

# COOK ISLANDS HERALD

15 April 2015 \$2 (incl VAT)

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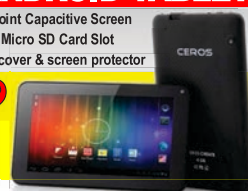
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# Bully Boy DPM Heather staring down the barrel of a red card

The politically ambitious Deputy Prime Minister Teariki Heather and this CEO Ben Mose will have no one to blame but themselves when they have red cards shoved before their eyes. Very savvy in some ways both lack the cleverness to execute their game plan to dump Henry Puna from the Prime Ministership, while Heather may have gathered a ground swell of support of conference delegates he doesn't have a strategic war lord to execute the desired result.

Heather and side kick Mose have telegraphed and overplayed their hand with monotonous clumsily carelessness, having the numbers without the ability to execute is to invite the certainty of defeat. Without the element of surprise Heather is waging a lost cause and a self inflicting destruction that will end his political dreams. Heather may be perceived as being arrogant but he simply lacks the ability and capacity to take his leadership style to another level.

Last week whether he recognised it or not the DPM's descent has been ignited by Puna, who with a remote control guides his team, Heather is being politically squeezed by his cabinet colleagues till he chokes. Heather presumed he would once again get his way this time with cabinet's stamp of approval for \$1.5 million to convert the National Stadium into an entertainment centre primarily to show case the 50 year Celebrations. His recent trip to Tahiti was to secure equipment and the technical expertise to operate the development.

To Heather's surprise and annoyance for the first time he did not get his way, with sound financial reasoning his request was openly declined in Cabinet.



DPM Teariki Heather

Whether he realises it or not, this is the beginning of the end for the DPM, Puna is not unaware of his Absalom's undermining and if the appropriate opportunity presents itself Puna will reach

falls into place, a momentum is mounting to have Heather removed from being the Minister for the House of Ariki.

Heather has been at logger heads with our traditional

*To Heather's surprise and annoyance for the first time he did not get his way, with sound financial reasoning his request was openly declined in Cabinet.*

into his pocket and present Heather with a red card for a permanent exit from Cabinet minus the \$72,000 pickup.

Puna needs a Pontius Pilate way of escape for the demise and dismissal of Heather. It's only a matter of time before the political planetary line up

leaders for some months and despite several reconciliation attempts by intermediaries the stalemate continues. Heather's attempts to bully the House of Ariki into siding with him over the acquisition of land for the Te Mato Vai stage two were met with defiant and strong

resistance. Heather threatened to take required land by warrant and forcefully stated he had the power and authority to do so. Heated words were exchanged with the Minister followed by a parting of the ways, the House of Ariki are maintaining their stance they support a fair and equitable solution for landowners impacted by the multimillion dollar TMV project.

Sections of the House of Ariki are calling on their President Tou Aiki to seek Heather's removal as their Minister if a meeting with him fails to change his attitude. How bizarre it is, the insignificant HOA who are perceived as being window dressing are the spark that ignites the fall of the mighty Heather. Added to Heather's woes is the unification of the intake landowners who want Heather's trump card Water Ordinance abolished. If Heather exhibits his bully boy tactics with them Puna will be presented with another demand to have Heather removed as Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) Minister.

Heather's determined warrant acquisition of land without compensation plus the intention to charge residents for water usage are unacceptable to the intake landowners who want to control the use of the water by the forming of a Water Authority.

Heather is under pressure to complete the TMV development on time and within budget but more public unrest and protests are being considered, this time by Titikaveka residents and businesses who want their roads rehabilitated immediately following the laying of the pipes the project faces more interruptions.

Assurances Heather has given the Chinese contractors

*continued next page*

# \$10 million fisheries can be trebled

Resource harvesting whether it is minerals, fossil fuels or fish is financially beneficial to a country. Equipped with an abundance of marine resources the Cook Islands are challenged to harvest this bounty sustainably.

The Prime Minister Henry Puna is up against lobby groups who are resistant to the country reaping their share of internationally allocated quotas. The facts are clear, marine harvesting is here to stay and it's a simple matter of using your share or losing it.

Our Ministry of Marine Resources have been at the regional negotiating table for years determined to get a slice of the cake that is proportionally representative of our generous Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and

our harvest potential. Puna says he is guided by science and not influenced by the emotional banter and lobbying of a minority who can't comprehend the big picture. Often overlooked and ignored by the anti fishing antagonists is, without an accurate complex catch history the Tuna Commission who allocates fishing days will short change us.

Puna said if we continue to go as we are we risk the chance of missing out on a substantial financial benefit altogether. Allocations are determined at the TC Annual General Session.

Our current return on 1250 fishing days for 2015 under the system operating in the Pacific is up to \$10 million. Each allocated fishing day issued to the Cook

Islands is worth \$10,000 a day. The TC has 45,000 fishing days available to distribute. MMR Secretary Ben Ponia says we are on track to nudge the \$10 million limit though not all our 1250 fishing days are currently licenced out.

It is not beyond the Cook Islands to be eventually allocated a sustainable 4,000 fishing days with a potential return of \$30 million a year. Unlike minerals and fossil fuels, harvested marine resources are regenerating. The perception of the migratory nature of ocean fish is if we don't catch them someone else will.

The Prime Minister of Samoa Tuilaepa Sa'ilele is forth coming about fishing in Samoa waters, he is readily offering fishing licences because he claims if the fish are not caught in Samoa waters they'll be caught somewhere else.

- George Pitt



Henry Puna

## Bully Boy DPM Heather

CCECC will not be met to their frustration, intake landowners may demand stage two contracts be limited to local companies again a situation beyond Heather's control or influence. This will exclude CCECC from being able to recover losses from the delays incurred by Heather's poor planning. Local businesses in tandem with intake landowners seeking the lucrative TMV stage two contracts want Heather removed from ICI as the Minister due to his political interference and blatant conflicts of interests. CCECC must be clearly informed they must leave immediately after completing their component of TMV stage one. Any excuse for them to linger here must not be tolerated.

With the Prime Minister Puna being petitioned with requests and demands to remove his DPM for ruining the government's good works and popularity, a persuaded Puna will have the excuse to wipe his hands clean of the overbearing power greedy Heather.

Sections of the media have long called for the disciplining of Heather for publically abusing media practitioners on National radio because they dared to question his conflicts of interests and disloyal undermining of political stability. Heather's autocratic style of brute force leadership has no place in modern Cook Islands politics and seeing he is incapable of adjusting to acceptable leadership he must be given a red card.

Those concerned Teariki Heather will snatch the Prime Ministership off Puna can be rest assured that will never happen. Like Moses, Heather can lead people out but he doesn't have the substance to lead them in. Heather's lack of high value leadership credentials will neutralise his current matrix of leadership stocks which is the guarantee he will never be elevated to being Prime Minister of the Cook Islands.

Heather and Mose can blame no one but themselves for they are the architects of their own demise.

- George Pitt



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# Sunday Flight protesters don't want referendum

Two of the original leading opponents of Sunday flights to Aitutaki are opposed to the referendum initiative by the Prime Minister Henry Puna. Their argument is the government should ban the flights without having the referendum. The referendum is divisive and is forcing the people of Aitutaki to make the choice of money or God. They pleaded with the PM not to put the people in that situation.

John Baxter the Mayor is also opposed to Sunday flights. He says ships are not unloaded on a Sunday so why not apply the same to flights? Other critics of the Sunday flights say Rarotonga businessmen who have a vested interest in the flights are more concerned with making money than the spiritual welfare of the Aitutaki people. For the majority of the people the Sunday flights have not been the predicted financial bonanza.

Retired Cook Islands Christian Church Minister Rev Taniel Tuakeu and still a persistent flight protester since 2008, Tunui Mati attribute their last cyclone to the



Aitutakians Tunui Mati and Taniel Tuakeu

island's acceptance of Sunday flights which placed Aitutaki under a curse. Rev Tuakeu called upon Puna as a son of Aitutaki to heed to the voice and the spiritual counsel of the people and to honour God as written in the Bible, verse 30 of 1 Samuel chapter 2.

To pursue Sunday flights will antagonise God and bring a curse on the Island warned the Reverend. He called everyone to put their trust in God and the blessing will come. Rev Tuakeu reminded everyone who has influence to stop the flights about what has happened to

those who approved them in the first place in 2008. People need to put more trust in God than money then the prosperity blessing will come.

By cancelling Sunday flights to Aitutaki the curse hovering over the Island will be lifted.

- George Pitt

## New CD features Traditional Chants-Pe'e

By Hayley McNabb

On Monday morning, the Herald spoke to Ngarima George about the new CD he has compiled. Ngarima said he was in Auckland not that long ago when he realized that the time had come to share his experiences and what he had learnt from his father, to the next generation.

