

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

25 March 2015 \$2 (incl VAT)

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Surplus oil good news for Pacific states

With the global rise in renewable energy development the demand for oil and the mounting surplus is all good news for the fossil fuel dependent Cook Islands. The blessing of the price hike in oil has been the increase in mass demand for solar and wind energy power which in turn reduced the cost of manufacturing alternative energy equipment and products.

Every .01 percent reduction in demand for crude oil has also translated into a proportional reduction in the global price forcing oil harvesters to trim production and expensive exploration. Once a hundred percent dependent on fossil fuel for electricity generation, Te Aponga Uira is now in part supported by solar generated electricity.

Every hybrid motor vehicle imported and sold by the Motor Centre lessens the demand for petrol. Every individual who now cycles to work, small as it is, could be saving up to 200 litres of fuel a year. Multiple of drops in the bucket savings in fuel consumption proportional help reduce the global demand for crude oil mining resulting in a price reduction.

In the USA renewable energy development has become affordable and its embracement has had a profound effect on the oil industry which is now producing and importuning an average of one million more barrels of oil everyday than it is consuming. The US has so much crude oil it is fast running out of places to store it.

With supplies at their highest in 80 years by mid April the price of crude will be sent plummeting to as low as \$US20 a barrel (currently \$50). This is all good news for the Cook Islands.

According to the New Zealand Herald, last year's 50 per cent slump in the price of Dubai crude oil has sapped inflation expectations across the globe

and is likely lead to a boon to domestic growth in New Zealand. This is even more good news for the Cook Islands.

New Zealand's national income is expected to get an annual boost of about \$2.4 billion as the fight between new energy producers and the Organisation for Petroleum Exporting Countries for market share keep global oil prices low, according to the Reserve Bank.

"It also boosts demand growth

Every individual who now cycles to work, small as it is, could be saving up to 200 litres of fuel a year. Multiple of drops in the bucket savings in fuel consumption proportional help reduce the global demand for crude oil mining resulting in a price reduction.

in the economy: at a national level the fall in the price of imported oil raises New Zealand's purchasing power, as measured by the terms of trade," the bank said in its March monetary policy statement.

"Lower oil prices boost aggregate demand by improving household and firms' purchasing power due to more favourable terms of trade."

Air New Zealand reports they are on course to unveil a record half year result this week, helped by the plunge in oil price as Kiwis enjoy what's been described as a golden age for travel.

But for the national carrier both relatively low fuel prices and the travel boom could be something of a mixed blessing. Air New Zealand has honed itself into a lean machine, able to remain competitive at oil prices around US\$120 a barrel.

But jet fuel prices are around half of that level hit in the middle of last year and now nearly all airlines are reporting improved results because of it. Even American carriers, often

Islands Tourism Corporation much need funds to reinvest in destination promotion.

Lower oil prices mean the less efficient carriers with older aircraft than Air New Zealand are back in the game. So while Air New Zealand is liking lower fuel costs, other airlines with older planes need them more. Those airlines are now more capable of dropping prices and that's where Air New Zealand may feel the pain if it's forced to sacrifice yield or risk losing passengers.

And potentially worse for Air New Zealand (but better for passengers), it also opens up the prospect of competitors such as Hawaiian Airlines and some Canadian airlines looking to expand their winter destination options and others previously deterred by the high fuel cost of ultra long haul flying here having another look. Samoa Air may even poke their nose in, with a stopover in Niue.

It's the best news our tourism sector have had for a long time and for local domestic travellers it should be good news, Air Rarotonga will have to have a compelling argument not to reduce their expensive fares.

According to Toa Petroleum's CEO Alan Heironymous, lower fuel prices should reflect a reducing in consumables right across the board with a dip in inflation. "The cost of fuel drives just about everything up so if this current reduction can be freeze framed for a while it's all good news for the country as a whole."

Let's hope the Price Tribunal can be vigilant with their monitoring and compliance of goods that prices indeed come down and not be frozen because the consumers have become conditioned to their current pain threshold. For once the benefits of lower fuel cost must trickle down to the consumers and not hogged by big business who have done little to absorb previous price hikes. - George Pitt

More controversy surfaces over Atiu Mayoralty by election

Sources afraid to make a formal complaint

Another controversy has surfaced after the initial controversy former Atiu Mayor Taoro Brown went public and claimed he was ousted with the help of his own political associates. While the Cook Islands Party tribe sort out their internal banter and allegations of disloyal backstabbing the winning Mayor Ina Mokoroa's wife Terangi is being accused of alleged political coercion and undue influence over students at Enuamanu School.

Claims are being made alleging Terangi a teacher at the school on the day of the by election last Tuesday 17 March visited or while she was at school that day teaching sought out the six students of age eligible to vote. The one male left the school and by his own transport went to the polling booth and cast his vote. The remaining five all female students were taken aside by Terangi and coached how to vote and who to vote for, naturally for her husband Ina. She then transported them on a pick up to the polling booth where the girls voted allegedly as coached.

No one who contacted the writer is willing to put their name to the allegations due to

the fear of retributions, but off the record there is plenty being said. Some of the details and comments are withheld as it may identify sources.

This publication has been asked to take up these allegations with the Ministry of Education to keep the sources anonymous. Questions of integrity of the Ministry of Education policies on teacher – student politicking need to be addressed. Did the School's Principal have prior knowledge Terangi planned to hold an impromptu 'how to vote' class with the practical lesson of actual voting to follow? Were parents advised as a teacher Terangi was going to conduct a political class?

One question posed was, do teachers have the right to impose political influence over students, being the candidate's wife, was Terangi inappropriate in her alleged actions?

When ousted Mayor Taoro Brown was asked for comment he said he hadn't heard the allegations first hand but was now more concerned with a new business venture he now had time to devote to. "When one door closes another will open."

- George Pitt



Taoro Brown moves on with new business venture

The Chooks that almost got away

What is it with short people who have this compulsion to stand tall over others, a classic filtering through down the ranks to the public service crumb eaters is neneva Neves berating of Audit's Allan Parker in this week's HOMs meeting. The silly little wombat is doing his best to have no one turn up to his going away party.



The redistribution of portfolios to accommodate new comer Albie Nicholas sees the most not wanted Ministry of Justice land on Glassie's door step the same day their budget bid was dumped. Justice has repeatedly failed to perform to expectations due to budgetary constraints, just more of the same for Tinker who has had to squeeze blood out of stones for the last two years. Glassie will roll with the punches and do better than most in turning a sunken ship around.



SWITCH ON WITH
TE APONGA UIRA

Giving generously for
disaster relief...



It was great to see the support flowing from countries like Australia, New Zealand and France and international agencies to Vanuatu after it was directly hit by super cyclone Pam. It was moving to hear the people of Rarotonga give over \$15,000 in a radiothon one afternoon last week to help people in Vanuatu get back on their feet.

We know only too well what can happen when a big cyclone strikes.

- Homes are destroyed.
- Lives are endangered.
- Food and water supplies are affected.
- Electricity and communications are disrupted.

We know it will take time for people in Vanuatu to recover and we feel empathy for them.

www.teaponga.com

POLITICAL ROUNDUP

By George Pitt

**Albert Nicholas still Demo MP**

Contrary to insistent CI News articles by their fresh off the boat political reporter Philipa Webb, Albert Nicholas has not joined the Cook Islands Party, nor have any of his RAPPA committee joined the CIP. According to RAPPA they have entered into a partnership with the CIP Government which is a different identity from the Party primarily to provide stable governance. No one in RAPPA is talking or even thinking of resigning from the Democratic Party and they will contest and challenge any attempts to have any of them as individuals or their MP being excommunicated from membership.

Demos repulsed at Bishop's Vaipae/Tautu proposal

Demo caucus members said Bishop's proposal they withdraw their candidate Teinakore Ioane from the Vaipae/Tautu (Vaitau) by election to make way for the OCI candidate Amiria Davey was resoundly rejected. When the constituency committee for the Demos received Bishop's proposal they were insulted and highly offended for their leaders Rasmussen, Heather and Drollet for supporting it. Not one person at their Puna meeting attended by Aunty Mau and James Beer (by invitation) supported the ludicrous notion to concede to Bishop. Many spoke in harsh tones about Bishop and Rasmussen's interference with local politics they have no business with. Vaitau want complete autonomy to run their campaign and affairs they are fed up with the constant interference from Rarotonga.

Teariki Heather mustering support for leadership challenge

You got to give it to Akaoa MP Teariki Heather, he's persistent and has his sights of adding value to his position on the political ladder. Virtually stalling the challenge to his leadership when Puna promoted Heather to the Deputy PM position the novelty has worn thin, it simply gave his adversary greater scope and power to climb the next rung. While Puna has gained ground and boosted his parliamentary stakes it is costing him at delegate level in the constituencies, it is they who vote for the Party leader in the Conference not the MPs. With solid numbers to govern Puna needs to be proactive and turn his attention to pacifying the Conference delegates.

Fantasy vision fails to draw paying punters

Coalition Tag teamsters Rasmussen and Bishop have been doing the rounds of post snap election sponsors evangelising for more financial contributions and according to inside sources, the pairs version of reality is failing to convince anyone approached so far. Their guarantee Bishop would be the Prime Minister pulled in the coin but this time

around the gullible need more than cheap fantasy laced words. The Duo is starting to sound like a broken record bleating for money.

New Demo Mayor unlikely to be pampered by CIP government

New Mayor of Atiu Ina Mokoroa might find he won't be serving in the position for the next four years like wrongly reported by learn political reporter Webb because it was a by election not a general election and the term ends in less than two years when the previous mayors term is completed. Mokoroa is Demo Norman George's constituency chairman and will find it difficult to do all the wonderful things under the CIP Government who will not want the Demos to get the credit for any good things done in Atiu. Promising he will do wonders for tourism, agriculture and airport development to boost Atiu's economy without saying how he's going to do it is a bit rich; don't see Puna's CIP government bending over to make him look good unless he becomes a jumper.

Taoro Brown a victim of accountability demands

Some Atiuan's claim Brown's failure to win the mayoralty by election is his own doing. A successful businessman Brown wanted the Island's Administration to be efficient and run businesslike. Tax funded jobs in most outer islands are commonly viewed as rewards for political support. Many a Mayor or Island secretary has suffered the same fate for expecting paid workers to put in a full day's work. Plenty promises are never realised because that's just how it is in the outer islands, the spoon fed culture has been institutionalised and is highly resistant to change. Brown's vision for a prosperous and sustainable Atiu through hard work has cost him dearly at the polls say some who claim the by election was not about political associations but about the rejection of change and self sustainable development. "He was just too progressive."

DPM wants \$1.5 million for entertainment centre

Minister of Culture DPM Teariki Heather is becoming a 'Muldoon' think big visionary, high on his priority list for this 50 year's Independence Celebrations is a proposal to turn the National Stadium at Tereora into an entertainment complex with a 120 people performing stage built capable of accommodating top line international bands and artists. Despite lead time running down, Heather's bid of \$1.5 million from the next budget is expected to get laughed off the table. Just ask any disgruntled Apii Nikao student parent what that kind of money can be better used for.

