

# COOK ISLANDS HERALD

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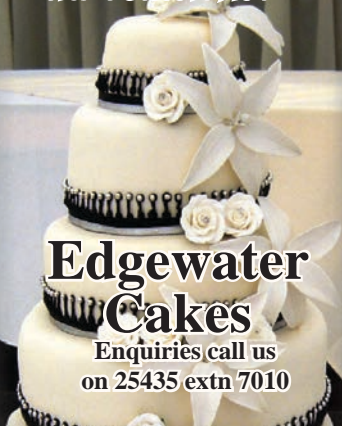
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# DPM Heather's quest for leadership deterring investors

*PM Puna must exert his leadership authority*

Teariki Heather's never give up determination was the X factor that drove the nail in the Democratic Party's coffin in last July's snap Election. Stand out campaigner for the Cook Islands Party Heather was a one man wrecking ball that demolished Demo expectations a win was a matter of fact. Once the Demos rejected the help of the likes of Grey Power and Te Mato Vai lobby groups it took the foot off the peddle that had the government under constant pressure, Heather capitalised on the Demos inability to maintain public pressure to force the CIP government into a corner.

Heather's attention to his brand of campaigning was a turning point that won over the outer island voters but to his supporters it seemed Heather wasn't appreciated or acknowledged by the Prime Minister Henry Puna. The Akaoa MP took a big toll in his own electorate due to his tireless campaigning elsewhere for the CIP.

The DPM has abided his time scanning for any opportunity to build bridges and relationships with Party committee members especially in the outer Islands. So far Heather has been well received and has galvanised sufficient support to be a serious challenger to Puna's Party Leadership at the next Conference scheduled for this August.

This will be Heather's third attempt to become the Party Leader by way of a delegates voting in a Party Conference. It is no secret Heather wants to be the Prime Minister, a belief it is his destiny for the last 15 years.

Heather's claim to the political throne is now being openly talked not in terms of if but in the context of when. With the conference in August Heather's supporters have been unsuccessful in bringing the date forward to capitalise on his current popularity and support.



DPM Teariki Heather and PM Henry Puna

Last Saturday at the Punanga Nui market Heather's CEO Ben Mose openly spoke about his boss being in the box seat. T&M Heather Ltd workers openly speak about Heather becoming the PM before the end of the year, it is

leadership. Now that the Vaipae/Tautu (Vaitau) by election is out of the way, the tussle between Puna and his DPM over their 50 year celebrations differences are becoming more visible.

Biggest effect Heather's open

*Heather's claim to the political throne is now being openly talked not in terms of if but in the context of when.*

alleged Heather told them so in an address to T&M Heather Ltd staff.

The Maroro school policy of free speech was alive and humming with the gossip and rumour this week that Heather is going to mount a challenge to Puna's

campaigning to wrestle the Prime Ministership off Puna is on off shore investors. There have been two groups of potential investors visiting from China recently on a tyre kicking exercise with a third group due in May, the two

previous groups have sought clarity on the political climate and have expressed concerns that Heather talks openly to them he will soon be the PM.

Investors need assurances of political stability and continuity and the two China groups are monitoring our government and political developments with caution. Long time experienced developer Tim Tepaki acknowledged foreign investors require political stability especially in a small economy such as the Cook Islands where the incentives are minimal and the returns are not as favourable.

In the last twelve months of political turmoil and uncertainty, foreign investment inquiries has been minimal and on the brink of the best governance certainty during that time Puna's best efforts to project stability and his ability to govern are being openly undermined by his Deputy Heather.

Since Fiji has held democratic Elections after revising their constitution and has politically stabilised, foreign investment is steadily injecting new money into their economy with tourism booming. Heather has to give consideration to the whole not just his own political ambitions and future investment will continue to be deferred till the Cook Islands politicians can deliver a stable inviting economy.

The large expat business community quietly grumble about not having liberal access and influence over Henry Puna but they would rather have him as Prime Minister than Teariki Heather who is impregnable by the business expats. Heather is a self made man who does not relish and bathe in the sweet talk of expat business individuals; his grass roots popularity is he's a Cook Islander for Cook Islanders.

*continued next page*

# Budget blues for Brown as dollar loses bang for bucks

By Charles Pitt

Word is Finance Minister Mark Brown and his officials have been hard at work to produce a balanced budget ahead of an expected parliament in June.

The Minister and his team will have their work cut out for them given the forecasts by MFEM in the Half Yearly Update issued at the end of December 2014 were for likely deficits in both operating and fiscal areas.

Word is Ministries have been requesting additional funding but this is unlikely and the in the end it is expected Ministries will have to endure cuts to their budgets.

The delay in tourist recovery this year is a concern as it would be expected that by March a recovery of sorts would be evident. However, the near parity of the Australian and NZ dollars and the longer summer in those countries is seeing more

would be visitors stay home. Aggressive marketing by Fiji is also having an effect.

A concern is that marketing efforts have been committed to attracting the budget traveler who is reluctant to splash out meals, souvenir and crafts.

Also worrying is that the tax take is expected to be down.

MFEM's own sensitivity analysis in the Half Yearly Update, predicts if visitor numbers continue to fall, we may be facing an operating deficit of around \$1.4 million.

Government's savior could well be higher returns from Tuna fishing due to increased activity in purse seine fishing which is expected to bring some \$12 million into government's coffers this year. The latest government dividend interim pay out by Telecom is said to be just under \$500,000.

With some major infrastructure projects nearing

completion, there is little on the horizon to cheer about. Construction work is down and no major or significant private sector investment in new development is apparent.

The lack of any significant private sector development in the tourism sector is a major worry. So much so, Tourism Corp CEO Halatoa, Board Chairman Smith and Finance Secretary Neves met with the BTIB CEO Rangi to discuss the lack of any promotion of foreign investment to grow the sector.

At issue is that BTIB have not been able to secure funding for this purpose.

Local developers Merchants of Paradise is the only private sector group which has detailed proposals and plans for a comprehensive development in the tourism sector at 4-5 star level. However progress of their

plans for a joint venture with the Chinese, is dependent upon political stability and Chinese funding being facilitated by government. Their plans involve no risk to government or the tax payer. It is a totally private sector venture.

There are current initiatives in the tourism sector but these are not significant enough to make any impact on government revenues. There needs to be a move away from our pre-occupation with "cottage industry" level development in favour of development that makes an impact and sizeable return.

We cannot continue down the path of budget tourism. We have 6 star attractions so lets aim higher.

A reminder that fiscal deficits are balanced by dipping into the reserves and slashing operating budgets.

If Puna and his confidants under estimate Heather they do so at their peril. Heather will not take the risk and challenge Puna for the leadership in caucus, but will wait for the CIP conference where the constituency delegates determine the Party Leader.

The elected MP chose their Prime Minister but that score may best present itself when Parliament next sits. Being elected the Party leader at a conference doesn't automatically translate in to being the Prime Minister if the two are different people.

When it comes to strategic thinking Heather lacks the expertise to execute a successful overthrow of Puna, he may possess the majority MP's but Puna will outwit him at the point of execution. Not one of those expected to follow Heather has the mental strength to keep their group tight nor the ability to maintain the element of surprise.

Puna's best defence to defuse the threat Heather poses is to terminate his warrant as a Minister of the Crown. Heather's demise will be swift and have a sobering impact on those ready to follow him. After excluding Heather, Puna ought to eyeball to eyeball interview each

MP questioning their loyalty to him or Heather. With the Conference in August and parliament as far off as September Puna can then rebuild his support base in caucus on his terms.

The isolated Heather without the trappings of a Minister will soon discover how self preserving his colleagues are and by the conference or parliament he will discover how fickle political life is. Heather's removal will solve the problem of how to bring Mona loane back into the cabinet fold as he has been promised on several occasions during the run up to the Vaitau by elections.

Heather's opportunity will come if he patiently perseveres, with the likely hood of a depressed budget provoking more civil unrest and a more effective unified Opposition, 2016 may bring better conditions for a subtler challenge by Heather if Puna's fear tactics and popularity wears thin. Heather must keep his hands clean and let others seek him out rather than be the catalyst for change. By 2016 the Opposition MPs may have completed their cycle of deconstruction and ready to form a coalition with Heather and his supporting CIP MPs.

- George Pitt



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# Single basket economy at the mercy of NZ dollar

The Cook Islands Tourism Corporation (CITC) needs some fresh faces with new ideas in the face of tough times and the expectation of a very flat tourist environment this year. It's time for Ewan Smith to stand down or be relieved of his chairmanship, under his watch CITC has failed to fire and drive the spluttering Cook Islands economy.

It's also time the Financial Secretary Richard Neveva stopped pointing the finger of blame at others for the lack of new and repeat investment in the tourism sector. It's time he admitted the expected windfall of tax revenue derived from the 15% VAT tax targeted at tourists is an embarrassing failure.

CITC desperately needs innovation rather than the repetition of used by date strategies, what may have succeeded more by luck than design simply doesn't cut it today. Chairman Smith lacks the invention and creative cognitive to keep pace with the external factors confronting our best case scenario programmes. Rewarded with the position by his friend the former Minister of Tourism Teina Bishop time has exposed Smith's appointment for what it is, under pressure to take CITC to another level to keep pace let alone stimulate industry growth Smith doesn't breed investor confidence.

Neves' failure to diversify the economy also reflects his incompetency; his push

for a one basket economy is facing a major setback. Already identified as an expensive destination compared with major cities around the world the Cook Islands now faces a calamity that will further expose Smith as a good time best case scenario operator void of out of the box right brain thinking to overcome the

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new challenges about to confront our mono economy.