He took the opportunity to record these experiences but it wasn't until the end of his recording that his nephew told him he should put it all on a CD, as it will help family to listen and memorize the words.

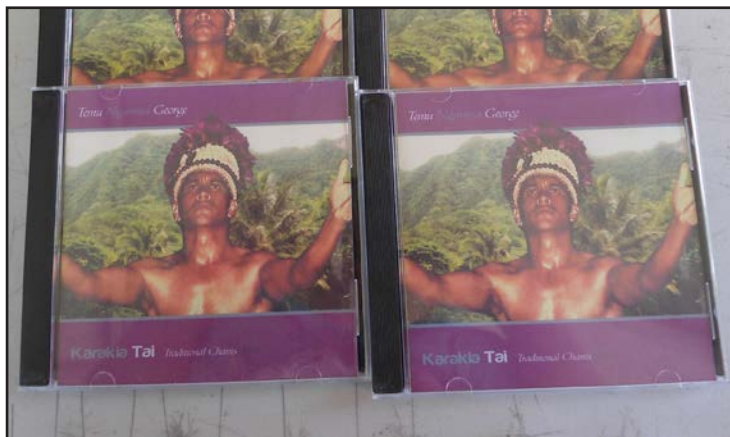
The CD he has made is called "Karakia Tai." It contains many Pe'es that have been collated

from ancestors, traditional leaders as well as his own family members. Ngarima has already sold about 40 copies and has many more to sell.

They will be selling for \$25 and can be purchased from his hut at the Punanga Nui Market (hut 24) or if you see him around just simply ask him for one.


The CD was produced and recorded by Opura Strickland at Sunset Studio. He was assisted by Henry Ngariki.

Ngarima has dedicated the CD to his late sister Mama Ngere George who passed away in January 2015 and his late sister in law Mrs Teremoana Vaine Mehau who passed away in February 2015.




Ngarima thanks the following people; his brother George, Mama Telo, his niece Mrs Jane G Foster, his wife Nooroa, family members and friends for their support.

He also thanked all his Tumu Koreo fathers and mothers who gave him authority to share these traditional chants (pe'e) through spoken dialogue and song.



## Arson destroys more than just property

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

  
**RESPECT FIRE**  
**RESPECT THE COMMUNITY**

A safety initiative by



# Our Frontpage model Demos Conference lacked unity, integrity and transparency

*Politics of personalities still the focus*



Our front-page model for Herald Issue 762 is Lexi Mackenzie Hoff. Lexi hosts the after-school show on 88fm after school and is the older sister of last week's model; Chemanya. 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)

Divisions in the Democratic Party failed to be bridged due to the perception of underarm manoeuvres blatantly exhibited by the President Sean Willis. Straight after the Conference legal advice was being sought concerning the election of Party General Secretary.

According to the Democratic Party Constitution elected executive office bearers must have at least a 50% majority to be declared the winner. Current General Secretary Drollet polled 18 votes with Paul Allsworth and Mamacan Munukoa receiving 14 each. Drollet needed to have received 25 or more votes to be declared the winner therefore a second ballot should have been taken.

Instead of adhering to their pre voting agreed rule, President Willis switched to a first past the post being sufficient for his running mate Drollet to be the winner. Once again the leadership have unwisely placed the integrity of the Party in question the very issue raised by former Party Leader Wilkie Rasmussen made note of in his weekly Chronicle; "My reluctance is fuelled by my acute awareness of the hypocrisy, the lies and the apparent incompetence of our current crop in both major camps. In some cases their understanding of what being in office means is totally confused."

The usual practise of following the rule book when and if it suits is prevalent and now a characteristic trait of the Democratic Party which lends it's self to being questioned; how can they be trusted with being the government if they will not follow their own rules, a rogue Party will not change its spots if allowed to govern.

A legal position is being sought to have Drollet's appointment overturned and the election of General Secretary redone as according to the agreed ruling.

The Financial report ending 2014 states the Demos have a debt of \$123,000, but after two by election campaigns in Vaipae/

Tautu that amount is surely greater. While Piltz Napa is the Treasurer it seems Drollet has the figures in his head. The current debt was not made known to the delegates, some estimate the true debt to be more like \$180,000.

Highlighted in the financial report was the accusation the 2014 campaign manager misappropriated \$10,000. (The person cannot be named due to possible defamation action: Editor) Again questions of integrity are raised seeing the accused had no prior advanced notice nor was he present to defend himself when Napa verbally highlighted it. For an ex President of the Mormon Church, Napa's serious breach of privacy and judgment is a concern for the image of his faith and his personal morality.

Onedeleigate who was disgusted by Napa's personal attack on an absent individual claimed it was to create a diversion away from the more disturbing contents of the financial report namely the size of the debt and the lack of a financial debt management plan.

Another concern that rippled through the conference was when a Mangaian delegate thanked the Willis and Drollet for paying for their airfares to attend the conference. This raised the question of who really paid the fares of five Mangaian delegates? Was it from the Office budget or did Air Raro pilot Willis give them free passage?

Once again nothing has changed in the Democratic Party, presented with the opportunity to unify the Party the continued corruption of themselves has divided the Party wider and weakened public confidence they are capable of winning the next election let alone governing the country.

In banning the media from the conference the Demos only demonstrated a lack of transparency which will not go down well with the public and supporters. - George Pitt

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# Chaine des Rotisseurs to establish a chapter in the Cook Islands

By Noeline Browne

A worldwide association for gourmands by the name of Chaine des Rotisseurs is in the process of trying to establish a local chapter in Cook Islands. This was announced at a cocktail party held last Friday night at the Muri Beach Club Hotel by invitation of Phillip Nordt.

The Chaine association has an impressive pedigree having been established some 800 years ago in Europe as a guild but has since been transformed into an association of lovers of fine food and wine as well as those in the food and beverage profession. Phillip explained that in Europe all the best fine food and wines events, or high class gatherings, you will find that the professionals from the Chaine are the ones that are invited to organize such events for the hosts.

Cook Islands is looking for 30 members at the most and is open to professionals in food and beverage and to non-professionals meaning social members who love fine food and wine. Once the Cook Islands chapter is formed, they intend to hold perhaps four or five events annually. In order to pave the way to form a Cook Islands chapter, a foundation committee consisting of Phillip (president), Rohan Ellis, Jean Mason, Sam Timoko and Ovaia Liew has already been formed.

Members of the Chaine are able to contact any other Chaine chapter around the world, and they will be allowed to join in any event that overseas Chaine chapter is hosting. For instance, in the month of May 2015, the Paris chapter will host their AGM that Phillip would like to attend, and closer to home, the Adelaide chapter is holding their own two day AGM in September 2015, which dovetails with the two week Adelaide Wine and Food Festival immediately after.



Phillip with Lyn, Connie & Mousie

After all, our people love to travel and if they were minded to, they could plan their trips around the various events at the Chaine chapters. Similarly, the overseas members will be

tempted to visit the Cook Islands to attend events held by the local Chapter. Having membership of the Chaine will give instant recognition to other like minded persons from all over the world.

Interested parties can check out the international website on [www.chainedesrotisseurs.com/](http://www.chainedesrotisseurs.com/) or call Phillip on 70116 for more details, but hurry as membership is strictly limited.





# Global funds and health issues on agenda

By Courtney Matai

On Monday morning, the Herald spoke with Clerk of Parliament and New Hope Church Senior Pastor John Tangi about his upcoming trip to the 15th Annual Pacific Islands Regional Multi-Country Coordinating Mechanism ( PIRMCCM ) meeting that will be held on the 23rd and 24th of April.

Tangi is Vice President of the Cook Islands Family Welfare Association (CIFWA) and Alternate Delegate who will be attending.

This meeting will be preceded by the PIRMCCM pre-meeting Orientation from the 21st April to 22nd April and will be held in Nadi, Fiji. Tangi said at this meeting, everyone will be informed about issues of mutual interest, get new updates on Global Fund grants as well as work on improvements that are needed.

“The 15th PIRMCCM meeting is the regional forum of the representative of the 11 Pacific

Island countries that are sub-recipients of the Global Fund grant for HIV, Malaria and TB.

Together with the representatives of key affected populations and civil society groups, donor and multilateral stakeholders, this regional coordinating mechanism is the governance body for the Multi-Western Pacific grants, supported by the Global Fund”.

The Alternate Delegate comes from the Civil Society Organisation (CSO), which is very similar to the Non-Government Organisation (NGO) which it was previously known as. This involves the women and children as well as the general public.