Mangaia MP talks merger with PM Puna

Tamarua 's Demo MP Tetangi Matapo extended her Parliamentary visit to be present on the PM's return from the northern group, so their merger talks can be up dated. Hesitant to move until RAPPA's Albert Nicholas had joined the CIP Government, Matapo has the constituency backing to get Tamarua into government's loop. Her one point winning margin and the smallness of the constituency enabled a supportive consensus. The government refutes the allegation the China donated heavy machinery delivery to Mangaia was put on hold till a Mangaian MP had joined the CIP administration. Matapo is likely to accept an Associate Ministers post and move before the Aitutaki by election to enhance CIP candidate Mona Ioane's chances of winning. Don't be surprised is the Oneroa MP Wesley tags along with Matapo. No doubt the PM Henry Puna will make a quick trip to Mangaia to smooth the waters with the CIP faithful. With the likely addition of One Cook Islands defector George Maggie taking the CIP government to 16 MPs, Prime Minister Puna will have comfort he can reconvene Parliament.

continued next page



Bishop offers Nicholas a political life line

While drama queen Rasmussen was hell bent on dishing out bucket loads of punishment for Albert Nicholas and burning bridges, Teina Bishop took the smart response of meeting Nicholas and offering him a reconciliatory olive branch solution should he be expelled from the Demos. In the unlikely scenario being demanded by Rasmussen that the speaker declare the RAPPA seat vacant under the anti party hopping legislation and a by election announced, the political opportunist Bishop has asked Nicholas to stand as an OCI candidate.



Church Minister suspended over political comments

Looks like the controversial Reverend, Charlie Okotai minister of the Tautu CICC has pushed the political button too far. Instead of just sticking to the Denominations policy of just conducting the prayer political gatherings the Rev really shocked all present by being the event of the night, he had a lot more to say than the prayer with his denouncing of one of the persons who is also a Church office bearer with their hand up for the nomination. Okotai has been suspended pending an investigation and likely defrocking. Word is Okotai's family are likely to respond with legal proceedings.

Demo Caucus censure Rasmussen

Last Wednesday the Democratic Caucus had enough of their Party Leader Wilkie Rasmussen's unauthorised negative media out bursts of condemnation against Avatiu's MP Albert Nicholas. The political fallout of Rasmussen's scathing attack with threats of expulsion from the Demo Party on the RAPPA committee and Nicholas are demeaning and embarrassing, they were isolated and his personal views and not that of the caucus members reported Selina Napa to her Titikaveka committee. The Demo caucus have instructed Opposition Leader William Heather to censure Rasmussen from anymore negative comments on RAPPA's defection to stabilise the nation's political uncertainty. Sam Crocombe a RAPPA committee member said when Rasmussen rang him on the morning prior to Nicholas' swearing in he was attempting to clear the air and was accepting the move was their democratic right but afterwards turned hostile with his personal attacks bordering on being defamatory.

RAPPA CIP reject unification

Former RAPPA Cook Islands Party MP John Henry is assertively lobbying the government and his party to keep the separation of the Demos and CIP. Henry wants to be the CIP candidate at the next general elections and is anxious to avoid his Party embracing Nicholas into CIP membership virtually eliminating his chances of being nominated under the CIP banner. Henry's best chance of being re elected is if voters are split three ways, the CIP, Demo and Nicholas as an Independent or OCI candidate.

News Brief *By TeRiu Woonton*

Vehicle license similar to NZ

One are the small colored vehicle annual licenses and in with a annual license system similar to that of New Zealand. The new annual vehicle registration system is done in coordination with the Bank of the Cook Islands (BCI) and the Cook Islands Police and as you may have already seen, it shows proper vehicle identification. Vaine Nooana-Arioka, Managing Director of BCI says, the new annual licenses it is to expand information available on vehicle labels to assist the Cook Islands police in identifying vehicle information. It will make things easier for them when doing investigations, especially in the case of theft. The public is being advised to register their vehicles before the 31st of March, as police will be out and about on the 1st April onwards, checking that drivers have their annual vehicle registrations up to date. The annual licenses can be paid and received over the counter at BCI or paid via Bill Pay. It is a \$20 fine for an out of date annual vehicle license, \$20 for an out of date warrant of fitness and \$40 for an expired driver's license.

New Hope Church

Parekura Conference Centre

Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you

Sunday at 10.30am



The U19 Ngatangia Sea Eagles were presented with their brand new rugby uniform today, sponsored by Vonnias Warehouse. The rugby team received socks, shorts and jerseys, designed and made by brand 'Matai'. There are 25 players in the Ngatangia U19 rugby team, and their youngest player is 14 years old. Pictured are some of the players in their new uniform, with coaches Tom Toa and Mura Herman, and Manager of their major sponsor, Vonnias Warehouse. - Teriu Woonton

Letter to the Editor

24 March 2015
The Editor,
Cook Islands Herald

Dear Editor,
An, Open Letter to the Democratic Party!

I am writing this letter out of despair and fading hopes in the future of the Democratic Party. What triggered this letter is the manner in which notices have been circulated and the programme set for the Party Conference on 14th April.

The same controlling executive who must bear responsibility for 2 general election defeats are at it again, with strict control and manipulations designed to suit them and not the party.

Here are the facts:-

- a) A one day conference after 3 years without one is a farce. What can you achieve in one day?
- b) All nominations for the leader and office bearers to be in by 1 April, 13 days ahead of the conference date, with 9 days notice. This is a form of censorship designed to allow the same executive group to do their manoeuvrings and manipulations before the conference?
- c) The President has sole and final right to decide who the delegates are to represent their electorates at the conference, what happened to the registration of delegate's panel or committee?
- d) I suggested the conference be held earlier than 14 April or later as I will be in Europe on 14 April but was simply

ignored. As a founding member and long serving former M.P. with experience, I feel that I have a lot to contribute and help with the Party's recovery.

All Conference procedures leave little room for the tangata rikiriki to play a role. In the old days nominations for office bearers including the leader is taken from the floor. Remits are accepted from the floor. Now everything has to be in writing with time limits.

Today there are people on the executive who are only interested in their jobs in the Opposition office and will happily serve in the Opposition office forever so long as they make a living from it, who cares if the Demos don't ever win?

The Party needs new faces and massive changes and reviews from the Leadership to the Executive. I urge the Democratic Party to get back to core values and old fashioned loyalty and trust. May I suggest that because a one day conference is too brief a time to solve the Party's problems that the conference of 14 April be adjourned to a bigger conference later in the year.

Yours out of concern,
Norman George
Founding Member – Democratic Party

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\$5.50 each

Ocean Fresh Laundry Powder 1kg



\$3.00 packet

Imperial Mackerel in Oil or Tomato Sauce



\$2.20 per can

Chef's Tuna in Oil



\$2.50 each

Mountain Water 380mls



\$1.00 each

Hydrate Shasta Orange, Cola, Lemon 355ml



\$1.90 per btl



\$2.50 per can

Budget Dog Food



\$4.40 Each

Anchor UHT Milk 1lt



\$2.60 Each

Natural Samoa Water 2lt



\$2.70 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

NIKAO SCHOOL FUNDING FIASCO >>>

Our Officials got it wrong -it's as simple as that

By Charles Pitt

Despite Neves and Brown's best attempts via the avenue of "public speak" to daze and confuse the general public over the funding fiasco regarding the Chinese funds for the Nikao School rebuild, serious questions still linger and what is transpiring appears to be a massive, politically sanctioned cover-up of an embarrassing bungle.

It is obvious the Financial Secretary is deliberately covering someone's backside. This is clear as he is not revealing who made the decision to demolish the buildings. He indicates in Monday's CI News, he cannot remember when that decision was made. He thinks it was last October or November. This is a highly paid senior public servant and he cannot remember? Tell the public, who gave the demolition order and was the order made verbally or in writing? Show us the paper trail. Who made the order? Is there no written record? If not, why not?

The public has every right to demand an inquiry as what has happened amounts to applying very sloppy procedures indeed.

Commenting in Monday's CI News, Neves is saying the funding (\$10 million) was never an issue and on this point he is correct. What is at issue is the new timeline for completion now that the Chinese have changed their administrative system and why this government was caught with its trousers down.

The question is; when exactly was our government informed of the change introduced by the Chinese? There would have been an official letter from the Chinese Embassy. What date this change take place? Why do we not have these facts? When did the Chinese inform our Foreign Affairs people and did they forget to inform MFEM?

Note how carefully Neves has chosen his comments reported in CI News of 23 March;

"The country still had \$20 million available through this system," said

Neves.

Comment: No mention by Neves of timelines imposed by the Chinese.

"We are working with officials to make it happen,"

Comment: Was not the work already done? Who are these so called "officials?"

"We have to respect the process,"

Comment: Did we not respect the process before?

"It had been decided the buildings should be demolished,"

Comment: Neves is careful not to say who exactly made the decision.

"At the time of making that decision, in October or November last year, we were under the impression the system would be quicker."

Comment: Neves cannot remember exactly when the decision was made. How can he be a month out? It's because he did not make that decision, someone else in another Ministry did and they cannot remember.

How can officials act while under an 'impression?' Is that standard practice for a \$10 million contract?

"I am sure that shortly we will sign the letters."

Comment: Again a top, highly paid official is acting on an assumption instead of hard facts. Is this a way to conduct a \$10 contract process?

"But we think that can be reduced."

Comment: More unsubstantiated assumptions.

"We know what we want."

Comment: I doubt it.

"We are working hard."

Comment: You had better be to sort this mess out. Your job is on the line.

"We are working another bureaucracy"

Comment: The Chinese have just shafted you.

"I am hopeful we will be moving forward on this soon."

Comment: Those responsible for this mess should have been moved on.