Despite the horrendous challenges Fiji tourism had to face over the last 25 years, they always had the ability to rise above their circumstances and come out on top. Despite the Australian and New Zealand government's sanctions and best efforts to deter their citizens from visiting Fiji the determining Fijians made the out of the box adjustments

and now have a booming money spinner contributing to their economy.

Having worked most of his life in the confines of the Cook Islands micro economy, Smith appears to lack a think different, think big attitude that is imposed by a fast changing much bigger economic environment. As a life style

operator Smith needs to face the reality that in worst case scenario circumstances he is out of his depth and should gracefully tender his resignation before he suffers from an embarrassing self inflicted loss of face.

Smith's love affair with the multimillion dollar Air New Zealand underwrite, plus the questionable spending of over half a million dollars of destination funding on the Aitutaki Fishing Club

building and the yet to be seen cinema and Television advertising must rank high on Smith's list of wasteful failures.

While New Zealanders punch the air over the rise and rise of their currency, it's seriously bad news for the fragile single basket Cook Islands economy engineered by Neves. He and Smith will no doubt absolve themselves with excuses that will not wash with the tourism industry investors. With the New Zealand dollar buying more against the Fiji dollar the demand for travel to Fiji will only increase.

Once travellers get wind there is extra Tala in Samoa and more to spend in Tonga for their NZ dollar the Cook Islands potential repeaters will be tempted to visit our Polynesian competitors. With a rapid response slick marketing promotion in New Zealand both Tonga and Samoa will add to the demise of our biggest market of origin. New Zealanders are frugal travellers who know a bargain basement deal when they see it. Even Tahiti is becoming an affordable destination for New Zealanders.

For New Zealanders who are prepared to travel further, Bali offers them the best value for money ever. Indonesia where the NZ Dollar is peaking in the exchange has never been cheaper; visitors are advocates for Bali with many making up to four returns.

A recent travel consultant  
*continued next page*



Cook Islands Tourism Corporation Chairman Ewan Smith

Richard Neves

Andrew Stone who wrote about his recent visit to Rarotonga in the NZ Herald (March 13) titled Cook Islands: Ten to tips for Raro, he recommended visiting New Zealanders keep clothes to a minimum and make up their 23kg weight with food, he tips travellers bring a chilli bin with them like he did (with 12kg of supplies) due to the expense of food here, what does that say about our destination?

Expect with certainty our visitor numbers take a further dive as New Zealanders with their dollar parity head for Australia's Queensland Gold Coast in unprecedented numbers to enjoy a winterless holiday and shopping sprees. Australia has never been cheaper and with the added incentives being offered for travelling families the Cook Islands will be left out in the winter cold literally.

The 15% VAT has pushed us off the affordable destination list thanks single handed to Neves who will continue to draw down his weekly \$6,300 salary while

more Cook Islands are forced to close their businesses and head off shore as economic refugees.

As an example of the failure of the Cook Islands Party governments to produce one policy to stem depopulation with unimaginative tax grabbing policies just take a snap shot of 400 meters from Taio's shopping complex opposite Crown Beach Resort and the Roadhouse Bar and Takeaway, there are 13 businesses that have folded, the embarrassing legacy of the architect of Nenevanomics expat Richard Neves.

With the Cook Islands failing to offer value for money right across the entire tourism related sector its more tough times and belt tightening ahead hardly an enticing advertisement for potential foreign and existing investors.

Currency fluctuations have often been a convenient excuse in the past but have Smith and his CITC board devised a proactive solution to implement if

such a condition impacts our economy? The likely answer is no, therefore it is a timely opportunity for government to face reality and inject fresh visionary leadership onto the CITC Board.

There is no extra budget money to be gobbled up by CITC's black hole, they need a new CEO and chairman who can read the play and conjure smart solutions to the confronting challenges including the addition of the missing link in our tourism, five star development.

With eminent budgetary constraints about to choke the promotional life of tourism, CITC needs smart operators at the helm who can do more with less a lot sooner than later.

Agriculture needs a cash injection to produce low intensity high yielding crops to kick start and diversify the failing one dimensional single basket economy, whether he likes it not, it's a necessitated option neneva Neves is relegated to.

- George Pitt

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# Our Frontpage model Cook Islands a world hot spot



**T**he Cook Islands are making waves as one of the world's hot spots to visit in 2015.

As reported to the tourism industry at last week's Australia Market Day, news media and travel review sites are heaping accolades on the Cook Islands.

In late 2014, the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age Traveller tipped readers to the Cook Islands as one of the next big destinations on its 2015 Hot List, while Sunday Life named Aitutaki's One Foot Island as the number 1 beach on the planet. In January, the UK Telegraph rated Aitutaki as "the world's most beautiful lagoon", which Traveller Online shared in Australia, and Time Out Sydney recommended Rarotonga in its Top 10 Getaways for 2015. And just last week Australia's Traveller on Sunday included the Cook Islands in its Top 50 family destinations.

In Trip Advisor's 2015 Travellers' Choice Awards, Titikaveka made the Top 10 Beaches – South Pacific and two Aitutaki hotels Etu Moana (#6)

and Pacific Resort (#18) ranked in the Top 25 Hotels for Romance – South Pacific. These augment Travellers' Choice Awards in 2014 (2015 winners are yet to be announced) for the World's Top Islands Aitutaki (#7) and South Pacific Islands – Aitutaki (#2) and Rarotonga (#5).

And Air New Zealand's Safety in Paradise video, featuring Sports Illustrated swimsuit models and filmed in Aitutaki, ranked number 7 of the top 10 most viewed YouTube clips in Australia for 2014.

"These accolades are wonderful to receive as we know such powerful endorsements from actual visitors and credible media are highly influential when prospective visitors are planning their next holiday," says Cook Islands Tourism CEO Halatoa Fua. "On Wednesday we received news from China that the Cook Islands among big players such as Hawaii Tourism and the Seychelles won the Best Honeymoon Destination for 2015 voted by Top Travel in China."

## Pa Ariki Palace Museum tour



Te Atamira artifact at the Pa Ariki Palace Museum.  
See story page 12

Our frontpage model Herald Issue 761 is Chemanya Mackenzie Hoff. Chemanya is a student at Tereora College and while the school holidays are upon us, Chemanya is currently looking for a part-time job, to save up for her birthday party in July. Check out our website [www.ciherald.co.ck](http://www.ciherald.co.ck) and facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ciherald](http://www.facebook.com/ciherald)



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# Tourism Business Confidence Index Survey launch



By Noeline Browne

A business confidence index survey of the tourism industry of the Cook Islands will be conducted by the New Zealand Research Institute (NZTRI) in conjunction with Auckland University of Technology (AUT) in a joint project with Cook Islands Tourism Corporation.

The research institute is run by Prof Simon Milne who has 30 years of experience in tourism research and the tourism research institute has been conducting visitor surveys for the Cook Islands for the past three years. The surveys are conducted online and over 20,000 visitors have taken part in the surveys so far.

Prof Milne said the old cliché that 'tourism is everyone's business' is quite true and said the business survey is not just for hoteliers and travel industry but also for related businesses such as cafes, restaurants, bars, tour guides, car and bike rentals, tourist transfers, shops, markets

and more.

The business confidence index survey is intended to allow the 'voice of the industry' to be heard, adding that while that business-oriented survey is new to Cook Islands, such surveys are conducted regularly in New Zealand. They act as a 'barometer' of confidence that the business community has in the current state of the tourism industry. In order to work, the survey must be 'evidence-based' which means that businesses will need to provide the information in order to work added Metua Vaiimene from the Cook Islands Tourism Corporation.

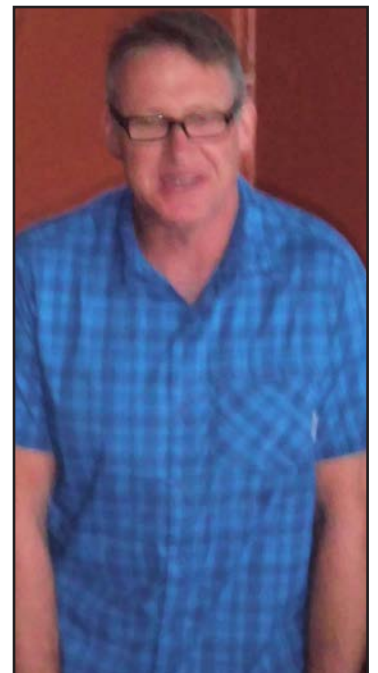
In other words, businesses will need to support the survey by taking part and answering such information as providing their annual turnover figures, occupancy rates, employment structure, employee numbers and so on.

Prof Milne said it has been shown in overseas studies, that industries that work together have a better outcome for

themselves than when operators work alone. He admitted there might be resistance to providing such information because of commercial 'sensitivities', but said there are safeguards as to confidentiality. For instance, all data is 'aggregated' in such a way that the participants will not be identified.

Such data could provide our policy makers with some insights into the economic outlook for the country and inform their policy decisions. While supportive in a general way, some of the operators still expressed their concern about the 'sensitivity' of the information they were being asked to provide. Nevertheless, the idea of a tourism business confidence survey was well received by those who attended the meeting.

During his interview with the media, Prof Milne said he was delighted to see a good representation of the industry and government at the launch. There were a number of private sector people at the meeting



including David Bridge from Air New Zealand, Robert Skews from Island Hopper and Theresa Manarangi-Trott from Chamber of Commerce and the owner of Café Salsa. Reps from the Government sector were Garth Henderson from MFEM and Petero Okotai from OPM in Policy and Planning.