Things that will be covered at the PIRMCCM meeting:

1. To assess the status of the MWP HIV, Malaria and TB grants under the current grants
  - a. To be updated on the progress of the Global Funds in the Western Pacific
  - b. To be updated on the epidemiology of HIV, Malaria and TB in the region

c. To review improvement processes undertaken to strengthen the coordination, implementation and reporting of grants

d. To agree to strategies for improvement to grant management including implementation and timely reporting

2. To be informed on the implementation of the MWP PR transition

a. To be updated on the implementation status of PR transition from SPC to UNDP

b. To be updated on the SPC grant closure roadmap

c. To agree to a set of milestones that will ensure a timely transition with minimal disruption to grant implementation

3. To receive advice on developments with the global fund that would impact coordination and grant management of the MWP grants

a. To be updated on the grant making process and status for the NFM, HIV, TB and Malaria Grants

b. To be informed of any key decisions on the Global Fund Board on grant matters that the PIRMCCM needs to be aware of

c. To be updated on engagement made with Pacific Heads of health forum including coordination of the Pacific Sexual Health & Well-Being shared Agenda

d. To determine PIRMCCM's position and alignment with the heads of Health forum

4. To accelerate the implementation of the PIRMCCM Governance Improvement process

a. To confirm the members of the PIRMCCM Executive and the Overnight Working Group

b. To confirm the PIRMCCM position on simplification of national coordination mechanisms including engagement of key affected populations and civil society constituencies

c. To orientate new member on the role on the PIRMCCM and the regional coordinating mechanism



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# Super Fund offers members options

By Hayley McNabb

The Cook Islands Superannuation Fund (CINSF) has implemented a new statement of investment policies and objectives (SIPO) which will now allow fund members have a choice in terms of investment. While defining the change, CEO Damien Beddoes clarified that this had built on a presentation by the CINSF, the trustee and investment managers and also feedback from the members at the Members General Meeting held in October last year.

Beddoes has also stated that now that the SIPO has been approved by the Board, the CINSF Office are working hard with the service providers to make changes to the systems and processes, develop a new members handbook as well as prepare information about the different Funds to ensure members can make an informed decision about where they want to invest their money.

Beddoes said members will have the ability to invest on three different levels of risk and potential returns, these funds will see a variation in the proportion of funds held in growth assets (equities) and income assets (cash, fixed interest and bonds).

He said the conservative fund (default) mirrors the existing portfolio that the fund has invested in since 2010. Thirty per cent will be invested in growth assets and 70 per cent invested in income assets. The balanced fund will consist of 60 per cent in growth assets, and 40 per cent in income assets. The growth fund will consist of 80 per cent invested in growth assets, and 20 per cent invested in income assets.

Shortly, members will be able to diversify the current balance of their investment across the range of funds or leave it all in one fund. Members can also determine from their regular employee and employer contributions if they would like to split their contributions between the funds.

Pensioner accounts will remain invested in the conservative fund, however any voluntary

contribution accounts they maintain in the CINSF, can be invested within any of the new Funds.

The Board of Directors have set down 1 July 2015 as the date that the new investment options will come into effect said Beddoes. A full copy of the Statement of Investment Policies and Objectives is available to be downloaded at [www.cinsf.com](http://www.cinsf.com).

CEO Beddoes in responding to queries, provided the following information below.

On the issue of lowering the retirement age to say, 50yrs, he said the purpose of the Fund is to provide an income for members in retirement. Facts are retirement age 60yrs early retirement options at age 55yrs. The ability for governments around the world to provide for their aging populations in retirement is a challenge, in New Zealand they have set up a Sovereign Wealth Fund that currently invest over \$20billion dollars solely for the purpose of meeting the retirement needs of New Zealanders in 30 years' time. In addition to this they are now heavily promoting the

Kiwi saver for the purpose of income in retirement. Some firms still have superannuation for their employees, they leave, they withdraw it, they use it, it's gone, and they no longer have anything to support them in their retirement. Not all cases are like this but many are and this is why the Cook Islands scheme is a defined benefit.

On the issue of the Fund retaining the employer's contribution when workers go overseas, he said anyone that leaves and goes overseas, their money remains in their name, in their account, earning interest, and continuing to grow until they reach retirement. They are then paid out as a pension. The Fund maintains a large number of accounts for Cook Islanders living overseas, a few continue to provide voluntary contributions to the fund. The funds remain theirs.

The foreign workers that leave currently can only withdraw their Employee contributions, the employer contributions are forfeited to the funds reserve account. The reserve account has a number of purposes but all are for the benefit of Cook Islanders

in the fund. This particular point, being the foreign workers employer contributions, has been raised in the survey and at the members meeting, the Board has advised members a change to the Act is required to enable foreigners to be able to take their employer contributions with them when they leave the country. The Board intends to have this changed in the Act at the end of this year, but is reliant on Parliament sitting to hear the changes.

On the issue of members who suffer a terminal illness such as cancer, and who will not reach retirement age to qualify for payment, he said terminal illness, contributing members with a terminal illness can apply to receive a lump sum payment to assist them as they seek to fight the illness, also for members who have an accident and lose a limb can claim for a payment under the Benefits Policy. These benefits are only provided to members actively contributing to the fund once contributions have been ceased for 3 months these benefits also cease for that member.

# Ngarima George wins Dancer of the Year Golden Oldies prize

By Poko Utia

On Monday morning, the Herald spoke with Pastor Ngarima George who last Saturday evening at the Staircase, won the Dancer of the Year Golden Oldies category, picking up a handsome trophy and \$350.

Ngarima is the reigning champion and has held the title now for two years. He also won last year's event. He was the only entrant after his only competitor, a relative, withdrew.

He commented that his knees ached throughout the action song so he had to go easy so that his knees wouldn't give in. He said once he got off the stage he sat down had a quick rest than quickly got ready for his next show which was the drum dance.

Ngarima said that he didn't have to go all out because



dancing is his passion and he thought that this being his last show, he would give it his all to please himself and the audience that came to watch.

He was one of the original

members that first started the Dancer of the Year competition and has joined a couple of times because he is passionate about dancing and absolutely loves the art of Cook Island dancing.

# Sovereign Group of Ariki seek Queen Elizabeth's help

By Charles Pitt

The group known as the "Kings and Queens of the Sovereign Kingdom of the Cook Islands, being promoted by NZ based Bruce Mita and Vaeruarangi Ariki of Aitutaki and seeking an alternative form of government, recently, through their appointed UK Ambassador, wrote to the Queen of England Elizabeth II seeking her intervention and support of their movement.

On 7 January 2015, the group's UK Ambassador Mr A k Allmond wrote to Buckingham Palace to state the group's case and seek Her Majesty's intervention.

Buckingham Palace responded confirming it was a matter in which the Queen would not intervene and that his letter had been passed to the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

On 9 January 2015, J Legg, Desk Officer in the Pacific Department of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, wrote to Mr Allmond and stated as follows;

"Our position is that since the Cook Islands are not an independent sovereign state, based on the constitutional and legal position of the Cook Islands in relation to NZ, the UK Government is unable to recognize your appointment (as Ambassador for the group). You rightly point out that in 1901 the Cook Islands were annexed to NZ and in 1965 joined in "free association" with NZ. The nature and extent of these continued links with NZ mean that the UK does not recognize the Cook Islands as a state under international law. You will of course be aware that the UK does not currently have diplomatic relations with the Cook Islands for the above reason.

This clarification of our position does not in any way weaken the UK Government's commitment to pursuing close co-operation with the Cook Islands government on issues of mutual interest."

On 23 January 2015, Allmond again wrote to Buckingham

Palace restating the group's case and continuing the request for Her Majesty to intervene on the grounds that the Letters Patent issued by the Ariki had come into effect on 6 April 2014, revoking the British Protectorate of 27 September 1888. Allmond claims Cook Islanders want Her Majesty to intervene and goes on in his letter to cite the recent troubles within our government following the July 2014 election. Allmond claims Cook Islanders are now looking to the Ariki to resolve recent shameful actions.

Allmond states, "It is therefore the Ariki's humble request that Her Majesty recognizes their Letters Patent and puts an end to these shameful actions being carried out in the Queen's name."

## Cook Islands Government's position

The Prime Minister has not issued any statement on the group's claims. The Herald understands Crown Law's advice recommended that government just ignore the group.

It has to be remembered that government also tried to ignore the Grey Power group.

## Next week

Next week the Herald will examine;

1. The Letters Patent-the legal vehicle the Sovereign group has adopted in their attempt to revoke the current system of government,
2. The proposed system of government the group plans to introduce,
3. Some of the key financial, economic and social policies the group wishes to implement, and
4. The means by which the group intends to fund their operations.

## Background information

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," recently revived the move proclaimed back on 12 June 2008, to revoke the current system of government.

In 2008, the group issued a Proclamation but their latest move is backed by a Letter 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).

This revival occurred on Easter Monday at Titikaveka, at 12 noon.