Allocation of Ministerial Portfolios

HON. HENRY PUNA - PRIME MINISTER

- Attorney General
- Energy and Renewable Energy
- Office of the Prime Minister
- Outer Islands
- Office of the Public Service Commission
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration
- Ministry of Transport
- Tourism Cook Islands
- Education
- Marine

HON. TEARIKI HEATHER – DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

- Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning
- Ministry of Cultural Development
- House of Ariki
- Police

HON. MARK BROWN

- Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
- Seabed Minerals and Natural Resources
- Cook Islands Investment Corporation
- Financial Intelligence Unit / Financial Supervisory Unit
- Financial Services Development Authority
- Cook Islands National Superannuation
- Telecommunication
- PERCA / Audit
- Head of State

- Cook Islands Pearl Authority

HON. NANDI GLASSIE

- Ministry of Health
- Justice
- Parliamentary Services

HON. KIRIAU TUREPU

- Ministry of Agriculture
- Environment
- Business Trade and Investment Board

HON. ALBERT NICHOLAS

- Internal Affairs
- Youth & Sports
- Ombudsman
- Punanga Nui

ASSOCIATE MINISTERS

Hon. Toanui Isamaela – Associate Minister

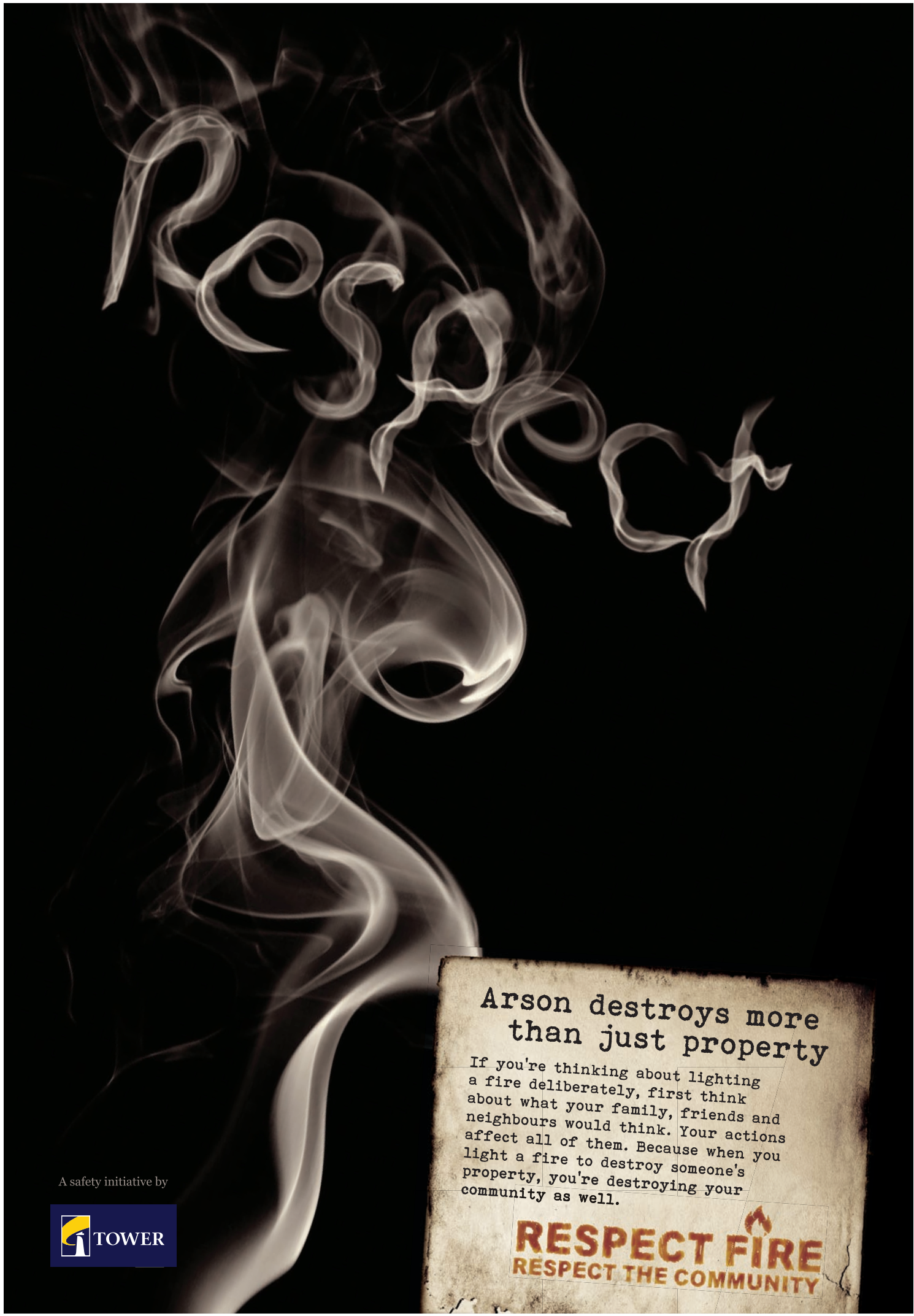
- Infrastructure Cook Islands

Hon. Tai Tura - Associate Minister

- Foreign Affairs & Immigration
- Outer Islands

Hon. Tekii Lazaro – Associate Minister

- Finance



**Arson destroys more
than just property**

If you're thinking about lighting a fire deliberately, first think about what your family, friends and neighbours would think. Your actions affect all of them. Because when you light a fire to destroy someone's property, you're destroying your community as well.

RESPECT FIRE
RESPECT THE COMMUNITY

A safety initiative by



FAD use linked to profits

By Charles Pitt

Local conservationists are calling for a ban on licensed overseas purse seine vessels from using Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) within the Cook Islands EEZ to catch Skipjack Tuna.

Conservationists justify their argument for a ban by pointing to the by-catch ending up in nets when FADs are used. As well as marine life such as Turtles, Sharks and Whale Sharks, they claim a significant number of juvenile Big Eye and Yellow Fin Tuna are also being caught up in purse seine nets, so much so, that stocks of these Tuna species is being seriously affected.

Local fishermen point to a decline in catches of some tuna species but it is unlikely that

purse seiners operating in Cook Islands waters can be blamed as purse seining has only just taken off in the last two years. Any ban on FADs has to be a regional one. If the Cook Islands stood alone in banning FADs the effect would be minimal if other Pacific Nations continued to allow their use.

There is likely to be enormous opposition from the distant fishing nations (EU, USA) fishing industry to such a ban and pressure could be expected to arise in other trade sectors as a consequence. For instance, the Cook Islands may find it difficult to export produce to those countries and donor funding may become difficult to obtain.

Research conducted last year

into the purse seine fishing industry suggests there is an economic return to the industry when using FADs, due to the linkage with vessel size and operating costs. The research suggests it would be difficult for the industry to make a profit if FADs were not used (see article next page).

A consideration:

If a ban on FADs affects fishing company profitability, this may have a flow on effect where our share of the revenue from purse seining is concerned.

Our government has recognized that the increase in the purse seining catch translates into higher revenues for government and this is a priority as government's operational costs increase and

the tax take is impacted by factors such as depopulation and a lack of significant private sector economic growth.

Given this scenario it is unlikely government will act in the near future to ban the use of FADs by purse seiners.

Government will most likely be guided by recommendations from the Regional body governing the Tuna industry.

Of interest is that after Skipjack Tuna (17,000 tonnes caught last year), the predominant catch is Albacore followed by Yellow Fin then Big Eye. In terms of value, Big Eye attracts the highest price (\$US 9) followed by Yellow Fin then Albacore.

For local fishermen, Yellow Fin is by far the highest catch (102 tonnes).

Cyclone first response needs to be rapid, run with military precision

By Charles Pitt

The Vanuatu experience from cyclone Pam-a category 5 Hurricane (the biggest yet experienced in the Pacific), reveals that with the increase in intensity expected of future hurricanes, civilian run first response efforts may now need to be set aside in favour of a full scale military style rapid response.

It has been reported that part of the delays in Vanuatu may have been attributed to uncertainty among aid agencies over leadership issues.

In the future, first responses to a major hurricane (category 4 or 5) will need to be rapid- a few hours before full scale assistance arrives.

The response effort needs to be run with military precision and possibly under the command of a joint military force from the

region (USA -Guam, France-New Caledonia/Tahiti, Australia, NZ). A likely site for a regional HQ could be Townsville, Australia.

A military run rapid first response effort envisages having a naval response "fleet" lead by an aircraft carrier, ready and following behind the cyclone so that once the cyclone clears land and moves on, response teams and equipment and vital supplies can be landed and the recovery begin.

Aircraft from the carrier can be on scene immediately to take aerial photos of the damage for assessors to analyse. Helicopters can go in to remote areas to assist.

Once a cyclone forms, it may take several days before it reaches and impacts on an island. This may be sufficient time for a ready response team, an aircraft carrier and naval vessels well equipped with trained

personnel, vital equipment and supplies (prepared months in advance), to follow behind the cyclone.

Once the cyclone has passed over land and moved on, this fleet can move in. Aircraft and helicopters from the carrier to ferry in expert personnel and supplies, planes to take aerial photos for damage assessors and if necessary, paramedics, to parachute into inaccessible areas to render emergency medical aid and assistance. Landing craft can place thousands of troops and equipment ashore to assist. Priority should be given to clearing local airports, the port and main roads. Containers of fresh, clean water can be airlifted in.

Prior to a very strong, potentially destructive cyclone arriving, every effort should be made to evacuate the most

vulnerable-children, elderly, disabled, hospital patients, women.

Once the military response force has dealt with the major issues, civilian response teams can move in and take responsibility for ongoing, long term recovery.

The move to a military style rapid response team can be justified on the grounds that future cyclones can be expected to be very intense, cause widespread damage, cause deaths and only a trained military force has the resources to initiate an effective recovery process.

There have been sufficient cyclones in the Pacific to inform us of what impact and effects are likely. What is surprising is that as the cyclones have become more intense and damaging, our response efforts have not kept pace and a major re-adjustment is necessary.

Fishing with FADs and fleet dynamics

Posted by Tim Davies-14
February 2014

Tim Davies is finalizing his Ph.D. at Imperial College London, in which he aims to generate a better understanding of fleet dynamics in tuna purse seine fisheries in order to benefit management. His current research interest is the role of closed areas in the conservation and management of the open ocean. He recently co-authored the paper *The past, present and future use of drifting fish aggregating devices (FADs) in the Indian Ocean*. We've posted an executive summary here on our blog.

How have FADs shaped the dynamics of a tuna purse seine fishery?

The use of fish aggregating devices (FADs) has become the dominant practice in tropical tuna purse seine fishing. FADs, as fishing tools, increase fishing efficiency, but their use has been associated with negative ecosystem impacts, and moves are being made to manage the use of FADs.

When evaluating the benefits and consequences of potential FAD management options it is important to consider how fishers will respond to regulation of their activities. This necessarily requires an understanding of the behavior of purse seine fishers – what factors influence where, when and how they fish – and also the role FAD have played in shaping fishery dynamics.

In the paper *The past, present and future use of drifting fish aggregating devices (FADs) in the Indian Ocean*, published under an Open Access licence in Marine Policy, we contribute to this understanding by characterising the past and present use of FADs in the Indian Ocean tropical tuna purse seine fishery.

The paper describes historical trends in FAD fishing in the fishery, summarises geographical and seasonal

patterns in the use of FADs and identifies variation in FAD fishing strategies within the fleet. Armed with this comprehensive understanding, the paper goes on to speculate on plausible FAD management options, and how purse seine fishers might respond to regulation on the use of FADs.

A deepening reliance on FADs

In characterizing trends in the use of FADs in the Indian Ocean, a clear message is just how important the use of FADs has become to modern purse seine fishing. Indeed, to some vessels, FADs have become an essential fishing tool, without which fishing for profit would be impossible.

FADs offer major advantages in terms of locating and catching tuna schools compared to fishing on free-swimming schools, and have greatly enhanced the productivity of the purse seine fisheries worldwide.

In the Indian Ocean, the increasing use of FADs during the 1990s allowed boat owners to invest in the capacity of their fleets. Spanish fishing firms in particular began to specialise in FAD-fishing, and new vessels were built that could catch and store more fish per fishing trip.

These larger, fuel-hungry vessels need to catch very large volumes of tuna to remain profitable, particularly in the face of escalating fuel costs, and consequently many purse seiners have become reliant on FADs. This dependence is likely to only increase as fishing operations become more expensive and shrinking profit margins require an ever greater use of FADs.

