

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

1 April 2015 \$2 (incl VAT)

DEVOLO LIVE THIS SATURDAY



REHAB
TICKETS FROM REHAB, REEFIDE AND 88FM
DOORS OPEN 9PM, SHOW STARTS AT 10PM
BOOK A SEAT ON THE REHAB PARTY BUS 29700

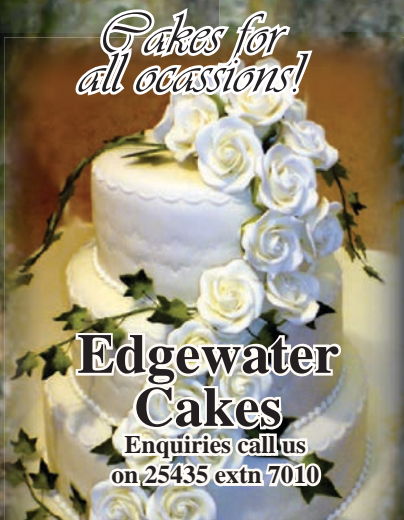
Goldmine model, Vanessa Marie wearing a beautiful pearl pendant, ring, and earrings from Goldmine



CIPS
IMAGE & COPY CENTRE
DIGITAL PHOTO PRINTS STANDARD TO SUPER BIG
Printed on Photopaper or Canvas
ONLY **35c**
100 Plus Prints
Well also sell digital cameras, printers, cellphones, car audio and much more..
FUJIFILM OKI Canon
Come in and see the photo specialists today
Located Opposite Cooks Corner
PH: 26 238 FX: 21 238 Email: fuji@cookprint.com



Cakes for all occasions!



Edgewater Cakes
Enquiries callus on 25435 extn 7010

Sunset BarBQs at the Shipwreck Hut

- Saturday Seafood menu with Jake Numanga on the Ukulele 6pm
- Tuesday Sunset BBQ with Garth Young on Piano 6pm
- Thursday Sunset Cocktails with Rudy Aquino 5.30pm-7.30pm

Reservations required **22 166**
Aroa Beachside Inn, Betela
Great Food, Great Entertainment



GOLDMINE
Cook Islands Top Jewellery & Gift Store

Always the best selection, best price & best service at Goldmine!

POWERBALL RESULTS
Drawn: 26/3/15 Draw num: 984

1 10 15 19 25 35 18

TATT SOTTO RESULTS
Drawn: 28/3/15 Draw num: 3515

13 16 17 18 25 29 SUPP: 26 27

OZLOTTO RESULTS
Drawn: 31/3/15 Draw num: 1102 Next draw:

3 4 16 17 29 32 44 SUPP: 33 34

\$4 MILLION ESTIMATED

\$25 MILLION

COMPUTER MAN
Sales Parts & Service
Located between CITY and the Bowling Club - Phone 24979

AFFORDABLE ANDROID TABLET

1.6GHz CPU - 512MB - 7" 800x480 5 Point Capacitive Screen
WiFi - 4GB Memory - Android 4.2 - Micro SD Card Slot
Front & Rear Cameras - Includes FREE cover & screen protector

Save \$50 WAS **\$249**
NOW \$199

Fits up to a 32GB Micro SD card



Bishop's last ditch bombshell fails to explode

In a desperate attempt to throw a spanner in the works to derail any advantage the Cook Islands Party candidate Mona Ioane had prior to the Vaipae/Tautu by-election, One Cook Islands Movement leader Teina Bishop hatched a manipulative plan that failed.

After speaking to CIP Member of Parliament Rose Brown last Thursday and Saturday, Bishop contacted a CI News reporter to break an exclusive bombshell on the Monday the day before the Tuesday 31 March by election.

Bishop's bomb shell was that a disgruntled Rose Brown had joined the OCI but would still remain a CIP member like himself. It was Bishop's second attempt to get Brown to sign on the dotted line. In October last year Bishop had hoodwinked his friend the Democratic Party Leader Wilkie Rasmussen and the Demo MPs and Executive he had the signatures of four CIP MPs simply by waving a handful of papers around in a coalition meeting. Bishop had four names but the signature of only one, Amuri's MP Toa Isamaela.

After their unscheduled meeting with Tom Marsters at his private residence in Arorangi, Bishop and Rasmussen returned to a waiting crowd at the Office of the Leader of the Opposition and announced they would be the government. Eddie Drollet sent a series of texts out updating those not at the Opposition office.

The last one that sparked euphoria of excitement and spontaneous outbreak of celebration said: *Message from Wilkie on their visit to the QR. Good News – QR accepts numbers and majority has shifted. But is seeking advice from Crown. Will advise Henry & Cabinet to resign if want 3 months pay.*

The party at headquarters was cathartic but while the amber fluid in abundance and

the gathering rapidly grew in number, Bishop began scurrying around desperately trying to get signatures by the names he claimed were with him. All attempts failed including Isamaela who withdrew his signature.

Once it was public knowledge Rose Brown's husband Taoro was unhappy about the circumstances that saw him fail to win the Atiu by election for Island Mayor, Bishop was quick to lend a sympathetic ear and just as quick to offer the daily a juicy block buster headline for their front page. The leader of the opposition William Heather and Ngatangia MP Captain Tama also were quick to meet with the Browns and dangle a baited hook with an offer of an open door.

The mayoralty issues Taoro has raised with the CIP in a meeting with a small delegation led by the Deputy PM Heather are under consideration and being processed said a Party Executive.

Thinking they had a news scoop for their front page on Monday the CI News



Atiu MP Rose Brown

asked the CI News to keep his announcement quiet till the Monday morning.

On Saturday morning the market gossip was gathering momentum buzzing with the rumour MP Rose Brown was

of OCI campaigning had driven Bishop to try and manipulate the media with a 'shock and awe' story. The tactic was designed to de-stabilise the by-election and influence voters.

The Browns refused to respond to any media questions or give any interviews, by Sunday afternoon the CI News who had been giving Bishop favourable front page media releases had realised they had been played and discarded any thoughts of pandering to Bishop's fabrications. Under scrutiny Bishop's distorted version of reality simply didn't stack up.

With egg on his face after boasting in meetings RAPPA's Albert Nicholas wasn't moving because he in close contact with Albert advising him and that he had influence over him, Bishop had to save face and recoup dwindling credibility by coming up with a new dynamic to restore confidence in him.

This time his secret bomb shell *continued next page*

On Saturday morning the market gossip was gathering momentum buzzing with the rumour MP Rose Brown was going to move her political allegiance with the support of her Atiu committee.

were busy Sunday morning canvassing for responses from the Prime Minister's Office and a confirmation from Rose Brown. Bishop had specifically

going to move her political allegiance with the support of her Atiu committee.

Henry Puna's special advisor Trev Pitt said the poor impact

Tender for Atiu crushing plant raises concerns

By Charles Pitt

A New Zealand company, Materials Management and Supplies NZ Ltd, (Auckland based), which designs and manufactures crushing plant and which has supplied crushers to our government in the past, has written to our Minister for Infrastructure expressing concern after failing to secure a tender to supply a crusher for the island of Atiu.

According to Manager Victor Kapoor, in an email to the Herald, his company has decided to go public and not because of sour grapes at missing out but because its tender was considerably lower and their past history should have counted for something.

Another NZ company, Auckland based Sanland Equipment won the tender with a bid \$61,000 higher. Kapoor is yet to receive a reply from our government and the Herald will be following this issue up.

Kapoor explains his company's views below;

"We have just been informed that our tender for Atiu crushing plant has been declined, we have

no problem in that if our tender has been declined on merit basis considering the fact that we supplied a similar crusher for Aitutaki tender 2 years back and the crusher is working perfect.

We have certain issues on the procurement of this tender as we genuinely feel that the Cook Islands tax payer and specially Atiu island is not getting a fair deal.

Our company Materials Management and supplies NZ Ltd, designs and manufactures crushing plant under the brand Tasman. In 2009 we supplied a crushing plant to Cook Islands Government for Aitutaki and in 2013-2014 we supplied another crushing and screening plant through Government tender to Cook Island Government.

Last month for Atiu Island another tender was floated based on exactly the same specifications as Aitutaki plant with few minor changes. All specifications etc were based on our design, First it was closed tender for which we applied and then it was again advertised as open tender.

The closing date for this tender

failed to explode and once again Bishop is seriously embarrassed by his presumptuous wishful propaganda. Politically, Bishop is a spent force who no longer commands the influence he once wielded as a Minister of the Crown. Desperate to recapture his former glory Bishop momentarily abandoned the Demos and despite doing a big grease to rejoin the CIP with a set of outlandish demands, every one of them including Bishop was declined.

The Vaitau CIP have given Henry Puna the clear message they don't want Bishop back in the fold. His latest cloak and dagger, me to know and you to find out plotting has fatigued those around him to the point he's fulfilling the single digit of his Movement.

The only bomb shell that exploded was the one Bishop personally encountered when after much anticipation the Rose Brown move to OCI failed to be inked by the CI News. Instead their "Dear John" reciprocity of embarrassment for Bishop's backfired attempts to mislead them was a regurgitated

headline story about the ongoing Police investigation regarding the compliant of corruption against him, definitely not the publicity OCI candidate Amiria Davey needed the day before the Vaipae/Tautu by-election.

While Bishop elastically talks up strategic manoeuvres and tactical executions, after the 17 years he's been a parliamentarian he has demonstrated he has acquired neither political skill, Bishop's best efforts to realise his political dream of being the Prime Minister have been amateurish and a roller coaster of bumbles that have embarrassed those who were drawn into his web of self nourishment.

The overly secretive Bishop has been out thought and negated at every execution attempt rendering him incapable of pulling political rabbits out of his box of illusions.

The very fact the smothering Bishop presumed he could speak for the Browns amplifies the heightened degree of his desperation to win regardless of the destructive impact it has on others, hang your head in shame Bishop.
- George Pitt

was extended at the very last minute of the closing date. In fact we received a mail on Sunday stating that tender date has been extended by another week, Monday was the last date for submitting the tender, i think 16th February Cook Island time.

I wrote to secretary to let us know which company was awarded the tender we were informed tender was awarded to Sanland Equipment based in Auckland. We were surprised as during Aitutaki tender, they must have had applied but were unsuccessful and more over the company is one person business with 3 skeleton staff and we can never see how they can build the similar plant based on our drawings.