# Tahiti visit by DPM delegation

By Charles Pitt

Deputy Prime Minister Teariki Heather and his delegation have returned from their recent visit to Tahiti Nui and while no official media statement has been prepared yet, the Herald was able to obtain an update from the Secretary for Infrastructure Mac Mokoroa on the visit and what is planned next in terms of follow up actions and visits.

According to Mokoroa, an information will be prepared for Cabinet 's Tuesday meeting to give Cabinet some indication on what was achieved from the trip. The DPM has agreed that a combined paper to highlight all the gains/benefits from this trip be prepared.

Set out below are the new engagements and ongoing projects/programs the

government would like to continue with Tahiti Nui after the visit.

1. Meeting with the French High Commissioner

a. Increased Surveillance for the French Patrol Boat

b. Exchange of Staff to travel from Papeete to Rarotonga in May/July Visit

c. Will await for a letter of invite to be present on the 4th August for the Constitution Celebration

2. Meeting with Tahiti Nui President

a. Letter of Engagement for TA to travel to Rarotonga to undertake a Feasibility Study of the Rarotonga Waste Facility and make recommendations on where to next.

b. Interested to have a Performing Arts Team from Tahiti Nui for our 50th. Will check and advise back

whether this will be part of his official delegation or to travel separately.

c. Have approved the assistance by the Government of Tahiti Nui, noting that their own national celebrations Heiva in July which ends on the 20th July will affect the level of their assistance in technical equipment, manpower. Have committed to 'transporting' these across to the Cook Islands.

3. Meeting with Minister of Infrastructure - Hon Albert Solia

a. Letter of Invite for Minister Solia to travel to Atiu

b. Letter of Engagement for TA to travel to Atiu for Atiu Airport Feasibility Study

c. Information and Data on Atiu Airport to be emailed to Mr Raymond Chin Foo/Maurice at Foreign Affairs

4. Meeting with Minister of Culture Hon Heremoana

a. Assistance with provision of Lights and Sound System pending requirements for their own Heiva in July.

b. Events and Technical Team from TOATA will scope out technical requirements for our proposed stadium stage and will provide us three options to consider from small, standard to large technical system.

c. Letter of Engagement for a TA to travel from Tahiti to Rarotonga to scope the stage, lighting and sounds requirements;

d. Letter of Engagement for 5 Technical Staff from Ministry of Culture to travel to Tahiti to part-take in the preparation and receive training from your counterpart Mr Bernard Chimin, Ministry of Te Fare Culture.



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# Ariki revive governance claims based on complex legal argument



Vaeruarangi Ariki reading the Proclamation at Taputapuatea in 2008

By Charles Pitt

On Easter Monday at Titikaveka, at 12 noon, the small group known as the "Kings and Queens of the Sovereign Kingdom of the Cook Islands," in their collective capacity as the "Sovereign Heads of State of the Sovereign Kingdom of the Cook Islands," revived the move proclaimed back on 12 June 2008, to revoke the current system of government by way of Letters of Patent registered in Wellington, New Zealand on 1 April 2014 in favour of government by the Ariki (to take effect on 6 April 2014).

Back in 2008, the proclamation at Taputapuatea had the support of 10 Ariki but this support later faded after government pressured the Ariki to back down and apologise to the QR before being allowed to be readmitted to the House of Ariki.

The recent move to Letter of Patent, involves a complex legal process and justification rooted in historical documents. It's the stuff lawyers relish.

It was a small group of perhaps 15 who assembled at Titikaveka on Easter Monday. The key movers are Teaukura Teaukura

known as Vaeruarangi Ariki of Aitutaki (not currently a member of the House of Ariki) and NZ Maori Vivian Bruce Gordon Mita also known as Ruatapu Ariki.

As a young man, Mita grew up among the Cook Islands community in Tokoroa, New Zealand and is married to a Cook Islander.

Mita was appointed by warrant issued on 10 February 2011 confirming his appointment as Ruatapu Tukarawa, Ambassador Plenipotentiary to speak on behalf of Te Ui Ariki Ngateitei o te Kuki Airani.

By this warrant issued and witnessed by Vaeruarangi Ariki, Mita has authority to transact or negotiate any business for the benefit and welfare of the Cook Islands people.

The Sovereign Kingdom group aim to reassert the historical authority of the Ariki but in a modern context by way of exercising the internationally recognized legal rights and entitlements of indigenous peoples to self determination.

The group does not advocate any coup of the style experienced in Fiji. In fact the group expressly states in its Letter of Patent to

be non-adverse, non-belligerent, non-combatant and non-contentious. Their approach appears to be strictly legal.

What is advocated is a system of government which appears to combing or fuse together elements of the traditional, cultural systems and features of the Westminster system.

**System of government in brief;**

Space does not permit a detailed explanation of the proposed system but in brief, the highest authority is to be the Ariki in their collective capacity.

The governing body consists of an Upper House -Privy Council (Aronga Mana) which has 12 members headed by a President and two counselors. It shall vet, ratify or revoke all Bills passed through the Lower House.

The Privy Council shall appoint an Executive Council which consists of two Arikis, two members of the Privy Council, the PM and Cabinet. There will also be an Administrator and Secretary.

The Executive Government shall comprise a PM selected by secret ballot among the Ariki and Privy Council and 8 Cabinet

Ministers selected by the PM from MPs elected to parliament by the people.

There shall be 24 MPs elected by the people but no political parties.

**Other proposals regarding the public service;**

The group has other proposals concerning public policy, procedures and Ministries.

The group proposes a patrol boat fleet of 6 ships and an air force of 6 jet aircraft to patrol our extensive EEZ.

A minimum wage of \$12 an hour is proposed.

There shall be no deep seabed mining.

The Ui Ariki are to be paid a salary equivalent to an MPs salary or more. Reforms are proposed concerning the Land Court and land leases.

There are other proposals concerning health, education and telecommunications.

**Further action;**

Puna Rakanui of the House of Ariki indicated on Tuesday that the group has no support among the wider number of Ariki. He said the group's document lacked merit. See extracts from letter of patent page 11 and 18.



**Letters Patent Constituting the  
Sovereign Kingdom of the Cook Islands, and  
the Government of the Sovereign Kingdom of the Cook Islands  
(SKCI 2014/201)**

King Vaeruarangi

King Ruatapu

**13. Constitution of Deep Seabed Mining of Our Natural Mineral Resources**

We do by these presents Constitute, there Shall Be **No Deep Seabed Mining** of the Manganese Nodules in the Sovereign Kingdom of the Cook Islands ocean waters, in accord and satisfaction with the Declaration of Te Ui Ariki Ngateitei o te Kuki Airani in 2008 and 2009, "Do Not Touch Te Moana".

**14. Constitution of a Kings Court**

We do by these presents Constitute a Kings Court in and throughout all of the Sovereign Kingdom of the Cook Islands.

- a) The Privy Council shall be the Highest Court in and throughout all of the Sovereign Kingdom of the Cook Islands.
- b) The Magistrates Court shall be the Lower Court of the two Courts
- c) The Land Court shall be presided over by a person(s) eligible for appointment under the Constitution Act 2014;
  - (i) Foreigners shall have no Rights on the land, and
  - (ii) Banks shall have NO hold or Caveats over any Maori Land; and
    - i. shall have NO authority, powers or rights to sell Native Title Land or any Land to overseas interests or investors
  - (iii) Judges and Lawyers from a foreign Country(s) shall have NO Jurisdiction in the Sovereign Kingdom of the Cook Islands
  - (iv) The Highest Judge(s) in the Sovereign Kingdom of the Cook Islands Shall be the KINGS.

**15. Exercise of prerogative of mercy**

We do by these presents, authorise and empower the Privy Council, in Our name and Our behalf, to exercise the prerogative of mercy in and throughout the Sovereign Kingdom of the Cook Islands may:

- a) Grant, to any person concerned in the commission of any offence for which he/she may be tried in any court, to which this clause applies, or to any person convicted of any offence in any such court, a pardon, either free or subject to lawful conditions; or grant, to any person, a respite, either indefinite or for a specified period, of the execution of any sentence passed on that person in any court whether it be local or a court in a foreign jurisdiction, to which this clause may apply; or



# Pa Ariki's Takitumu Palace Museum

By Poko Utia

**O**n Tuesday the 7th of April, a team of Herald reporters had the opportunity to visit the Takitumu Palace Museum of Pa Tapaeru Teariki Upokotini Ariki in Turangi.

We were greeted by Claudia Brall who educated us on the historical background of the great Pa Ariki. The reigning Queen Pa has held the title for 25 years and is the 48th title holder which began in 1350's. Pa is a strong independent woman who has accomplished a lot and is still till this very day is an active member within the community.

At present she is overseas helping the Maori community and also representing the Cook Islands. Pa is a visionary who knows what she wants. The title was passed down to her five months after her mother passed away. There are pictures on the walls of the palace of Pa when she was a little girl and pictures of her on her Christianising day.

If you were to visit the palace you will be able to see pictures of her investiture. Claudia showed us the traditional Tapa cloth Pa had worn, which was made in Tonga, we saw her traditional fan and the head wear that was placed on her head. Pa is very health focused and has set up facilities to help people with obesity, diabetes and other harmful health risks that are currently on the island.

