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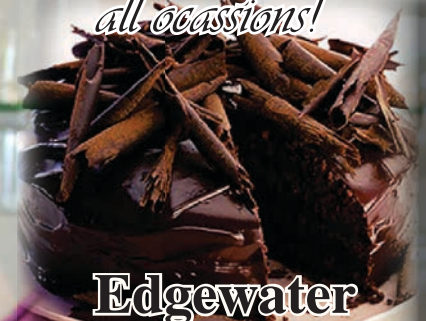
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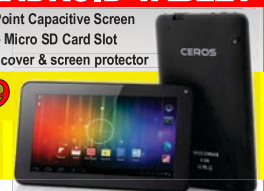
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Politicking allegations against Mayor jeopardises Pearl Farmer's revitalising project

Controversy over NZAid's revitalising project for pearl farming in Manihiki is beginning to look like a festering sore that needs urgent attention and some accountability because the very intent of New Zealand's generous gift of their tax payer's money needs a positive closure and the assurance the money was justified.

NZAid has spent a disproportionate amount of money in proportion to the participants involved and the desired outcomes yet those responsible for the administration of the pearl farming revitalisation project are failing to act impartially and without the politicking which polarises the small fragile Manihiki community.

Such is the frustration over the mismanagement of the project's process, the commercial viability of some long term farmers is hanging in the balance and they are contemplating walking away permanently.

According to the chairman of the Manihiki Pearl Farmers Association (MPFA) Kora Kora if there is no intervention as a result of New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully's visit next week there is the likely hood members of the MPFA will resort to the Court to resolve their issues of contention.

Kora said politicking was at the heart of the MPFA issues with the Manihiki Island Council especially with the Mayor Ngamata Napara who some prominent farmers claim is rewarding her supporters and those who voted for the CIP.

Kora said it is unashamedly obvious what is going on, "the politicking is not hidden, it is openly displayed, the Mayor is ignoring the NZAid allocation list and distributing the pearl farming equipment and materials to reward and win the voting favour for the next Island Council and General Elections."

"What makes her actions more disturbing is she claims she has the support of Manihiki's



Manihiki Mayor Ngamata Napara

Member of Parliament the Prime Minister Henry Puna."

The latest bone of contention concerns the supply of purpose built boats for qualified farmers that will support the new pearl production targets for individual farms. These purpose built boats currently under construction by Tango Herman are specially designed for working on the oyster farm lines so that the oysters suffer less stress out of the water and will help quality as a result of quicker work on shells since they did not have to be transported on dry land. The object of the use of these specially designed pearl farming boats is to minimise labour, less stress on the shells and more cleaning of seeded shells resulting in better quality pearls.

Nine boats were approved and initially seven were allocated to larger farmers and two (one to be place in each village) for the smaller farmers to share their use. A late application by the mayor and her husband, the full time Ministry of Marine

Resources officer in Manihiki got accepted and one of the small farmers boat was allocated to them. This is a serious conflict of interest as how can the Mayor's husband Tangi also be committed to full time pearl farming? How can it be justified he has one boat and the other to be used by all the other small farmers?

Only one boat to is be under the supervision of MPFA, but the contract to be signed by all the small farmers was approve two in the final stock list that went to tender. Since the original allocation of boats went to tender and supplies sent to Manihiki for construction by the boat builder the allocation of the small farmers boat seems to have been changed.

Why was the criteria for ownership of a boat approved by John Carter changed when it was decided only individual farms qualified to own a boat. The mayor of Manihiki was asked to identify a farmer to take this small farmers boat. Mayor Napara on

her own, without the knowledge of most Island Councillors chose a farmer who already has several small boats and whose farm is practically non functioning but a great friend and supporter of the mayor.

Why was MPFA not informed of the criteria change since this project was designed and put together very much by a dedicated group of MPFA members and John Carter, the NZ High Commissioner? Why was this new criteria so much more important than the practical solution of having a purpose built boat available to all smaller pearl farm?

The second issue is why has the NZ High Commission relied on the Mayor Napara alone to choose the deserving pearl farmer without asking MPFA's view since MPFA has done most of the preparation work for this project?

The last issue to answer is again the questionable role of the Mayor in this reallocation of a boat when there are obviously more deserving farmers had she bothered to be inclusive in her choice of farmer. Like the taking of other farmer's materials, Mayor Napara needs to answer to allegations of interference in the proper process of implementing this project and conflicts of interest.

Mc Cully lands in Manihiki about 5.30pm on the 11 May after visiting Penryhn and the Rarotonga delegation arrives on the morning of the 12 May. He and Hurley are unlikely to meet with Mayor Napara to discuss these NZAid issues as she conveniently plans to leave Manihiki for Rarotonga on the 12 May on the return Air Rarotonga flight to attend her father's headstone unveiling.

With the pearl farming industry in such a fragile economic state, farmers claim without the injection of the NZAid funds the harvest volume of 300,000 pearls needed to justify a national marketing strategy will fall short resulting in the winding up of the

continued next page

Who will pay for the Manihiki Island Council's stupidity?

Now that the suppressed NZAid pearl farming revitalisation contentions has come to light the latest report from disgruntled farmers in Manihiki is that some of the material and equipment bought by \$1 million of NZAid funds for designated pearl farmers are damaged and therefore useless to these farmers.

Frustrated by the never ending wall of silence and inactivity by the Manihiki Mayor Ngatama Napara the disgruntled farmers who have waited since June 2014 for their already approved allocations of NZAid funded farming equipment and material are in no mind to be ignored.

Timber intended for farm

working stations and platforms have sat in the open for so long they are all warped. Cement that landed in Manihiki 12 months ago is now hard and useless. Thousands of floats from the NZ supplier has sat in the sun for so long that he will not guarantee these floats if they start leaking when put in the lagoon.

No one also knows the condition of the remaining equipment still held by the Island Council after sitting in sheltered storage in a hot humid environment. These materials and equipment are now inaccessible as they have purposely been virtually buried behind and surrounded by the China donated ropes and floats.



The Chinese funded pearl equipment stacked around the inaccessible New Zealand Aid Equipment

These could run in to thousands of dollars loss to NZAid but especially to the farmers who have been waiting for these items. Who will pay to replace these? The Island Council certainly don't

have the money to replace them and will probably ignore the loss because the officials in Rarotonga for government and NZAid don't appear to care anyway!

-George Pitt

Politicking allegations jeopardises Pearl Farmer's revitalising project

From page 2

Cook Islands Pearl Authority.

A successful international market strategy requires a sustainable volume of harvested pearls but the way the manner in which the Manihiki Island Council are conducting themselves they will never again experience the former glory of the industry, Rarotonga Pearl retailers will have to supplement their own farmed pearls with stock from French Polynesia.

There are no prisoners with pearl farming, once Manihiki had over 200 pearl farmers but now less than 25 continue to frustratingly persevere with the daily challenges to etch out a living. Many after more than a decade simply walked away in despair resigned to the fact there are easier ways to make a living elsewhere.

"Right now pearl farming in Manihiki needs to be a collective mission with everyone focused on the big picture and greater good, the argumentive

and fragmented state is counterproductive and a serious threat to the industry and the long term sustainability of the island," warned Kora.

Where is the intervention by the NZ High Commissioner? Will the newly appointed Nick Hurley follow suit and wash his hands of the Manihiki project? It is common knowledge in diplomatic circles the refreshing John Carter was unorthodox and referred to as a political meddler who did not follow the book and the failure of this project would taint Carter and justify his diplomatic critics. The pearl farmers want an immediate resolution and are calling upon the NZ High Commissioner's Office to put an end to the anti Carter nonsense and intervene.