Here you must be wondering that since we did not get the tender, we are making all these excuses. Yes of course, we were upset and we thought may be our price was high compared to Sanland.

So this morning I wrote to the

Minister to review this tender as it will be more practical to maintain same supplier from New Zealand so that parts and other accessories remains the same as of Aitutaki plant for better maintenance and parts supply. I even mentioned that if selection criteria was the price, please let us know and we will look in to that.

To my utmost surprise, after seeing the Procurement website of the Cook Islands just now, I found that Tender was awarded to Sanland for tender value NZ\$498,000.00. \$61,000.00 more than submitted by us, our tender was for \$437,000.00. There is something, not right at all. It is lot of money and I see no logic at all in this."

Comments:

Decisions and comments by the Tender Committee are usually confidential in view of commercial sensitivities so it is unlikely government will provide a detailed response in any case. Unless of course someone "leaks" the details to the media.



SWITCH ON WITH
TE APONGA UIRA

One month to go...



Tomorrow is the beginning of April, the last month of the cyclone season.

While the people of Vanuatu get on with the task of rebuilding their lives in the wake of super cyclone Pam, we understand that in the future it could also be our experience.

So take care. Maintain a lookout. And keep an emergency kit handy: torches, portable battery radio, water containers, tinned foods, can opener, and first aid supplies.

If we do get a cyclone you'll need it.

www.teaponga.com

Drollet's Conference dirty tricks condemned

Norman George leads the call for new faces and new vision

Founding member of the Democratic Party Norman George has called for the end of conflicts of interests in the administration of the looming Democratic Party conference by the General Secretary Eddie Drollet and the President Sean Willis.

Perceptions the pair were making rules to suit their personal agendas runs deep among the members who have grown tiresome and intolerant of control freak Drollet's manipulative modus operandi. Three years ago when the last Demo conference was held Drollet and Willis' blatant disregard for fair hearings set in place a deep resentment that was suppressed till now.

Norman George has courageously prised open the Demos' shackled Pandora's Box and what they've all known but have kept a lid on is being pierced by the light. The dirty little suppressed secrets of the few who have controlled and unashamedly manipulated processes and people with lies, misleading information, concealment, secrecy, intimidation and fear tactics are being exposed.

How true it is one bad apple turns the whole box rotten, the Democratic Party needs to thank Norman George for daring to openly challenge the rotten apples within the Demo corridors

of power. There is no other word but rotten, this conference will attempt to eradicate the rotten core of manipulators otherwise suffer the consequence of a mass desertion of members and supporters.

A conference has been avoided at all costs to protect a few power greedy

with the Cook Islands Party government about defecting.

Right now visionless officials are clamouring for positions, used by date office bearers are doing everything they can to cling on to their self serving positions. After consecutive election losses many are

time constraining limiting time for debating crucial issues anchoring the Party. "All conference procedures leave little room for the tangata rikiriki to play a role," said George, "in the old days nominations for office bearers including the leader were taken from the floor as well as remits. Now everything has to be in writing with time limits."

Both Willis and Drollet should step aside from being the recipients and scrutinisers of nominations for delegates and office bearers seeing both are seeking to be re elected claim members. "If that is not an obvious conflict of interest what is?" asked a long time supporter.

The rule sent out by Drollet that is infuriating members is "The President (Willis) has the sole and final right to decide who the delegates are to represent their electorates." This has been questioned as it removes the autonomy of each Puna committee. "Where has our democratic values disappeared to or are we under a dictatorship?"

George also raises the validity of all nominations being required by April 13 days prior to the conference; he calls it "a form of censorship designed to allow the same executive group to do their manoeuvrings and manipulations before the

"All conference procedures leave little room for the tangata rikiriki to play a role," said George, "in the old days nominations for office bearers including the leader were taken from the floor as well as remits. Now everything has to be in writing with time limits."

officials and politicians; this coming conference is forced and will become the means to put a new broom through the Party. There are serious malfunctions stifling the Party's rejuvenation and progress, bogged down with unprecedented debt of \$200,000 and disillusionment with the dysfunctional leadership membership is falling off. MPs have and are in talks

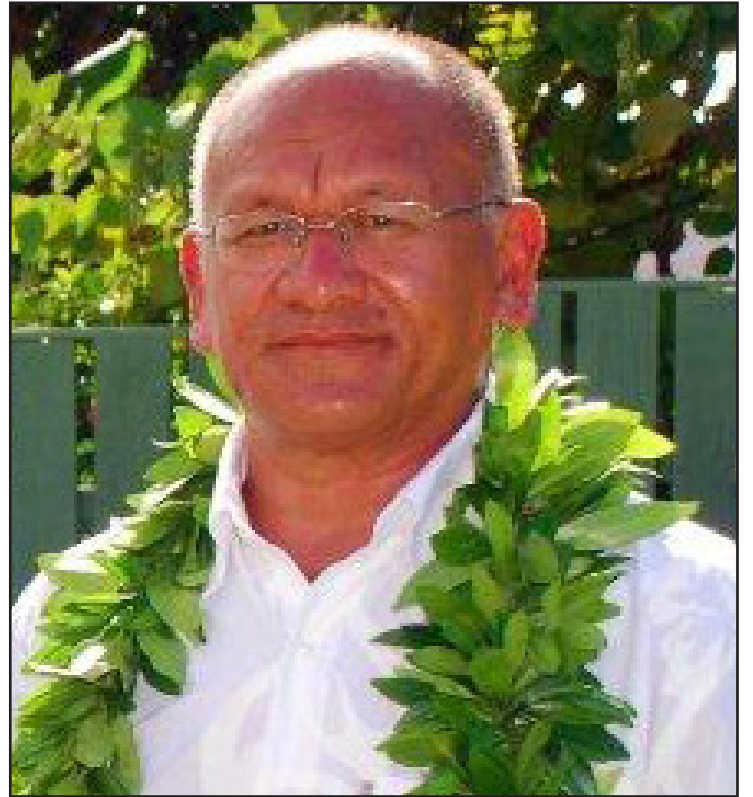
calling for those responsible to become accountable, to this date no evaluation, post mortems or soul searching has been conducted about the election failure. As predicted the self praising Drollet would be the catalyst for an Election defeat but neither he nor Willis have shouldered any blame.

Norman George claims a one day conference after three years is ridiculous and

continued next page



Sean Willis



Eddie Drollet

conference.”

George urges the delegates to get the Party back on track by returning to their core values with old fashion trust and loyalty. “The Party needs new faces and massive changes and reviews from Leadership to the Executives.”

While not naming him, George takes a swipe at the \$1,134 a week Drollet saying, “today there are people on the executive who are only interested in their jobs in the Opposition office forever so long as they make a living from it, who cares if the Demos don’t ever win.”

Drollet and Willis may have got away with their shenanigans in the past but not anymore, discerning Demos have waited three long years to correct the wrong doing and the personal ownership attitudes the likes of Drollet blatantly practise.

“The audacity Drollet has expecting to continue as the Secretary and paid Opposition CEO after losing the plot is beyond intelligent

comprehension, he certainly won’t be missed when he’s tufted out.”

“The question, what does Drollet bring to the table to warrant being the secretary and paid CEO has to be put to him, the same can be said for everyone who aspires to leadership or office in the Democratic Party.”

Drollet’s insistence Willis adds value is misleading, yes Willis boasts Drollet, he gives free seats on Air Rarotonga to none other than himself to do his personal business in Aitu and Aitutaki and yes Willis gives free delivery of parcels to the outer Islands namely those belonging to Drollet. Other than pandering to Drollet’s personal greeds what does Willis put on the table?

Dare we state the obvious, Drollet and his lot are a miserable, misfiring band of miscreants with all the long-term success prospects of an X Factor hopeful. They’re fast becoming a lost cause, a sinking ship, the plaque on the enamel of former

glory. They are bereft of ideas, shorn of imagination, a joke without a punch line.

The CIP will be sad to see their secret weapon lose his positions as he has been of more help indirectly

to them than directly helpful to the Demo cause. Drollet’s legacy is he virtually masterminded the Demos defeat in the snap election then drove the Party deep into debt. - George Pitt



Founding Demo Member Norman George

Our Frontpage model **Boxing on the comeback trail**



Our front-page model for Herald issue 760 is Vanessa Maree, who is 23 years old and lives in Christchurch. She was in Rarotonga on a 1 week holiday. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald



By Charles Pitt

The return of boxers to the competition ring is just around the corner.

Boxing fans will be pleased to hear that thanks to the efforts of a few diehards, the sport of boxing is on the comeback trail after a period in the doldrums.

The long hold up to competitive boxing has been due to organizational changes required by boxing's international body, AIBA, based in Switzerland. Worldwide, all national associations affiliated to AIBA have had to absorb changes to their constitutions and rules. And for the first time, national boxing associations will become responsible for both amateur and professional boxing.

It has taken local boxing quite a while to work through the 64 pages of changes the International Boxing Association has demanded that all its affiliates around the world make to their Constitutions and organisations.

Thanks to the help of some dedicated local lawyers, this work is coming to a close and a new Constitution incorporating

the mass of rule changes has almost been completed, boxing is poised to register a new Incorporated Society and hold an AGM to elect office bearers.

Planning has already begun for a "Celebrity Fight Night" where well known VIPs and Celebs will pit their pugilistic skills against one another. There will also be some serious boxing by boxers from some of the local clubs.

The event will raise much needed funds to support the sport's growth.

For local boxers who have been in training for months the prospect of a tournament will be welcome news. Their dedication to the sport deserves recognition.

A small, steering committee of local boxing enthusiasts and supporters has been meeting and planning boxing's return to regular competition, this year, 2015 being a milestone in the sport's history as it is the centenary of boxing in the Cook Islands.

So boxing fans, further developments will be announced in the near future, watch this space.



TRIAD

TUTAKIMO A PETROL STATION AND MINIMARKET

Samoa Crunch Taro Chips 150g



\$3.70 each

Samoa Crunch Taro BBQ 150g and Chives 184g



\$3.70 each

Lays Sour Cream and Chives 184g



\$5.50 each

Ruffles Original Cut 184g



\$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 750 ml



\$1.90 per btl

Shasta Orange, Cola, Lemon 355ml



\$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

Abolish income tax-just do it

By Charles Pitt

With a shrinking population and a shrinking number of people in employment paying income tax, an economy becoming depressed because of a lack of any significant growth, government must pay urgent attention to stimulating the economy and putting more cash into circulation.