This reliance on FADs presents a sticky issue for policy makers, who on one hand must take action to achieve sustainable exploitation of tuna stocks and minimise ecological fishery impacts, which may involve curbing the use of FADs, but on the other, minimise socio-economic costs to the fishing

industry.

Potential management options

There are several plausible ways of managing the use of FADs in the Indian Ocean, although for each management option there are several ways purse seine skippers might modify their behaviour in an attempt to maintain catches.

In general terms, a larger number of monitored FADs both improves a skipper's search efficiency and increase the fishing capacity of a trip. Thus, a limit on the number of deployed or monitored FADs would curb search efficiency and decrease the total number of sets made per vessel. But whilst a precautionary upper limit on the number of FADs a skipper is allowed to monitor would go some way towards controlling fishing mortality on FADs, this depends largely on whether a limit was set on the total number monitored or the total number monitored at any given time.

For example, the ability to fish on a FAD that had been 'hidden' (unmonitored) for a period of several months, assuming it has not been fished by another vessel, might lead to larger catches on a smaller number of sets and diminish any overall reduction in total catch on FADs (on the basis that FADs which have been in the water for longer have larger associated tuna schools). Furthermore, as skippers would be permitted to fish on any unmonitored FAD they encounter by chance, it might be considered advantageous to deploy a greater total number of FADs, with or without monitoring buoys.

Limiting the total number of sets allowed to be made by an individual vessel on FADs might have a more direct and predictable management effect. Because skippers usually fish on any floating object they come across, even if the associated school is relatively small, placing a finite limit on the number of

FADs that can be fished might incentivise skippers to be more discriminatory in the objects they fished on, presumably by choosing to fish on those objects with large associated schools.

Incidentally, this selective fishing behaviour might also reduce the ecological impacts of FAD fishing on the basis that the ratio of bycatch to target catch is generally lower for larger set sizes [1].

Generating more data

Our paper highlights the central role of FADs in shaping purse seine fishery dynamics in the Indian Ocean, which is also likely to be true of tuna purse seine fisheries in other regions. Yet large knowledge gaps regarding the use of FADs still exist, and this uncertainty is hindering management decision-making on the use of FADs by purse seiners.

Several authors have recently stressed the need to generate more data on where, when and how many FADs are used. There is still considerable uncertainty in the impacts of FADs on tuna stocks and the wider pelagic environment, and the frank conclusion of a recent published review is that more research is needed [2].

Our paper supports this call for data, although we also argue the need for better knowledge of how and why purse seine skippers deploy, visit and choose to fish on FADs. This information will help policy makers anticipate the fleet response to regulation or limits on the use of FADs, but can only come from better reporting on FAD usage by the purse seine industry.

Tim wishes to thank his supervisors and co-authors of the paper, Prof. E.J. Milner-Gulland (Imperial College) and Dr. Chris Mees (MRAG). The Ph.D. was funded by NERC and ESRC and the paper is a contribution from Imperial College's Grand Challenges initiative.

From International Seafood Sustainability Foundation Website

Heilala entrepreneur lends local vanilla growers a hand

by Teriu Woonton



Heilala entrepreneur John Ross inspects June Baudinet's vanilla farm

Retired Kiwi dairy farmer John Ross was gifted with a piece of land in Tonga by a chief for his generosity in helping a family in the aftermath of a storm in 2002. On this land with his family, he decided to grow vanilla. This has flourished into a successful vanilla enterprise, 'Heilala Vanilla'.

Heilala Vanilla grows the richest grade of vanilla in the Asia Pacific region. Annual crop is sent to the company's base in Tauranga where it is transformed into products such as 'Pure Extract, Vanilla Paste, Syrup and Vanilla Bean Sugar which is used by executive chefs, gourmet food manufacturers, and a selection of specialty retail outlets around the world.'

Ross was in Rarotonga for the first time to share his knowledge and expertise with local vanilla growers helping them to see the industry's potential.

Vanilla can be grown in countries 0-20 degrees either side of the equator. There are four vanilla plantations on Rarotonga, three of them are well-established. Resources, know-how, marketing and financial constraints are some of the challenges the local growers face.

Teariki Matenga, local vanilla grower, has 800 plants in a shade-house on 600 sq meters of land. When he started his vanilla venture in 2010, he tried to get as much information as he could to make his enterprise work. "I thought I knew it all until I got the plantation up, then I started getting problems...luckily there are people out there that know about vanilla and have experience in planting and you get answers out of them."

Ross believes there needs to be someone here to oversee the industry on an on-going basis. "Somebody needs to be employed by the Government to focus on vanilla growing and go and meet the farmers and work with them, not just tell them what to do but to help them, get their hands dirty, do some pruning and looping of the vines, teach them what to do and give them some enthusiasm," says Ross.

Kapiri Tangimetua, spokesperson for the Tangimetua family vanilla plot agrees with that. She says for them, finance is not an issue, just the lack of knowledge and resources. "We get financial help from my brothers in Australia, however we need resources, we need to know how to prevent viruses. Ministry of Agriculture

To learn more about Heilala Vanilla, visit www.heilalavanilla.com

is currently helping us to identify and prevent viruses, and this is the kind of thing we need," she says.

The Tangimetua vanilla plantation is four years old and has 1,600 vanilla plants. They started planting another lot early last year which won't be ready until next year. In the pipeline are ideas of extending and putting up another shade-house to accommodate the next lot and fortunately, Tangimetua says they are learning from the first plot on how to improve their growing and drying techniques. Ross who has also been very helpful, worked with them for an hour and a half early this week to unravel tangled plants and loop vines.

On this trip, Ross managed to buy 12kg of vanilla from the Tangimetua vanilla plot. "I've given them the price that we pay for vanilla in Tonga and translated that into NZD." The world price for green beans is \$21-\$22 a kilo, A grade dry vanilla will cost \$120 a kilo, B grade \$107 a kilo, and C grade (manufacturing grade) is sold at \$70 a kilo. The world prices are governed by Madagascar, who are the biggest vanilla growers in the world and produce 15,000 to 20,000 tonnes a year.

Vanilla sold locally is only sold in very small amounts to tourists and a small number of locals for a very good price. "Once you start getting tonnes of vanilla, you can't do that, it's got to be sold at the world market price" says Ross. Which of course is less than what it is selling now.

Local vanilla grower June Baudinet has been nurturing her plot since 2011. She started off with about 300 plants and had her first lot of beans last year, which she sells at her shop, Raina Trading. "We don't have enough to market it; there is no point in going into marketing unless you have 10, 20 kilos of dry vanilla. They also come in grades. You can't sell the lower grades so I've got to find a recipe to utilize that vanilla," she says.

Framhein Koteka, owner of Te Winery and Distillers helps the local vanilla industry by buying their vanilla. Since 2012 when they first started, up until now, he has bought 166kgs of vanilla beans from local growers, including a shipment from Atiu in 2012. Te Winery and Distillers use vanilla extract to produce essence, paste, sugar and to flavor alcoholic beverages. Koteka says their main customers are tourists, however many restaurants across Rarotonga also purchase vanilla products and dry beans off him. It was only a coincidence that during the interview, Mike Fosbender a Chef at Nautilus showed up, to purchase some dry vanilla beans off him for cooking purposes. Fosbender says he buys dry vanilla beans off Koteka once every couple of weeks.



In a meeting between Ross and the vanilla growers, they agreed that there was prime opportunity for a vanilla corporation to be set up to control the mechanism and management of the vanilla industry. Teariki Matenga firmly believes it must be done, "we must try and bring all growers into one association, one group. That's the only way we can build the quantity that we're looking for to exploit overseas markets, otherwise if we go as individuals, I'm afraid to say it isn't going to work and we will be fighting for the local market".

Baudinet has the same mindset, and has plans to go to Atiu this year to encourage women in Atiu to get involved in growing vanilla. "We have land masses just wasted in Atiu, I want to go there before I run out of steam, I've spoken to family and asked them to identify one to three acres and that's where I'd like to target my energy, and maybe my cousin [Teariki Matenga] and I can do it together," she says.

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Ban on firearms a surprise to local Gun Club

As the President of the Cook Islands National Shooting Association Inc, I write in reply to the Police article regarding the import ban on guns into the Cook Islands. Well known Cook Islanders from members of parliament, local business people, RSA members, serving CI Police Officers, ex-armed forces personnel and ordinary people formed this Society as well as the CI National Archery Assoc Inc, to:

- provide a legal outlet for Cook Islanders to experience at first hand a controlled and legal environment for the ownership, care, control, management and legitimate use of firearms

- provide an avenue in which our members could aspire to compete at Commonwealth and Olympic shooting events in small bore, air pistol, skeet and trap shooting

- support the Cook Islands Police in ensuring that we encouraged all Cook Islanders into legitimate and legal practices in the ownership, care, storage and use of firearms

Before we formed these societies we sought the advice and support of the Cook Islands Police Commissioner Maara Tetava and were very pleased that he gave us his written support as we are the only registered gun club in the Cook Islands. We have always supported the Police in their endeavours as regards firearms and will continue to do so. However as a legal entity we have a number of concerns regarding how the Police administer the law relating to firearms. In particular firearms licensing, firearms import permit process and the commercial

selling of ammunition.

The Police article makes a number of references to the reasons behind the ban on firearms imports relating to the number of complaints allegedly received by the Police in regards firearms and the growing number of firearms in the Cook Islands and the spurious reasons why people want firearms as a justification for the ban. As a Society that is acutely aware of the global hysteria relating to indiscriminate use of firearms we would be interested in the Police providing us and the public with an accurate and verifiable number of complaints received regarding the abuse of firearms. Secondly where do they get their statistics for believing the number of firearms is growing (the Police have very little idea how many firearms are officially in the country) and how does the complaints about firearms abuse compare to the number of motor vehicle road crashes in the Cook Islands, because we believe that the statistics do not add up. In a small country such as ours, the indiscriminate use of firearms is always a national news item and front page and apart from a firearms incident in Pukapuka in 2007 and the use of a firearm in a cafe robbery in 2009 and an incident on Aitutaki in 2012 with the alleged discharge of a .22 rifle, there has been little news regarding such abuse. In that period we have had a huge rise in road crashes, injuries and deaths. We cannot remember any incident where a person has been killed by a firearm in the last 25 years in the Cook Islands. In fact in the Cook Islands you are more than likely to be injured or to die from a motorcycle or car

crash than any other event or if a tourist, being chased and attacked by roaming dogs. I don't see the Police running off to the news media to advocate that they have banned the import of motor vehicles and bikes or banned their use on our roads or banned the ownership of dogs.

The ban on gun imports is a surprise to our members and this is not surprising given that the Police attitude to firearms control is banning, controlling and generally trying to restrict access to firearms. If you visit the Police HQ in Avarua and make enquiries regarding firearms licensing or issues dealing with firearms, frontline staff generally have little idea what their Police masters are doing and more importantly there is no correspondence from the Police in informing applicants that there is or was a ban or issues with your application, despite that the application form contains your contact details, you only find out when some weeks have passed and you visit the frontline Police desk.