"Pearl farming saps your energy physically, mentally and emotionally, unless you are highly resourced it sucks the life out of you," said one time Manihiki pearl farmer Ronald Powell.

- George Pitt



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\$23,000 Air Raro charter for Mrs Puna, can the PM please explain?

Yes Prime Minister Henry Puna, you owe the people of the Cook Islands an explanation. For what reason was an Air Rarotonga plane chartered last Saturday 2 May 2015 to fly to your constituency of Manihiki at a cost of \$23,000 with just two passengers? They being your wife and your driver. The photo above shows your pick up with the tray fully loaded with cargo from the flight understood to belong to yourself and your wife.

Is it fair the rest of the people are expected to keep public expenditure to essentials with expected cuts to the Budget absorbed by taxpayers and the shrinking business sector struggling to make ends meet while you appear to be recklessly spending public funds to gratify your own selfish needs? What about first paying back the illegally gained money from the New Zealand Pensioner's Bank savings accounts before you and your wife help selfishly yourselves to public funds?

Why charter the expensive flight as if your wife was going on a pleasure ride around the Island, where are your moral values that you think you can use public funds in such a cavalier way? Was the cargo she took to Manihiki paid for by the tax payer, is that in any way acceptable? Why were there only two passengers or is this going to be how it is now, Mrs Puna wants to go and have a trip north like a First Lady so it's just her and one of your staff to carry her bags?

Prime Minister you owe the Country an explanation! Why weren't the other empty seats sold to reduce the charter costs? Why was Mrs Puna afforded the luxury of travelling as if it were her private plane at the tax payer's expense? Were others offered the cargo space seeing there is no sugar on Manihiki?

Henry Puna, unless you have a convincing explanation, what you are doing is abhorrent and inexcusable, this kind of behaviour is unacceptable for a



Prime Minister. Right now Prime Minister you are well aware our Country is wallowing in a political cesspool of corruption and self-enrichment at the highest levels.

How about rising above all this and set the standard that lifts the Country out of our spirit of poverty which is clearly evident by the unashamed begging bowl hand out mentality and culture we have cultivated for ourselves over the last 50 years. How much longer must we hang our heads in shame that our dependence is far greater than our independence?

How can God Almighty pour out his blessing on our Nation when our elected leaders and appointed officials are so callous about their blatant abuse of power? And where is the pompous Financial Secretary Richard Neves, start earning your obese salary of \$330,000 and put a stop to the squandering of public funds sacrificially contributed by the taxed.

Stop giving the Nation lip service and broken promises and start respecting the people who elevated you, demonstrate that you at least have one strand of

moral fibre in your back bone, for the time will surely come when your leadership will be removed from you without remorse. Lead by doing right, Henry Puna the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands simply do the right

thing, is that too much to ask of you? Cannot you remember the scriptures from your youth PM?

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Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a disgrace to any people
George Pitt



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Shipping debacle requires decisive leadership

By Charles Pitt

Questions are now being raised as to what has happened to the situation regarding our shipping services which the Prime Minister had undertaken to fix over the past year but has failed to do so. Instead, it has become somewhat of an international embarrassment that appears to have been pushed aside in the interim for several months while the shipping companies involved try and "sort things out with government."

It's no secret that the PM has been struggling to find a solution for months without success however an interim decision has been reached thanks to the decisive intervention of Aitutaki's One Cook Islands Movement MP Teina Bishop on behalf of the people of Aitutaki forcing the PM to respond to the concerns of the various private sector agencies likely to be affected by the proposed reduction in shipping services to Aitutaki and the wider Cook Islands.

The inaction by the PM potentially placed a number of businesses in Aitutaki at risk of closure because of the possibility of a reduction in goods and services available due to reduced shipping services. This no doubt would have negatively impacted on their livelihoods eventually spreading to other southern and northern group islands.

Historically the issues involved are not new as they've been around for a long time but what is of major concern now has been the PM's perceived inability to deal with these issues in a responsible and timely manner. Serious doubts are emerging as to his ability to cope with having to make the hard decisions and this is also reflected across the majority of portfolios held under his watch as Minister responsible.

With regards to shipping, several options were placed before the PM to assist him make an informed decision by looking at other alternative shipping services however his

indecisive reasoning and delayed tactics have exacerbated the situation rather than help it. It's a known fact that several local operators had stepped in with offers and solutions to assist however these offers appear to have been snubbed and rejected by the PM for reasons known only to him and to which he has yet to explain publicly including to those who offered to help.

A number of related concerns have also been raised by his Cabinet colleagues and key players within the Cook Islands shipping circles. These refer to lack of consultation by the PM on the critical issues involved, his reliance on his knowledge and past experience as a former Secretary of Transport, his personal links and relationships to key personnel in the wider shipping industry but more importantly, his lack of maintaining ministerial oversight with regards to critical local shipping services plus his inability to diffuse the situation before it reached crisis point.

Whatever his reasons, he cannot blame any of his colleagues as he has been solely

responsible for dealing with this matter from the outset and has kept most of the issues "under wraps." Ironically, Bishop's public exposure of this matter has forced the PM's hand to resolve the impending crisis because had it not been dealt with immediately, the impact would have had more serious consequences not only for the private sector but also for Government.

Questions are now being raised as to the logic of maintaining status quo with Matson Shipping during the 3 months reprieve period and the involvement of UMA Shipping whose withdrawal prompted the concerns now at the centre of this unsatisfactory state of affairs.

And what is the general public to make of this state of affairs? A lack of consultation and transparency only gives rise to suspicions of secret, backdoor deals and political Ministerial intervention.

One would also question Bishop's approach whether or not it was in the interests of the people of Aitutaki or for self gain but irrespective of

his intervention, placing the concerns and issues in the public domain has forced the PM to respond belatedly and at the very least, he is to be commended for his actions.

The question remains however as to "where to from here once the 3 months is up?" We all know how vital shipping services is to our livelihoods and to our economy and unless a robust and sustainable shipping service is provided and maintained, there will always be an element of uncertainty and risk involved which Government must either protect or minimize especially with the perceived impacts on future development initiatives for the benefit of our people.

What is needed now is decisive leadership in the interests of our country rather than the haphazard approach undertaken by the PM in recent months to appease the requests and demands of certain shipping companies. If shipping services are going to remain a vital part of the growth of our future development, let's hope the PM will do the right thing eventually and put the needs of our people first.

World Press Freedom Day 3 May 2015

2015 Theme: Let Journalism Thrive! Towards better reporting, gender equality and media safety in the digital age

World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference. Since then, 3 May, the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek is celebrated worldwide as World Press Freedom Day. It is an opportunity to:

- celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom;
- assess the state of press freedom throughout the world;
- defend the media from attacks on their independence;
- pay tribute to journalists who have lost their

lives in the line of duty.

This year UNESCO, the United Nations agency mandated to promote and protect press freedom worldwide, has named renowned journalist and CNN Chief International Correspondent Christiane Amanpour its Goodwill Ambassador for Freedom of Expression and Journalist Safety.

UNESCO is focusing on three themes for World Press Freedom Day this year:

- The need for "quality journalism" - reporting that is accurate and independent, remains a constant concern in a media landscape that is changing due to technological and commercial developments.

- Gender imbalance continues in the media 20 years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Change. All too few women journalists are able to reach decision-making positions in the media.