Back in 2008, the proclamation at Taputapuatea had the support of 10 Ariki but this support later faded after the group was banned from the House of Ariki and government pressured the Ariki concerned to back down and apologise to the Queen's Representative (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 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.

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 combine or fuse together elements of the traditional, cultural systems and features of the Westminster system.

## Ghost

By Taja Vaetoru

I have this ghost you see.

It's telling me to jump.  
To jump in a place where you are not.  
For if I fall for you, you will catch me.  
I have this ghost you see.

It's telling me to hurt.  
It's telling to fall and land.  
To land and bleed at the knees.  
But I have this ghost you see.

It's telling to repeat.  
To pick myself up and repeat.  
Repeat until I find someone.  
Someone with scars as deep as the ones in me.

Description:

19 year old graphic designer.

Taurus. Born and raised in Manihiki.

Life motto is YOLO.



# Debate lively on proposed Intellectual Property strategy

By Charles Pitt

There was a fair bit of lively debate at the second consultation meeting on intellectual property.

As a follow up of the first Consultation Meeting on Intellectual Property (IP) held at the National Auditorium in November 2014, a second Consultation meeting was held in the Ministry of Cultural Development conference room from 9am on 9th and also 10th April 2015. Again the two Consultants, Mr Someshwar Singh from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Mr Ian Heath from the Australian Patent Office, presented their reports from the first meeting.

It was an opportunity for interested parties to review that Report and the Draft IP Strategy as a result of the first Consultation.

The Herald attended the 10 April morning session where Mr Heath concluded the discussion on Copyright which had commenced the day before and began the discussion on Traditional Knowledge.

Present for this discussion were members of the Koutu Nui, President Maria Henderson, Noeline Browne and Eruera Nia. Those present included well known composer and



writer Jon Jonassen, writer Marjorie Crocombe, Justice Secretary Tingika Elikana, Keu Mataroa and Teariki Rongo. Staff from the Ministry for Cultural Development and NES also attended.

The discussions were lively. Heath pointed out that further work would take place at workshops in about a fortnight's time where interested parties would consider what systems to implement to bring the 2013 legislation into operation and effect. Registration and approval processes would need to be agreed upon.

The concluding debate on Copyright raised such issues as;

1. how far to cast the net in terms of who was entitled to receive a royalty or payment from users of the original material,

2. setting up of a commercial entity or entities to collect and distribute royalties the constraints being the small size of our creative industry and the financial viability and sustainability of such an operation among other issues.

The debate on Traditional Knowledge (TK) was lively and revealed this will be a testing topic to resolve amicably among all interested parties because of a wide divergence of views.

There was also some discussion

whether to explore the option of a two tier registration system for traditional knowledge to maximise the preservation and maintenance role of the register and to minimise conflict and disputation about exclusive rights.

It was generally agreed that no individual could claim exclusivity to TK and that it was the wider community which owned the TK which was passed down through the generations and that certain persons (Tohunga) were specially called to dispense treatment.

Another Copyright team from WIPO will be arriving on the 21st April and there will be a 3-day meeting which will commence on the 22 – 24th April.

## Williams pleased with progress on IP

By Poko Utia

Secretary for Culture Sonny Williams is pleased with progress to date with the consultations on Intellectual Property (IP) being carried out by overseas experts.

Ian Heath of the Australian Patent Office and Someshwar Singh from the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in Switzerland were near completing their second consultation with local interested parties.

Williams said legislation covering the area of Intellectual Property was enacted in 2013. The pair were here last November on a fact finding mission and have now returned to do a two day presentation on their findings and recommendations for moving to the next phase which is implementation of procedures and policies. Putting the ideas and suggestions into operation says Williams.

Williams said more

consultations will follow when another team from WIPO arrives in two weeks time to guide phase three.

This second consultation saw interested parties discuss the various strategies recommended for safeguarding intellectual property by way of copyright and trademarks.

There was also discussion on protecting traditional knowledge under the legislation passed in 2013.

The discussions were full and

frank and covered such issues as the downloading music for free from sources such as the internet and also copying which prevented recording companies and artists from earning revenue.

Traditional knowledge covered such things as traditional medicine and healing, songs, dance, legends and knowledge. These matters belonged to the community and were handed down from generation to generation and no one person could claim ownership.

# Maungaroa Culture Centre opens at Highland paradise

By Poko Utia

**O**n Tuesday morning the Herald spoke to Teuira Pirangi at Highland Paradise, where the opening of the new Maungaroa Centre was held. Teuira is the managing director of Highland Paradise and said it was a very important day.

This Centre is to teach the younger generation about their ancestors also it is for people who wish to know more about our culture and the history of the Cook Islands.

Teuira and other members of the business wish to preserve the knowledge of our fore fathers and pass it down to the younger generations so that they do not forget their roots. Teuira believes that the preservation of our history is very important and to not let it slip away and to carry it on for many generations to come.

Teuira thanked the family and Rangatiras who donated money and artefacts to the Maungaroa Centre.



# Go local, buy local promotion

By Courtney Matai

**T**he Herald called at the Ministry of Agriculture on Monday to check out a program that Henry Williams is running with the nurseries at The Ministry of Agriculture is to help promote our "Go Local, Buy Local" motto/scheme during our 50th Celebration of independence.

The purpose of this is to bring our 50th Celebration into our normal everyday lifestyle of planting locally grown produce as well as selling the goods so that people are encouraged to

eat healthy.

Williams and his team are hoping to grow as much produce as possible for the upcoming celebration, because there will be a lot of tourist and people coming for the 50th celebration and so he says that vegetables and local produce will be needed to feed 4000plus.

All they are trying to implement is to help out in the way they can, and to focus on growing local food. "Go Local, Plant Local & eat Local"; says Williams.



# Workshop upskills Teacher Aides

By Poko Utia

This week, Rarotonga teacher aides are studying toward a Certificate in Teacher Aiding with Southern Institute of Technology (SIT) of New Zealand. Sarah McCaw is the Ministry of Education's Inclusive Education Advisor conducting the workshop at Avarua School from 9am-3pm. She is assisted by Suzy Wells. The Herald spoke to them on Monday morning.

The purpose of this workshop is to facilitate teacher aides gaining their Teacher Aid Certificate in level three with the Southern Institute of Technology.

Suzy Wells is here for two weeks. She was the ex principal of Niue college. Next week the pair will be visiting schools on the island to support those teacher aides who are helping students with disabilities.

Sarah says she is happy with the turnout for the workshop



but mentions that there is one teacher aid that isn't able to join them today for she is doing a course in New Zealand and will join them on Tuesday.

13 teacher aids attended

Monday's workshop. Inclusive education is about equal education for all, to be able to access learning for students with disabilities.

It's about making sure that

everyone has access to the learning environment. Most of the teacher aids are looking at things that need to be changed so that they are able to create a better learning environment.

# Caught on Camera



It may be the school holidays but on Monday Tereora College prefects were at school for the whole day painting the outside tables and chairs, the steps as well as the concrete walls. They have been putting in a lot of hard work and dedication in giving the Tereora Colleges school grounds a fresh and clean look for the second term coming up after a successful beginning to a new year! -Hayley McNabb

# Foreign Investment presentation for media

A Business Trade Investment Board (BTIB) workshop presentation aimed at informing the media about Foreign Investment, was held on Tuesday morning at the Chamber of Commerce conference room.

Pitt Media Group members attended. Teariki Vakalabure (Director of Compliance), Charlie Rani (Monitoring & compliance Officer), Ria Arthur (Foreign Investment Officer) and Terry Rangī (CEO) conducted the session which

included a slideshow showing applicable legislation and policies and a discussion about Foreign Enterprise, regulation of Foreign Enterprises, Development Investment Code 2003, Application and Approval Process and Foreign Enterprise Application checklist/requirements.

The presentation was very informative and the BTIB team answered a number of enquiries from the Pitt Media Group team members. *—Hayley McNabb/Courtney Matai*



Ria Arthur and Charlie Rani

# Volunteers put through their paces

*By Courtney Matai*

On Friday afternoon the Herald attended a fire drill and practise staged by the Temurimoetia Volunteer Fire Brigade of Titikaveka.

During the drill, the volunteers were put through various accident scenarios and situations to see how well they coped under near real life conditions. This will help to prepare them for the real events which may occur.

Spokesperson Alistair MacQuarie said one important feature of their job was to attend to people who are injured in a motor vehicle accident. On arriving at an accident scene, the volunteers will wait for the ambulance to arrive and keep spectators out of the way. They've also been advised by their instructor to keep the injured person in the car as they may run a higher risk of causing injuries such as neck, back or spinal injuries as it may cause paralysis.