Police comments about people wanting firearms for just hunting or fabricating reasons why they need a firearm misses the point entirely, there are many owners who want to go somewhere to a controlled area where they can have their firearms checked, be able to fire them under controlled conditions and to ensure the safety of the shooters and the public. There is nowhere they can do this properly, the Police are not equipped to provide this service, people are concerned their firearms will be confiscated and they have misgivings about how the Police administer the

law on firearms. Instead of coming down hard on legitimate firearms owners, the Police would be better equipped to manage the whole firearms issue by getting alongside those people who own firearms or wish to own a firearm and proactively socialising them into good habits rather than the Police hiding behind the law by using a sledgehammer to crack a walnut.

In addition the Police are the sole vendors of ammunition sold in the country a virtual state monopoly since 2009. As a Society we are concerned that a government agency is also a commercial entity which we believe is not right. A veritable carrot and stick situation, except in this case they hit you with the stick and then shaft you with the carrot. In countries who use the British Westminster legal system to which the Cook Islands does, no government agency has a dual role as the Cook Islands Police seem to have which is to apply law and be a commercial entity at the same time competing against private enterprise unless they are a State Owned Enterprise or a Govt Controlled Organisation with a commercial mandate, I submit that the Police are neither. The fact that there is no private enterprise in the Cook Islands selling ammunition is because the Cook Islands Police will not allow this to happen or puts restrictive impediments in the way of private industry being legitimised to sell ammunition to licensed firearms owners. Another point that seems to be lost on the Police is that Commonwealth and Olympic shooters fire thousands of rounds of ammunition

continued next page

per year in practising their shooting craft to get to these games, they can also go through 2 or 3 rifle barrels and the restrictions on bringing in ammunition and the restriction on how many bullets you can purchase from the Police (50) and the cost of purchase at once is a joke or the import of a particular firearm for competitive shooting means that it would be nigh on impossible to get a well trained team of competitive shooters off to any international shooting competitions if we wanted to.

Our Society is made up of RSA members, ex-military, serving Cook Islands Police Officers, firearms enthusiasts and people who don't want to own a firearm but want to experience shooting when they want to. We are not a bunch of cowboys, we have collectively decades of firearms and weapons experience, our members have seen combat in areas of global conflict, we have range officers, armourers, firearms instructors and gunsmiths in our ranks and we all have firearms licences from NZ so we know what we are talking about and more importantly we support the rule of law. The Cook Islands firearms licence is based on the NZ Firearms licence but the NZ Firearms licence is not recognised here, go figure. By banning the import of firearms and selling ammunition at exorbitant prices means that usually law abiding citizens will take other measures to circumvent the law to bring them in or under report the ownership. By yacht, in cargo, freight, containers, you name it people will use whatever means at their disposal to find an avenue to import. The sheer volume of cargo and freight imported into the Cook Islands will give you some idea as to how difficult it is to control without significant government agency time, effort, resources and budgets to achieve, for what in effect is a poor cost-benefit return.

This is not rocket science we have had this conversation with the Police before but they choose to put their heads in the sand rather than looking at the bigger picture.

The bigger picture is not the control of firearms but the management of firearms control. There is a subtle difference between both paradigms. Police control and restrictive practices and making it illegal will turn law abiding citizens into non-law abiding citizens which defeat the restrictive control model. Telling the public that the controls are for safety reasons doesn't wash either. If it was for safety reasons then there would be a requirement for all licensed owners to have certified gun cabinets and separate lockable areas for ammunition and firearms bolts as a minimum. Comparing the Cook Islands to our Pacific neighbours is also not a justification for rigid firearms control, Why? If you look at the nature of our Pacific neighbours, they are generally politically unstable and when you have political instability this also leads to economic issues and a restive population that tends to take matters into their own hands for any perceived wrong doing. The more draconian the control, the more you push people into a corner and without bonafide reasons or sound data to support your bans the more people will go underground and find ways of circumventing the law. Our nation is spread out over 2 million sq/km of ocean how do the Police propose to control firearms across the 15 Cook Islands, certainly not by using the law to bash them into compliance. The Police struggle with controlling firearms in the Cook Islands and in particular centralised Rarotonga and as the sphere of Police influence decentralises as it does in the outer Pa Enea, people just tend to get on with their lives and less significance is placed on the control of firearms in those remote areas and

the resident Police presence tends to go native because they apply local solutions to local issues and forcing the law down people's throats is counterproductive.

However the management of firearms control means you apply the law through regulations and the regulations provide the minimum requirements for abiding by the law. This means that the Police will not easily be in a position to make up the firearms rules on a whim or as they see fit and they must also abide by legislation and the regulations of the land. Currently there are no regulations relating to firearms in the Cook Islands, the Police rely on the following legislation regulating the possession, ownership and transfer of firearms and ammunition:

- Arms Ordinance (1954), No. 3
- Crimes Act (1969), No.20
- Arms Amendment Ordinance (1955) No. 2
- Amendment Act (2007), No. 49
- Arms Ordinance Amendment Act (1977) No. 4
- Customs Revenue and Border Protection Act (2012)

There is a draft firearms Act which was completed in 2012 but has yet to see the light of day and some of our members were instrumental in assisting the Police to get this drafted. Rather than punishing those who abide by the law, the Police are opening up a Pandora's box, one in which they have very little control over as evidenced by their guesses as to how many firearms there are in the Cook Islands. They have very little data in which to make sound, informative and reasoned comments about firearms and it would have been appreciated more if the Police had put together verifiable statistics and talked to these rather than making what seems to us as unfounded reasons for the ban.

From www.gunpolicy.org/

firearms/region/cp/cook-islands the following data stated that in 2002, the Cook Islands reported 500 registered civilian-held firearms, for a possession rate of 2.5 per 100 people. Yet officials also noted that a total of 1,944 imported firearms had been registered at one time or another in the Cook Islands since 1950, of which an estimated 30 percent would be unfireable or destroyed. The unfortunate thing about these statistics is not what they say, but what they don't say and what they don't say is how accurate the data is and if it is not accurate then the basis for a lot of the recent Police rulings and comments in the news media on firearms control is flawed and contestable.

People tend to get emotional about firearms and consider them dangerous; the problem is that it is people that are dangerous and not the firearms. When was the last time anyone heard that a firearm had got up off the ground, loaded and cocked itself, aimed and then fired at a person? The answer is never. Hence managing firearms control provides a range of proactive options, whilst restrictive control is reactive and takes away your options and opens up other avenues to circumvent those same restrictions. Rather than asking for assistance and actually listening to experience and knowledge from subject matter experts such as we have in our Society, the Police overreaction is a bit late as the horse has already bolted from the stables.

Te Tuhi Kelly

Te Tuhi is the President of the Cook Islands National Shooting Association Inc 2014 and the Cook Islands National Archery Association Inc 2014. He was a training officer with the New Zealand Cadet Forces for over 25 years with the rank of Flying Officer. In that time he was drill instructor, weapons instructor, range officer and set the training programme for his ATC cadet squadrons.

The challenge of applying traditional knowledge to assist in climate change adaptation in the Cook Islands

At the recent 'Climate Change in the Cook Islands – From Concerns to Actions' 4th – 25th February 2015 a series of four weekly presentations through the University of the South Pacific to mark the 50th anniversary of Cook Islands self government, a number of presenters and members of the audience made reference to the devastating effects of climate change on their islands, villages, lagoons and way of life. In referencing the effects of climate change, presenters and some members of the audience provided information as a mix of scientific and anecdotal evidence which was used to get the message across that we needed to do something about climate change. In the main the evidence presented was quite informative and in some cases emotive and this is understandable as those who are affected by climate change are especially vulnerable and at risk considering the remoteness of their islands, the reaction time for local and global humanitarian services in a crisis, poor shipping access, the action of man-made development activities on the lagoons and islands, high cost of freight, expensive air travel and critical mass depopulation. The presenters also mentioned the use of traditional knowledge in adapting to the affects of disaster and gave examples of how their tupuna coped with cyclone weather and waves rolling over their islands by tying themselves to coconut trees.

This article asks what is traditional knowledge that everyone refers to and talks about? The author contends that traditional knowledge or lore as it is also known and will be referred to in this article for clarity, in regards to the Cook Islands means whatever the observer wishes it to mean. Why? Because it appears that there is no universal Cook Islands agreement as to what specifically this means. When Cook Islands people are asked to define lore, there are many and various interpretations. Lore is spoken about at meetings,

gatherings (formal or informal), and assemblies as though it had substance and plausibility for everyone. The reality is that the current definition of lore is not universal and in relation to the lore of our ancestors it is not the same now as it was then nor is lore the same for everyone, it means different things for different people depending on who you are, what family you belong to, what island you are from and who you represent.

What we call present day lore has been heavily influenced by contact and marriage with Europeans and others, the introduction of Christianity challenged and changed the traditional ways of life, and emigration loss which became a landslide after the international airport was completed in the early 1970's and then the political instability of the 1990's, took away those people who had intimate knowledge of lore. In addition those who were left in the Cook Islands with the lore have also passed on and not passed lore on adequately enough, those who still have it, guard it with a passion and it is left to those few who are self-interpreting the lore from half-heard knowledge and stories handed down. Increasingly lore has been intermingled with bible scriptures to such an extent that the true meaning of the lore or traditional knowledge has been subsumed into fairy tales or myths from long ago harking back to a seemingly romantic period in our ancestor's lives. The influence of returning Cook Islanders and their children born overseas who have money to invest or develop their lands has contributed to a growing middle class which has also had a huge influence on the application of western Cook Islands law rather than indigenous Cook Islands lore to settle disputes to such an extent that they are referred to in certain circles as the 'needy, the seedy and the greedy'. The introduction of British Westminster law into our parliamentary system and our government infrastructures has created a sense of disparity

between our traditional leaders who applied a semblance of lore with aspirations to a bygone era and those Cook Islanders who through the Crown apply western law. Disputes over land have in most cases been settled by Cook Islands law rather than Cook Islands lore and increasingly, challenges to whomever succeeds to the role of a traditional leader have ended up in a court of law because the disaffected claimants cannot agree in their own family court of lore. This has created and continues to create a headache for proponents of Cook Islands law and the judiciary system.

The lore we have now can be better defined as neo-traditional knowledge which is a new mix of influences brought about by contact with those people and events not of the Cook Islands and our responses to what is happening in the global environment and its impacts and relationship to us. Despite what the purists say about lore being immutable and passed down unchanged or unchallenged from our ancestors, the reality is that lore has changed over thousands of years from the time our ancestors first ventured out into the Pacific. These changes in our lore is what makes us uniquely Polynesian; adventurous, fearless and questing and without changes in our lore to help us to adapt to our various challenges in the harsh environments we encountered we would have struggled. Hence lore is ever changing depending on the needs of the people at that time and is also specific to your status as an individual in society, as a member of the family, your status in the family, village or island or wider society.