- The third theme is digital safety, a topic of growing concern because digital communications makes it difficult for journalists to protect themselves and their sources.

The annual UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize ceremony will take place on 3 May 2015 at the National Library of Latvia in Riga. The winner is Syrian journalist and human rights activist, Mazen Darwish, who is currently imprisoned.

Our Frontpage model Minister Brown meets the President of ADB



Our front-page model for Herald Issue 765 is Ana Tuavera. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald



At the end of the first day of the 48th Asian Development Bank (ADB) Annual Meeting in Baku, Friday the 1st May I had the rare opportunity to speak 'one on one' to the ADB President Takehiko Nakao.

As Minister of Finance, I was able to express the appreciation of the Cook Islands government for the Bank's previous assistance in the form of low interest loans as part of the Economic Recovery Support Program, the recent rehabilitation of the Avatiu Port, and a range of technical support funding for to assist government address a number of policy initiatives.

These included continuing public sector reforms, strengthening of public financial management systems and improved debt resilience by converting existing loans into NZD and state owned assets management.

He also expressed the strong commitment of government to continue to work together with ADB on the Southern Group Solar Power Project that will build six (6) solar power plants in the southern group Pa Enua. This work continues from ADB support to improve energy efficiencies in the country and the institutional strengthening support to implement the Cook Islands Renewable Energy Chart Implementation Plan 2012-2020.

*Hon Mark Brown
Minister of Finance
4 May 2015*

New NZ High Commissioner meets PM and Cabinet

On Tuesday morning, Prime Minister Henry Puna held warm and friendly discussions with incoming NZ High Commissioner Nick Hurley. Hurley had the opportunity to meet the Cabinet Ministers, following his brief session with the PM. The PM's initial discussions with Hurley were mainly a friendly meet-and-greet session. Hurley is no stranger to the Cook Islands having worked previously in the NZ High Commission Office. Further talks with officials are expected over the coming days due to the forthcoming visit of NZ Foreign Minister Murray McCully. Minister McCully is due in the Cook Islands this coming weekend for the opening of NZ-funded solar projects in Penrhyn and Manihiki. The visit also caters for the annual Joint Ministerial Forum, which is scheduled to be held in Manihiki next Tuesday. A RNZAF C-130 will be flying a Cook Islands-NZ contingent to the North next Monday morning.-PM Office media release 5 May 2015



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On World Press Freedom Day, UN says free expression vital for global sustainability



3 May 2015 – Freedom of expression and press freedom are critical to the successful implementation of good governance and human rights around the world, top United Nations officials declared today as they inaugurated the 2015 edition of World Press Freedom Day with a reminder that both freedoms were “essential” for the shaping of a new global sustainable development agenda.

In a joint message, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the Director-General of the UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Irina Bokova, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, observed that quality journalism “enables citizens to make informed decisions about their society’s development” while also working “to expose injustice, corruption, and the abuse of power.”

“For peace to be lasting and development to be sustainable, human rights must be respected,” the UN officials affirmed in their statement. “Everyone must be free to seek, receive and impart knowledge and information on all media, online and offline.”

World Press Freedom Day, which was established by the UN General Assembly and is celebrated annually on 3 May, is designated by UNESCO as an opportunity to celebrate

worldwide the fundamental principles of press freedom; assess the state of press freedom throughout the world; defend the media from attacks on their independence; and pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty. This year’s theme – ‘Let Journalism Thrive!’ – is a three-pronged message that advocates for quality journalism, the tackling of gender imbalances in media, and digital safety.

Ahead of the 2015 observance of the Day, UNESCO, the United Nations agency mandated to promote and protect press freedom worldwide, named renowned journalist and CNN correspondent Christiane Amanpour as its Goodwill Ambassador for Freedom of Expression and Journalist Safety.

“We need every voice to speak out and be heard – especially those of women,” the UN officials’ statement continued. “Twenty years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, women remain underrepresented throughout the media, at decision-making level but also in the coverage of issues.”

“We cannot let this stand,” they added. “Men and women must participate equally in making and sharing the news.”

At the same time, Mr. Ban, Ms. Bokova, and Mr. Zeid underscored

the troubling scenario of violence and insecurity in which thousands of journalists operate in every day, noting that at least one journalist is killed each week in both conflict and non-conflict zones.

“Journalism must be able to thrive, in an enabling environment in which they can work independently and without undue interference and in conditions of safety,” the statement declared. “This is our message today, to let journalism thrive!”

In a separate message, Mr. Ban said that around the globe, journalists are attacked every day as they try to carry out their work. In the last year alone, 61 journalists were killed. Many more languish in jails without charges or any sign of due process, the victims of governments and others that prohibit free inquiry and use the power of the state to intimidate the press.

“As we mark World Press Freedom Day this year, let us honour the memory of those who lost their lives, and intensify our efforts to uphold the fundamental human right to freedom of expression and press freedom,” said the Secretary-General, adding that this year’s theme emphasizes the importance of ensuring a free and pluralistic media against

the backdrop of a fast-paced and ever-changing digital world.

Digital technology has been exploited to spread hate speech or incite violence, but it is also a force for good, bringing people together in a global conversation about how to build a better world. In particular, digital technology can have a positive impact as leaders strive this year to formulate an ambitious agenda to advance sustainable development for years to come.

However digital journalists and bloggers are also facing retribution and curbs on their freedom to report, he said.

“Thriving journalism – whether in digital or more traditional form – must be anchored in quality reporting and information dissemination to all segments of society. Women play a critical, yet far too neglected, role in today’s media landscape,” said the UN chief, calling on all governments, societies and individuals to uphold the principles put forward by Member States on the need for the free exchange of information and ideas, both within and among nations.