Moving an injured person from a vehicle wreck may actually worsen their injury or cause them to have an injury through trying to extract them from the vehicle. It's recommended anyone who is present at the scene, leave the injured person inside the vehicle and insure that they are safe or okay before waiting for help to arrive.

They can help by checking if the injured person's neck is secured and a if possible, place a board behind their back before they are removed from the wreck. This will help to prevent any further injuries.



# What's happened to the people of the Cook Islands

by Tetuhi Kelly

The Cook Islands occupy a centralised position in the Polynesian triangle, with Hawaii in the north, Rapanui in the eastern corner and Aotearoa in the south western corner. We are a series of isolated but connected islands spread out over 2 million sq/kms of Pacific Ocean, home to approx 15,000 people which swells to about 20,000 during the tourism season which runs from April- November. We have been beaten but not conquered and settled many times over the ages and our DNA is indistinguishable from all other Polynesians. We have weathered all that the environment has thrown at us and like the tall grass in a wind we have bent over and then got back up. Our initial contact with white people introduced us to Christianity, diseases, English law, English food and customs, as well as welfare, capitalism and bureaucratic processes. This contact has gradually eroded the Cook Islands traditional knowledge base and its subsistence way of life and we have adopted the global system of capitalism. Our people have now grown to encapsulate all that is right and wrong with the western ways of life and have tended to shed their historical knowledge of their world in their rush to be global sophisticates. Cook Islanders can be found all over the world and like our tupuna who traversed the oceans on their twin hulled vaka, we travel the world by jet in search of new beginnings, business, adventure, sport and just to see what's on the other side.

As Cook Islanders we tend to fit into three demographics: Overseas Cook Islanders (those who live internationally), Rarotongan Cook Islanders (those who live on Rarotonga) and Pa Enea Cook Islanders (those who live on the outer islands). By implication there is

a tendency for Cook Islanders over their lifetimes, to change their demographic depending on what influences them at that particular moment in time and very fluid is probably the best summation of the demographics.

Overseas Cook Islanders are by far the largest demographic and is made up of waves of emigration out of the Cook Islands beginning with first contact with Europeans over the last two hundred years with the last 40 – 50 years creating a stampede to such an extent that an estimated 60,000 Cook Islanders or descendants of Cook Islanders now call NZ or Australia home. There are many reasons why they leave and having a NZ passport is a definite bonus and having family on the other side that one can stay with is a no brainer and a stepping stone to independence. However if one does not stay in contact with ones Cook Islands iti tangata this can be a recipe for Cook Islanders to marry outside their culture or isolate themselves and gradually drift away from being a Cook Islander and they pass this on to their children. Within a relatively short time they are Cook Islanders in name only or have already lost a sense of who they are in their adopted country. You cannot blame Cook Islands people for emigrating as job opportunities and the relatively low wage rates here are a disincentive to stay. Being on the bread-line in NZ or Australia is still better than being on the bread-line in the Cook Islands to many of those who emigrated with the promise of a better lifestyle. The high cost of living, cronyism and nepotism, political upheavals and political interference, the poor rule of law and the poor public service customer services ethic all contribute to Cook Islanders leaving for the so called good life. Like all good times this exodus comes back to bite them in the

nono time and time again. Why? Because of land entitlement and traditional leadership titles.

Most of the land in the Cook Islands is in private hands, which is also a mix of absentee owners, individuals, family trusts and lenders with default mortgagees and some is held by the Crown. Overseas Cook Islanders who return to the land of their tupuna to secure their land entitlement usually face an uphill battle to not only establish their credentials but also to find that their land entitlement has passed to another member of the family or someone else, especially if they or their family have been absent from the Cook Islands for many years. This is especially difficult for descendants of Cook Islanders who have been told all their growing-up lives in NZ or Australia that their family has land in the Cook Islands waiting for them, only to find on their arrival in the Cooks that it is not so straight forward as their papa or mama told them. What do they do? Usually they try and sort the minefield of iti tangata relationships through family lore. The difficulty is that these modern Cook Islanders have been away so long that they forget that these family activities can take months or years to resolve and not the 2 week holiday that has been allocated by the new arrivals to sorting out their land issue. Having been brought up in the wise ways of the NZ or Australian papa'a they litigate to get their so called land rights recognised and legitimised in a Cook Islands court of law and they engage a lawyer to help them apply the law and in this way they help bolster and support the growing Cook Islands land grievance industry. Gradually as they win or lose in the court of law, the precedence of law over time kills off any hope that future generations of like-minded Cook Islanders will ever be entitled to land that was given to them under lore, nor will they

or their descendants return to the Cook Islands which will become a distant memory for them and their families.

Traditional leadership entitlement usually rests in the hands of those who hold tuakana status or on an agreement between the heads of sibling families as to who will be the next leader as discussed and agreed before the death of the current one. Tuakana titles historically are usually but not always passed from the father to the eldest male child, as in the saying, "I am the oldest son of the oldest son", increasingly these days the titles have passed to female contenders. What happens when the tuakana emigrates and leaves the teina as regent –in-charge, much like in England, where the legendary Prince John was left in charge whilst his brother King Richard went off to the holy wars? We all know what happened then. In this case however, the tuakana dies overseas and the grown-up issue come back to claim the title and find that they have been dispossessed of the title. What does one do? In lore the dispossessed can suck it up and accept the changed circumstances and bide their time or exact retribution by going to war to get back what they believe is their rightful place and title. This usually splits the families' loyalties so that in those days of yore the dispossessed or the possessed if they lost the title, either stayed as vassals of the vanquisher or were put to death or left and set off with their followers to other parts of the pacific resulting in the establishment of new villages and ultimately, new island nations arose from the ashes of despair. The history of Polynesia tells us that voyages of discovery and migrations were not the only means by which the pacific islands including Aotearoa were

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peopled. The important aspect of this was that through lore the vanquished or the vanquisher passed on this event down through the generations that were to follow thus establishing and maintaining their wider pacific island connections and in most cases embellishing the grievances or victory as well.

With the death of the tuakana and the focus on who is entitled to be the leader, the situation is a lot more complex. The teina would claim that they were the ones who kept the home fires burning while the tuakana was away. The teina would have cemented his relationship with his people and built up a strong family support network to bolster his claims for the title and would have ensured that lore was slanted more to his way of thinking. The new tuakana would claim that the teina knew the title was temporary for whatever reason his father had to emigrate. He would claim that his father had every intention of returning as the teina would well know this and understand the circumstances and had agreed to these terms in exchange for becoming the regent-in-charge. Human history is filled with the tales of people who were temporarily put in charge while the leader was away, and how they quickly began to believe their own importance usually propped up by their supporters. If this was a crime the teina had the means, opportunity and motive which tells him that he should be entitled to the role permanently, and thus take whatever means at his disposal to stay in power despite opposition from traditionalists. Unfortunately traditional leadership aspirations have a tendency to occupy generations of infighting and lore battles, culminating in one aggrieved party or parties taking their grievance to the court of law. The court of law in its wisdom usually refers such cases back to the families to sort out as it does not want to come between the parties to this issue or be held up as the one who set precedence by ruling on what is essentially an in-house court of lore issue.

In the Cook Islands that scenario can be a very real situation and can result in two, three or more people aspiring to be the leader through a rush of blood to the head because they can justify (in their minds and the minds of their supporters) that they are entitled to the leadership role, when a little more forethought and sane reflection would tell them that in the end the only people who win are the lawyers. Putting aside all the arguments about entitlement, keeping the home fires burning, who died, etc, the question they need to clarify and establish is did the tuakana pass on the role of regent-in-charge to the teina. I am not talking about the person, I am talking about the regent-in-charge role. The whole issue around leadership battles in the Cook Islands seems to revolve around the person rather than the role and people's personal and wider family agendas have clouded the issue. Too many times we have heard those in leadership roles put themselves up or their misguided supporters put them up as ariki this or mataiapo that, they forget that it is about the role they aspire to and more importantly nurturing and protecting the aspirations of their people. Unfortunately in this day and age it has become more about furthering the person's status to the detriment of their people, I mean just look at our politicians. As regards traditional titles, the person is not important; it is the role that is important, until they or their supporters get with the programme they'll be playing catch up and getting further and further behind. Let me give you an example, in military terms a NZ Army officer who holds a Queen's Commission e.g. General, is saluted by those who hold military rank below him/her. The lower ranks do not salute the person they salute the rank of General which means they ultimately acknowledge the Queen. Cook Islanders really need to get with the play and revisit their mind set about traditional titles and how those roles are expected to support the aspirations of their

people, the fact that a certain person aspires to or is in the role is not important as what is more important is what the role represents and what it does.