There are also photos of her with famous people like Nelson Mandela. Pa Ariki has travelled extensively to different parts of



the world. In the museum are pictures of her on a Vaka when she traveled to Samoa. It was a spiritual journey for her.

Before she set out on this journey she had a tattoo on her wrist of a centipede to represent the 3 virtues she lived by and portrays to her people which are;

**Ferocity** -if a centipede senses that you are going to do it harm, it will attack to defend itself so too will Pa if she senses that you will harm her or her people,

**Velocity** -since the creature is fast so will she be if you try to attack, and, **Movement**.

This tattoo also serves to identify her as royalty when travelling overseas.

## Brief facts about the Museum

**T**he Takitumu Palace Museum of Pa Tapaeru Teariki Upokotini Ariki in Turangi is the only chiefly museum open to the public and was opened in December 2014.

The Museum is open from Monday to Friday from 10am to 2pm. For a small admission fee you can view and touch the history of Pa Ariki's Chiefly Artifacts.

You will also experience the following;

- 1.the historical background of Pa Ariki
- 2.the utilization and role of Pa Ariki
- 3.the social organisation structure of a Rarotongan tribe
- 4.historical information of the seven canoe voyage from Avana harbour dating back to the 1300's
- 5.land tenure structure
- 6.the beautiful gardens and safe, friendly and happy environment
- 7.the gift shop with its souvenirs and refreshments.

## Items of beauty to be seen in Palace Museum

By Haley McNabb

**T**he Takitumu Palace Museum of Pa Ariki, has many traditional items on display such as tools and clothing, photographs and also a portrait painting of Pa Tapaeru Teariki Upoko-Tini Marie (Pa Ariki).

The museum educates people of not only Pa's family history but also the history of the Takitumu tribe as a whole. The Takitumu Palace was built from 2010-2011 and was opened on

the 15th December 2011 by Pa herself.

Pa is known to be visionary because she knows that when she goes all the amazing artifacts that you can see now in the palace would have gone to her family. However she did not want that, Pa instead wanted the Palace so it could be open to the people whether they are Cook Islands, Tourists or New Zealand Maori who come back to discover their history.

Some of the artifacts that got me interested in were the Atamira and the Pate. The Atamira is a small chair that was used by Pa when she was being carried at various events to show that she is a very important person. It was made out of tamanu which is a local mahogany and is carved out of one piece.

The Pate was also another amazing artifact which was made in Mangaia and given to Pa on the opening of the palace.

It symbolized the people and a legend from Mangaia and also came along with a message that was once you fuse together as a tribe you become stronger and invincible.

These two artifacts were so very beautiful and that wasn't even a bit of what was to show in the palace. The Takitumu Museum Palace is a great way to learn about the tribe's history so I recommend you all go out and have a look around as it is a place you will never forget.

# A Museum rich in culture and heritage



By Courtney Matai

Going to the Takitumu Palace Museum on Tuesday was a great experience for me as a teenager who knows little about my heritage. A fee of \$10 was paid at the door to Ms Claudia Brall who was a very good tour guide throughout the whole tour of the palace museum. She politely greeted our team from the Herald before entering the palace. Upon stepping in through the main doorway, we could clearly see a large 'tapa' mat hanging from the ceiling with many artefacts placed around the room on full display.

The Palace is divided into three sections. On the far left of the palace facing the seaside is Pa Ariki's quarters or residence. The middle part is the museum where artefacts and old photos

of Pa Ariki are displayed and on the right is the Wellbeing Centre where she offers Physical Ailments, Stress Management, Couples Therapy, Child Behaviour Patterns, Bereavement, Abuse, Group Therapy and Meditation sessions.

Artefacts such as pounding stones made from wood and Corals was used by women back in the days to pound herbs to make medicine and many more. An artifact that caught my eye was the "Atamira", the chief's or Ariki's seat that's always used during special occasions when the Ariki is carried on a "Pa'ata" whilst seated on the Atamira. The Atamira that was seen on display is made from the "Tamanu" or Mahogany wood which was carved from one big piece of the wood. It hasn't been confirmed but it is said that the

wood of the atamira is about 200 years old, yet it still looks good apart from a little deterioration. Claudia also jokes about why Quilt making was introduced to us by the missionaries, it's to occupy the girls and get them to do things like making mats from pandanus leaves.

Matavera, Rangiatea, Takitumu Ngatangia and Titikaveka to Vaimaanga are the three districts which fall under Pa Ariki's Tribe. Pa Ariki's Palace was built from 2010-2011 and opened on the 15th December by Pa Ariki herself and is the only palace in the Cook Islands that is opened up to the public.

The main room that we were in was the place in which she (Pa Ariki) holds important meetings with her Rangatira's and Mataiapo's (Sub-Chiefs). Beautiful Tivae'vae bedspreads

were on display in the room with a lot of locally made church hats and a beautiful painting of an Ara on the wall. It is said that when an Ariki dies, an Ara or pandanus fruit will fall from the tree and starts growing a whole new plant, meaning that the Ariki's reign and power will live on.

From what I've learnt on the tour with Ms Claudia Brall, is that we the younger generation of today should be really proud of our heritage and should take into consideration of learning more about our Cook Island culture. The Takitumu Palace Museum of Pa Tapaeru Teariki Upokotini Ariki is opened to the public from 10am-2pm from Monday to Friday. Come along and learn about your culture and heritage as it is a very educational and is a great experience and good for the youths of today.

# A passage to Mangaia

*By Derek Fox*

I don't know if like me you've watched the tug and barge service that takes vehicles and other cargo to the outer islands as it pulls away from Avatiu harbour and wondered where the vessels were heading and what they go through on the way.

Well the other day I thought I'd do more than just wonder.

I ran into Malcolm Sword in Avarua and asked him if he would be interested in me hitching a ride and writing a story about a voyage. He thought it wasn't a bad idea and within days I was lined up to go on the next trip, which was to Mangaia, our closest neighbour.

The day dawned fine but grey. There was a hive of activity as we prepared to leave the harbour, which involved all seven of the crew, it's a tricky business getting a barge which doesn't have a propulsion system out of a relatively confined space without running aground or bumping into other boats or parts of the wharf; but once we were out of the port with the tow established and all unneeded ropes and equipment safely stowed, the pressure came off.

The tug – now called Tiro-II – began life as a Canadian fishing boat and is a bit over 18-metres in length, she was converted for her new duties in New Zealand.

Following along behind us on a 420-metre long rope with a breaking strain of 56-tonnes – is Waimarie – a 30-metre long 'dumb barge'. Dumb sounds a bit harsh but it refers to the fact that she doesn't have an engine.

Our Captain – Ken Harvey – brought both of them up



Tiro II and Waimarie arriving at Mangaia

from Nelson in October 2013. It was a 14-day voyage with just one stop at Hicks Bay on the east coast of the North Island to transfer fuel from the barge to Tiro-II.

Having cleared Rarotonga Captain Ken punches in the co-ordinates for Mangaia, and engages the autopilot. We plod into the weather as we make our way to the south-east, there will be someone on watch on the bridge making slight adjustments to the course from time to time, and checking of course that the barge is still following; but otherwise there is little or nothing to do.

Fairly quickly I learn that Tiro-II can roll – boy can she roll. I reflect on Capt. Ken asking me the day before when we met if I got seasick. My answer then was 'not so far'. And so far it's still correct,

just. With nothing to do out on deck everybody is inside either in the saloon or in their bunks. Eating is mostly a random thing with people snacking on noodles or whatever as it suits. Everything is latched or tied down; the fridge doors all have latches. The elements on the stove all have low fences around them to hold pots and pans in place, there are non-skid cloths on the tables to try and hold plates and cups in place, and there need to be.

The vastly experienced Fijian crew all move about the boat with arms loosely outstretched touching or holding familiar secure points to keep their balance. I stagger around like a tourist after an all day and night session at Trader Jacks grabbing whatever I can to hang on to.

Attending to one's ablutions

can be a very tricky even hazardous exercise. While taking a shower the following day I gripped the hand rail in the shower toilet bathroom area getting wet from time to time as I surfed past the shower head on the rubber mats on the rolling floor.

But all of that was in the future. As we settled into the voyage Capt. Ken turned on the TV and we yarned and flicked through the menu of the many many movies available for viewing on his hard drive. Crewmembers joined us at various times to have some kai; someone cooked up some maniota – the sweet yellow one. The Fijians called it cassava but we know it's really maniota.

Ken is Capt. and the only kiwi in the crew, the other six guys are all Fijian with tug and

*Continued next page*

barge experience.

But they all have remarkably similar stories to tell.

Ken was born and grew up in Nelson, his father was a fisherman and he first went to sea with him at the age of 15 or 16. He's worked on fishing boats around New Zealand, Australia and the Cook Islands. His partner is a local. Ken did his skipper's ticket in Nelson; he's had tug and barge experience in Australia. He says he likes going to sea which allows him to leave all the land issues ashore – mind you he was still not letting go the fact the Eels had been stripped of their competition points.

The operation has the benefit of having two captains. Capt. Peni from Fiji joined the crew in November and allows Ken to have a break from time to time. He has a similar story to tell. His father was a seaman too and prior to retirement was a crewing on a boat Peni later captained. Unlike his dad Peni sat his tickets and Malcolm Sword says he heard about Peni from a first cousin who's a ship's pilot in Fiji and he came highly recommended. He's been at sea for 20 years, the first 11 away from Fiji around the Pacific; he then spent 7 years working on tourist boats, which allowed him to get home each night. Then he got the offer of a one-year contract to come here, it's meant leaving his wife and three children in Fiji, which he isn't so happy about, but he rings them every day.