What plausible reason can a government have for continuing to pursue income tax when the amount collected (\$26m) is able to be raised by other means which do not increase pressure on the working populace?

It is a fact government is facing deficits in out years due to an increase in operational spending. MFEM predicts this in its Financial Updates.

Simply devising new taxes

to impose upon the public is hardly showing initiative or innovativeness. It simply imposes a further burden upon people already stressed.

It is a fact government revenue appears to be slowing as the latest tactic by Te Aponga reveals. A staff member is accompanying meter readers to service notices on households behind in their payments.

Rising costs and high bank interest rates will increasingly put additional pressure on the working populace to make ends meet. People will be forced to become innovative at a time when government itself needs to be innovative.

Abolishing income tax would give workers especially the lowly paid public servants in essential sectors like police, teaching and nursing, a much needed pay

increase.

Bold new initiatives are required and government must give serious consideration to abolishing income tax. This would immediately put more money into people's pockets and in turn increase spending and savings.

Government collects some \$25 million-\$26 million through income tax and must consider how this can be collected by other means and avenues without adding extra pressures through increasing consumption taxes like VAT.

Government should direct MFEM staff to put on their "thinking" caps, start brainstorming and come up with ways to raise the \$26m.

Here are some radical, out of the box suggestions.

1.Cancel the \$12m subsidy set

aside for Air NZ. Raise departure tax by another \$100. With 120,000 plus people visiting us each year, this would bring in an extra \$12m. That's \$24m. Do away with government vehicles. That will save money. Increased spending will bring in more through VAT to make up the balance up to \$26m.

And/or;

2.increase the tuna fishing licensing fee for foreign vessels from \$60,000 to \$500,000. If 60 licenses were issued, this would bring in \$30m. Fishing companies can easily recover this fee when you consider the landed value of tuna from our waters exceeded \$85m only a few years ago. The rise in fees could be partially offset through offering cheaper fuel, waiving VAT, Waiving port charges, providing cheap ice and bait fish and other incentives.

Increasing benefits for the Pacific Islands from Tuna fisheries

New report highlights value creation options for Pacific Island countries and territories in their most valuable shared resource – tuna.

Auckland, New Zealand (Friday 19 March 2015)– A new report was released yesterday which identifies ways for Pacific Island nations to improve the benefits they obtain from tuna fisheries.

'Tuna is the Pacific's most valuable shared resource, with a first-hand value of approximately \$3.4 billion USD in 2013. Despite recent increases in access fees, island countries in the Western Central Pacific only around 10% of the catch is landed for processing in the region, with the other 90% supporting processing jobs overseas. We want to see the benefits of this resource to the people of the Pacific increase,' said James Movick, Director General of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency today.

In the report titled, 'Value creation opportunities for Western and Central Pacific Ocean island nations in the tuna industry', various options are identified that factor in sustainable tuna management and maximum economic benefits for the Pacific. The report is part of a yearlong analysis of tuna fisheries in the region with the aim of supporting actions that both increase the sustainability of tuna fisheries and benefits to Pacific Island states from these resources.

Jonathan Peacey, Senior Director Fisheries of Conservation International (CI) who produced the report said, 'CI used international resource extraction case studies and insights from interviews with 25 key industry players along the tuna value chain to identify and evaluate

options to increase benefits to Pacific Island countries. Ten value creation models were identified – all with support from companies in the tuna value chain. Models were analyzed in terms of value creation potential, feasibility, and investment requirements; 3 models were identified as the best options.'

On its use Peacey noted, 'It's our hope that this report will assist Pacific Island countries and territories to assess which options to pursue to increase their benefits from their tuna resources.'

Pacific Economic Ambassador, His Excellency Shane Jones said, 'the tuna industry is at a crossroads. Pacific Island nations and territories face major decisions on the future of their tuna fisheries, and these decisions will have long lasting effects

on national and regional economies. This report provides valuable information to help them make those decisions.'

The report was released at yesterday's inaugural Pacific Futures Seminar, an event hosted by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with the University of Auckland, Forum Fisheries Agency, and NGO Conservation International. The event was hosted by H.E. Shane Jones and was themed around 'maximising the benefit of tuna fisheries for the Pacific' and featured Movick, and Peacey as keynote speakers.

'Value creation opportunities for Western and Central Pacific Ocean island nations in the tuna industry' is available for download here: goo.gl/RxtsD2

By- Election Results do not Dampen OCI Spirit!

Preliminary result by-election Vaitau Tuesday 31 March 2015: Moana Ioane CIP 162, Amiria Davey OCI 92, Teinakore Ioane Demos 86

By George Turia

The excitement of by-election day is now over and for the people of Vaipae Tautu, relief that a winner has been decided and everyone can now get on with their lives again. Congratulations go to all 3 candidates and especially to Mona Ioane from the CIP whose win has catapulted CIP to the front and a step closer to governing outright.

The question is however, who really was victorious on the day? For OCI, Amiria Davey has shown that even in defeat, you can still hold your head high and recognize that winning is not always about politics but about people and that has clearly been the winner on the day. The spirit of the people who stood by and supported her throughout 4 weeks and 3 days of campaigning since she announced her candidacy, her family, her friends, and those who know her with her experience, achievements and capabilities, speaks for itself.

Irrespective of the outcome, it was wonderful to watch the spirit of togetherness throughout

campaign day and the after function celebrations. Many will speculate that it was a loss for OCI but on the contrary, it was a loss for CIP and the DEMOS because she managed to pull away 92 votes from both parties in her quest to succeed finishing second overall. Even more astonishing is that she only had 4 weeks and 3 days to prepare and that has to be a record in itself by comparison to the other 2 political parties who had the time to plan, prepare and campaign.

For OCI, there is cause for celebration and that is exactly what happened following the by-election. Losing did not dampen OCI supporters spirits. On the contrary, they were more encouraged to go back out and win. Although the results do not reflect the spirit of the by-election outcome, it has shown the unity and peaceful manner that was inherent throughout the campaign period. It also confirms people are not ready for change however the support for Amiria was simply amazing and we can only see OCI grow from strength to strength in future as it sets its sights for 2018 and the

next general elections providing one is not called before then.

If there is anything to reminisce over, its knowing that the DEMOS were really the losers on the night because they did not heed the advice of considering Amiria as their candidate opting instead to continue to stand their own candidate as a last resort instead of supporting what would have been a clear win for Amiria had she stood for the DEMOS. The split vote outcome was in fact a ploy by the PM during his visit to Aitutaki recently to ensure OCI do not succeed and unfortunately, his anti Bishop approach will probably come back to haunt him soon.

Even with this result, the political uncertainty continues as the PM will once again be placed under the spotlight to deliver on his campaign promises to the people of Aitutaki that should Mona win, he will be offered a Cabinet position. Indeed an interesting scenario as CIP has really run out of options and there is nothing left to offer unless a current Minister is prepared to step down and hand over their ministerial responsibilities to

accommodate Mona. An unlikely scenario no doubt. The question is what will Mona do then?

The pending Police investigation is also another matter. If Mona is found that he has breached the provisions of the legislation, will he resign, will there be another by-election or will the PM consider a return to the polls? Whatever decision CIP makes over the next few days, the country as a whole will be watching with interest to witness what has been an infamous litany of lies and poor decisionmaking on the part of both political party leaders.

Win or lose, OCI is in celebration mode for now and will be stepping back to reassess the political situation and where to from here. As for Amiria, there is renewed determination and a willingness to carry on with the battle on behalf of OCI in Vaipae Tautu. These have been challenging times for her and her family and the introduction into the political foray of campaigning is not just an eye opener but an opportunity and incentive to carry on in order to serve her people and her country.

The chooks that almost got away

You read it here first, expect the CIP ranks to be boosted by some more Demo defections before their Party conference. Now that the Vaitau seat is in the bag Elvis can look further afield to new conquests. That's what happens when dumboes in the Demo camp wait and see instead of being proactive. What do you expect with hello Drolley too busy counting his weekly \$1134 a week pay packet he doesn't know what's going on outside the four walls of the Opposition office?

Despite the four trips hello Drolley made to Aitutaki to flash his face about and meddle in the Vaitau Demo campaign they still lost and came an embarrassing last. When are the Demos going to learn everywhere hello Drolley pokes his nose he injects defeat and embarrassment. It's about time the supporters woke up and banned him from any position in the Party. It's time for good bye Drolley.

Did his workers hear him right? Bulldozer call me DPM Heta is getting cocky and super confident. He can't deny it but in a brain enlargement light bulb moment of grandioso he gathered his troops

and announced that by the end of the year he would be Prime Minister. To think his announcement would stay in the T&M Heather Ltd yard is bizarre. Norm couldn't do it in 30 years, Bishop has failed after 17 years and as the rooster crows Heta will wake up from his twilight zone dream and find he's no longer sitting at the Cabinet table. With no more arrows left in his quiver he'll be looking at a lot of backs.

Motel owner reports tourist placing a damp facecloth over a cat's tummy to help it cool down in this hot weather. Cat was stretched out on its back asleep on a bed when concerned tourist thought, "Heat stroke!" Same tourist later seen bringing stray animals back to the motel! And feeding them using the motel's best crockery!

Concerned citizen moans that the ESC has been picking up stray dogs, neutering them but then placing them back on the streets! Citizen asks what is the point of putting homeless mutts back out to scavenge for food, grow flea colonies and possibly harass tourists? What say ye, Politz Mutt Controller?

My Singapore vision for the Cook Islands

By Norman George

When I first entered Parliament in 1983, after a life of being land based as a Policeman on the beat to non commissioned rank, my only travels were around the north island of New Zealand. Political life paved the way for me to travel almost immediately to the United States, London and importantly the City State of Singapore.

What an eye opener Singapore was from the magnificent Changi Airport with hundreds of passenger jets arriving and leaving to the super clean streets of the City area. High rise buildings, beautifully grown roadside plants, flowers and gardens followed wherever the roads went.

The shipping lanes were dotted with all kinds of ships, different shapes and sizes, waiting to off load cargo. At any one time you would be looking at, least 100 ships anchored.