Rarotongan Cook Islanders are a polyglot of immigrants who arrived over the centuries and brought with them their lore and culture and eventually down through the ages to modern times, established what can loosely be described as the Rarotongan identity. This identity is heavily influenced from those early immigrant arrivals and further shaped by the influx of papa'a immigrants during the last 150 years. It is noticeable by having a centralised infrastructure that supports government, the public and private sectors, centre of commerce, the centre of the tourism industry, international airport and the gateway to the Pa Enea and most importantly Rarotonga as a brand. The people in Rarotonga tend to adopt a slightly more liberal approach to modern life than what occurs in the Pa Enea and this is a result of the influx of increasing tourism numbers, nightlife, internet access, smart phone technology, emigrating and returning Cook Islanders and other global influences turning the ordinary Rarotongan away from an agricultural subsistence farming life. The overriding factor that cements most Rarotongan lives together and indeed the whole Cook Islands is Christianity. Christianity has been both a blessing and a curse for Cook Islanders and has had unforeseen consequences far ahead of the original expectations of the traditional leaders in those times, could have ever envisaged.

History is always written by those in power because it's his story and not her story. The arrogance of the British Empire was depicted in their infamous policy of liberating and civilising the noble savage (us) and they did this by infiltrating and then usurping the cultures of those savages and rewriting history to reflect themselves in personal glory, all conquerors did this. The result was a steady erosion

of our traditional knowledge, the introduction of English law, educating our children into their ways, removing the influence of our traditional leaders, introducing cash cropping at the expense of our subsistence agriculture (although we did take to cash cropping like ducks to water), introduce the dreaded demon drink, diseases from which we had little protection, welfare, capitalism, technology and global commodities and in effect 'civilising' us. This usually coincided with an influx of missionaries whose sole purpose was to save our souls and replace our pagan images and our pagan ways and worshipping with good Christian lore values and the concept of a one just god. They were especially successful in influencing our traditional leaders to put aside their warlike and plundering activities and become baptised Christians and an edict from the chief to the rest of the village followed and all became Christians and followers of the Christian lore of religious faith. Gifted land was set aside for the construction of churches for worship and homes for the missionaries and followers were encouraged to tithe and donate for the services of god's church. This included the upkeep and maintenance of the church and homes, a small stipend, fund Christian trips and some means of transport, and then a schooling system set up to educate the children of the faithful. Religious institutions of study were also developed to train more missionaries or church officials and so a whole closed circuit economic industry sprang up to support the church, all in the name of god. The influence of christianity in the Cook Islands and indeed the whole pacific islands is considerable and one only has to see the homes of the local church minister's and their families, the modern conveniences, technology, vehicles that they drive, the clothes they wear and then compare this to the homes of some of their poorer constituents and it begs the question how can this be? This is not to say all church ministers are

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# Mitiaro Students at Esther Honey

like this, however they are only human with all the vices that go with being human. So how did we let our traditional lore go into recess so we could replace it with another lore that takes the money from our children's mouths to feed, clothe and prop up an ideology that espouses a kingdom in heaven for the faithful, love of thy fellow man and love of god and then sugar coat it in scripture to justify and hide the fact that there is something not quite right with this picture. Yes we all have to make sacrifices, but there are sacrifices and then there is just plain inequity.

Generations of Cook Islanders have grown up with Christian lore and not with Cook Islands lore and any discussion with these same people regarding Cook Islands lore brings smirks and derision about pagan images and pagan gods and quotes from the bible as to why their god is a caring god, a god who will forgive all their sins and when the day comes will bear them up into heaven. Don't even broach the subject with church officials as they look at you as if you had come from another planet and they tend to get very emotional about any meaningful discussion of their belief system. Try and tell them that Polynesian lore had a way of life that was and is thousands of years old with a belief system even older than the relatively young Christianity and they switch off, these are the challenges of the modern day and the challenges faced by many Cook Islanders not of the faith. Unfortunately the response to such searching questions and you will read or hear of these in the media, is to be derided and denigrated personally by those church officials who should know better. Lord help you if you wanted to set up an alternative religious or spiritual belief system such as the followers of the Muslim faith in the Cook Islands and out of the cupboard will come all the bigoted and hypocritical church ministers to deny the very thing their bible and their god abhors; intolerance and bigotry. Total hypocrisy in any ones language and it is no use

quoting the bible for reference to support your argument because your argument is a fundamental denial of your one true faith.

The Cook Islands Pa Enua are a mix of islands of volcanic origin in the south and coral atoll in the north. Like Rarotonga they all share a relationship to the Cook Islands Maori branch of the Eastern Polynesian languages and share similarities to NZ Maori, Tahitian, Rapanui Maori, Hawaiian and Marquesan. With Rarotonga as the 'big smoke', it is only natural that Pa Enua Cook Islanders would leave their islands for better education and job opportunities and thence through their NZ Passport, off to NZ or Australia. The struggle to create and sustain a living in those islands is and always will be a challenge because of their remoteness and the cost of freight and expensive air travel means that they have to be self reliant. It takes a special person to go and live in the Pa Enua and usually the officials that do are from those Pa Enua islands and for many of them it is a coming home and a place to reconnect with their lore and their culture. The Pa Enua tend to be more community orientated than their cousins in Rarotonga, on an atoll everyone literally knows everyone else as well as their problems, successes and failures. No crime, few shop commodities for sale, no traffic and a quality of life unmatched anywhere else. Expect to have long periods of quality as you get involved in the goings on in the island community. In this article I have taken the liberty of categorising Cook Islanders into a number of demographics so as to briefly inform the reader that whilst we are all Cook Islanders, in general we fit into one of those categories. Each is unique and each has its own challenges and each has a subset of other demographics depending on label, all connected by several degrees of separation, much like a fishing net of linked cells. The opinions expressed here and in all my articles are entirely my own thoughts, designed to stimulate reasoned debate and to question our perceptions of the Cook Islands world in which we live.



Tiana Haxton

On Tuesday the Herald visited Esther Honey Animal Clinic to see how students Tiana Haxton and Martein Taia from Mitiaro were coping with their student work experience. Both were very involved with the animals and getting their jobs done, as it is one of their passions to become Veterinarians. See story by Tiana Haxton on page 20. -Hayley McNabb



Martein Taia

# The name above every name

*By Senior Pastor John Tangi*

The well known William Shakespeare said 'there is nothing in a name!' Yet there are known tyrants or dictators in certain countries around the world even now-a-days who are regarded as 'monsters!'

There are also individuals in the scripture who are regarded as 'traitors'. During the days of Jesus the Emperor Caesar was regarded as the 'lord of lords!' Even Saul before he was converted by the Power of God, was a man greatly feared by all Christians because he crucified and killed them. But when Saul was converted to be the Apostle Paul, he realized that there is a name greater than any other name which is the name of Jesus Christ! Paul said in Philippians 2v.9-11 "God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name...that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow... and that every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

When we mention the name of Jesus, the devil will flee; God open doors of opportunities; the sick will be healed. When we mention the name of Jesus, Forgiveness will take place for the un-forgiven! Love for the unloved! Hope for the hopeless! Our sorrows will turn into joy! Tears into laughter! Pain into peace! Because Jesus Christ is the name above every name! and because there is power in the name of Jesus! Jesus said in John 16v.33 "...in Me you may have peace.

In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Too often people rely on their own human knowledge, understanding and wisdom to try and resolve their problems. Jesus said in John 14v.13-14 "...whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." The condition to this is that we must believe in faith and recognise that Jesus Christ is the name above every name, and that He died for your sins, and receive Him as Lord and Saviour of your life. Having done that, then we should turn to Jesus for help regarding our challenges or problems! Psalm 46v1 reads "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." In Jeremiah 33v.3 God said "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know."

When we mention the name of Jesus it will open the gates of heaven and closes the gates of hell! It will draw us out of darkness into the light! It will maintain our relationships with one another, even in the family and also with God! It will bring peace and joy to the home! Because Jesus is our joy and salvation! In Acts 3v.6, Peter, one of Jesus disciples, said to the lame man, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." This lame man was healed and could walk normally. In Acts 4v.12 Peter

## Encouragement Column

*With Senior Pastor John Tangi*



also said "...there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.", except the name of Jesus!

People have been to the tomb of David; the tomb of Isaac; tomb of Joseph; tomb of Muhammad; and others, they're still there! But when they visited the tomb of Jesus, He wasn't there because He has risen and

is in heaven with God the Father being our Intercessor, our High Priest, and our Advocate.

The name of Jesus is above every name because He is The First and The Last! The Alpha and The Omega! He is from Everlasting to Everlasting! Praise be His Holy Name!

May you have a God blessed week!