Peni is clearly a religious man too. When I joined him unexpectedly on the bridge in the pre-dawn watch as we approached Mangaia he was listening to something in Fijian off his phone. When I listened closer it was a church service.

It's still pitch black when we arrive off Mangaia, but as

daylight arrives people begin gathering on the wharf, it's drizzling and I don't have a rain coat, but it's not cold and my biggest concern is to keep my camera reasonably dry.

We're carrying amongst other things the new heavy machinery donated by China for the outer islands and getting it all ashore is a tricky process. It involves close co-ordination between those at sea and ashore.

Tiro-II and Waimarie can't just steam into port, the harbours too small.

Capt. Ken lays the plan. First we shorten up the tow and most of the Fijian crew transfer to the barge – that sounds simple – but it involves Tiro-II backing up to the leeward side of the barge and the crew jumping across the gap.

A couple of small boats with outboard motors are swung off the barge and I climb into one of them.

The barge is towed slowly across the mouth of the entrance through the reef and it's anchor dropped on the windward side of the entrance, we in the meantime have taken a long and large rope ashore and it's fixed to the back of a frontend loader. We play it out as we return to the barge and the crew fasten it to the front of the barge.

We then push the back of the barge round til its nose is pointing ashore through the entrance and the machine ashore starts pulling. The wind is keeping the barge off the other side of the reef and we're pushing like hell to stop it grounding on our side while also making sure we don't get shoved on to it.

With us pushing, the guys ashore pulling and the wind blowing, Waimarie makes it ashore without incident. Her ramp is dropped on the rocky shore alongside the wharf and the machine that was

doing the pulling released from that chore comes back and lays a sandy ramp/track across the rocks which allows the unloading to begin.

First ashore is one of the new Chinese diggers, its first job to unload a whole lot of large gas bottles. "The new firewood," the mayor of Mangaia laments as he watches on. "Hardly anyone's got open fires these days."

The rest of the cargo comes off pretty quickly and without a hitch. There's a grader, a roller, and a frontend loader, along with a little bus and a couple of private vehicles. There are more gas bottles and some building material.

Our back load includes a pretty fancy boat, and plenty of empty gas bottles.

With the returning cargo securely tided down we reverse the process of getting the barge in. Tiro-II pulls and we push like hell again on the way through the reef and the wind sort of does it's bit too.

Tiro-II steams around the island a bit looking for calmer water to sort out the long tow and to get the crew back on board from the barge but it's all much of a muchness so the crew perform their magic and before long we're underway for Rarotonga. After 20 hours of inactivity and six hours of full on work they begin to relax again.

The smart ones have a shower while we're still quite close to the island. My run's too late.

Joey who stayed onboard Tiro-II while we were ashore has knocked up some saveloys and maniotia/cassava, which I find very palatable.

Joe's a fairly substantial bloke and his days of jumping between boat and barge and back again are – I would have thought – over. Like all of the crew he's jovial. He's a permanent resident in the Cooks and has a Cook Islands

wife and family.

While I'm waiting at the end of the queue for the shower I chat with Dave the engineer. Same old story – his dad was an engineer and took him to work with him. Like Joey he's spent 20 years at sea too. He has grown up kids but lost his wife to diabetes a couple of years ago. He jokes about his first time at sea as the ships engineer. He was on a fishing boat. "The engine blew up. The conrod broke and came through the side of the block." I suggested to him there was probably not much he could do about that. "No. We had to get a tow. But the guys who came to rescue us broke down too and they were drifting for two days before they were rescued."

Funny things happen at sea. Apart from grabbing the shower to stop falling over in the shower/bathroom and pulling it off the wall – the rest of my voyage was uneventful.

On the voyage home I started getting the hang of things. I worked out that lying in my bunk was a good thing; down low the rolling wasn't so great. At one stage I decided to count the time between rolls; the most I got to was 6 or 7 seconds.

On the way back I was up in the bridge again when we first saw the lights of Rarotonga – just after 4am. It was another two hours before we hove to off Avatiu and went through the process of shortening up the tow and coming into the harbour.

Approximately 48 hours after we set sail we were back in port. We spent about 40 hours getting there and back and the rest of the time getting in and out of port and unloading and reloading.

I still haven't been seasick and I had a marvelous experience with a great bunch of people.

Kia ora.

# When is a Cook Islander not a Cook Islander? When he/she is NZ Maori

by Tetuhi Kelly

I hope I've got your attention now by that one simple statement that heads up this article. I know what you're going to say, Hmmm, this is interesting, I wonder what he means. Well let me establish who I am then we can get on with the discussion.

Many centuries ago a double hulled vaka left Raiatea and sailed to Tahiti with over 40 toa and vaine and then journeyed down through what we now call the Northern Cook Islands Group stopping along the way to visit iti tangata in places like Tongareva, Rakahanga, Manihiki, Suwarrow, and Palmerston and down to Aitutaki. The reasons for that particular journey are the stuff of legends, but suffice to say I know this because I am a direct descendant of the paramount chief who built and commanded that vaka; his name was Ariki Hoturoa, the vaka was called Tainui which eventually settled at Kawhia on the west coast of NZ and founded the Maori people of Waikato. Tainui's influence with those northern group islands can be appreciated in the way that the language of the Tainui people is similar in respects to those islands it renewed its contacts with on its long journey and its very close relationship with Aitutaki. The journey of Tainui was many months and the warriors left many descendants as they journeyed through the islands and eventually Tainui continued on its travels to what is now called Rarotonga and then on to Aotearoa.

At another time and

another island called Mauke another vaka left and eventually journeyed to Aotearoa some say it came via Rarotonga others say it went direct. A warrior on that vaka was a man called Kahuiaterangi who became known as the legendary Paikea and who founded the Ngati Porou tribe on the east coast of NZ, he was one of the many sons of Ariki Uenuku a paramount chief, I am descended from Paikea on my mother's side. I learned whakapapa from my grandparents and my parents and I was schooled in wananga Maori and on any marae in Aotearoa I can establish my credentials and my rights to speak. I know who I am, who I am related to, my tuakana and my chiefly status and where I come from through my Tainui whakapapa. Being able to whakapapa back to the Cook Islands through my genealogy makes a strong case for concluding that I am a descendant of a Cook Islander, albeit many centuries ago.

You're probably thinking, so what? Well, remember the title of this article at the beginning, when is a Cook Islander not a Cook Islander? The answer is, when they are NZ Maori. Ask any Cook Islander where NZ Maori come from and without a doubt they will all say, 'no konei'. NZ Maori are from here, there was trade and voyagings between the Cook Islands and Aotearoa in those days, and all NZ Maori have whakapapa links to the Cook Islands, hence to modern Cook Islanders, NZ Maori are

descendants of Cook Islanders and to some, NZ Maori are teina. However if you are NZ Maori living or making your home in the Cook Islands, you cannot legitimately claim to be a Cook Islander, Why? Because the current Immigration laws do not recognise NZ Maori as Cook Islanders, despite history and Cook Islands lore stating that NZ Maori are Cook Islands descendants. The law only recognises Cook Islanders and those descended from Cook Islanders, the law interprets descendant of a Cook Islander as recent not centuries into the past. An extract from the Cook Islands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration web site defines a Cook Islander as :

"a person belonging to the part of the Polynesian race indigenous to the Cook Islands; and any person descended from a Cook Islander. And,

Cook Islanders and their descendants born in or outside the Cook Islands may apply to be granted Cook Islands Status at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Immigration in Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands. If approved, a 'Cook Islands Status' stamp may be endorsed in the applicant's passport. The endorsement of Cook Islands Status in a passport signifies that the holder has right of entry into the Cook Islands. This status facilitates the return. The onus is on the applicant to establish that they are a Cook Islander or a descendant of a Cook Islander. They may do this by providing evidence of linkage to a Cook Islander, such as but not limited to the

following list: • their own full birth certificate; • parents full birth certificate; • marriage certificates as evidence of name change; • other legal documents as evidence of name change; • affidavits from family members; • genealogy; • land ownership in the Cook Islands; • grandparents full birth certificate;

Only original documents will be accepted. The applicant must ensure names and personal details across documents provided must remain consistent to demonstrate the link to their Cook Islands ancestor. Applications lodged without the relevant original documents will not be processed"

On that basis as NZ Maori you would find it impossible to provide any original corroborating evidence to establish that you are a descendant of an indigenous Cook Islander from many centuries ago. There were no immigration laws in those days, no passports, no birth certificates no formal documents at all except genealogy or whakapapa. You tell me how many Cook Islanders can whakapapa back over 40 generations and I can tell you not many, but many NZ Maori can, I am one of them that is the esteem to which we give to our whakapapa, knowing who we are and what our connections are. You may recall the previous quote from the Cook Islands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration web site, specifically:

The onus is on the applicant to establish that they are a

*continued next page*



Cook Islander or a descendant of a Cook Islander. They may do this by providing evidence of linkage to a Cook Islander, such as but not limited to the following list:

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- parents full birth certificate;
- marriage certificates as evidence of name change;
- other legal documents as evidence of name change;
- affidavits from family members;
- genealogy;
- land ownership in the Cook Islands;
- grandparents full birth certificate;