Lore is passed on in mainly an informal manner or is mixed with bible scripture and generally given as a warning against antisocial behaviour to younger generations, however the influence of TV, internet, peer pressure and social media means that these younger generations are better educated and a lot more aware of themselves and their environment and tend to question the role

of lore and its application to them. This is where traditional knowledge is under serious challenge as, 'don't do this', must also be a, 'why you don't do this' answer, and in some detail. It is of very little value to give a warning and then not follow it up with detail as to why you don't do this and in a language that the younger generations can understand. This is how we learn, how we pass on knowledge and how we provide coping mechanisms and learning options for our upcoming generations. This is where our traditional leaders will come from. If they haven't been schooled correctly in the benefits of lore and its meaning for them and who they are at this time of their lives then this will have less significance and priority for them and their children. The reality is that they will opt for western law rather than Cook Islands lore and the danger is that they will use lore when they want a particular outcome or western law when they want another outcome or a combination of both to get their own way.

Some concern at the presentations was raised regarding the growing development along the Rarotonga lagoon foreshore. This was specifically aimed at dwellings being built on the lagoon foreshore. One member of the audience advised that his mother told him not to build on the foreshore but on higher ground. Here may be a good example of lore being applied. However in applying lore to this example, there are a number of fundamental questions that need to be explored. Why did his mother advise against building, there specifically? Where did she get this lore from? What was the name of this place that provided the impetus to advise her son not to build there? What happened there long ago? These are all unknowns, but the upshot is that she must have had sound reasons for giving this advice.

Historically the lore relating
Continued by next page

to specific place names on the foreshore that would have indicated the accurate history of these places has in most cases been lost. In the post-Christianity period wooden carvings, poles, statues and physical rau'i signs were torn down and removed as pagan images and unfortunately thus consigning some of our physical representations of traditional knowledge or lore and our Cook Islands culture to history in a very short time. For example traditionally all Polynesian villages had names for the areas in which they held sovereignty, this is especially important when it came to informing your people, outlining village boundaries and land marks from your neighbours and or your enemies and identifying marae, burial grounds, occupation rights, fishing, hunting and crop growing areas. Since time immemorial they have named areas of conflict, places of significance, meeting areas or places where the weather caused devastation and embedded these in carvings, tattoo, crafts, dance, song and story-telling. Over millennia our people learned to build their villages inland in high places that had terraces for growing food crops, and were safe, secure and defensible from conflict and marauding enemies.

These place names are not like European names, these names tell a story which is then handed down to younger generations. Through the adoption and application of western law, contact with European surveyors and town planning policies these names have become shortened to fit on their survey maps to such an extent that they have lost their original meaning, leading to misinterpretation by following generations. These people are not the only ones at fault, our own people are at fault too when we mispronounce the names of our villages and place names and foreigners mispronounce these names. For example; Arorangi is also pronounced as Aarangi, or Nika'o is often pronounced as knee-cow rather than kneekah-or, no wonder people get confused. A lot of these places are warnings or restrictions on building, fishing or visiting at certain times of the year, or set aside as a tithe for past discretions with neighbouring villages or used as sacred areas, and unfortunately with the loss of traditional knowledge,

people are building permanent dwellings on those very same sites which their ancestors in their stories, dances and songs warned them not to do so. Without a written history this lore has had to be memorised and recited to be passed on and like Chinese whispers some historical embellishment or loss of information accuracy has crept into the telling.

More importantly lore is not seen as an important educational subject by the education system in the Cook Islands. Modern academic study focuses on law, technology and global solutions to local challenges rather than grass roots lore and solutions to climate change adaptation. Modern education is not the only one that is at fault here, traditional leaders also have not stepped up and provided the leadership for the generations coming through as well as informing the uninformed be they locals or foreigners appropriately. Lore has increasingly become a tool used by the older generation to give substance to their status and in doing so disenfranchised and divided themselves from the newer generations or those who are globally sophisticated at a time when they cannot afford to do so and increasingly their legitimacy is in question for a major portion of those descended from Cook Islanders especially in Rarotonga and critically the young. Traditional leaders have not readily taken to the use of modern technology to get their teachings of lore across; they tend to preach to the converted at church, funerals, meetings, parliament and the tried and true traditional areas that they are used to. They would get more traction by teaching lore to the unconverted through social media, peer group sessions, education system, internet and other means of communication. The use of preach and teach are deliberate in this article as the author contends it is of very little value to continue to preach to those who are already converted rather than taking the time and effort to protect and future proof the teaching of lore to the unconverted.

So if lore means different things to different people and very little explanation or detail is provided as a follow-up to advice or warning, and it is not a

significant part of our education curriculum and traditional leaders appear stuck in a time warp and unable to adequately support and or resource the teaching of traditional knowledge it is no wonder that there is a lot of confusion surrounding what lore actually means and how it is to be applied. This confusion has had a direct influence on government departments in the capital expenditure contracts that they let under Cook Islands law rather than taking into account Cook Islands lore. Maori in Aotearoa NZ recognised this many years ago and set up kura kaupapa Maori schools, wananga and other institutions of Maori learning to ensure that lore and reo was preserved, redeveloped and passed on to upcoming generations of both Maori and pakeha. These teachings complimented and paralleled mainstream western educational curriculum. NZ Maori also used the Westminster system of law to ensure that their lore was given substance rather than the shadow of substance in their dealings with the Crown. You may ask what this has got to do with the situation in the Cook Islands considering that NZ Maori have the Treaty of Waitangi document to guide their interaction with the NZ government. If the Cook Islands people and their traditional leaders want to preserve their lore so that it parallels and compliments mainstream western law then they need to draw a line in the sand and say to the government enough is enough and do something about getting official and legal recognition for lore. The NZ Maori model has been a success and could quite easily be adapted to the Cook Islands, and consider this, lore or tikanga maori had its origins from those who descended from the Cook Islands vaka voyagings to Aotearoa all those centuries ago, the teina has returned to help the tuakana who seems unwilling or unable to accept the help offered.

We have adopted the western laws of jurisprudence and christianity and in doing so have created generations of Cook Islanders who have very little idea about what traditional knowledge or lore means in their everyday lives. We have done this by using western law to settle disputes and legitimise our claims and created a winner and a loser. The

gains and benefits for us of using western law rather than looking towards Cook Islands lore as an alternative have tended to be short term, costly and temporary in lore as families have fallen out with each other and disputes have lasted for generations despite western law deciding on a winner.

With our embrace of globalisation we've moved away from our lore or traditional knowledge which advocates working with our social and physical environment, to bending the environment to our will so that we own it, are responsible and accountable for it and do what we want with it. We have dug it up, buried waste, pulled down hillsides, desecrated our ancestor's places, ignored warnings, disregarded the social impacts of our capital works development, built where we shouldn't have and created a battle zone with nature. Nature is permanent, inexorable, bides her time, and her reply is usually powerful and devastating, the might of mankind and machines is puny in comparison. The lessons learned have always been harsh, costly and a humanitarian disaster unfortunately, as the devastating effects of climate change may well have the last laugh for those who ignore the value of traditional knowledge or lore.

Te Tuhi Kelly

Te Tuhi is the National Coordinator for the UNDP GEF-SRIC small grants programmes which is hosted by the Cook Islands Red Cross Society. These grant programmes are aimed at vulnerable and at-risk islands and communities affected by climate change and other environmental factors.

Te Tuhi is also of the kahuiariki royal family of Tainui from Waikato, New Zealand on his father's side. He traces his roots from Hoturoa the Ariki of the Tainui waka through Aitutaki and the islands of the northern group thence all the way back to Raiatea in Tahiti and on his mother's side he traces his roots through Pai Kea back to Mauke. His grandfather Leslie George Kelly wrote the book Tainui and Princess Te Puea Herangi (Searancke) is his Gt Grand aunt and the late Maori Queen Te Atai Rangi Kaahu his cousin. He has extensive knowledge of tikanga Maori and lore. He is married to a Cook Islander, Jane Wichman.

Vaipae /Tautu : There Can only be One Winner – AMIRIA DAVEY

A One Cook Islands Movement release

This time next week, Aitutaki will have confirmed its MP for the constituency of Vaipae/Tautu. The 3 candidates contesting the seat are considered worthy contenders however at the end of the day, there can only be one winner and all three will no doubt be out there trying to secure that last minute extra vote.

With all the confusion, hype and controversy surrounding this by-election, it would come as no surprise if the final result is challenged amidst allegations of treating, bribery and the usual nonsense that's associated with challenges following elections if there is no clear winner. That seems to be the tactics and strategy applied by certain individuals from Rarotonga whose comments have been well documented in media releases and on the airwaves over the past month or two. Their target, Teina Bishop and Wilkie Rasmussen to ensure they do not become Government.

For One Cook Islands, we want to push that aside for now and focus on what's ahead and the task of winning the by-election. We have no intentions of being intimidated by negative inuendos and lies. To this end, we are proud of the calibre and achievements of our candidate Amiria Davey and place our full support behind her for next week. Amiria has offered her services and commitment to her people in Aitutaki and the Cook Islands, something she has always done for many years and her family and community achievements are testimony to her success.

She is regarded as a nonsense woman full of compassion, energy and spirit. She is very understanding of individual and family influences and also has an equally good understanding of the educational, recreational, social and cultural heritage of the people of Aitutaki. Being a former senior educationist, she has the ability to apply her own analysis of global issues and how they impact on people especially those within her local

community and will go the extra mile to help.

Her understanding of the importance of education has been beneficial to the many community groups she has been associated with especially with organizations involved with young girls and women. Voted Woman of the Month in August 2013, Amiria continues to make waves in her wider community through her involvement in leadership roles in the church, youth and community activities. Amongst her many talents, she is also a gifted public speaker, and has no hesitation in speaking her mind which will put her in good stead in Parliament and other political forums.

She has a good grasp of local policy and governance issues and can communicate these issues back to her people effectively. Initially, she was a candidate for the Democratic Party but was disillusioned by the manner in which certain factions within the Demo Camp rallied against OCI Leader and former Campaign Manager Teina Bishop who has since withdrawn his support for the Demos and fielded his own candidate from OCI but still representing the Demo Party interests in OCI.

At a recent gathering of supporters in Aitutaki during a fundraising event, Amiria commented that "the principles and spirit of OCI is underestimated and people don't really understand what the OCI Movement really stands for. I believe it is the way forward and our people in Aitutaki will benefit from this win." She firmly believes that OCI has the right attitude, approach and principles to make a huge difference in the future Governance of our nation. The fact that people are now rallying behind to support her is recognition of her skills and capability and that is credit to the people of Aitutaki who have seen what she has achieved and are willing to bat for her.

Interesting enough, no approaches have been made to Amiria from any Women's organizations given her strengths in these areas. Hopefully they will do so shortly because when

she wins, there is no room to push or promote gender issues as OCI policy platforms will take precedence.

The other positive aspect about Amiria is that she is a team player, she lives on Aitutaki and has a strong empathy for the needs of her people. They are and will be her priority and she has committed herself as usual to carrying that out. Unlike the Demo debacle where there was a lot of interference from Rarotonga, they will not be able to influence

Amiria and her team as they are determined to ensure that our people are the winners on the day and that the person they select, is the right one to represent their aspirations. In terms of intimidation and political bullying, her only response is; "bring it on."