# Dreaming from the Islands

By *Lucianne Vainerere*

**W**e all have big dreams, future ambitions and life goals that we all wish to do in years to come but always seem to let that wash of doubt overcome us. Most people think it's crazy to want to see so many places in your lifetime, they find it even more impossible if you're from the islands. It's easier when you're part of a group to go places but for those whose talents don't revolve around performing and such it becomes a solo kind of thing. It starts of as a dream, but if you really want it it'll become your reality.

Dreaming from the islands is easy; fulfilling it is the hard part. I keep a little notebook that holds all my life goals and bucket list fanatics that range from: being humble and loyal, to getting to University, to go carting, and sitting in a canoe beneath Mount Fuji and living the American life. These are things I'd like to do some day and I'm getting closer to it one day at a time. I've been told I'll never be able to do all of it in my lifetime, which can be true, but I've also been told that I better do most of it before I settle down and adopt new priorities and that's a booster saying "You can totally do all of this" so I'm just gonna go for it.

I personally don't think it's too much even though I have seven pages and counting of

that notebook completely filled up, but hey if we're living in a country so small, then it's just fair that we dream so big. What do you dream of doing? We too often limit ourselves and watch tourist come to our country enjoying it and talking about travelling to other countries, taking a year off just to explore even if it means backpacking. They're crossing things off their lists. We're no different to them, but still, here we are at point one.

It always seems unreachable but many islanders before us have done it, and we've still got a long way to go, so you can definitely do it too. I guess many of us are afraid to go to foreign places even though we dream of it. If that's the case then why not find someone who's interested in doing the same thing and take them with you. It's always better with company.

Just to make life a tad-bit exciting why not make a list of everything you'd like to do and experience and work through it while you can and when you can. In the future you wouldn't want to look back and say to yourself "I could've done that, and gone there." Instead focus on the now so it can become the 'could be' and 'what ifs' you've always wanted to do. It's only a matter of carrying out. We are young: think young, feel young, dream big and look beyond the shore.

# Mitiaro-Work Experience

By *Tiana Haxton*

**O**n the sixth of April, all three Year 10 Mitiaro School Students and one school teacher arrived from Mitiaro. Brandon Kaukura, Martein Taia and myself (Tiana Haxton) accompanied by teacher Mrs Murare.

We were met by many relatives and family friends who greeted us once we disembarked the plane and arrived inside the airport. We went to the Mitiaro Hostel where we lay down on our prepared beds and relaxed a short moment before being called to the table for dinner. We all fell asleep later very satisfied.

Our group is in Rarotonga for Careers EXPO. For two weeks, we do work experience. Volunteering at various places and experiencing what it is like to work in these places.

As we, the Mitiaro group arrived a week earlier, we got to choose two job opportunities and do both. But as my second opportunity was 'Aeroplane Pilot' and Air Raro wasn't taking any students for pilot this year, I had to stick with my first opportunity for both weeks.

The next day, Tuesday the seventh, we all jumped into the car and our teacher drove us off to our work places. Brandon went to the CITC Supermarket whilst Martein and I were dropped off at the Esther Honey Vet Clinic.

We worked through till one or two and then were picked up by our teacher and taken to Palace Burgers. The Palace had agreed to sponsor our lunches for the whole week. We three students each received a burger, can drink and chips. This we did till Friday.

Monday came and we went to Tereora College where we gathered inside Princess Anne Hall along with all the other students from the other outer islands. Mangaia, Mauke, Aitutaki and Atiu. CITC had a presentation based on retail/

Sales/Advertising/Customer Needs and so on.

Following the presentation, they asked a few questions and gave out prizes to the winners; to the ones who gave the correct answer. The prizes were (of course) a few things from CITC.

Two women from the airport also came along for a presentation. They gifted to us, one clear sea blue bottle with the Air Rarotonga logo printed on it.

After both presentations, a final song and closing prayer, we were invited to eat. Two or more tables covered with lime green table cloths and laden with food ranging from mini pizzas and pies to roast chicken and golden and green star-fruit (raparapa).

Each teacher was given some sheets of paper. One per student. These sheets contained a table to be filled in by our supervisor(s) at our work place for the week.

This week, Brandon is working at the Police Station to experience being a policeman, Martein at Raro Cars discovering what a mechanic is like and I am still at Esther Honey.

We three are all enjoying learning and experiencing new things at our work place and are looking forward to continuing throughout this week.

The Careers EXPO is a very important and thoroughly exciting annual event. It helps students get a better idea of their dream jobs and helps them decide whether they actually like it or not.

I know I love my job option. A Veterinarian. A doctor to animals. Esther Honey is a great place to work. You get to help save, nurture and play with different kinds of animals. It's amazing what they do there. A Vet is a Doctor/Surgeon/Dentist to not just one kind of animal but, to many varieties! For a human, there is a separate doctor and dentist for the one species!

**New Hope Church**

Parekura Conference Centre

*Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you*

**Sunday at 10.30am**

Elvis front page news headline claim his trip to Mangaia was solely for the handover of the China donated machinery but really paid for by the padded multimillion dollar Te Mato Vai contract was a pork pie. Strange how he forgot after a couple of days he attended a meeting on Friday night before his Saturday departure with the Tamarua Demos to talk about their MP Matapo siding with the CIP government. There was a pocket of resistance till convert RAPPA Albie Nicholas got up and gave a moving account of his own political journey to Canaan. If nothing gets done in Mangaia for the next three years they've only got themselves to blame. The heavy machinery might be handed over but the diesel might be slow in coming forth.



The Atiuan's are an innovative lot; the China donated tractor for Agriculture is used to pull the roller on the roads plus a number of other non agriculture things.



Rassie's revived column in the daily tribble's page 11 indicates the value they place on it. Tucked in among the classified adverts it is already on its way out. Full of self praise Rassie bowed out because he realised as a failed leader he wasn't wanted, not only that what was the point in being the leader of a Party when there was no monetary reward to help pay the bills. With his tag team partner Bishop all but washed up there was no hope of the seventh minister's pay and perks or the possibility of a cushy advisory contract with his mate, not to mention his share of the nonsensical debts the Demos are lumbered with from his idiotic pursuit of unwinnable electoral petitions and appeals. Rassie has wiped his hands clean of any responsibility to contribute to paying for the \$200,000 debt he had a major part in creating. If anyone is guilty of the unsavoury attributes of gossip, backstabbing, deceit, lies, dishonesty and

many more it is himself. What really was his involvement with the Taiwan fishing scandal?



Once again the Bulldozer DPM Prime Minister wanna be T Heta couldn't contain himself, after he praised himself to the ceiling, fortunately he was in Radio CI studio and not outside otherwise he would have praised himself to the clouds Heta attributed every good deed by the government to himself then fuelled with the rage of a spoilt child he poured a deluge of personal insults and defamatory criticism upon the owner of the radio station. Now the object of Heta's vitriolic vile attack has to sue his own station for broadcasting defamatory insults. With his naughty CEO Ben Mose on the panel they have both stabbed themselves in their feet. Heta is a typical playground bully who can dish it out but cries like a baby when he's on the receiving end. Not to worry he'll be getting his red card sooner than latter and watch the flies desert him and a subdued Ben returning to the panel.



The Demo Heta, Smelly, stalked the Elvis don't be cruel to Mangaia to eaves drop on attempts to politically seduce his MPs, apart from that he was very busy trying to secure six delegate votes for the position of the Demo Party leadership. Let's hope he paid

his own fare and accommodation expenses and not from the Opposition office budget or did his Party President Air Raro pilot Sean Willis slip him a feebie?



Those directly involved in tourism accommodation say the two tourist seasons need to be reclassified to the slow season and the no season. Some of them are successfully keeping their businesses alive by the innovative use of their kitchens and restaurants.



Long time chairman of the CIIC Board Julien Dashwood has vacated the seat voluntarily making way for tax dodger Miki Henry to be the new chairman. Word is Miki wants a female on the Board. The Minita Brown's fix it man Miki should put himself on the CIIC Board and start walking their talk for them.



Oh dear chooks! Last week there was a shouting match between the DPM and El Presidente o te Are Ariki over the likelihood of government seizing land under the Public Works Act for the upgrade of reservoirs under Te Mato Vai project! Upsetting the common people will not sit well with a communist country like China. With no compensation in sight due to a government which is destitute and considering charging for the water, an excited Tax man is rubbing his hands

in glee! Yes chooks, this is a taxing government! If it moves, tax it!



Local fishermen in the outer islands need to consider one thing before they sign the anti-purse seine fishing petition. We hear a lot about how local fishermen in the outer islands used to catch heaps and heaps of fish and now practically nothing! Why blame the purse seiners? Purse seining in Cook Islands waters only really started three years ago and not much was caught. How can just three years of purse seining where catches have been small, suddenly deplete other fish stocks? It just does not add up. Maybe it's all those years of unrestricted "over fishing" by outer islanders themselves that has depleted the stocks! To find the answer to their problem, outer islands fishermen need to look much closer to home.