The list includes genealogy or whakapapa, the determinant for proving genealogy is via some sort of formal document, the trouble is that NZ Maori just like Cook Islanders did not have a written history, it was oral. So how does one prove descent from a Cook Islander with a time scale of centuries? The answer is of course that it would be nigh on impossible to prove such a link as those who had this knowledge are long deceased, the whakapapa names recorded by NZ Maori and Cook Islands Maori are interpretations caused by our adoption of the written English translations of our tupuna's names and as a consequence do not mean anything to modern Cook Islanders and therefore you would be hard pressed to convince Immigration officials of your status as a descendant of a Cook Islander by genealogy. Also how do you record a person of Polynesian descent whose name (s) could also include titles, status, nick names, pet names, names signifying great deeds or events or the person has a name translated from another language and either name being used depending on the situation or circumstance. This is the dilemma facing officialdom in the recording of our tupuna's

names, one only has to go to the land courts where families fight it out over entitlements because of the differing names that they know their tupuna by, although it's the same person. So we have a dilemma in which Cook Islands law does not recognise NZ Maori legitimacy as descendents of Cook Islanders but here is the rub, Cook Islands lore does. You go to Hui in Aotearoa and when Cook Islanders are in attendance without exception NZ Maori tribal leaders will acknowledge the special relationship that NZ Maori has with their Cook Islands tupuna, the reverse happens for NZ Maori here in the Cook Islands, it is a unique situation under lore. So if Cook Islands law doesn't recognise NZ Maori as descendants of Cook Islanders but Cook Islands lore does, how did this come about. We have to go back to a time when colonialism through the British Empire sold us on the idea that lore would be replaced by law via the Westminster or English legal system in 1840. Consider that each island, each village and each family had their own lore and you can see why the British and more recently our English educated and influenced politicians balk at having to deal with issues of lore, much easier to use British law to sort out issues with the people, because it's one single law system for all people not all differing lore systems for one people. The NZ government in their dealings with NZ Maori over Treaty of Waitangi claims, adopted this approach for over 150 years until they were forced by international pressure and NZ law to deal with each tribe on the basis of each tribes lore. Consequently the expansionist British Empire left a legal legacy throughout the nations it came into contact with that

conflicted with those nation's lore, ethnicity and cultures. Examples of the Westminster or English legal system include a head of state, a civil service, lower house, opposition etc. The Cook Islands as a Commonwealth country is a party to the Westminster system of law, as such parliament passes law for the common good of the nation and the laws are designed to be adversarial in nature, there is a winner and a loser and usually an appeals process.

The Cook Islands Entry, Residence and Departure Act 1971 and its Amendments are legislation that determines whether one is a Cook Islander or a descendant of a Cook Islander. The Cook Islands Parliament passed this Act and Parliament is made up of Cook Islanders who were elected into Parliament by their constituents (other Cook Islanders) so they must have known what they were doing when they passed this Act to deny NZ Maori their legal right of descent from a Cook Islander. So, are NZ Maori, Cook Islanders or descendants of Cook Islanders, the answer has to be that they are not in law. So all you Cook Islanders and NZ Maori, who think we came from here, you may need to think again. Because if we came from here then we must have been indigenous to the Cook Islands in the first place, putting aside the fact that all Cook Islanders are descendants of successive waves of immigration either by conquest or settlement over many centuries anyway. To my mind that makes an argument that NZ Maori are Cook Islanders; however Cook Islands law says we are not and who am I as a NZ Maori to argue with the law. As a NZ Maori I along with all other immigrants (that is what we are, by law) must

jump through an immigration bureaucratic mind field to become a Cook Islander under law and that means NZ Maori have no special relationship with the Cook Islands apart from our rights under the special relationship that the Cook Islands has with the New Zealand government regarding how long we can stay in the Cook Islands.

Just think if the Immigration law did recognise NZ Maori's unique relationship with the Cook Islands, imagine the return of the prodigal teina with money and skills would solve our labour issues, sort out the political dysfunction, sort out the cronyism, widen the tax base, put money into the economy, create new jobs, increase the number playing and watching sports, bring in new technologies, create a traditional knowledge or lore renaissance and a whole host of other mind boggling options. Wishful thinking and a nice thought though but it's never going to happen.

Finally as a Cook Islander you can't have it both ways and claim that NZ Maori are from here through your lore, when any legitimacy to such a claim is denied by the very law you passed to deny us legitimacy as Cook Islanders or descendants of Cook Islanders, either we are or we aren't. You took away our ability to be recognised as Cook Islanders, so stop calling us descendants of the Cook Islands, or kumara, or any other pet names you would like to call us, you gave up that right when you allowed legislation to pass that denied us our heritage and don't try and box us into a corner and call us your teina either as you have no legal basis for doing so, your lore is not the law. Bit of a shame really, as the 'Laughing Samoans' would say, "sorry bout it" and "sucks to be you".



**Letters Patent Constituting the  
Sovereign Kingdom of the Cook Islands, and  
the Government of the Sovereign Kingdom of the Cook Islands  
(SKCI 2014/201)**

King Vaeruarangi

King Ruatapu

provide immediate emergency Air response at sea as deemed necessary and appropriate. There shall be a Squadron of Six Jet Aircraft as deemed necessary and appropriate. And thus provide employment and career prospects for Our young men and woman in and throughout all of the Sovereign Kingdom of the Cook Islands; and

**11. Provision for Protection of the Sovereign Kingdom of the Cook Islands**

Te Ui Ariki Ngateitei o te Kuki Airani reserve the right to negotiate and enter into an agreement with any Nation(s), Country(s) or Super Power(s) the likes of; China, Russia, Japan, Great Britain, United States of America, and others, to provide Protection for Our People, our Borders and Our vast ocean area, if the need arise; and

**12. Constitution of a Sovereign Treasury and Bank of the Kingdom of the Cook Islands**

We do by these presents Constitute a Sovereign Treasury-Bank of the Sovereign Kingdom of the Cook Islands, for the benefit of ALL Cook Islanders. There shall be three (3) Divisions of the Sovereign Treasury and Bank as follows:

- a) There shall be an International Trading Platform to enable Our Traders to engage in international business on any and all stock exchanges throughout the world to generate:
  - i. Funding for Our People, Our Country, Nation and Kingdom through the Trading of Our Natural Resources above and beneath the Lands, and above and beneath the Seas, and Commodities as the case may be; and
  - ii. Every Cook Island Maori, Man, Woman and Child shall be beneficiaries of the Sovereign Treasury and Bank, and shall share in the profits thereof, as deemed appropriate; and
- b) The Sovereign Treasury shall be the Central Banking arm of the Sovereign Kingdom of the Cook Islands, and shall have responsibility for monetary policy in relation to domestic and international affairs and banking, currency markets and inflationary measures, and strategies and soforth; and
- c) The Sovereign Bank shall provide retail business and personal banking facilities on a day-to-day basis and shall operate in accord and satisfaction with international banking standards and practice.



# How to be great God's way

Part 4

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

I will continue with the theme of Humility. Remember that 'True humility' is not an external way of presentation, but it's the condition of the heart. In the Book of James chapter 4v.1-17 in the New Testament of the Bible, are some lessons from a life that has little or no Humility at all.

The first is CONTINUED CONFLICT. If you lack humility you will have destructive desires.

The second is UNANSWERED PRAYERS because you're asking for the wrong things and wrong motives.

Thirdly, we will have INCREASING JUDGEMENT these are people who kept pointing the finger with what's wrong. Always blaming this and blaming that. James is saying that all of these happened because of the lack of Humility.

Fourthly, 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. Independent is a lack of Humility.

Fifthly, there is also the attitude of STINGINESS (unwilling to spend or to give to help others) (karapii). These are people who want everybody else to do it, and then they will end up being the last one to offer support! Why! Because they lack humility according the James.

For Part 4 of this theme of Humility, I want you to know 'How To Have Biblical

Humility' We must realize that the process of humility is going to cost. In James chapter 4v.10 it reads "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."

This is what the Bible is teaching us, that humility is not an external thing or a nice external way of presentation. But humility is something that only you and I can do before God. It's not what you say to your husband or wife or to your friend or your response to leadership, but what you do before God. v.10 says Humble yourself before the Lord, and what will happened, "He will lift you up."

What is the key? Apart from the explanations of what the lack of humility does, it's in v.7. James writes the key is SUBMIT TO GOD. James is saying, If you want to have Biblical Humility? No. 1 It's the challenge to Lordship, SUBMIT TO GOD.

This is the intend of the heart, it's like, "Are you prepared to do what God wants you to do?" Humility is a matter between you and God. Often we're challenged whether to Obey or not! If we realise that if we repent and say 'God I can't live it on my own, I need you to forgive the weight of sin in my life!' God will immediately do that!

God is saying we need Humility to begin Submission and Obedience to Him! Remember that Humility is not how we respond externally, but rather it's the condition of our heart! When Jesus becomes the Lord of your life, this means

## Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



that He is in control of you. Jesus as Lord and Saviour of your life. I assure you my friend, if you do this Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit will never leave you nor forsake you He will always be there to help and guide you in your life.

The characteristics of Lordship is important to know. For example Jesus said 'You must be born again!' You can't get to heaven through other means except to be born again by receiving

May God bless you and guide you always. Te Atua te arua.

# Blood or Not

By Lucianne Vainerere

As teens we go through this phase where we don't consider family as much as we consider friends. We feel that family never really paid much attention to who we want to be but more on whom we should be and what we should do. That affection we feel like we needed isn't shown from our blood but from our friends.

Blood or not the ones who are loyal to you, supportive of you and always there for you are the ones you can and should call family. There are times when you need as much support as you can to feel that sensation of being free and achieving something but too often-family end up holding you back telling you that you'll never get there or it isn't good enough, or you should be more like your older siblings before you.