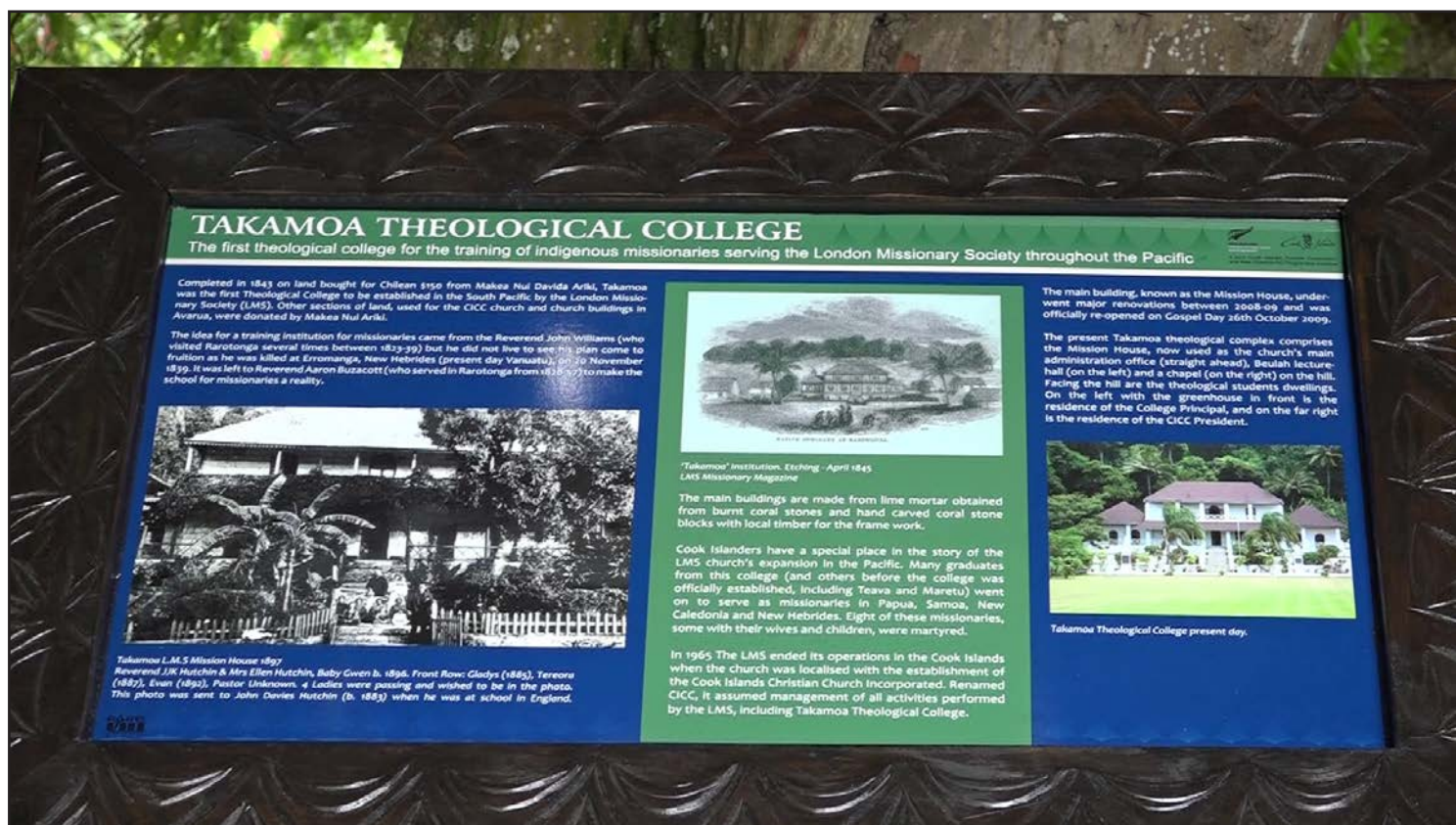
“We must commit to ensure that the safety and human rights of journalists are protected, independent of the political, socio-economic or cultural pressures that may threaten, impede or deter their freedom to keep the world informed,” he declared.

Tourism unveils Takamoa Theological College information storyboard

This morning the Cook Islands Tourism unveiled the Takamoa Theological College information storyboard, in a small ceremony. The information storyboard is situated at the

entrance of the College and contains the details of the history of the Theological College. The Takamoa Theological grounds is the Mission station for the London Missionary Society, now known as the

Cook Islands Christian Church (CICC) and the Takamoa Theological College is the Mission School. Cook Islands Tourism plans to unveil up to 20 information storyboards across Rarotonga. - Teriu Woonton



Talking with hands

By Derek Fox

They come from two entirely different cultures, speak two entirely different languages, but despite that they have found a way to communicate and are getting along like a house on fire.

I'm talking about the staff at Infrastructure Cook Islands and the Chinese contracting company CCECC; and I'm not necessarily talking about the bosses, but the workers, the operators, mechanics, electricians and so on.

CCECC has the contract for stage one of the Te Mato Vai project, replacing the ring mains – the pipes that will carry the water around the island eventually feeding it into households and businesses – and ICI has a support role in that work, restoring the roadway and shoulders.

But you don't need 20/20 vision to notice that much of the ICI machinery is well short of a gallop, and breakdowns are all too frequent; spare parts are non-existent or very hard to come by, and frankly the ICI maintenance crew don't always have the specialised experience and skill to put things right.

Enter CCECC staff, and as Paul Maoate from ICI says – "They may not speak a lot of English, but they 'talk with their hands'." And those hands have helped coax more work out of the aging ICI gear.

"They've helped out with a lot of our heavy machinery. The bitumen truck has frequently been breaking down, but they've pitched in to get it going. Our kettle – that's the machine used to heat up the bitumen so we can apply it to the road, needed work too. It can take a day to get the bitumen hot and liquid enough. Their electricians sorted out a pump for that."

The CCECC crew has a whole range of trades people in their ranks and so if there's a problem, more often than not there's someone to have a go at fixing it; and that's what's happening. "We've even had some of them



talking to our people in the outer islands over the phone and fixed a problem."

They've even been a big help with the new machinery that's recently arrived from China, explaining what all the gauges are for and pointing out safety and maintenance features which the local guys might not have been aware of, all of which helps with maintenance and keeping

the machines running longer.

In addition – says Paul Maoate – "They've probably saved us months of work sorting out all of the spare parts that have arrived for the new machines, they've helped us to catalogue and store them so we're ready when the parts are needed."

Chatting with Paul you get the impression the teams not only get on but they like each other's

company, despite language shortcomings.

"They sponsored our touch team and for the first time we got into the finals; we came second."

Late last week as a little thank you, the ICI crew put on a kai kai for their Chinese mates. When I popped in both crews seemed to be getting along fine with hands, kai and refreshments all talking.





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Information storyboard signage unveiled

VISITORS will soon enjoy some of the rich history of the Cook Islands at sites of cultural and historic significance on Rarotonga once a series of 'information storyboards' is placed around Rarotonga.

The unveiling of an information storyboard at the Takamoa Theological College today will showcase the first of twenty information storyboards being developed by Destination Development at Cook Islands Tourism Corporation. Takamoa College was selected amongst a host of options as the first site to commence the project mainly due to the large amount of information available for this historical site, and the willingness of the Cook Islands Christian Church (CICC) administration to engage in this project. The London Missionary Society had a considerable impact on the history of the Cook Islands and its legacy has a heavy influence on our lifestyle today. This rich history will be shared with those visiting the sites. Storyboard signs will also be placed at all the CICC churches on

Rarotonga outlining the individual history of each church.

"There will be a lot of interesting information available for both visitors and locals. Some of our people may not know that most of our churches have each been built and re-built several times" said Noeline Mateariki Coordinator of the project for Cook Islands Tourism. "Visitors and locals alike will enjoy the insight the signage provides".

Cook Islands Tourism has worked closely with Ngatuaie Maui and the Kimi Ravenga Group, and with Jean Mason of the Cook Islands Library and Museum to kick-start this project. Raymond Solomon from Raro Signs was successful in bidding for the contract to produce and install the signs.

Cook Islands Tourism Corporation CEO Halatua Fua said "Most sites of cultural and historical significance in the Cook Islands are not well marked and as a mature tourism destination this element is lacking from a visitor experience perspective.

This project addresses this issue, but will also provide well researched information on the history and culture of the Cook Islands that will benefit the local community".