With more close to rock bottom Kiwis looking for ever cheaper holidays and not wanting to spend up large to help our economy, it's a whole new category we could tap into. These are the Kiwis who don't mind sleeping 8 to a tent or in caravans in camping grounds and eating cheap meals like fish and chips. Perhaps government might consider spending \$3 million on advertising to attract these visitors? And that would be after splashing out \$1 million on a consultant to research the feasibility of the venture.



With the Demos maintaining the status quo at the top at conference, what changes can we expect to their policies to get the Party restarted on the road to the Treasury benches? The Demos know they cannot become government without OCI's two MPs —it's simple arithmetic, so how big is the carrot going to be? PM Puna knows his numbers are very shaky at best —and he has run out of options, so how big is his carrot?



### FAT CATS

Number 2, Cabinet may be shuffling portfolios again!

To keep us in the dark?



### COCONUT ROUNDTABLE

Rumour has it, Government plans to shuffle the portfolios again because some Ministers cannot cope!

Poor HOMs don't know who their bosses are!

The bosses don't know who their HOMs are!



**FOOTBALL UPDATE**

# Hayatou Africa's President backs Blatter

Any concerns Joseph Blatter may have had that his solid support base in Africa could be in danger of waning as he bids for a fifth term of office have been swept away. As expected, African Football Confederation chief Issa Hayatou pledged his members' total backing for Blatter at this week's CAF Congress.

"To us, he is still the man of the situation," Hayatou told delegates in Cairo, prompting prolonged applause. "I am thus tempted to say to candidate Blatter that he is preaching to converts here at CAF."

Blatter's three rivals for the presidency also attended the Congress as observers but this was very much the present incumbent's platform and he used the occasion to highlight FIFA's development work in Africa.

"Together we have built

football in Africa," said Blatter. "We FIFA have invested about \$760 million in Africa."

But the summit was just as much about Hayatou making sure he would remain in power in Africa as it was giving Blatter a collective pat on both shoulders and promising him that all 54 CAF countries would vote for him on May 29.

Just when many reformists have been pushing for age and term limits for football's powerbrokers, so Hayatou managed to ensure there was no danger of him losing his grip on the largest of FIFA's six confederations.

A vote to remove age limits was unanimously passed, meaning a change in the statutes which previously prevented officials serving past the age of 70. It was proposed that because FIFA does not have



age limits, CAF should follow suit.

Hayatou, who is now 68, would not have been able to stand for another term in office in 2017 unless the current rule was scrapped.

It was yet another tactical move by the all-powerful Cameroonian, who has been in

the chair since 1988, to prevent any challenges to his authority. CAF has already brought in a rule that any candidates for its presidency must come from the ranks of its own executive committee, controlled of course by Hayatou.

Significantly, FIFA has no such restriction.

# MoE and Westpac Target Student Financial Literacy Development

The MoE has signed a further Memorandum of Understanding with Westpac Bank to continue to support financial literacy learning in schools. Secretary of Education, Sharyn Paio, signed the MoU with Westpac on Wednesday 8th April agreeing to continue the roll out of financial literacy programmes targeted at senior primary school and Year 9 students.

MoE Enterprise Advisor, Janet Woodger, has been working closely with Westpac Bank to deliver programmes that aid the development of students' financial management skills. Under the MoU, Westpac will administer two financial education programmes with schools both in Rarotonga and in the Pa Enua. These include the Money Basics Programme for Year 7 - 8 students and the First Financial Steps Programme for Year 9 students.

The Money Basics programme asks students to consider What Money Is. This includes getting



Secretary of Education, Sharyn Paio, and Westpac Bank Manager, Tokoa Harmon, sign the MoU that will provide financial literacy education to Cook Islands students.

students to investigate how to earn money; how to make the best possible use of money; making a money plan; and how the bank can help keep their money safe.

The First Financial Steps

programme is targeted at a higher curriculum level and students learn about financial planning and budgeting. Students learn about saving money, borrowing money and how to protect financial resources.

Enterprise Advisor, Janet Woodger, says, "This is a real opportunity to take a whole school approach to financial learning in schools, with real potential to develop unit plans and supporting resources."

TENDER



**REQUEST FOR TENDER**

**IMMUNO ASSAY ANALYSER AND LAPAROSCOPE EQUIPMENT**

Tenders are requested for the supply of an Immuno Assay Analyser and Laparoscope Equipment for the Rarotonga Hospital.

Tender document and specification can be uplifted from the Funding & Planning office of the Ministry of Health in Tupapa and is also available on the Ministry of Health website [www.health.gov.ck](http://www.health.gov.ck) or contact Ms Vaine Ngatokorua on ph 29664, fax 23109 or email: [v.ngatokorua@health.gov.ck](mailto:v.ngatokorua@health.gov.ck)

Tenders shall be submitted either:

Hard copy - Complete hard copies, packaged and labeled "CONFIDENTIAL" and have the following information clearly exhibited on the outside:

Procurement of Medical Equipment 2014/2015  
Cook Islands Ministry of Health  
P O Box 109,  
Avarua,  
COOK ISLANDS

OR

Softcopy: By emailing the tender bid as a pdf file to [tenders@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:tenders@cookislands.gov.ck) with the subject line "Procurement of Medical Equipment 2014/2015". The receipt time on the inbox will be used as the receipt time for the purposes of ensuring a tender is within the time limits.

The Tender Box is located at the Funding and Planning Office of the Cook Islands Ministry of Health in Tupapa (or submitted electronically to the email address detailed above)

Tender/Offer Closing Time

Request for tenders will close on the 30th April 2015 at 4.00pm.

For enquiries call Vaine Ngatokorua, Finance Manager on (682) 29 664 or email [v.ngatokorua@health.gov.ck](mailto:v.ngatokorua@health.gov.ck)  
Meitaki maata

TENDERS



**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

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 29 April 2015

**New Hope Church**

**Parekura Conference Centre**

*Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you*

**Sunday at 10.30am**

**FOOTBALL UPDATE**

# FIFA Presidential election heats up

The FIFA presidential campaign swings into the Bahamas this week, with Concacaf (North and Central America) countries the latest battle ground for those bidding for power for the position of the FIFA President on May 29 in Zurich, Switzerland.

Although Joseph Blatter has considerable support in the region, the United States – arguably the confederation’s most influential single member along with Mexico - was one of the five countries that officially nominated Prince Ali bin al-Hussein of Jordan, considered by most observers to be Blatter’s main rival.

And significantly, CONCACAF president Jeffrey Webb has already stated that his confederation will not push members to vote as a bloc on May 29 which makes Thursday’s

confederation congress fertile lobbying territory.

And that has not been lost on Luis Figo, the rank outsider.

Figo is hoping to woo the smaller Caribbean nations, who make up the majority of CONCACAF federations and who meet separately on Wednesday.

“One of the key aspects I want to talk about is my suggestion to distribute 50 per cent of FIFA’s revenues directly to the member associations for solidarity over four years,” Figo said.

“This means eight million dollars per member association over four years, two million dollars per member association per year when presently they only receive £255,000 per year.”

Prince Ali has made it clear he will focus on those federations who are short of basic needs if



Luis Figo, a popular football player during his days, is keen to exploit CONCACAF lobbying territory.

he is elected.

Figo has similar targets.

“I will also allocate another \$300 million to be distributed to the member associations in highest need, ear-marked for the construction of specific football infrastructure

projects,” he said.

“This means an additional two million dollars for 150 federation over four years. From what I’ve been hearing and analysing, some of this investment will be done in the CONCACAF region.”

## OFC Champions League Latest Results

Currently being played in Fiji

Date	Time	Home	Away	Location	Result
<b>Group A</b>					
11/04/15	16:30	Pirae	Lupe Ole Soaga	Govind Park, Ba	3-3
11/04/15	19:00	Ba	Gaitcha	Govind Park, Ba	3-0
14/04/15	17:00	Lupe Ole Soaga	Ba	Govind Park, Ba	1-3
14/04/15	19:30	Gaitcha	Pirae	Govind Park, Ba	5-2
<b>Group B</b>					
11/04/15	16:30	Auckland City	Suva	ANZ Stadium, Suva	3-0
11/04/15	19:00	Western United	Amicale	ANZ Stadium, Suva	0-1
14/04/15	16:30	Auckland City	Western United	ANZ Stadium, Suva	3-0
14/04/15	19:00	Amicale	Suva	ANZ Stadium, Suva	3-2
<b>Group C</b>					
12/04/15	16:30	Tafea	Hekari United	ANZ Stadium, Suva	2-3
12/04/15	19:00	Team Wellington	Tefana	ANZ Stadium, Suva	2-1