Amiria is that person and OCI is fortunate to have someone of her standing to represent Vaipae Tautu. We encourage you to make the right choice next week as a step in the right direction to stop the rot continuing in our country.

Youth suicide report launched



It was a proud moment for the Youth Suicide Prevention Steering Committee last week Thursday who launched the Rangi Marie Report in an afternoon ceremony, attended by students, Government, sponsors and members of the public. Rangi Marie is the name of the report by the Youth Suicide Prevention Steering Committee, and presented to the Cook Islands Government. Following several tragic cases of suicide in late 2011 and early 2012, the Prime Minister Hon. Henry Puna directed work to be done to tackle youth suicide and funding of \$30,000 was approved by cabinet to carry out a National Youth Forum titled "Choose life". Following a review of feedback from the youth forum, the committee felt it was necessary to explore the concerns and challenges raised by young people who attended and to explore practical solutions to address these. The NZ Government – Community Initiative Scheme now known as the Social Impact Fund provided approximately \$48,000 to support consultations for phase 2 activities which had 2 key foci – realizing youth potential and strengthening support networks in response to youth suicide. The allocated funding assisted with the parent surveys, launch of the FREE phone or text Helpline Service, consultation with stakeholders and families directly affected by Suicide (i.e. have lost young people through suicide) and to help raise awareness through advertising and promotion. The Rangi Marie report is to report back to the Government on those events plus recommendations.

- TeRiu Woonton

How to be great God's way

Part 2

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

This is a continuation of Part 1 of the theme on Humility from last week. 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.

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. The main Bible reference is found in Matthew 18v.1-5. Jesus used the behaviour or characteristics of a little child to teach His disciples and also us today about True Humility.

True humility is not an external way of presentation, but it's the condition of the heart. Jesus is saying, 'I want to teach you something.'. When you ask a little child "Let's 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 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 that we need to depend more and more on God. John the Baptist said in John 3v.30 "He (Jesus) must increase, but I must decrease."

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!"

Thirdly, " TRUE HUMILITY BRINGS FRESH GRACE" Proverbs 3v.33-34 (CEV) reads "He places a curse on the home of everyone who is evil, but he blesses the home of every good person. The Lord sneers at those who sneer at him, but he is kind to everyone who is humble." In other words we live a life knowing that God is bigger than our problems.

Fourthly, "TRUE HUMILITY BRINGS WISDOM" Proverbs 11v.2 reads "When pride comes, then comes shame, but with the humble is wisdom." In other words you will have wisdom beyond your experience, something supernatural.

Fifthly, "TRUE HUMILITY BRINGS PROMOTION" Psalm 147v.6 reads "The Lord lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground." In other words, the more you humble yourself, the higher God will take you up. Jesus said to His disciples 'if you

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



want to be great, be like a little kid! and maintain that humble spirit!

Sixthly, "TRUE HUMILITY BRINGS JOY" Isaiah 29v.19 reads "The humble also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel." Humility will increase joy in your life. We sing, we praise unto God, even in our darkest moment we will experience joy! Being a Christian doesn't mean that we will escape the trials and testings of life? But in our darkness we'll have joy, why? "Because we rely on the God Who is Mightier than our problems!" You

might say "But Pastor, I don't experience joy?" Maybe the issue is because of the lack of humility in the inside!

Seventh, "TRUE HUMILITY WILL RESULT IN ANSWERED PRAYERS" Psalm 9v.12 says that answered prayer is a result of humility. I love this verse because it says that God doesn't forget the cry of the humble. He listens to what we have to say.

If you want To Be Great God's Way! Through Humility remember that it is the condition of our heart, not the outward appearance of our conduct or behaviour.

May you have a God blessed week – te Atua te aroa.

Culture Festival Geez-Louise it's Fanatics been hot

By Lucianne Vainerere

As we all know the culture festival is coming up next week Tuesday and Wednesday and every school and college are constantly practicing their performances and embracing the beauty of our culture.

I believe there is one main thing that makes every culture alive. Passion. It must thrive through the people for it to be felt and expressed beautifully. As part of the national college practices have been running often. We started from singing, to drumming, to dancing and costume making and honestly it is a great environment to be part of. Learning the skills our ancestors did a long time ago and discovering new things we never knew we could find so easily are part of the experience.

Practise makes perfect and all our students have been working hard, making sure they know the song by heart and learning the actions. Even though it's just practise it's wonderful to see the enthusiasm amongst the students. The grace of the performance is reflected from the girls and the strength and liveliness from the boys.

The rhythm is important in our culture; our drummers are quite young but very efficient and its great seeing such young hearts enjoy where they are from, a lot of young people don't acknowledge their culture and it's sad.

Costume making has been fun but frustrating as well. We have done working bees that allow the students to participate in making their

own costumes and helping others as well, which is quite beneficial for us as individuals in up-skilling ourselves.

The thing about our culture is we tell a story through music and dance but the most important thing is strong, connected relationships between leaders and the people. That is what builds the foundation of our culture. As a young Cook Islander who has been away for 12 years I enjoy the little things that our people do every day.

For some, it's their first time joining cultural events and it's a good experience for them as they enjoy the atmosphere that bounce off of everyone. For those dancing they feel the rhythm and slowly start to feel the passion and meaning of their movements. For spectators they see how crucial it is to know our identity, our culture due to Western influence of pop and modern dancing as well as what we do as a people and what sets us apart from other people.

We've all been through the whole talk about loss of identity and the importance of our culture. I feel we need to look at it from a different perspective. Rather than our culture disappearing we should look at it as our culture living on.

Tereora College will be performing on Tuesday night along side many other schools and tickets can be purchased from the school office going at \$5 for students and \$10 for adults. It would be highly appreciated to have you there in support of all our children performing. We hope to see you there.

By Teherenui Koteka

With all the hot weather lately I have heard a lot of people complaining about how hot days are the worst. So to brighten the mood and people's opinions on this matter I have compiled my five favourite things to do on hot days.

Hot Day Activity Number One: Take a picnic to the beach.

Some of my favourite childhood memories involve my best friends and I making impromptu plans to go to the beach on hot summer days. We would pack a picnic of sandwiches, chips and a cooler full of Raro Refresh and hit the beach for a day of chilling in the shade and swimming in our beautiful lagoon. So pack your picnic, fill your coolers and hit the beach and make some awesome memories.

Hot Day Activity Number Two: Hit Wigmore's Super Store for a double ice-cream cone

Everyone loves a good ice-cream, especially on a super duper hot day. When you're craving ice-cream and sweating through your t-shirt I highly suggest you take a family trip down to Wigmore's and order a double scoop of your favourite ice-creams. This is by far one of the best things about hot days, you can eat all the ice-cream you want because if the heat isn't a good enough reason, I don't know what is.

Hot Day Activity Number Three: Hit the Movie Theatre If it's one of those

extremely hot nights that you just can't escape even with the fans running I suggest hitting the movie theatre. Escape the heat for a couple of hours. Grab some popcorn, a cool drink, an ice-cream cone; sit down in that air conditioned theatre and enjoy watching the latest films. This is without a doubt one of the best things to do on a super duper hot night.

Hot Day Activity Number Four: Go for a drive on the bike

I don't know about everyone else but I often find taking a drive around the island to be calming. Soak up our islands beauty while listening to some music through your headphones and taking a drive around Rarotonga. Not only is this calming and a great way to escape from everyone else for an hour or so but it is also a quick and easy way to cool down.

Hot Day Activity Number Five: Rent out a Kayak or Stand-up Paddleboard

Kayaking or stand-up paddle boarding is a great way to spend a hot day. Head down to Muri Beach and rent one out from Captain Tama's, Koka Lagoon Cruises or numerous other vendors. Once you've got your kayak or board spend the day cruising around Muri Lagoon visiting the Motu's or just swimming in random spots, not only is this great fun but it makes for good exercise too. Just don't forget to apply some sunscreen (even if you're dark a little never hurt anyone) and take a bottle of water and a snack.

Demo defector Albie Nicholas took a finger pointing party hopping hammering from some of the more senior politickers but you come to think about it and back track a bit the undisputed champion of hoppers must be none other than CIP deserter Teina Bishop the plastic Demo PM. In the space of one year, three elections ago in Vaipae/Tautu he was right in behind his personal pick CIP Mona loane, then Bishop hopped over to be the Demo campaign manager and financial sponsor of Kete loane and now he's backing OCI candidate Miriama Davey. That's more hops than Skippy the kangaroo.



Neneva Neves insistence of naving nis grubby hands in every pie including attempts to get into Ministerial office support funds has him spread so thin he's making big stuff ups, the Apii Nikao fiasco is an example of his incompetence, demolishing a perfectly good building has to be right up there with his victimising of our elderly pensioners. Now he's filling space in the daily tribble making excuses and blaming the Peoples Republic of China for having a vigilant three year due diligent tamper proof Aid process. Does he need to be reminded his own report said there was no money that's why the PRC were approached with our begging bowl, now Neveva Neves says the money has always been here. Not only does he make excuses he tells lies, he thinks we have poor memories, was he telling lies when his October 2014 'Te Tarai Vaka Aprising'report said "National budgetary constraints and competing priorities in other infrastructure sectors etc" was the reason there was no local money for the Minita's shoot from the hip rebuild proclamation or is he telling lies that money was never an issue, is his media headline "money is available for school" a lie now the blow torch is on him? How Minita Brown can condone the embarrassment and political fallout any longer is incomprehensible, give him the sack immediately. The sensory torment of lies, lies and more lies is intolerable; give him the red card Minita!

daily tribble is getting tiresome, can't their multiplicity of reporters get some new stories instead of dishing out rehearsed boring repeats. We are tired of reading about the police being called, there are over 200 call outs every night in Auckland lets read about the other stories. Don't waste anymore time Public Service Commissioner, give Porny a pat on the back for the good job he's doing end of story.

Another lot of dribble has to be Iimbie's glowing report about the eateries she drops in on. She claims to have eaten all over the world but in Raro it's always the best, better than anywhere else, every meal is the best she's ever had.

We all know hello Drolley is a screw lose in more places than two, he tries to keep quiet to keep a lid on being exposed, but a booster he gets the details right is chook poop. His notice re the Demo conference says it is being held at the Apostolic Church in Takuvaine. Last time the Red Rooster was chasing the hens in Takuvaine it was called the Assemblies of God Church, The Apostolic Church is in Tupapa, then again hello Drolley lives in Tupapa he must be right.

Whoops chooks! Hau Far, El Presidente of the CIP can't count! Right now CIP have 12 seats but one of these cannot vote for the CIP in the House. So the CIP really only have 11 seats. If Vaipae goes to OCI, then the CIP are in doggie doo dah trouble.

They will not have the numbers to pass the Budget. It seems OCI may have changed its mind about supporting the CIP on issues of supply. So what now Hau Far?

After serving up years of loyal service to the CIP party machine, two staunch supporters have been tossed onto the scrap heap by PM Puna. Wilderness assigned Moana loane's two Ministerial Office support staff, formerly with the Bishop, have been given one months notice by the PM to quit. As far as this PM is concerned they can join their former Minister in the wilderness. One is to relocate to the Minita o te Moni's office in the meantime. How low of the PM to dump these two! He just does not care!