Following on from Takamoa College other sites to have signs installed include Papua Waterfall commonly known as Wigmore's,

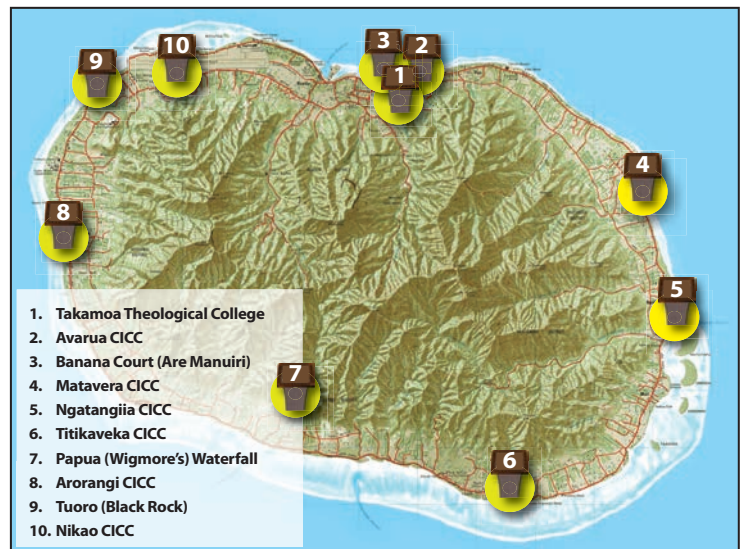
The Banana Court which is the site of the first hotel in the Cook Islands 'Are Manuiri', and Tuoro or Black Rock which is believed to be the mythical departure point of spirits to the ancestral underworld of Avaiki. Next steps for this project include adding these sites to published visitor's maps and brochures, including the sites in guided and or self-guided activities, and promoting the sites through social and other media. A limited number of sites are currently being researched and explored for the island of Aitutaki.



Raymond and Eva Solomon from Raro Signs stand with the impressive Takamoa Theological College information storyboard.



Storyboards like this one will be placed at 20 locations around Rarotonga and Aitutaki.



TAKAMOA THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

The first theological college for the training of indigenous missionaries serving the London Missionary Society throughout the Pacific

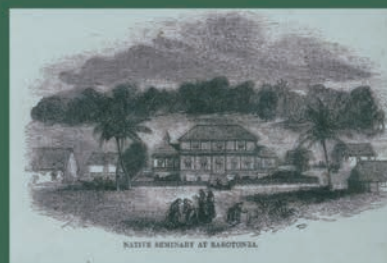


Completed in 1843 on land bought for Chilean \$150 from Makea Nui Davida Ariki, Takamoa was the first Theological College to be established in the South Pacific by the London Missionary Society (LMS). Other sections of land, used for the CICC church and church buildings in Avarua, were donated by Makea Nui Ariki.

The idea for a training institution for missionaries came from the Reverend John Williams (who visited Rarotonga several times between 1823-39) but he did not live to see his plan come to fruition as he was killed at Erromanga, New Hebrides (present day Vanuatu), on 20 November 1839. It was left to Reverend Aaron Buzacott (who served in Rarotonga from 1828-57) to make the school for missionaries a reality.



Takamoa LMS Mission House 1897
Reverend JJK Hutchin & Mrs Ellen Hutchin, Baby Gwen b. 1896. Front Row: Gladys (1885), Tereora (1887), Evan (1892), Pastor Unknown. 4 Ladies were passing and wished to be in the photo. This photo was sent to John Davies Hutchin (b. 1883) when he was at school in England.



'Takamoa' Institution. Etching - April 1845
LMS Missionary Magazine

The main buildings are made from lime mortar obtained from burnt coral stones and hand carved coral stone blocks with local timber for the frame work.

Cook Islanders have a special place in the story of the LMS church's expansion in the Pacific. Many graduates from this college (and others before the college was officially established, including Teava and Maretu) went on to serve as missionaries in Papua, Samoa, New Caledonia and New Hebrides. Eight of these missionaries, some with their wives and children, were martyred.

In 1965 The LMS ended its operations in the Cook Islands when the church was localised with the establishment of the Cook Islands Christian Church Incorporated. Renamed CICC, it assumed management of all activities performed by the LMS, including Takamoa Theological College.

The main building, known as the Mission House, underwent major renovations between 2008-09 and was officially re-opened on Gospel Day 26th October 2009.

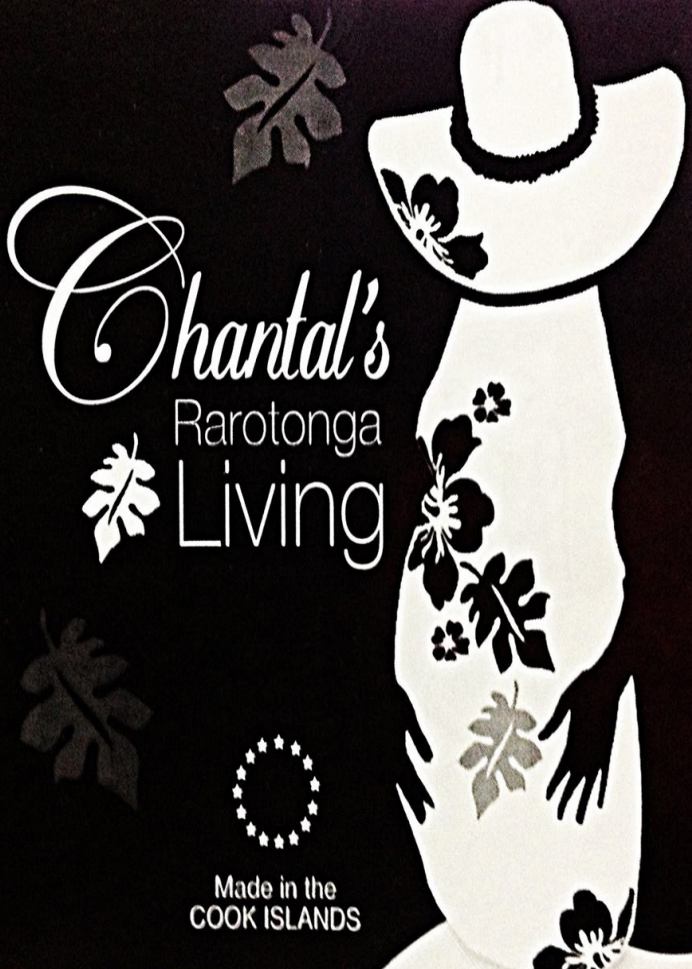
The present Takamoa theological complex comprises the Mission House, now used as the church's main administration office (straight ahead), Beulah lecture hall (on the left) and a chapel (on the right) on the hill. Facing the hill are the theological students dwellings. On the left with the greenhouse in front is the residence of the College Principal, and on the far right is the residence of the CICC President.



Takamoa Theological College present day.



The first information storyboard will provide insight into the history of Takamoa Theological College.



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Business Trade Investment Board

Cook Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

FARMERS

Agriculture Development Loan Scheme (ADL)

ARE YOU GEARING UP FOR THE 50TH TE MAEVA NUI CELEBRATION AND NEED FUNDING ASSISTANCE?

The Business Trade Investment Board (BTIB) invites expressions of interest from individual farmers who would like to support the supply of fresh produce for the 50th Te Maeva Nui Celebration and need financial assistance.

Specific Conditions:

- Maximum limit will be up to \$2,000.00
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- The maximum term of the loan is 6 months

For an application form and criteria on the Agriculture Development Loan Scheme contact:

Lydia Tararo-Marsh
Ph 24-296 Fax 24-298
Business Trade Investment Board
Email: lydia.marsh@cookislands.gov.ck

Application Forms must be completed and received at the BTIB Office by Friday 15th May 2015 at 4.00pm.

Magic in the kitchen

Tiana Haxton

I think baking and cooking is like magic. You start off with a whole lot of separate ingredients and you end up with amazing creations.

Delicate cupcakes, flavoursome dinners, delicious desserts and so on.

I love making magic in the kitchen.

Especially when it comes to baking.

Five Tablespoons of butter, a teaspoon of vanilla essence, whipped up with a cupful of brown sugar and a few dollops of mayonnaise to replace 2 eggs.

When mixed with two – two and a half cups of flour, a tablespoon of baking powder, a tablespoon of cocoa, half a cup of warm milk and an oven at 190 degrees Celsius, You end up with hot beautiful chocolate cupcakes after 20-30 minutes!