The bustling active life of a country racing to develop, make money, sprinting away to wealth and prosperity drew awe inspiring breaths from me. I saw what was happening in Singapore as the role model we should develop in the Cook Islands.

Let's look at the miracle of Singapore. Last week, Singapore bid farewell to their founder and miracle maker Lee Kuan Yew. What an incredible man! He spoke with eloquence, in Cambridge English, fine tuned lawyers language, uncanny accuracy, passionate intensity, wrapped up in political and economic dogma, to galvanize and mesmerize listeners. He held captive audiences, with his sometimes brutal straight talk, take no prisoners approach. "Hear me, follow me, do as I say or get out of the way!" is how I sum up his approach.

Lee believed that Ministers should be well paid in order to maintain clean and honest



Lee Kuan Yew

government. In 1994 he proposed to link the salaries of Ministers, judges and top civil servants to the salaries of top professionals in the private sector, arguing that this would help recruit and retain talent to serve in the public sector.

Lee was anti corruption. He lived a frugal and Spartan life style. He was not short of faults. He had opposition M.P.s jailed. He sued journalists for alleged libel. He introduced one child polices for Singaporeans until Singapore started to depopulate. Now it is relaxed. In 1983, Lee sparked the "great marriage debate" he encouraged Singapore men to marry highly educated women as wives. He also expressed concern about the large number of graduate women who were unmarried.

Lee's achievements had a profound effect on the Chinese economy. The most captivated Chinese Leader was Deng Xiaoping the founder of the great Chinese economic miracle. Deng followed Lee's policies of rapid economic growth, entrepreneurship, subtle suppression of dissent and anti corruption.

How could we have emulated

Singapore? Not by the letter of their achievements but by the spirit, the smartness, the will power to succeed, the discipline, sacrifice, unity and resilience to keep going.

Of course we could never accept totalitarianism, imprisoning opponents and introducing draconian rules.

As Cook Islands what is our single most punitive and damaging fault? Jealousy, envy, tall poppy cray fish (koura) syndrome, the bottom crayfish pulling down the top ones, to prevent the top ones escaping to freedom and prosperity.

Are our islands too small for us to have a common interest? Surely the smaller the better, to unite us. The worst examples I know are the politicians. The jealousy they take with them into cabinet is amazing.

I will highlight a number of examples I faced personally, with all my business ventures destroyed by jealous politicians.

Avaiki Air, Tapi Taio and I managed to place a deposit on two Banderante Aircrafts in Sydney, Australia. We bought it from Eastern Airlines which was ending its airlines domestic business and merging with one

of the big airlines.

We wanted to prevent an Air Raro monopoly when Air New Zealand moved out of our domestic air services under the name of Cook Islands Airways.

We needed \$300,000 from the then Cook Islands Development Bank. Geoffrey Henry was the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. We begged him to help us finance the purchase. He turned his back on us and refused to finance the deal and so Avaiki Air failed. I was the target of Geoff's vendetta. If only Geoffrey Henry possessed a little of Lee Kuan Yew's ideals.

The CIP government let many Avaiki Air shareholders down, may were CIP. Their leader betrayed them and the people of the Cook Islands. If we were given the loan, our Banderantes will still be flying today with cheaper airfares.

No one came to our rescue. Our people sometimes enjoy watching failure better then success. Look at the rip off Air Rarotonga, is imposing on our people. It is now cheaper to fly to New Zealand than to the outer islands. Our people had a chance with Avaiki Air but
Continued bottom of next page

UN study award for Cook Islander

As the Cook Islands continues with the necessary background work and drafting to establish a robust SBM Regulatory Framework (Laws, Regulations and rules) under the SBM Act 2009, some excellent local Seabed minerals related news has been received from the United Nations in New York.

This week Ms Alexandrya Herman, a young Cook Islands lawyer in the SBM Authority commences an Ocean training legal Study Award from the United Nations, in New York City, USA.

This UN Award is highly prized, fully funded 9 month study Fellowship under the guidance of the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) in NYC for 3 months. Then the final 6 months of study she will be writing her legal thesis in the University of Queensland, being a high level University, specializing in Ocean Affairs.

Alex has chosen to study the international legal issues relating to the new Seabed Minerals sector. This study topic is of

particular interest to the Cook Islands and Alex's particular legal area of specialization of Seabed Minerals. This training and study will assist her current Legal Counsel's Position in the SBM Authority, her career and her area of specialist interest.

The Cook Islands are now the 3rd Pacific Islands nation to have been granted this Ocean training Award, along with Fiji and Kiribati. This study Award is part of the United Nations – The Nippon Foundation of Japan Fellowship Programme, and is difficult to obtain and internationally recognised.

Ms. Herman will continue working with the Cook Islands SBM Authority during the Fellowship and return after the study is completed.

The regional EU-SPC Deep Sea Minerals project has generously agreed to a SBM Authority request to provide fully funded, additional, temporary legal assistance to the Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Authority during Alex's absence from the Cook Islands. -Paul Lynch
Commissioner SBMA



Alex Herman

no one came forward to help me. Again, the tall poppy Koura mentality succeeded. But look who gets punished today with crippling airfares, our very own iti tangata not Uncle Norm. This is one example how cruelty to each other has long lasting consequences for the whole nation. Think about it.

My second example is my other business, Raro Hirepool. We employed 45 workers making concrete blocks, building houses, repairing houses, hiring chairs and doing electrical repairs. We expanded into making aluminium windows and doors and supplying building materials.

During that period the CIP Government introduced a new Government Housing Division. Geoffrey Henry was P.M. Ben Toma was Minister of Housing.

On top of the Government Housing agenda policy was that no construction work be given to Hirepool and no building materials be purchased from them. We had \$500,000 worth of stock we could not sell. Down we go. It was again based on jealousy, tall poppy and Koura

mentality.

Of course my detractors like Kata Cartoonist, Tim Buchanan celebrated with cartoons of my various failures. Little does he realise he was epitomising the very core of our failure as a nation, the tall poppy Koura mentality!

People actually celebrate failures in our little country. They go into cold silence if someone succeeds, you will never hear a word. The opposite of "only in America."

Lets have a vision for the future based on the success of Singapore! – lets call it the "Cook Islands Singapore Vision".

1. Lets reverse what we have been doing in the past, create a national day of appreciation, a nation building day, thinking, bringing us closer, a day of patriotism, Maori locals, papa'a locals, Asian locals, Pacifica locals, on that one day you are no one else but a Kuki Airani.

2. Concentrate on good education.

3. Send some students to study at the Lee Kuan Yew University of Public Policy.

4. Overcome our crippling

energy problems by quickly changing to solar and wind power – we must scale down on fossil fuel dependency.

5. Move into big developments – construct a major hospital with facilities to rent for specialised surgeries, heart plastic – maybe transplants, create the infrastructure, and then rent it to the professionals.

6. Create specialised recreational accommodation for patient's recovery from major surgeries.

7. Diversify accommodation facilities in the outer islands, to include the northern group.

8. Introduce border free entry of long staying visitors with tested means of support to stay for 6 months, a year or more.

9. Utilize our ocean minerals and fishing resources – follow the Singapore line, exploit what little we have to the maximum, all gain, no pain.

10. Develop our own agricultural resources, taro in Atiu, Mangaia and Nga-pu-toru.

11. Continue to sustain the black pearl industry in the

Northern Group but and the Chinese technology of colouring our pearls to multi colours – is black and grey not a little boring?

12. Surely there are other industries that can be added to the Singapore like list – I may be just touching the surface.

This article is intended to be thought: provoking, the slightest reaction or response, whether for or against is all I am aiming for.

Other changes need to be considered, such as practical political reform, reform of the judicial system, step outside domination by New Zealand Judges (vestiges of colonial control and interference).

Law reform is also needed. Maybe a little stiff measure here and there like Lee Kuan Lee's Singapore? Leave that to you and the future.

I will conclude this article with a quote from Winston Churchill on the qualities of a successful politician – "A good politician must have the ability to foretell the future and the ability afterwards to explain why it didn't happen!"

Ka Kite!

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop visits Cook Islands



By Noeline Browne

Minister Julie Bishop seemed delighted to be the first ever Australian Foreign Minister to visit the Cook Islands, and added that it won't be the last.

This was at the media conference held in the Cabinet Room on Tuesday afternoon directly after the Prime Minister and Ministers had held discussions with the Australian Foreign Minister.

The Minister said the visit was as a good neighbour and close friend to the Cook Islands. She also acknowledged that this is an important milestone for our country with our 50 year celebrations of self-government this year.

There were many important announcements to make in relation to labour mobility,

maritime security and trade and investment under Pacer Plus which advocates free trade.

Issues raised in the media conference related to Climate Change and Fisheries and Australia's position on these matters. Julie Bishop said that Australia was taking a 'very proactive approach' to Climate Change and has taken significant steps to help business and industry to reduce emissions and that would contribute to reducing carbon.

Australia has contributed A\$200 million to the Green Climate Fund for Climate Change and asked that those funds be focused on our region.

This is part of Australia's commitment to the region by funding suitable projects aimed at adaptation to climate change or to increase

the resilience of Pacific communities to climate change. Australia is getting ready for the Paris Conference of the Parties (COP) on climate change at the end of the year.

The Minister also referred to the patrol boat [the Kukupa] which is there to help prevent illegal fishing in the Cook Islands waters.

As for the question of investment by China in the region, the Minister said that Australia welcomed investment in the region and said there is room for more donor countries in the region. Also in reply to the question of whether Australia will continue to channel their funds through New Zealand, the answer is yes. Not only does New Zealand do it well but it also ensures no duplication.

Prime Minister Puna then thanked the Minister for being

the first Foreign Minister to visit Cook Islands and welcomed her warmly and agreed that it was important to keep strong robust relationships with Canberra. He joked that Foreign Minister had chosen a good time to visit being the last day of the cyclone season and said he has invited the Minister to come back for the 4 August Constitution celebrations for our 50th anniversary as a self-governing nation.

Other visits on the Minister's agenda were to call in on the National Council of Women, then the University of South Pacific Cook Islands campus, and a courtesy call on the Queen's Representative before flying on to the Kingdom of Tonga for the last leg of the three nation visit of Kiribati, Cook Islands and Tonga.



