmhand/Gardener - Paparei Bungalows, Aitutaki

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

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PHOTOGRAPHIC
AND VIDEO SERVICES- COOK ISLANDS
TOURISM**

Cook Islands Tourism Corporation seeks to purchase digital photographic imagery and/or moving footage to be used for the general promotion of the Cook Islands. This is an ongoing project to reach out to all who are interested, both professional and amateur, in the Cook Islands and beyond.

Cook Islands Tourism Corporation has a need to provide its products and services in multiple mediums to target audiences in the print and digital space. This includes the outright purchase of rights to your content for online, multimedia, brochures, books, displays and promotional material.

This will form a part of the Corporations asset management, digital asset library and archival system housed at Head Office, Rarotonga.

You may submit work on any of the following categories:

- Destination, Landscape, Scenery & nature
- Persons, talent, characters, children
- Action & Interaction
- Lifestyle
- Above and Under the Water
- Tourism Themes

Images and video portraying the Cook Islands stories of:

- Romance (weddings & honeymoons)
- Families,
- Adventure,
- Sister islands,
- Groups
- MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Events)

All expressions of interest can be made in writing to applications@cookislands.gov.ck

NO submissions of content required at this stage. Cook islands Tourism Corporation will be in touch to make an appointment with you to discuss the service arrangements and to view the said content.

It is a requirement that all work submitted adheres to technical and commercial image and/or video control, format and standards set by Cook Islands Tourism Corporation. The work will be accepted on the terms and conditions of Cook Islands Tourism Corporation purchase agreement and sign over of complete Intellectual rights and digital property rights upon purchase of these assets. For further information please refer to www.cookislands.travel/photo_video-services

Deadline for expressions of interest is 4pm, Tuesday 31 March 2015

PUBLIC NOTICE



GRANTS PROGRAMMES (GEF AND SRIC-CC)

The National Steering Committee is pleased to announce that applications are now being called for funding under 2 small grants programmes.

Under the Strengthening the Resilience of Islands and Communities to Climate Change Adaptation (SRIC-CC) which has strong linkages to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, small grants, funds of up to \$38,000 are available for Pa Enua only, for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Pa Enua island Councils, associations, clubs etc whose communities are considered at risk from the effects of environmental and/or climate change events.

The Cook Islands GEF Small Grants Programme funds of up to \$50,000 are available for CSOs and NGOs in the outer islands as well as in Rarotonga, for projects related to one or more of the five GEF Focal Areas (Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land degradation, Persistent Organic Pollutants, and International Waters). Government agencies are not eligible for the Cook Islands GEF Small Grants, however, under the SRIC-CC grants, Island Councils are eligible.

For further information and to obtain an application form please contact Te Tuhi Kelly via email te.tuhi.kelly@undp.org or ph 22598/70914. Applications close Friday March 27 2015 @ 4pm

VACANCY



Business Trade Investment Board
Cook Islands

The following opportunities now exist for motivated, enthusiastic and energetic people to join the team at the Business Trade and Investment Board.

1. **Trade and Marketing Manager**
2. **Finance and Admin officer**

Applicants must be self motivated, proactive and have the ability to take a project through to completion.

Computer literacy with exceptional organizational abilities complemented with experience and qualifications and advantage.

Contact Agnes Teiti for job descriptions on phone 24296 or email; agnes.parker@cookislands.gov.ck Written applications with a current CV may be sent in confidence to:

BTIB private Bag, Rarotonga or email the above mentioned. Applications close 3.00pm Friday 27 March 2015

FOOTBALL UPDATE

World Cup Qualifying begins Russia 2018

Only after eight months on the FIFA World Cup final in Brazil the global qualification process for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia has started and is both elaborate and protracted. For the next two and a half years, 208 nations from every corner of the globe will feature in more than 800 qualification matches.

The honour of playing the very first match on the road to Russia 2018 falls to one of FIFA's newest members: Timor-Leste. The Portuguese-speaking south-east Asian nation which shares a land border with Indonesia, and is located across the Timor Sea from Australia, has taken on Mongolia last Thursday in the capital Dili in one of the six matches across Asia. The Timorese will be aiming to follow in the footsteps of Belize and New Caledonia who won the



opening worldwide qualifying match during the past two FIFA World Cup qualification matches. The contrast between the three nations says much about the diversity and global nature of the World Cup. Timor-Leste have in fact won their first match 4-1 against Mongolia on 12 March at home and again in the return match against Mongolia away 1 goal to nil.

Below is the full result from the home and away matches for the first stage of the FIFA-Asia Qualifying matches.

12/03/2015	17/03/2015
Timor-Leste 4 vs Mongolia 1	Mongolia 0 vs Timor-Leste 1
Cambodia 3 vs Macau 0	Nepal 0 vs India 0
Sri Lanka 0 vs Bhutan 1	Bhutan 2 vs Sri Lanka 1
Chinese Taipei 0 vs Brunei Darussalam 1	Macau 1 vs Cambodia 1
India 2 vs Nepal 0	Brunei 0 vs Chinese Taipei 2
Yemen 3 vs Pakistan 1	

Top shot Chelsea goes down to PSG of France

The much fancied Chelsea Football Club has been eliminated from the Champions League quarter finals after Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) scored the decisive goal in extra time and eliminated Chelsea on aggregate of 3:3, however the 2:2 result from last week Wednesday have put PSG into the last eight on an away goal rule i.e. scoring two goals in London compared to Chelsea's 1 goal in Paris.

Senegal claims last spot for U20 World Cup in NZ

The African U-20 Championship hosts Senegal scored in the 86th minute to equalise in their final Group A match against Congo, and then in the third minute of stoppage time the Lions scored again to win 4-3. The result booked Senegal a spot in the semi-finals of the competition along with a place at the FIFA U-20 World Cup to be held New Zealand 2015 kicking off on May 30.

Senegal will be joined in New Zealand by Nigeria, Ghana and Mali. The Flying Eagles Nigeria finished in front of Senegal in Group A at the African U-20 Championship, while Ghana and Mali, who have both earned a spot in the semi-finals, will square off on Sunday to determine the top stop in Group B.