After 10 minutes, I loosen the cupcakes from the muffin tins and set them on a wire rack to cool.

While they cool, two tablespoons of butter whipped with a few drops of vanilla essence is added to two cups of light puffy sifted icing sugar before 1-2 tablespoons of water is added to create smooth creamy icing. This is spread on top of the cupcakes till all have a blanket of white.

As I usually have some icing left over, I add in a teaspoon of cocoa to create light brown cream.

When spooned into a piping apparatus, one can decorate the cupcakes with smooth swirling patterns.

A nice hot drink, a warm blanket and a good movie polishes it off perfectly....

Delicious...

Navenave...

Jewish Bagels, Golden Croissants, Steaming Pizzas and flavoursome Sushi are another of my favourites to create.

My younger brother Clay is ecstatic to simply be given a small ball of dough to mould into his very own mini pizza base. Though, he excels when it comes to 'not burning the sausages with the television on'!

I absolutely adore the cinnamon buns my mum makes. They are AMAZING!

Ron, mums partner is the pro when it comes to baking warm moist delicious banana cakes.

A couple of years ago, I would walk around in town with a tray of large cup-cakes and sell them for \$2.50. If you requested icing, I would spread some on for an extra 50 cents. Business went well.

Every Saturday, I'd walk through town selling my creations with the occasional IOU. I would spend at least half of my weekly income and save the rest. I saved \$250.00 by the end of the year.

I have not been continuing business lately as I need a permit in order to sell food. Instead, I bake at home and gift some to family and friends.

Magic truly does exist...

Magic in the Kitchen...

Taste Bud Tantalizing...

Delicious...

Nave nave...

Government contribution to Cyclone Pam fundraising



The Minister for Internal Affairs, Hon. Albert Nicholas, officially presented Government's support of \$20,000 to the Cook Islands Red Cross Society's Cyclone Pam fundraising efforts today as a contribution to the category 5 cyclone that devastated Vanuatu in March 2015. "The loss of lives caused by Cyclone Pam and the extent of damage to Vanuatu is a reminder that we have been fortunate in the Cook Islands to have come out of the most recent Cyclone season relatively unscathed," stated Minister Nicholas.

"I am honoured to present this pledge officially to the Red Cross on behalf of Government. Our contribution is symbolic of our connection to all Pacific Island countries and the support we provide in times of need." Resource Development Coordinator of the Cook Islands Red Cross, Mrs. Mata Hetland, expressed her appreciation on Government's contribution and confirmed that while funds were still being made, the Government contribution will lift the total funds raised to \$50,000.

IMF and World Bank on way out?

Finance Minister Mark Brown seems keen on the country getting into bed with the IMF and World Bank but how well briefed is Brown by his own officials on what is happening on the international stage?

The following is a comment by Martin Bauer, 18 March 2015, on Internet

"The USA economy and US society will soon face different music and total collapse of US economy is expected in next 3 years starting the process at the fall of 2015. China is starting a new international payment system and its own international bank which will substitute IMF and World Bank which are US financial institutions.

Despite US pressure, over 30 countries including UK, Germany, France, Italy and other joined China's new Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

Beside that BRICS established their International Investment Bank with \$200 billion USD of capital expressed and deposited in Chinese Yuan and Russian Ruble. That bank is direct competitor to IMF and many of Latin American, African and Asian countries are ready to abandon IMF and join new BRICs bank. Many of EU countries are contemplating of joining this bank.

All of these financial tectonic movements are aimed towards complete demise of US dollar and US hegemony in the world. The US will have to face millions of problems starting with debt repayment, inflation, unemployment, capital outflow, social unrest and so on.

Hope you are aware that USA has no currency reserves what so ever, and when the Chinese Yuan takes over then US Dollar will become absolutely worthless. This is not a science fiction scenario but it is real scientific prediction starting this year and running for a couple more and after that USA will be only a bad and chaotic state."

EAT LESS

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HEART FOUNDATION

Employees not part of the Act in the Cook Islands

by Tetuhi Kelly

Part 2

Here too, is where the employee is ignorant of their employment rights, in the Cook Islands the first thing they do is nothing, not realising that if they believe they have been wrongfully disadvantaged in their employment, they have grounds for a personal grievance against their employer. It is of very little value in my experience for the employee to approach the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Directorate of Labour or their local union. It is because this area of employment relations and advocacy requires specialist skills, knowledge and experience and an ability to keep everything on track. It takes time and effort to hone your skills in these areas and you can only do this by being exposed to these sorts of issues on a regular basis. Here in the Cook Islands this does not happen. What most people also forget is that the close *iti tangata* ties that Cook Islanders have with each other, means you can be hired or sacked by someone who is your relation and then you try to get some sort of resolution with your union or the Labour Directorate and the person you are dealing with is your relation who is also related to the person who sacked you. The employer's reaction is generally aggressive and intimidating to the inspectors or the union is treated with disdain for daring to protect the rights of its members. That is not the ERA 2012 way at all and it is definitely not what a fair and reasonable employer should be doing.

If by some miracle you get a happy employment resolution the reality is that this can set off a chain reaction

where the employment issue now becomes a social family issue of back stabbing and recrimination and the lines between privacy and confidentiality of the resolution are carried across the coconut wireless for all and sundry. Hence the reality is that no one takes up the challenge and employers carry on in their merry way and the double banger is that the employee does not have the stamina to carry the fight to the employer in fighting to have their rights recognised under the ERA 2012.

There are no specialist employment lawyers or employment relations advocates in the Cook Islands as most lawyers deal with land and criminal law. Employment law is a minefield and requires specialist skills not just law but also advocacy as it draws on sociology, psychology, counselling, mediation and other skill sets to affect a favourable outcome for their client. In addition this kind of legal work is akin to *pro bono* and what lawyer in his or her rightful mind would take on an employment relations dispute when there are more lucrative avenues for their services: viz a viz, land and criminal law. It is also one of those areas where you need more employment relations experience to hone your law skills and at the moment there are very few employment relations cases being prosecuted in the courts. There are also no employment relations judges in the Cook Islands; they are all land or criminal law focused.

They are required to rule on employment relations law in the Cook Islands and with no precedents or ERA2012 case

law specifically for the Cook Islands; they have to rely on NZ precedence until they create a precedence or case law history.

Finally let's have a look at this management tool called human resources or HR for short. HR is essentially an employer's tool to manage the employer's human resources function with its employees. A short definition is that human resources is the commoditisation of the employer's workforce and is an employer's tool not an employee's. Are you keeping up with me so far? this definition states that all employees are commodities and can be trained and provided with the necessary tools, practices and procedures to produce an economic return for the employer .i.e. they are a commodity much like the wealth of Australia is tied up in its mineral wealth commodities. In return the employer pays for the hands and the brains and the physical capabilities of the employee to carry out the employer's business wishes. With this understanding we can see how businesses jealously guard their ability to manage their commodities or employees any way they see fit as long as the employees work, don't kick up a fuss and the employer returns a sustainable profit, that's good business. Not.

So what happens when the government that has a history of employee grievance reporting, been voted in by those same grieving constituents and has been lobbied by labour interest groups, unions and

influential people and it enacts legislation to manage in a fair and equitable manner the employer's employment relationship with its employees. If it's smart enough this is what it does; it can't be seen to be too draconian with employers because they are a very powerful lobby group and their financial influence is huge, especially in a small island nation, nor can the government be seen to be getting offside with employees and the general public even though their financial muscle is negligible compared to the employers, the employee as a voter has the power at the poles every 4 years, but a lot can happen in 4 years, so the government in its wisdom through its advisers, tries to seek the middle ground, thereby pleasing no one.