Minister Julie Bishop launches New Colombo Plan at USP Cook Islands

By Noeline Browne

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop officially launched the New Colombo Plan of which Cook Islands is a participating country in the student exchange programme.

The Minister said the new version in September 2013 replaced the original Colombo Plan that began in 1951. Under the new plan, exchange students from about 38 countries of the world will still study in Australian tertiary institutions but that there will be more emphasis on the reverse, in the sense that more Australian students will be encouraged to take part in overseas studies under

the Plan.

In this way, they will live with an overseas family, appreciate another culture, perhaps learn a new language and make friends and contacts that create a greater understanding and ties with the people of other countries.

The Minister said that of the 38 countries that Australian students could have chosen, that twenty Australian music students from Melbourne University applied to come to the Cook Islands. The exchange is in collaboration with the University of South Pacific and the students will be here for two weeks in October 2015 to take part in

a musical composition.

The Minister said that Australia has had ties with the USP before such as funding one of the newer classrooms at the university as well as equipping one of the computer labs at USP.

The Minister also announced that twelve exchange students from Cook Islands students are set to go to Australia under Australian Award Fellowships for short term in studies as diverse as coral reef management, midwifery, nursing and basketball and more. Of the twelve, ten are women and two are men, which Minister Bishop joked was a good ratio.

The Award Fellowships

also allow for semester long courses or one year but for now the short term option has been chosen.

The Australian Foreign Minister was accompanied by the Mr Michael Potts the Australian High Commissioner to New Zealand in addition to her two staff members, a Federal Police Officer and a news cameraman from SBS Television in Australia.

At the university to welcome the Australian delegation were Tevai Matapo, members of the USP advisory board and Education Secretary, Sharyn Paio as well as some USP students and tutors.

They left to visit the Queen's Representative.



Ambassadors Lead the Way at Apii Te Uki Ou

Apii Te Uki Ou held a special assembly on Friday 27th February to welcome the senior students who successfully applied for and gained Ambassador Positions for 2015. Apii Te Uki Ou Student Ambassadors are active role models. They assist the staff and Principal with sports and assembly duties, are bus monitors and do wet day and cleaning duties. "They are the big brothers and sisters for the younger classes and preschool," explains Principal Simon Drewery. He added that they "must model the Apii Te Uki Ou Way."

Apii Te Uki Ou 2015 Student Leaders are:

Ambassadors

- Andre Bennett
- Jennae Davis
- Klani Bullivant
- Sebastian Drewery
- Hunaarii Tavioni-Poila
- Sharimoana Poila
- Hannah Mills
- Siana Short

Year 7 Deputy Ambassadors

- Ava Wylie
- Tuiira Enoka
- Luke Rous
- Ceinwyn Milles

"They are a great group of enthusiastic seniors and will be a real asset over the year," says Principal Simon Drewery.



Catch Devolo at the Rehab Saturday

By Te Riu Woonton

While here in Rarotonga for a mates wedding in a couple of days, music artist David Puniani, show name Devolo, decided to get in touch with Rehab Rarotonga, who has had a fine line of artists perform in the past, to organize a show while on this trip. The singer is set to perform this Saturday at Rehab Rarotonga, making this long Easter weekend an exciting one.

However, Devolo is no stranger to the island; this will be his second trip, since performing at Hidies in 2013 during his tour with Sweet & Iries Ed. His wife is also a Rarotongan' beauty, Olivia Henry from Titikaveka.

Devolo was born and raised in South Auckland and found success as part of hiphop crew "Deceptikonz" alongside Mareko, Alphrisk and Savage. Deceptikonz was formed during high-school in the late 90s and signed up to the label Dawnraid in year 2000. From there their debut album "Elimination" hit no.2 on the NZ music charts, and following that, the members all released solo projects, "I was the last to do an album in 2010, I released mine called 'Heaven and Hell' and my single 'Too Shy' made it in the top 10 on the NZ charts", he says.

After a 5 year break from the music scene this year, Deceptikonz released a single and video called "Blood in, Blood out", "check it out on YouTube, it's a song about what you get is what you deserve, you gotta give it 100% to receive 100%", the proud former member says.

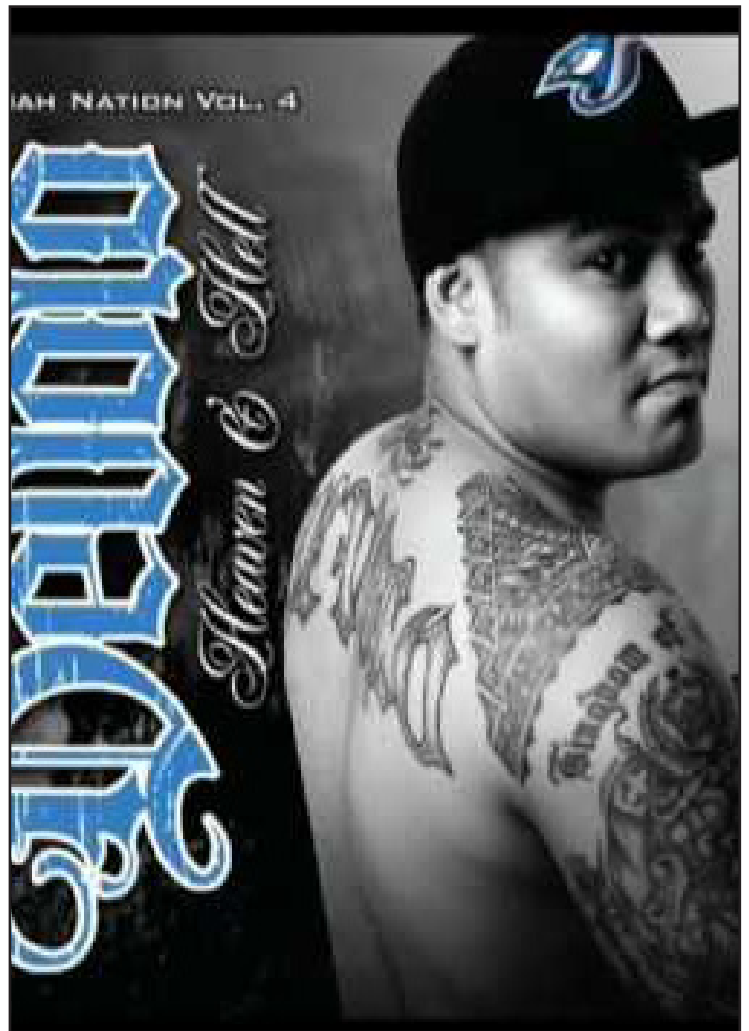
2010 was a good year for him, having also won Best Pacific Male Artist Award at

the Pacific Music Awards, "from that success I did numerous feathers but the highlight was being asked to remix Bottlepop, a hit track by girl band PussyCat Dolls". Devolo is also famous for his "feels like magic" track, that features Sweet & Irie and is a certified Gold single, which he released on the Horsemen family album "My Shout". Apart from touring around the Pacific, Australia and New Zealand, Devolo has also opened up for International acts, such as Black Eyed Peas, Missy Elliot, Bone Thugs, Busta Rhymes, DMX and more.

His exciting and successful career started when he was only young, listening to the radio and finding inspiration, "growing up I remember, always listening to the radio trying to sing along to songs I thought I knew, I was into a bit of everything from Michael Jackson to Tupac, Wutang and the band Queen."

Although he spent a lot of time listening to modern artists, he kept to a grounded and humble upbringing, learning how to carry a tone through the church choir that his family was heavily into and his father being a Minister in Auckland. Throughout all his 15 years, his wife and family has kept him in line, with six beautiful healthy children keeping him on his feet, "these days I keep myself busy with a new screenprinting business which I started over a year ago and is still going which I'm grateful for."

Devolo is looking forward to this weekends show, and will be performing all his hit songs, whilst at the same time bringing in a bit of the old with the new and mixing it up. Fans of Deceptikonz will be happy to know that



he will also be performing a few Deceptikonz tracks and interacting with the crowd.

Tickets are sold at \$10 and are available from Reefsides Rarotonga and 88FM. Reefsides also has a competition currently on, where you go into the draw to win a Devolo t-shirt and a ticket to the show by purchasing any two large cold drinks or purchasing a ticket to the show.

The draw will be on Saturday morning just after 11am, during a live interview with the man himself on 88FM. Following the interview, Devolo will make an appearance at Reefsides at the market to hand over the prizes, as he did when Stan Walker was here. Scott Arlander, owner and manager of Rehab Rarotonga says you can catch him there to get a

photo taken and be on the spot for additional giveaways. "We would also like to thank the following sponsors, Bond Store and Alize, Reefsides, Koka Lagoon Cruises, Polynesian Rental Cars & Bikes, Raroxpo Events Management, Varo Media and 88FM. Their generous support help make these live shows possible!" he says.

Devolo in the future would love to release a few more singles and videos by the end of the year but also building up his business clientele even more and is looking forward to Rarotonga. Those wanting to listen to Devolo live can also go by the Rehab Party Bus that will also be operating on the night, providing safe and fun transport to and from the gig. However, bookings are essential, those wanting to book a spot can call 29700.

The use of traditional knowledge or lore in the Cook Islands

by Tetuhi Kelly

Traditional knowledge or lore, is described by the author, as an indigenous model of cultural knowledge and conduct which is handed down from our ancestors to guide, teach, safeguard, protect and promote the health, safety and well-being of our people in the face of uncertainty, danger and adversity and is a determinant on how we govern our day to day lives. The role of lore is to ensure that our people follow practices that are true, sound, and appropriate and that provide a healthy, sustainable and resilient yardstick for our interactions with our social, biological and physical environment. A term used is 'tikanga', literally it means 'doing the right thing, the right way, at the right time for the right purpose i.e. that which is true', from the word 'tika' meaning true, correct, right or enlightenment. It is a model of consensus rather than a model of adversarial process and all must be in agreement before acceptance of any decisions that may have a profound effect on the community's way of life.