There's also the whole finding "my true friends" sort of deal that we go through and all the backstabbing mishap and what not's and discovering who your ride or dies are. When you find the ones who accept your dilemmas and your special personality and who have those eyes and heart to look past all the jazz. That my friend, is a true ride or die. The point is people say you can't chose who your family is, that whether you like it or not they will always be your family. That's true but you always have a choice. If you're fused enough

then they're automatically family.

For most of us brotherhood is serious and the whole concept behind it is what binds us with the whole "I got your back" phrase. That's the beauty of it, what can't be found where your blood lies is made up for with the "bro's". Whoever that may be.

It's around this time of our lives where we find our true ride or dies and soul brothers and sisters that will contribute and add on to our pile of memories that we've created. All the happiness and lost affection made up for through them as well as our blood related family who proved to be just that. Family.

Family is what we rely on and what we fall upon and is pretty much the only thing that will really catch us when we fall or even better will be right next to us so we can fall together. Don't forget, you do have a choice, blood or not. If they're willing to go to the extremes with you and do the so called "impossible" while standing right next to you, you have nothing to worry about, that's a true family member right there. No more, no less. In the end it's the ones that surround you that truly matter. You will always be my brother.

"How could we not talk about family when family's all that we got?"

Everything I went through you were standing there by my side

And now you gonna be with me for the last ride."

## Ministry for Infrastructure responds to complaint

By Charles Pitt

The Ministry for Infrastructure has responded by letter dated 1 April to a complaint by Auckland company Materials Management and Suppliers Ltd over its failed bid to win the tender for the crusher for Atiu (see letter below).

The Company which has supplied equipment to the Cook Islands previously and without complaint, was surprised its tender of

\$437,000 lost out to another Auckland based company who submitted a bid which was \$61,000 higher.

What surprises the complainant company is that past history of satisfactory service appears to count for little. Also it is at a loss to see how the other company can construct a crusher for such a price.

The Ministry has not indicated if it will review the tender committee's decision.

01 April 2015

The Directors

Materials Management and Suppliers Ltd

7-9 Avenger Place, Glendene, Auckland

NEW ZEALAND

Attention: Victor Kapoor

Kia Orana Victor,

Re: PUBLIC TENDERING COMPLAINTS FORM - SUPPLY AND FABRICATION OF ATIU CRUSHER PLANT - CONTRACT NO. C15-01

We acknowledge receipt of your email and completed complaint form regarding the awarding of the above contract. A request for a re-evaluation of the tender considering the huge difference in cost (price) is noted being your main concern.

Unfortunately, considering current developments pertaining the awarding of the above contract to the successful supplier, your request for a re-evaluation of the tender cannot be accommodated since the contract between the Principal and the successful supplier have already been signed, thus would not change the outcome of awarding, presuming this is what you are entailing.

Please note that the evaluation process was accordingly undertaken by a committee and the Principal were guided by the recommendations of the evaluation committee, thus will abide by their decision.

You will probably agree that, in any tender, lowest price tender does not always get awarded the contract, and does not necessarily reflect value for money. On the contrary, a higher priced product may reflect the added quality/value, being the difference in price. In this particular tender, considerate for some of the technical aspects of the crusher outweighed the difference in price. Incidentally, may we refer you to section 25 under Notification of Acceptance of the Request for Tender document which clear states that:

- "The Principal shall not be bound to accept the lowest priced tender or the highest scored tender or any tender; furthermore in section 27,

- "Tender will not be entitled to see the evaluation documents and no provision of appeal will be provided. Request for further information leading to the cause of the decision will not be entertained".

We trust that the above is comprehensive and clearly summarizes the Principal's position with regards to the awarding of the Atiu Crusher Plant contract. By any chance you are not satisfied, you are entitled to further refer this matter to the tender committee. Note however that, the tender committee considers and approves the recommendations made by the evaluation committee via the Principal.

We wish you and your company every success in bidding for any future projects tendered by Infrastructure Cook Islands.

Yours sincerely,

Diane Charlie-Puna, Acting Secretary

Government curtesy of neneva Neves is heading for a period of belt tightening. Growing debts and a flat economy is not the time to splash out on a 50th anniversary party. What conjuring up trick does the government has to find money for its celebration? Only solution is to do more begging with Tahiti and China and others. We should be celebrating for our most successful industry in the last 50 years, begging! Our new national symbol should be a begging bowl.



Demos expert specializing in election defeats, failure, chasing away potential members, debt creating, protecting neneva Neves just to name a few hello Drolley is up to his dirty tricks, he has told the original RAPPALOT to shove it and don't come to the conference next week. Well he was politely told their two delegates would be attending along with their supporters and if there were fabricated delegates in their seats they will be removed. Only the Conference can expel Albie Nicholas and the existing committee or members, until then hello Drolley had better speak for himself. Sounds like it's going to be a real humbdigger and explosive entertainment for the spectators.



Heard about the senior government official who is leading a double life? It's only a matter of time before he gets caught. Though divorced he periodically has mutually agreeable extra friendly family reunions with the first wife who slips through the back door as the current company leaves through the front door. One of his favourite sayings is he doesn't burn bridges. It's called having the best of both worlds.



The call me DPM Bulldozer Heta made

a quick trip to Tahiti via the city of sails with an entourage of four to do some observations related to culture and infrastructure, media officer Ben Mose, Sunny William, Mac Moko and MP Toa made up the team. With no money drawn down from the civil list the team is reported to have stayed in private accommodation of Bulldozer's high powered family with three of the team sleeping on mattresses on the floor, that's culture for you. Full points to the Bulldozer for saving the country at least \$US300 per night per person. And that's not all word is they didn't come back empty handed like a lot of others sojourning overseas at the taxpayer's expense.



Coppers have executed yet another search warrant at MMR, that's around half a dozen so far and turned up nout! If and when our coppers come up before the High Court Beak how are they to answer the question, "Why was the owner of the Chinese fishing company involved, not interviewed when he was on the island last December, for a week?" Unless our coppers can get an admission or a statement from someone in authority from the Chinese company involved, how can their evidence, circumstantial as it is,

be verified?



A chook suggests Delvin Sarsfield of TIS venture out on one of those purse seining vessels to see for himself exactly how much by catch is being reeled in by the big nets! Then he can compare notes with the MMR observer also on board and surely this would be more scientific than the emotional outbursts the anti brigade are prone to.



Chooks tourists are already moaning about the high costs of visiting the Cook Islands. The price of accommodation is too high for the rooms offered, food costs are too high, drinks cost too much, and souvenirs-well forget them! Tourists are now spending bugger all at the Market and eateries. Folks, we don't need these cheapskates so lets apply some reverse psychology. Lets screen this lot of cheapos out by increasing costs. Yes, ramp up the departure tax by another \$100-this to cover the cost of dealing with the environmental fallout from all that poop the visitors deposit during their visit. Apply a bed tax of 5% like some other countries have done-this will force tourists to rent private homes and put money in local's pockets. Ramp up all prices at the market

and in the stores by 500% for visitors but locals pay a special low price. Yes, lets make it impossible for the low budget, stingy, cheapo tourist to come here and lets attract the really big spenders. Once all costs go up by 500% the rich and the wealthy will suspect something is up and will arrive in droves.



Flick Berry, the man PM Puna slipped \$500,000 from the Culture Ministry's already stressed out budget to organize some events for the 50th birthday bash, has a cunning plan. When a local came up with a bright idea to stage a stone sculpting event to coincide with the arrival of the Vakas from overseas, Flick then sought sponsorships from the private sector for each stone to be shaped. But hang on, what was the \$500,000 for?



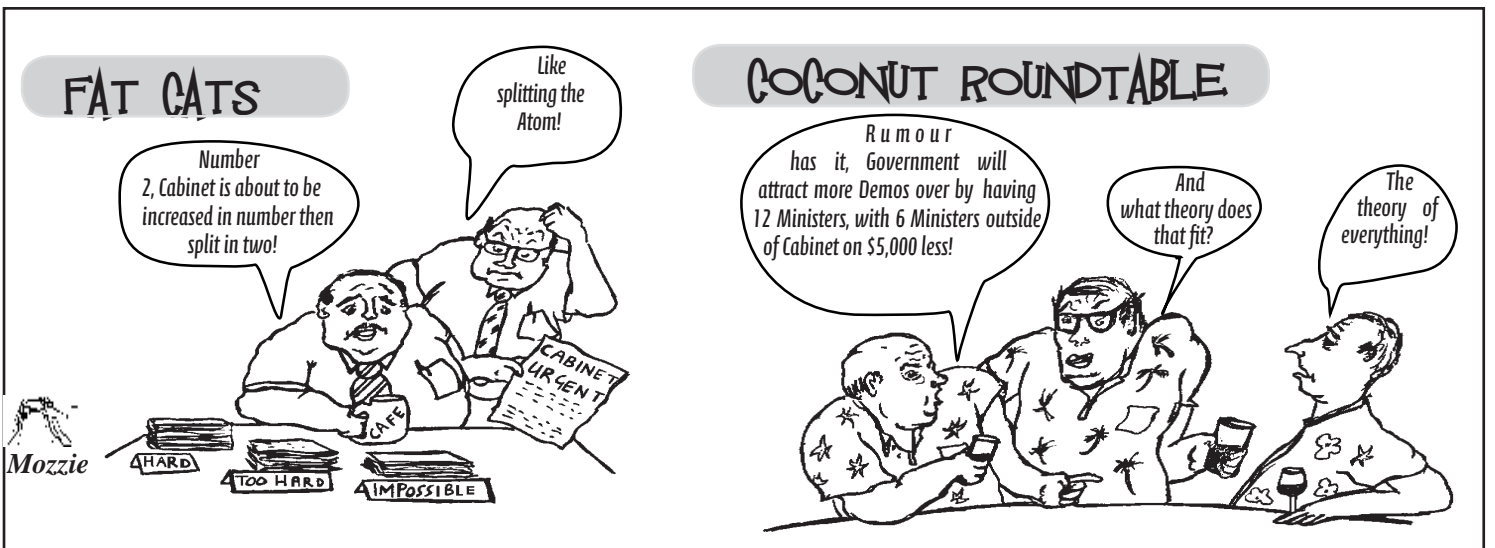
Could the Tourism Board explain why, when we have had a direct flight from Los Angeles for some time now and spend heaps on advertising in the States, we have never seen any Hollywood film stars down town? How come? Is there something wrong in the way our advertising is handled in the USA?