To manage its employees, the employer hires an HR person who is and depending on the size of the business, responsible for writing job descriptions, rewriting or developing an HR manual, disciplinary procedures, performance management, HR training, inductions and perhaps payroll. Here in the Cook Islands they do not have adequate access to professional HR support or HR mentoring professionals and thus tend to soldier on at their current levels of expertise. There are people with that capacity here in the Cook Islands; however the general employer approach if there is one is to ignore such advice because it costs and they have limited vision for its benefits and anyway they already know everything and what works for them. Unfortunately they

continued next page

forget that their people are precious labour commodities and without their willingness to work, deny them the HR support that they are sadly lacking. Thus creating and contributing to those very employment conditions that see Cook Islanders heading off overseas.

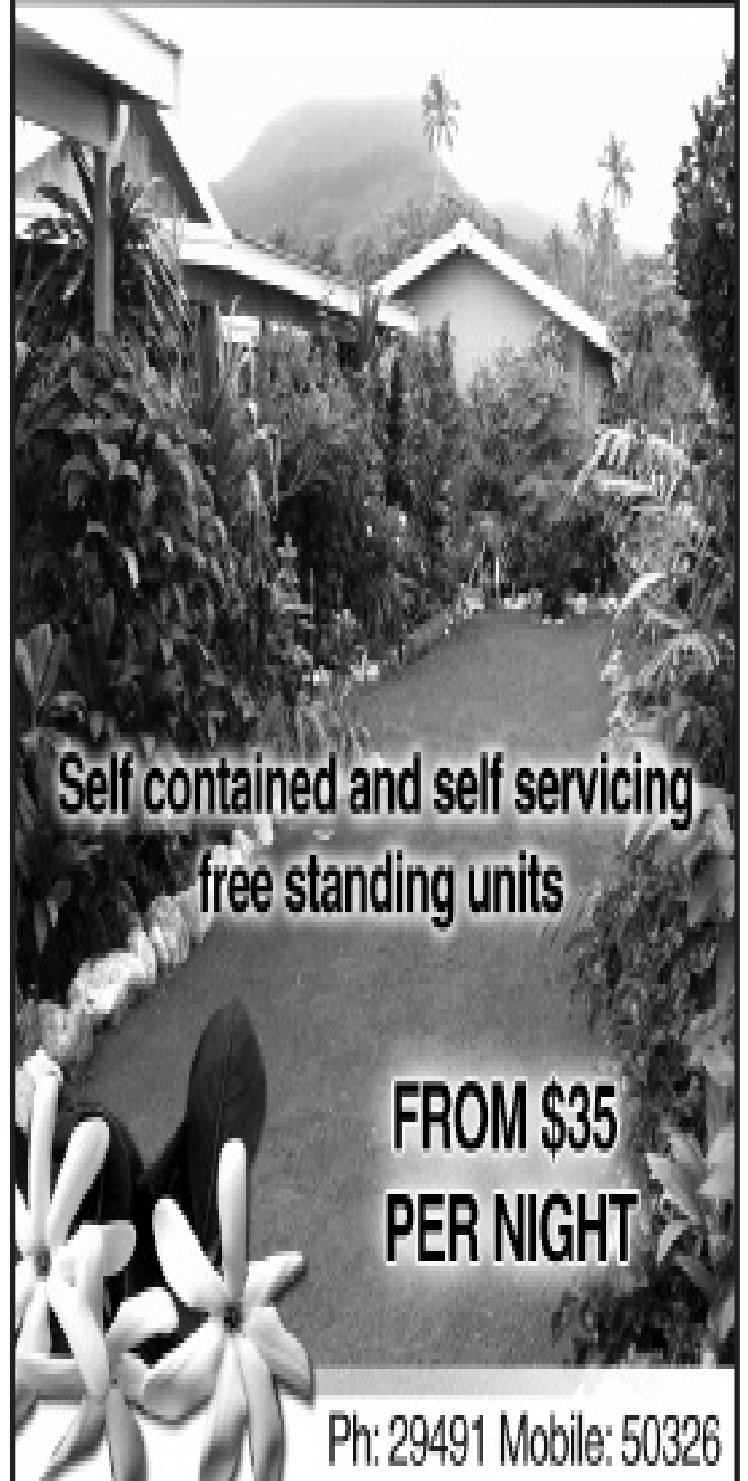
The government departments, who have the mandate for managing legislation relating to private and public sector employment, always struggle to provide a level of professional service commensurate with the letter of the law and the wishes of the government and expectations of the public. Under budgeted and under resourced is the axiom and couple this with a negligible pool of qualified, experienced and knowledgeable people in the Cook Islands to do these public service roles, is a recipe for under performance on a massive scale. As a consequence these same people are placed into positions of responsibility that they are not capable of performing without considerable investment in time, resources and training and hence they fail. In addition when the training is provided, there is generally no backup, follow-up or consistent application of the training. The training euphoria lasts maybe 2 -3 weeks then it's back to the same old same old. To apply the training so that it becomes second nature requires that your brain and physiology is hard wired into performing at that level day in and day out. In my experience here in the Cook Islands and in the countries I have worked in, the training wears off pretty quickly if one is not consistently performing what you have been trained to do every day. Don't even try and get your Minister of the Crown involved, would you take advice from someone who last year was working in the taro patch or mowing lawns, or working up political

community support by putting on a big kaikai, forget it.

Finally is it the Cook Islands way of putting your hand up and saying I am not coping, the answer is no. There-in lies the \$64 question, "I cannot cope so therefore I won't say anything, I'll just sit at my desk and hope I don't get noticed and maybe if I stay in this role for years under the radar I'll get promoted on seniority rather than my ability to perform at the highest level", this unfortunately is how some employees and employers think in the Cook Islands public service and this drives the public's perception unfounded or not of incompetence, poor customer service and non-performance of the public service. We have history on our side where senior public servant roles were given to party hacks and cronies bereft of any original ideas in stimulating the economy let alone stimulating their staff to perform at the highest levels. The fact of the matter is that unless or until we follow a process of the best person for the role with regard to the public and private sector as well as the community and political arena, we will continue to talk about it and struggle to perform above ourselves and just drift by on mediocrity and inertia. In a letter to the editor of the CI News after the recent Demo's political party conference, the writer bemoaned the fact that the same old people had been re-elected. The writer went on to say, "where is the new blood, the fresh ideas and fresh thinking"? My parting thoughts are, it's not the same old people we should be moaning about, rather, what we need is people with young and fresh ideas and age shouldn't be seen as a barrier. But unfortunately because of the short sighted antics of a few unprofessional politicians and the poor choices made by their villages in selecting them in the first place means, we'll get more of the same.

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Tranby students to pay a visit

On Thursday 7th May the Ministry of Education will be hosting a team of visiting adult students from Tranby Aboriginal (TA) College who are currently conducting a cultural research mission.

TA College is the oldest non-profit indigenous adult education provider, and a pioneer in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education in Australia.

The programme is expected to run from 10am-1pm and there will be a number of planned presentations from both the Ministry and TA College.

There will be presentations by:

- Gail Townsend: ministry overview
- Ina Herrmann: curriculum
- Thomas Wynne: polynesian navigation – marumaru atua (personal account)

- Ian George: contemporary art

- Tranby Aboriginal College

Cultural activities planned:

The team will be split into 2 groups – swap activity.