Common law in the Cook Islands in this article describes the British Westminster judiciary system of law which is based on amongst other things, precedence and torts and deals with justice, winners and losers. It is a model of adversarial process rather than a model of consensus and not all must agree for acceptance, a simple majority is enough. Lore has as its basis a huge emotional component which sees culture as an extension of oneself, ones link is to one's language, family, village, island, waters and land. Some of us are born on our land, our children's pito are buried on the land, we die and are buried along with our ancestors on the land, it provides our crops and our fruit trees, it sustains, nourishes and feeds us, our lore is directly related to our

relationship with our culture. Law on the other hand has a rigid set of rules which creates an adversarial approach to sorting out disputes between parties. The dispute can be in front of a judicial officer e.g. a judge or a group of one's peers called a jury and this approach is not about right or wrong, it is about who has the most persuasive argument to win one's case, even if the evidence is overwhelmingly bad.

Lore requires that family or villages are vicariously responsible for the poor actions of their people. In other words if you as an individual cause akama to your family or village, then everyone feels the pain of the embarrassment. Recompense may be sought by the aggrieved party in the form of a tithe, labour, community work or other appropriate action. Law states that the individual is responsible for their own actions. Individuals may be penalised by a fine, imprisoned, sent to complete community work or restricted in their movements or contact with others for a breach of law. However some overseas jurisdictions such as NZ use restorative justice processes that combine both lore and law into their decision making processes for breaches of law. In this case the individual who may be under a certain age is the responsibility of their family or parents who must bear the consequences of the individual's wrong doing. Lore is used to bridge the gap with law so that the head stuff outcome is met with a heart stuff response so that heart and mind are normalised.

It is not uncommon for indigenous communities to embrace western law to the detriment of their lore or traditional knowledge base. Why? By embracing law, remote indigenous communities who lack resources, finance and capacity to develop their

people, are drawn into a global funding process that requires that they follow the law to be successful applicants. Whilst this is actually not such a bad thing as it establishes a measure of credibility and indicates a willingness to follow the rule of law, the rigidity of the process means that the process the indigenous community is required to follow does not allow for dynamic variables or conflicting or competing priorities for the funds required elsewhere under lore. For example a community may have grant funds allocated for a project under law; however a life or death situation in the isolated community means that funds are required to be used elsewhere under lore. Does one break the law or lore? In general terms one can state that law is the head stuff and lore is the heart stuff and hence one can win the head stuff in a court of law but lose the heart stuff in a court of lore. This has led to, for want of a better definition, a Cook Islands legal grievance industry that has sprung up because one family won in a court of law despite the family lore deciding that someone else was more entitled to the land. The lack of a proper law and lore interface has created a money-go-round for lawyers, real estate agents and hangers on and lore has suffered as a consequence, whilst the application of the processes of law and legal services offered for land issues by Cook Islands lawyers has created a booming business.

One of the things that is very noticeable is that lore through our Cook Islands culture has now become great entertainment for tourists and this is a global phenomenon as indigenous communities have embraced capitalism to the detriment of their subsistence ways of life some would say. In Rarotonga we climb up coconut trees, husk

the coconut with our teeth or a ko and generally entertain tourists with our displays of lore. Everything is now a commodity and everything has a price, including people and as the Cook Islands has embraced capitalism, the movement of people off the outer islands, firstly to Rarotonga then internationally has affected our ability to provide subsistence farming as a sustainable industry. Tourism is now the mainstay of the Cook Islands and has had unfortunate consequences. The traditional calls of welcome and reply to visitors has become more entertainment value than a properly constituted process of meet and greet which long ago determined whether you were friend or foe. Story telling through dance has now, mostly, become a choreographed display for competition or to entertain the tourists.

Ask any visitor to the Cook Islands to describe the Cook Islands and invariably they will say a mix of entertainment, ei's at the airport, ura girls, punanganui market, the warm weather, beach, lagoon, resorts, tropical fruit, Aitutaki, Trader Jacks, the state of the roads, dogs and the high cost of living. Ask them about what they think is Cook Islands culture and the answer is not quite so forthcoming as they try and think what this means. They might say Te Vara Nui or Highland Paradise or the Korero Maori Ura group at Punanganui Market or island nights at the various resorts as indicators of Cook Islands culture and they are not alone in this perspective. The modern Cook Islander would struggle to provide a definitive answer for what they believe is Cook Islands culture and it is even more challenging when modern Cook Islanders for the purposes of this article fall into three general groups: Overseas Cook Islanders (those who live internationally), Rarotongan

continued next page

Cook Islanders (those who live on Rarotonga) and Pa Enea Cook Islanders (those who live on the outer islands). There are various demographic reasons for the three groupings which is not the subject of this article. What binds all these groups together is their shared identity of being labelled Cook Islanders, sharing a common point of origin and a common heritage. What separates these groups are not only their demographics but also their direct or indirect exposure to the forces of globalisation. Globalisation and the forces of capitalism have had a profound effect on the traditional knowledge base of indigenous peoples and the Cook Islands are no exception. Ask yourself, would you slog yourself for \$8 an hour as a Ura dancer in Rarotonga or go to NZ and get \$20 per hour doing menial work. There is no argument really, and it's not just the loss of the dancer, it is also the loss of the traditional knowledge that goes with it. Yes the cost of living, housing, food etc is higher in NZ, but that's not the point really, they leave because they can and they leave because they believe the grass is greener on the other side and there is more opportunity.

The Cook Islands traditional knowledge base since contact with Christianity has eroded over time and along with western law has removed any substantive influence that may have been exerted by traditional leaders. This is the perception unfortunately both here and overseas and traditional leaders have not helped themselves by being insular, unapproachable, and selective in their dealings with people. Their interaction with government these days is about not rocking the boat or the hand that feeds them and is about preserving their welfare status rather than petitioning and insisting that the government legitimises Cook Islands lore and thereby ensuring their continued status and the preservation, future proofing and sanctity of lore. One only has to look at historical papers to show that this discussion is not new. At the very least they should be

petitioning the government to open dialogue on the status of Cook Islands lore, thereby gaining some idea as to whether the government's relationship with them and the people is real or smoke and mirrors. It is not enough for Cook Islanders to just talk about doing something to get official recognition of their lore, because it is the Cook Islands law that government will use time and again to get their projects through. Remember the biggest impediment to our aspirations is not at the hands of foreigners, but it is our own elected officials who are the gate keepers. When they are just ordinary *iti tangata* like you and I they'll do anything to get your vote, once they are in, all that goes out the door. History tells us this.

The low priority given to lore by the government of the Cook Islands has created a rift in the Crown's dealings with ordinary people and in particular land owners and especially in relation to capital projects whether it is road works, water works, land usage or lagoon projects. In embracing western law to settle disputes with landowners, the Crown which is made up of Cook Islanders, struggles with how to acknowledge and apply lore. Cook Islanders who represent us in parliament have a duty to ensure sound governance at all levels, this is why the people voted them in as our representatives to give us confidence, consistency of decision making and to follow the rule of law. As a nation of individuals we give up certain individual rights to others to govern on our behalf, we call this the government. We expect a just and prudent government to protect our right to be individuals and all the responsibilities and accountabilities that go with that, we have the right to be safe, the right for freedom of expression, the right to be looked after, the right to privacy and the right to be properly consulted, these are our inalienable rights. In return we pay our taxes, follow the rule of law, vote, turn out to compete for our country or defend it, but we also expect that those who govern us do so pragmatically

rather than having a narrow view of what this means based wholly on the British Westminster system of law. At the very least we expect our government to give the same priority to Cook Islands lore as they do to Cook Islands law in their dealings with the people, after all we are a bilingual (officially) and a Polynesian island nation and lore came before law.

Unfortunately the government as our governing body appears to pay lip service to officially acknowledging lore, but as individuals they wholeheartedly embrace it as can be seen of our ministers when they attend functions around the Cook Islands. There is a level of hypocrisy in the approach to lore which needs to be addressed in

law. As long as the government can use law without referring to lore then there is no incentive to be a just and fair government. Conversely if the government can use law and lore equally in its dealings with the people then it is a just and fair government. It is not enough to wait four years to vote in a new government, because the more the politicians want to make changes, the more they stay the same and if communities vote in an unjust government despite all the warnings, then they only have themselves to blame, you get what you vote for or not as the case maybe. Is this a case of misplaced community lore determining who will get into parliament? And once in, misplaced party hopping requiring a determination by law?

Island duo enjoy visit

Rarotongan medics on exchange

Switching from a five bed emergency department to a 27 bed facility was an eye opener for a Rarotongan doctor and registered nurse who spent two weeks working at Whangarei Hospital.

Dr Tekaa Nelesone and Patricia Puna were selected as part of a health professionals exchange between Whangarei and the Cook islands.

The duo had a real Northland experience observing clinical services in Whangarei ED and other clinical areas before spending time with the Hauora Hokianga team in Rawene.

The exchange is organized through the Rotary Club's Bowden Trust with Northland DHB, in collaboration with Hauora Hokianga, to support the professional development of health professionals from the Cook Islands.

One difference the pair found were the longer waiting times in the emergency department here.

"I notice here the waiting time due to the higher volume is longer than at home, but once they are in ED, the doctors and nurses work really hard to see people as soon as possible," said Dr Nelesone.

Ms Puna added, "Obviously we have a much smaller ED so back home we try to keep our waiting down to one hour only."

Bonuses here included having all the resources needed and mains power.

The bulk of the main emergencies in Rarotonga are cardiac arrest and vehicle accidents at the 80 bed Rarotongan Hospital.

Dr Nelesone says his experience in Whangarei's ED has taught him other ways of managing cases.

During their stay in Whangarei, the pair connected with the Northland Pacific Islands Charitable Trust which hosted an afternoon with Kaumatua.

Dr Nelesone who originally comes from the islands of Tuvalu was excited to be able to meet family members in Whangarei and take part in their preparations for the Pasifika Festival.

The Bowden Trust was formed after Whangarei doctor and Rotarian Bernard Bowden was treated in the Cook Islands.

He later bequeathed a fund to bring two Cook Islands health professionals to New Zealand each year. - *The Northern Advocate*

Mitiaro korero night

By Tiana Haxton

For at least a month, Mitiaro school students have been preparing for last Thursday. On Thursday 26th of March, All Mitiaro School Students gathered at the Mitiaro Community Hall. Soon, most of the island community had been seated inside the hall while many looked in through the windows. Many of our parents brought along a little something to contribute to the Schools stall. Nu (young coconuts) Pancakes, milkshakes and so on.