Just when customers banking with Westpac are anticipating a smooth takeover by BSP, why is that bank muzzling with our accounts? A breast cancer victim gets a few dollars from her Punanganui market stall and saves that in her bank. She had a referral to an oncologist in Auckland and these savings would be her shopping money. However, on the day she left she happened to check her account only to discover that over \$1,000 had been withdrawn. She went to see the bank that morning and with no apology what so ever, was told that it was a mistake and their system was to blame. The bank tracked the withdrawal down and found that the

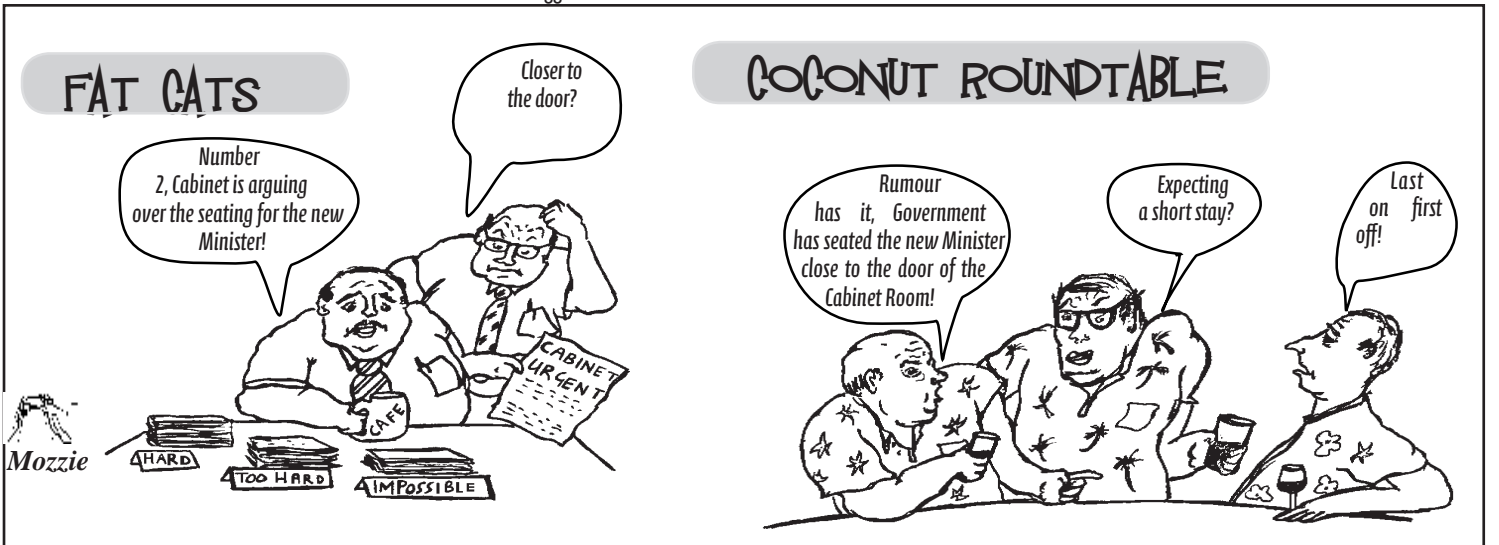
money was apparently transferred to the housing loan without their 'authority.' She and her husband were up-to-date with their loan repayments so why did this happen? Who else out there has issues with their bank during this transition to the BSP? The couple has decided upon return that they will change banks and refinance with BCI.

Here's a mystery for you chooks! Do the boys in blue actually have a water tight case against the Bishop or not? How much longer must the boys go fishing? The whisper is they have no case, no evidence that is more than circumstantial, no witnesses from the Chinese connection, nothing! To confirm the weaknesses in the blue boys poking around, the very head of the Chinese fishing company at the heart of the allegations was in Rarotonga for several days last December. Did Police interview Mr Sam Chou-the multi-Billionaire? No they did not. Why? Because someone of that stature has access to the best legal team in the world and he would sue the pants off them! It is not what Mr Chou would be entitled to by way of dollars if he won the case, but what government would have to give him to make the case go away. Pretty difficult for the PM to kick himself in the goolies. Someone else would have to do that for him.

One good thing about this new proposed upgrade of Aitutaki harbour is that it will make it possible for a 400 passenger fast ferry to tie up alongside the wharf! Bring it on one local developer says!

And the upgrade at Aitutaki harbour is in the hope of attracting some of the 1,000 yachts and luxury launches that visit Tahiti each year to stop over at Aitutaki on their way to Fiji. But chooks, 1,000 boats with maybe 3 to 4 crew on average, that's 3,000-4,000 people! Man, that's a lot of doo dah being excreted on Aitutaki! Where will it all go? Why, into the lagoon of course!

The repetitive harping on about Ben Porny's little excitement in NZ by the



Careers Expo

This year's Careers Expo will be held on Tuesday 21st April, we caught up with Itinerant Career Counsellor of the Ministry of Education, June Hosea who gives us an update on how preparations for the bi-annual are coming along. There are 32-34 booths this year and at this stage, only 23 exhibitors have been registered, Hosea hopes more businesses and organisations get registered to take part in this year's event. There are some newbie's amongst the 23 exhibitors; this year, for the first time, students will have the opportunity to check out the NZ College of Chiropractors, who come to Rarotonga every year. Another first timer but very important sector is the Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Authority, "it is a Government priority area so it'll be good for students to take up careers in that area of science and technology and even mining" says the Itinerant Career Counsellor. The Public Service Commission will also be an exhibitor at this year's event, a first timer to the Expo, but definitely an important field for students to learn more about.

Prior to the Expo, sixty-four students from the Pa Enua will be coming to Rarotonga to carry out one week worth of work experience. The students have already chosen their interested job experiences and Hosea says she has already started processing the requests of the students and emailing them out. The work experience will be during the second week of the school holidays, starting with the Orientation day on the 13th through to the 20th. Students will make it just in time to the expo on the 21st, with careers fresh on their mind. - *T eRiu .W*



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

Cook Islands Jobs

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Jobs of the week

- Barista- Reefsides Rarotonga, Airport.**
- 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.

News Brief *By TeRiu Woonton*

\$17,000 raised for Cyclone Pam victims

The Cook Islands Red Cross Cyclone Pam appeal, held by a radiothon last week Friday saw a total of \$17,000 raised from people in Rarotonga and the Outer Islands. Danny Vakapora of the Red Cross Society says there are still some outstanding pledges and would like to ask all those who haven't yet paid, to please deposit funds this week, into the Cyclone Pam appeal bank account at the Bank of the Cook Islands, account number is 829 25 S21. Alternatively, you can also drop money off to the Red Cross Office in Tupapa. Money is to be divided between Vanuatu, Kiribati and Tuvalu and Red Cross would like to send funds early next week. The Vanuatu government says it has food supplies to last up to three weeks and they are currently being distributed. Residents in some of the outlying islands, particularly the Shepherds, have expressed frustration at slow speed with which relief has been arriving. New Zealand 's Flight Centre says more than two thirds of its clients who were due to travel to Vanuatu in coming weeks are rebooking to other destinations in the Pacific. The international travel company says 30 percent of the 100 travellers who had booked are waiting to see how the recovery effort goes before finalising their bookings. A Flight Centre spokesperson Sue Matson says Fiji and the Cook Islands are most likely to benefit from travellers changing from a holiday in Vanuatu. Ms Matson says in the immediate aftermath, operators and holiday-makers don't want to be an added stress on Vanuatu.

VACANCY

CHEFS

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.

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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The AGM of the Cook Islands Breast Cancer Foundation Inc. will be held on Wednesday 15th April 2015, 5pm, at the Anchorage Restaurant, Sunset Resort, Arorangi. A notice of motion to amend the Constitution can be found on our Cook Islands Breast Cancer Foundation Facebook page, together with the proposed amendments.

Secretary, Kelly Bullivant

VACANCY

Netball Cook Islands is seeking applicants for the Team Manager's position of our national team.

Applications with CV should be forwarded to:

Patsy Hockin

President

Netball Cook Islands

EMAIL pj.hockin@gmail.com

Applications close:4pm, Friday 27th March 2015.

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COOK ISLANDS HERALD**

FOOTBALL UPDATE

UEFA EURO 2016 Qualifiers

Only six weeks after the World Cup in Brazil the 54 European countries which make up UEFA, the equivalent to OFC, commenced its qualifying process for the 2016 European Championship to be hosted by France.

Below is the points table for two groups i.e. Group C and Group E after four rounds of games being played. There are a total of ten games per group on a home and away basis where the top two qualify for the European Championship and the other spots will be decided on play offs.

GROUP C								
Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
Slovakia	4	4	0	0	8	2	6	12
Spain	4	3	0	1	13	3	10	9
Ukraine	4	3	0	1	6	1	5	9
FYR Macedonia	4	1	0	3	4	10	-6	3
Belarus	4	0	1	3	2	9	-7	1
Luxembourg	4	0	1	3	3	11	-8	1

GROUP E								
Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
England	4	4	0	0	11	1	10	12
Slovenia	4	2	0	2	4	4	0	6
Switzerland	4	2	0	2	8	3	5	6
Lithuania	4	2	0	2	3	6	-3	6
Estonia	4	1	1	2	1	2	-1	4
San Marino	4	0	1	3	0	11	-11	1

Origin of Women's Football



While women's football has grown progressively over the past few decades, its roots are far from shallow, with the first official match dating back to 23 March 1895.

Games had, in fact, been played as far back as the early 1880's, but for various reasons were not able to be classified as official fixtures. The meeting between North and South at Crouch End Athletic Ground, London, therefore goes down as the first.

Despite the women's game's fledgling status, the match attracted crowds that would delight many clubs today, with some reports calculating it in excess of 10,000. The Guardian's match report told of many of the curious fans, intrigued by the opportunity to see women apply themselves to a game largely seen as a male pastime at this point, struggling to get an glimpse of the action.

The result ended a whopping 7-1 to the North, who were captained by Nettie Honeyball, founder of the British Ladies Football Club who organized the game. The quality of the game came in for mixed reviews at best, but with the sides only a couple of months old and all largely new to the sport, that was hardly surprising.

This match stands as a significant milestone in a long journey in the timeline of the women's game, which has fought against bans and prejudice to climb to where it is today. When the FIFA Women's World Cup™ is lifted in Canada on 5 July, the action there will be a direct result of this organised meeting in North London.

FIFA President to visit Cooks

The FIFA President Joseph Blatter is rumored to visit one of the smallest FIFA members the tiny Cook Islands.

Information is that he will pay a visit to the Cook Islands just before the finals or even just after the finals of the FIFA U20

Men's World Cup which will be held in New Zealand from 30th May to 20th June 2015.

The Herald has been informed that Sepp, his most common name in Europe would not confirm his visit to the Cook Islands until after the FIFA

Presidential election which is scheduled to take place in Zurich during the occasion of the FIFA Congress on 29 May 2015.

Sepp Blatter is no doubt the most powerful man in football and is regarded by many as the most powerful man in sports.