Top local artist heads for the land of the Turks to shape some timber with other like minded chiselers but spends the first week under the weather due to freezing conditions! Once recovered, it's outdoors but due to the extreme cold, all wood shaping must be done in a tent!



How about some excitement for the 50th? Why not host a Grand Prix? Yes, have racing cars flying around the island at 300kph, crashing into coconut trees, soaring into the lagoons, yes, real excitement! C'mon Flick Berry, make it so!



# FOOTBALL UPDATE

## Junior All Whites complete tour of Uzbekistan

The New Zealand men's U-20 side have returned empty-handed from a two-game tour of Uzbekistan as preparations continue for the home U-20 World Cup at the end of May.

The side lost the opening game of the tour 1-0 on Saturday, falling to a first-half goal from Javokhir Sokhibov at a sold-out Istiklal Stadium in Ferghana.

A number of players, including captain Adam Mitchell, joined the squad after spending the week with the senior All Whites in South Korea.

Coach Darren Bazeley made seven changes to the starting eleven for Tuesday night's second match, but despite an equaliser by Wellington Phoenix's Alex Rufer in the second half, goals to Eldor Shomurodov and Mirjamol Kosymov in either half secured a 2-1 win for the hosts.

Bazeley welcomed the experienced and cited an improved performance in the second game of the tour.

"We were the better team for quite long periods but we couldn't get the goal," Bazeley said.



Alex Rufer scored New Zealand's goal v Uzbekistan on Tuesday.

"It was end to end and there were a lot of chances in the game and we dealt with their threats mainly. We felt we were the team which was pushing for the winner.

"It was disappointing to lose the game but we played well and showed improvements

from the first game which is what we asked.

"Today was a step forward both in possession and out of possession and we found some answers to some questions we had."

Most of the New Zealand side will now return home to continue preparations for

their opening game of the World Cup against Ukraine on 30 May.

Uzbekistan open their tournament against Honduras in Christchurch two days later.

For more on New Zealand football visit [www.nzfootball.co.nz](http://www.nzfootball.co.nz).

## Besta upset the champs

Undisputed New Guinea champions Hekari FC's preparations for the 2015 OFC Champions League have taken a hit, suffering a rare 2-1 domestic defeat against Besta PNG United FC.

The match took place just outside Port Moresby at Bomana Correctional Service oval.

But the losses do not affect their standing in the competition ladder with Hekari maintaining its top spot.

However, the loss for Hekari means something for the country's champions as they leave today for Fiji for the OFC Champions League ahead of this weekend's opener against Tafea FC.

Hekari's winning spree had to be dented by a more coordinated



Hekari players with Besta players shaking hands after the final whistle

Besta side with bulk of its players returning from the national U23 side's friendly match in Solomon Islands last week.

Besta's two goals came from penalty goals by Freddy Steven

in the first half and a clincher in the second half.

Hekari's danger man and striker Tommy Semmy scored for the boys in red but he left the field prematurely due to a

head injury he received while attempting another goal.

Hekari are drawn against Tafea FC, AS Tefana and Team Wellington in Group C in the OFC Champions League.

VACANCY



**SENIOR CLIENT SERVICES OFFICER**

This is a senior position in a small team within CINSF for a person experienced in dealing with people on the front line.

The role covers front line client relationships through to audit and compliance so the ability to perform in multiple tasks is essential.

We are introducing new options and benefits to our members for investment choices which you will help lead and deliver to members, so if you have experience in banking or finance that would be an advantage but not essential.

We are focused on the development of our staff so there are opportunities for you through training and further education to expand your knowledge and skills.

Most importantly to us is that you are a proven achiever, honest, reliable, and have a positive attitude.

If this sounds like you, then contact us via email [Twinn.Joseph@superfund.gov.ck](mailto:Twinn.Joseph@superfund.gov.ck) for a full job description, or submit your CV with a covering letter.

Applications close 10 April 2015.

Damien Beddoes  
Chief Executive Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE



**Business Trade Investment Board**  
Cook Islands

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Want to start a new business & need funds?

Maybe the New Enterprise Loan Scheme can help you turn that business idea into reality!

The BTIB now offers the New Enterprise Loan Scheme (NELS), a low interest loan to start a business for new, unique or innovative loan product or services.

Set criteria apply funds are limited and prioritized.

For more information see the BTIB team today!

For details: Ph 24296 or email [btib@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:btib@cookislands.gov.ck)

Application closes 4pm, Friday 10 April 2015

TENDER



**FOR SALE BY TENDER AT TE APONGA UIRA,  
MAIN OFFICE AT TUTAKIMOA**

1 X Yamaha Farm Bike AG100 - REg AOO 006

3 X Bucket Trucks            1 Isuzu FTS 700 4 X 4 Bucket Truck  
                                         2 Isuzu Elf 250 Bucket Truck  
                                         3 Mitsubishi Canter Bucket Truck

1 X Nissan Navara 4 X 4 Pickup Truck

All interested parties should forward a tender document in by 3.00pm Friday 10th April 2015. The highest or any other tender prices is not necessarily accepted.

For further information or an inspection appointment contact Marlene Cuthers for the Yamaha Farm Bike, and Apii Matai for the Trucks between 8.30am to 3.30pm daily.



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL LAPTOPS AND SCHOOL SERVERS TENDER NOTICE**

Tenders are invited for the bulk supply of School Laptops and School Servers System for schools in the Cook Islands.

School Laptops and School Servers System quality and specifications document can be uplifted from the Ministry of Education office or download from MOE website: [www.education.gov.ck](http://www.education.gov.ck) or contact Director of Information Technology and Communication Mr Robert Matheson on phone 29357, fax 28357 or email [itcdirector@education.gov.ck](mailto:itcdirector@education.gov.ck)

Tender submission will close @ 4.00pm Monday 13th April 2015

Tenders shall be in a sealed envelope  
MOE 2015 School Laptops Tender 141527  
MOE 2015 School Servers System Tender 141526  
Secretary of Education,  
Ministry of Education, PO Box 97  
Rarotonga, Cook Islands

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To view full job descriptions and to apply for any of these roles, please visit [www.cookislandsjobs.com](http://www.cookislandsjobs.com) today.

## FOOTBALL UPDATE

# Two OFC referees Canada-bound



Referee Tupou Patia (L) of Cook Islands has been appointed to the FIFA Women's World Cup 2015.

Two of the top female referees in Oceania have been named on a 22 strong list of referees appointed for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2015™ in Canada during June.

New Zealander Anna-Marie Keighley and Tupou Patia of the Cook Islands have both been appointed as referees for the event, which is the highlight of the women's football calendar.

The FIFA Referees Committee, under the chairmanship of Jim Boyce (Northern Ireland), has appointed 22 referees, 7 support referees (one of them local), and 44 assistant referees representing 49 different countries for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2015™.

Set to join them in Canada are assistant referees Sarah Walker, also of New Zealand, and Tonga's Lata Kaumatule.

Patia was in action during the OFC Women's Nations Cup in Kokopo, Papua New Guinea last year and this is her first appointment to a FIFA Women's World Cup.

Keighley had a busy 2014,

attending the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in Costa Rica as well as the Youth Olympic Games Football Tournament in Nanjing, China.

Her most recent appointment in Oceania was to the OFC U-17 Championship where she was based in American Samoa with Kaumatule, Maria Tamalalagi of Samoa and Lonisa Dilioni of Fiji.

FIFA has implemented a comprehensive programme to ensure that the referees for this very important competition will be in peak condition come 6 June.

Just as it did for the 24 participating teams, the road to the FIFA Women's World Cup 2015™ began for an initial group of referees and assistant referees from all over the world in September 2012, when FIFA took the important decision to create a women's refereeing project.

One of the key objectives was match control and consequently to prepare this group of prospective referees for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2015™. The referees selected

for the tournament in Canada have been chosen based especially on their personality and their quality in terms of football understanding by being able to read the game and the teams' tactical approaches towards each match.

Between now and 6 June, the selected group of match officials will participate in two seminars: one in Zurich from 18 to 24 April and the other in Vancouver ten days before the kick-off of the FIFA Women's

World Cup 2015™, at which the identities of the referees and the support referees will be decided.

The selected referees and assistant referees will be observed and monitored regularly during this period, and FIFA is ready to give them all the support they need so that they can prepare for this important tournament in the best possible manner.

For more on the world game visit [FIFA.com](http://FIFA.com)

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