At 6 O'clock, all the students gathered in front of the audience wearing brightly coloured 'kaku pareu', pareu printed clothing. One of the school teachers, Mrs Pukeiti began welcoming everyone and calling the judges to their separate tables. Julian Aupuni, Kaukura Kaiui, Ngarima Patia and Kimi Turangatira. After the students and greater community sung together in beautiful harmony. An opening prayer was made before the pre-schoolers took the floor and began to entertain with song and dance. Then the judges picked up their pens and began to write on the slips of paper provided as the grade 1-3 students recited in their native tounge, their korero:speeches. Grade 4 through to 7 received warm rounds of applause following their speeches while my class, grade 8-10 was pacing nervously outside reciting our speeches and going over our notes before taking the floor and doing our best.

Once done, the judge's scores were added up while we students sung and danced to entertain.

Finally, the scores were totalled up and certificates were written on and we all sat down in silence waiting to hear the result

There were prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places and as there are only a few students per grade, this meant everyone would receive something.

1st place for grade one was a very happy Michaela Tangatakino! The rest of the first place winners in grade 1-3 were equally happy.

Kahl Fred was pleased to walk away with the grade 4 win as was Teii-a-rangi Ngametua for grade 5. Winner of the grade 7, 1st place prize was Athena Murare. The overall winner for grade 4-7 was a very happy young Kahl Fred. Rickahn Iro of grade 8/form 2 took the first prize in his grade with a grin. There was a draw for the grade 10/form 4 group. Brandon Kaukura and I, Tiana Haxton! We were all very pleased with our achievements and applauded loudly upon hearing that the donations given to the school combined with the stall money, had passed \$900! This money is to be used for the year 10/ Form 4 students.

We are coming to Rarotonga on Monday to attend the careers workshop/Work Experience AKA Expo this year and will also be competing in the Korero Maori (speech competition) while we are there.

All in all I think Korero Night was a very memorable one and I am pleased to say it has helped me increase my Maori vocabulary.

Arataa is a word that translates as Goals.

*Mount View
Lodges O'oa*

Accommodation to suit your budget

Self contained and self servicing
free standing units

**FROM \$35
PER NIGHT**

Ph: 29491 Mobile: 50326

How to be great God's way

Part 3

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

During the last 2 Articles of Encouragement I spoke on the theme of HUMILITY. Unless we live a life of True Humility, we will always experience difficulties and hardship whether as individuals or in our families or even in our workplace. We must always remember that 'True humility' is not an external way of presentation, but it's the condition of the heart. True Humility brings....out our full potential by developing a growing **DEPENDENT ON GOD.**(II Chronicles 7v.14). True Humility enables God to **GUIDE** us and to give us divine **UNDERSTANDING.** (Psalm 25v.9). It brings **FRESH GRACE** (Kindness). (Proverbs 3v.33-34). It brings **WISDOM.** (Proverbs 11v.2). It brings **PROMOTION.** (Psalm 147v.6). It brings **JOY.** (Isaiah 29v.19). True Humility will result in **ANSWERED PRAYS.** (Psalm 9v.12).

For this Article I will speak on a life that has little or no Humility at all as it relates to being **GREAT GOD'S WAY.** In the Book of James chapter 4v.1-17 in the New Testament of the Bible, James said in v.1 "Where do wars and fights come from among you?" In other words James is saying "...guys, let's be honest. The fact is none of us are perfect. Let's stop pretending that we've got it all together, but, I want to challenge you with this thought, 'where does this constant conflict, this struggle comes from that we live with?' In this chapter are some lessons from a life that has little or no Humility at all.

The first lesson from the first 4 verses is **CONTINUED CONFLICT.** (v.1) When you lack humility you have all kinds of problems that goes on all the time. I've met people with great jobs but there's always turmoil going on in the

inside. They find it difficult come to peace. They seem to have difficulties in finding solutions to their struggles and tensions. They have a problem with their neighbours and they find it difficult to talk with them again. You have families who cannot get together because there was something that happened, that created war and tension. And God says, "You know why that happened, because you lack humility!" We may come up with other reasons, but, the bottom line is it's our lack of humility. If you lack humility you will have destructive desires.

In v.3 is **UNANSWERED PRAYERS** "You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures." You ask and you don't receive because you're asking for the wrong thing, self has got in the way. You have compromised Christian living. You have put something else in place of God. Matthew 6v.33 reads "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." You love things rather than the Provider who is God. Whenever, anything in the world, our finance, our security, our material things and so on stands between God and us, these things will lead our life rather than God and we will find that God will withdraw. The very thing that we want God to do, He can't do, all based on the issue of Humility.

The other lesson is found in v.6, v.11-12, where we will have **INCREASING JUDGEMENT** Have you ever met people who got upset about something? People who kept pointing the finger with what's wrong. Always blaming this and blaming that. Actually, what these

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



people are saying is that, 'I can do better than that!' When you get to that point, 'Your Humility needs evaluation.' On the basis of James chapter 4, James is saying that all of these happened because of the lack of Humility.

There's also **A GROWING INDEPENDENT.** Too often people tend to trust themselves, in what they do, and the things they achieve. But when they get into trouble they started to look for God. We need to allow God in our decision-making because we don't know what tomorrow brings. We might say 'O well, why didn't God help me in that situation?' Well you didn't include Him when you started making the

decision. Independent is a lack of Humility.

What about **STINGINESS (UNWILLING TO SPEND OR TO GIVE)** (Karapii)

In v.17 it reads "Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin." It didn't say, 'To him who has the capacity to do it!' but rather 'To him who knows to do it!' In fact because of the lack of humility you become 'stingy' (karapii). That's why some people want everybody else to do it, and then they will end up being the last one to offer support! Why! Because they lack humility!

I will continue with this theme in Part 4 next week. God bless, te Atua te arua.

Holiday vibes

By *Lucianne Vainerere*

Only a few more days till the end of term and for all the eager and hardworking people, the joy of the long weekend. As a senior, holiday doesn't even define our next two weeks but let us not dwell on that serious part and focus on happy thoughts.

The weather is slowly clearing up so sunsets and moonlit strolls are the best if you're wanting to release some tension in your body that built up from the past term. Early morning exercise or evenings are great if your aiming for that coke bottle body and feeling fresh, fierce and flossy (working it).

One thing I'm really looking forward to is staying up late and watching a few old school movies or some real good Hard Knocks series of American Football while drinking a nice cold slushy on a mattress outside beneath the tree – that's my type of escape.

All of us teens are different, so what do you crave for during the holidays?

Some crave money, either to pay off their bikes or cars or maybe to save for future use or investments. Working and schooling can be pretty tough, it's like adding an extra chops to your plate: delicious but not sure if you'll finish it as long as you get that money, money, money.

Others are chiller and look forward to hanging out with friends who came down from over-seas and getting into that catch up vibe,

creating new inside jokes and more memories. The point is, it's the holidays soon and we either choose to get busy and do the long yard or relax and go with the literal meaning of 'holi' day.

If you're not much of an outgoing person and always staying indoors, not trying to force you or anything but try getting out and about every now and again even if it's just for a drive. There's something about driving that brings a calm sensation. It works for me so it just might work for you.

Don't forget to squeeze in some family time guys, although our parents may seem a bit tough on us and all that, they've sacrificed a lot just so we could be where we are today. They love us even at times they don't show it, but all in all appreciate the small things they do, in the end it ends up being one of the biggest and largest things anyone could give you.

Oh and most importantly don't forget to smile you beautiful and handsome person. It makes you look twice as good looking. I've got to make like a banana and split so before I go, a little something that will hopefully enlighten your day.

A sweet pick up line for all you teenagers out there just to break the ice a little bit: Can you jump into my tea cup? Because I've been looking for some sugar.

Stay safe these holidays, have a good rest, a few great laughs and Happy Easter everyone.

Remember when?

By *Teherenui Koteka*

Just the other day I was sitting in the waiting room at the Rarotonga Hospital when my eye caught sight of something. It was a door, this door was part of the old waiting room at the hospital. My mind stretched back and tried to grasp an image of what the old waiting room used to look like, I am sad to say I could not quite glue all the pieces together. But that is hardly the point. This door made me think of all the things that have changed on the island since I was a kid. When you look at the island now it does not look like much has changed but I thought about those little changes that no one ever really thinks about or remembers was there. The first thing that came to my mind was one building that hasn't been gone for too long. It was that takeaway that used to be by the Avatiu Wharf, that one that was demolished to make room for the new wharf. I can't quite recall its name but do you remember when it used to be there? I used to go there for milkshakes with my dad but now when I drive past the spot of land and ocean where it used to be I never really think of it, never quite recall it was there.

The next thing I thought of was Muri Lagoon. Since I have lived in Muri my

entire life I spent a lot of my childhood on that beach. I remember when climate change hadn't affected the island too much and the beach was much wider than it is now. I remember how you used to be able to walk over to Motu Koromiri on this shallow strip of sand just to the right of Muri Beach Resort. Nowadays you can't really walk to the motus and the beach has taken its fair beating from climate change so there is barely six meters of sand before you hit the water. This is one of the more memorable changes to the Rarotonga landscape. The rising sea levels have left us with great cause for concern. Those of you who can recall the way our beaches used to be will know what I am talking about. It saddens me to think that in a couple of decades there could be no beach left.

One more thing that entered my mind was the section where Nautilus resort now is. Although that section was only cleared recently, I cannot call to mind what it used to look like. I know it was filled with long grass and trees, I know I drove past it at least twice a day for fourteen years of my life yet I still could not recall what it looked like. I doubt many of you will vividly remember what it looked like either. I guess that is how accustomed our minds are to change.

EAT LESS
MOVE MORE
HEART FOUNDATION

In the USA they have the words "In God we trust" on their money but the way our economy is being run by neneva Neves and the mess it is in, cabinet need to approve our own words on our new money being made at the mint factory in Australia, "God help us".



Demo defector Albie Nicholas took a finger pointing party hopping hammering from some of the more senior politickers but when 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 Ioane, then Bishop hopped over to be the Demo campaign manager and financial sponsor of Kete Ioane and for his last hop he backed his own OCI candidate Amiria Davey. That's more hops than Skippy the kangaroo.



Radio New Zealand stringer Helen Grieg stated in an interview on Monday about the Vaitau by election that there was two seats on Aitutaki, she completely forgot there is one in Amuri. Maybe she has inside intel one of their seats is going to be made redundant, it's called reform.



Now it's all over and Mona has won the Vaipae/Tautu seat handsomely as Big Red predicted Elvis is faced with the dilemma of how he is going to honour his promises to the Vaitau CIP Mona will return to Cabinet. How the PM is going to squeeze seven into six cabinet positions will take more than a few sleight of hand conjuring, if he had steel

balls Elvis could give the biggest threat to his throne DPM Bulldozer Heta a red card, rendering the wannabe PM eunuchized and politically neutered. With the CIP conference in August and Parliament in September Bulldozer no longer the DPM will be left to plod in the twilight zone and be deserted by even his most loyal foot soldier. With loyalty to the King of first class travel fully restored, Nandie can be dispatched to Wellington to hob knob with diplomatic royalty as elevated commissioner while he completes another post graduate degree. The Mrs CIP Princess Rose can give the Cabinet gender balance and Elvis can launch his true legacy of political reform as the first sign post in the next fifty years blueprint for the Cook Islands. In collaboration with the Demo reformists the vacated Atiu seat can be made redundant along with new legislation introduced to reduce Mangaia to one seat and Aitutaki to two seats. After giving the Electoral Act a full body massage Elvis can go back to the polls to contest the twenty seats early in 2016 if not sooner. With empty coffers and a huge debt thanks to hello Drolley the Demos will be financially crushed into a sizeable defeat at the polls and

all the people that matter will shout, "long live King Elvis."



"No stone veel be left unturned!" said our Commissar de Politz! But, but, but, how is it de Politz failed to speak to Monsieur le Chou, Billionaire headman of Lewen Tie Disheries when he was in country a few weeks ago? Monsieur Le Chou even took a trip north to visit the businessman said by de Politz to be in criminal cohorts with him! Maybe our Politz had not been informed M. Le Chou was in country! Maybe M. Le Chou was in clever disguise?



"Haltensee pur sheine feeshing!" Thus ees proclaiming Calveen Sarsfield who has keeked orf a petition to stoppenzee feeshing wid de beeg nets! "Savenzee Beeg Eye! Savenzee Yulluh Feen!" Vay too goh Calveen!



The flying visit this Tuesday of Bulie Wishop the Aussie Foreign Minister is a chance for our two man government, PM Puna and Brown Marks to voice their concerns about one of the main causes of depopulation, namely the ludicrously insane high interest rates being charged by the two Aussie banks. And where

are our cruelly displaced and homeless going? To Australia to look for work to pay off the debt owed to the two Aussie banks!



Local Rooster not long flown back to the coop after a long scratch and peck in foreign parts, consults with the bone throwers and sharmans in the House on the Hill over some ailment but comes unstuck when confronted to settle his tea leaf reading account. Mistaken for a foreign Rooster he vehemently proclaims his local status and therefore entitlement to lower fees. Perhaps it was the absence of his trademark facial plumage which took the fee pluckers by surprise!



Any village seeking a large, deep, public swimming pool need only wait a few days for a pot hole in the road to grow bigger and presto! There you have it! Now, what to charge?



Folks, when will the government price control police step in and sort out the price for a Nu? Currently, prices vary from \$2 to \$6. But like Black Pearls, the customer needs to know which is grade 1, grade 2 or grade 3. Size is also a factor. Some Nu are fizzy tasting (worth a higher price?), some are chilled. How to factor in the cost of labour? Nu has to be picked off the block the kayaking lot from setting up a separate body.



What's going on within some sports bodies chooks? Not so long ago the swim/cycle/run lot tried to block some peddlers from forming their own sporting body. Now word is the paddling lot are trying to stop the kayaking lot from forming their own group. Why all this drama chooks?



FAT CATS

Number 2, Cabinet wants an answer to this puzzle-how to make 7 go into 6!

Thats easy! Just pretend 6 is 7



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE

Rumour has it, Government wants 7 Ministers but only has 6 positions!

One Minister outside Cabinet?

A Minister without portfolio!



FOOTBALL UPDATE

Messi and Mourinho top World's richest players and managers

The annual France Football Rich Lists for players and managers have been released, with the lists topped by Lionel Messi and Jose Mourinho respectively.

The lists are compiled on the basis of salaries, bonuses and advertising revenues over the previous year and show some interesting disparities. Messi, for example, earns almost three times more than Wayne Rooney.

The top three earning players all play in Spain. Only one of the top earning players are at German clubs while none play in Italy.

When it comes to managers,

TOP EARNING PLAYERS

1. Lionel Messi £47.8m
2. Cristiano Ronaldo £39.7m
3. Neymar £26.8m
4. Thiago Silva £20.2m
5. Robin van Persie £18.8m
6. Gareth Bale £17.5m
7. Wayne Rooney £16.5m
8. Zlatan Ibrahimovic £15.8m
9. Sergio Aguero £15.6m
10. Robert Lewandowski £14.8m

TOP EARNING MANAGERS

1. Jose Mourinho £13.2m
2. Carlo Ancelotti £11.4m
3. Pep Guardiola £11.2m
4. Arsene Wenger £8.3m
5. Louis van Gaal £7.3m
6. Fabio Capello £6.6m
7. Andre Villas-Boas £6.2m
8. Sven-Goran Eriksson £5.9m
9. Jurgen Klopp £5.3m
10. David Moyes and Laurent Blanc £5.1m

Louis van Gaal earns less than half his top two paid players Robin van Persie and Rooney at Manchester United.

Club management is better paid than national team jobs, with Fabio Capello – at sixth – the

only international manager who makes the list at cash-strapped Russia (Capello did go six months unpaid but that salary level he can probably afford to sit it out for a bit).

The increasing footprint

of China can be noted with the entrance of Sven-Goran Eriksson in eighth place. He is currently managing Chinese Super League club Shanghai SIPG – his 18th club since he started in management in 1977.

Countdown to NZ hosting FIFA U-20 World Cup

Following a hugely successful ICC Cricket World Cup, New Zealand's Sport and Recreation Minister Jonathan Coleman says the countdown is now on for football's FIFA U-20 World Cup.

"The country has been gripped by Cricket World Cup over the last six weeks, and while that's now finished, the excitement is far from over," says Dr Coleman.

"New Zealand is now just two months out from hosting some of the best under-20 football players in the world for 52 matches in Whangarei, Auckland, Hamilton, New Plymouth, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

"The tournament is widely regarded as a breeding ground for future talent, with 582 U20 players going on to participate in football's World Cup - 30 of them in World Cup-winning teams.

"Lionel Messi, Ronaldinho, Michael Owen, and Adriano all played at this event previously, so it is a huge chance for Kiwis to see the next wave of global superstars in action.

"The Government has



contributed \$5.5 million to the tournament, which will be broadcast to around 100 countries with a global TV audience of 170 million. We are expecting over 7,000 international visitors, including

800 players and support staff and 100 international media to visit.

"The FIFA U20 World Cup is a great opportunity on the back of both the ICC Cricket World Cup and the 2011 Rugby World

Cup to boost New Zealand's reputation for hosting major international sporting events."

The tournament kicks off with New Zealand v Ukraine at Auckland's North Harbour Stadium on Sunday 30 May.

FOOTBALL UPDATE

Australia Socceroos draw with Germany



Australia's 2-2 friendly draw with Germany delighted their coach Ange Postecoglou on Wednesday, while the world champions' boss Joachim Low admits his side must improve.

Only an 81st-minute Lukas Podolski equaliser saved Germany's blushes with the Socceroos 2-1 up and heading for a second famous upset having beaten Germany at home in 2011.

Marco Reus's early goal was cancelled out by a James Troisi header before Socceroos' captain Mile Jedinak drilled in a 50th-minute free-kick to give the visitors the lead. Only Podolski's equaliser denied Australia a second win over Germany in five meetings ahead of their next European friendly against FYR Macedonia on Monday.

"I am very proud of the players, not just because of the result," said Postecoglou. "We were always dangerous in the first half.

"It was a fantastic performance, especially when most of them only got off the plane 48 hours

ago. We attacked them from the start, we put them on the back foot and took the game to them.

"It's 10am in Australia, so I think a lot of people are going to work happy - if they go to work at all. It was an honour to come here and play the world champions. Performances like today help to grow the sport and get the country behind us."

Performances like today help to grow the sport and get the country behind us. Australia coach Ange Postecoglou.

With attacking talisman Tim Cahill out injured, Postecoglou blooded a three-man attack of Mathew Leckie, Nathan Burns and Troisi who caused the Germans no end of problems, much to their coaches delight. "The front three were great, that is as dangerous as we've looked since I have been in charge," said the 49-year-old, who took charge in October 2013.

"Every time we went forward we looked dangerous, Leckie had a complete performance and the only thing that was missing from him was a goal. There was plenty

of movement from all three of them."

Goalscorer Troisi hails improvement

Australia were impressive in their first international since winning January's AFC Asian Cup in Sydney and Troisi says the fact they were disappointed not to beat the world champions shows the Socceroos are on the rise.

"Few would have thought 12 months ago that we would nearly beat the world champions - I surely wouldn't have - but it shows how far we have come as a team," said the 26-year-old. "I think Germany didn't expect us to play like we played and to put them under so much pressure.

"They weren't comfortable at all," he said. "We are pleased with our performance, but we missed some chances - we could have had three or four more.

"A draw is OK, but it's great to see how well we play against the best. We really wanted to put on a good show for people back home who woke up early to watch us play."

Germany still searching for old form

Before kick-off, Low had said the world champions are a long way from the form which swept them to the FIFA World Cup™ last year and his team's performance only confirmed that.

With Germany joint second in their UEFA EURO 2016 qualifying group three points behind leaders Poland, Low wants an improved performance in Sunday's qualifier away to Georgia. "The game was a bit hectic from our point of view," said Low.

"The first half went well for us, but the clarity in our game was missing in the second half. We didn't implement what we had planned and we know that we must win on Sunday."

Low fielded a new 3-1-4-2 formation, using attacking midfielders Mario Gotze and Marco Reus up front, but the experiment failed to pay off. With first-choice players Manuel Neuer, Thomas Muller, Bastian Schweinsteiger, Jerome Boateng and Mats Hummels on the bench against Australia, Low now needs his stars to perform in Georgia.