Group 1: Conference room

Group 2: Outside

- Group 1 (Vae, Anna, Tai): rangaranga(weaving): Raurau (plate), poro (ball), titia (glasses)

- Group 2 (Tutere/Jane): Tukituki Teniteni, rererere rakau – te ue ka rere ki tai

Tweaking and polishing for Te Maeva Nui

Hayley McNabb

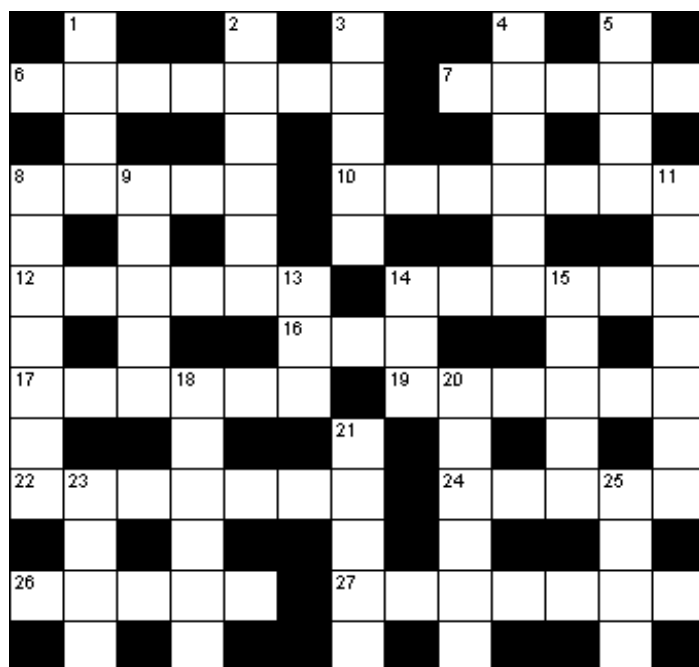
Time is going fast and we're getting closer and closer to the 50th Constitution that is being celebrated between July and August this year. I have joined the Manihiki group not only because I am Manihikian but because I've never learn't how to dance before. So knowing that this year was going to be a big celebration, I thought it would be the perfect time to learn how to dance Cook Island style because it is part of my culture and joining this event will let me express what I have learn't.

There is about twenty plus of us in the Manihiki group and we are well under way with learning the choreography to all the numbers for the Te Maeva Nui which I'm sure all the other groups are doing as well. We practice three nights a week; Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Manihiki Hostel from 7:00 – 9:00 or, maybe if we have to later than that. And even though everyone tends to make sweat puddles on the floor that show how hard we are working and all the effort we're putting in we always have fun doing it and being there together as a team.

There is also a team from Manihiki and Auckland that will be coming over to join us when it gets closer to the time. And while waiting for them they are learning the numbers as well as sending us video clips of the already choreographed items and starting on to making our costumes.

So once we are all together we will be tweaking and polishing everything before the big event. But not only is this just about the dancers it's about the time and dedication the leaders will be putting into teaching us the skills to be able to do the right steps and also the drummers who will be playing the beats for us so we can get our timings right and everything will be perfect. So I really can't wait for this celebration because it's going to be great, learning how to dance, meeting new people and just being able to be apart of it.

CROSSWORD



Across

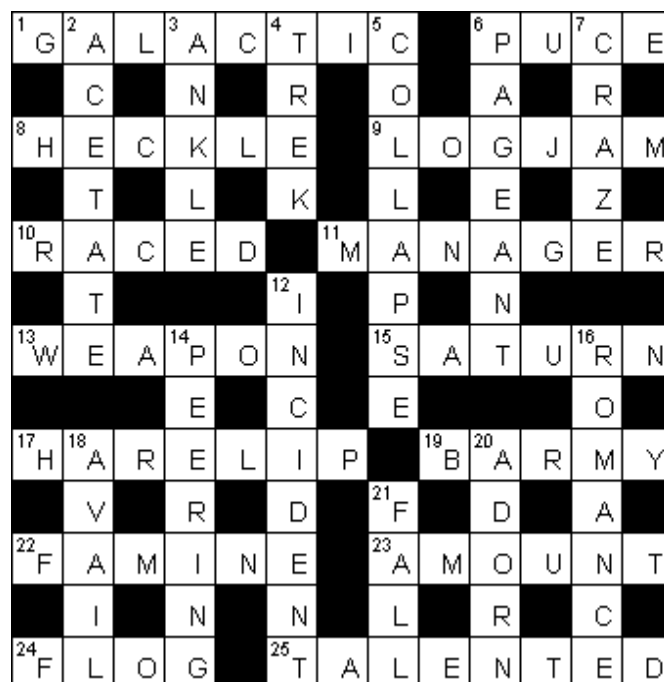
6. Warship
7. Woman in charge of a brothel
8. Style
10. Sudden burst of temper
12. Young cat
14. Mathematical diagrams
16. Electrically charged atom
17. Republic in SW Asia
19. Foolish
22. Bulky and heavy
24. Kitten
26. Sound of a hog
27. Prime minister

3. Shelf-like sleeping space

4. Sister of Mary and Lazarus
5. Island of Hawaii
8. Religion of the Sikhs
9. Garden flower
11. Puzzle
13. Naught
14. Ox-like African antelope
15. Buckets
18. Missing
20. Son of one's brother or sister
21. Oozes
23. Of air (prefix)
25. Raced

Down

1. Increase in size
2. Talking picture



Trusting in God

Part 1

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

We live in a time where our lives are affected by the environment surrounding us – the social; cultural; economic; religious and political environment. These diverse influences affect us and can impact greatly our focus in life.

In the Bible, James 1v.2-3 reads "My brethren count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience." Most of the time when everything is going well we congratulate ourselves! We say things such as If it wasn't for me! or I did that! or I did this! We tend to 'trust ourselves', we focus on 'ourselves', we lose our 'Trust in God' we push God to the back. When things are bad we say 'God what are you doing?' we call it 'the acts of God!' Psalm 125v.1 reads "Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever." Proverbs 3v.5-6 reads "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

In the Bible, in the Book of Job, is the story of a man called Job who is a righteous and a God fearing person. In Job 1v.13-19 Job lost everything - his huge number of livestock - sheep; camels; oxen; donkeys; the bountiful wealth of his household and even his 7 sons and 3 daughters perished. However, in spite of this devastating situation of Job this was what he said

in Job 13v.15 "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him." In Job 42v.10-13 God blessed Job twice as much as he had before because Job put his 'total trust in God'. Furthermore, God also blessed him with 7 sons and 3 daughters.

The lesson here is that in spite of the problems, the challenges, the difficult times you face in life I encourage you to continue 'Trusting God'! Too often when people including Christians encounter devastating situation they gave up 'Trusting God'. Although the life we live in is full of challenges, I encourage you to stand firm in your 'faith' and 'Trust in God'.

Remember that tough times don't last but tough people do! After every storm there will always be peace! David said in Psalm 23v.4 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." I encourage you, no matter what kind of problems or challenges you face in life whether it is your relationship with your parents, or with your husband or wife, even with your boss at your work place, or even with your friends at school, continue to stand firm on your Faith and Trust in God.

May God bless you and give you the strength and energy to move on in life, regardless! I will continue next week with Part 2 of this theme "Trusting God".

May you have a God blessed week. Te Atua te aoa.

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



New Hope Church

Parekura Conference Centre

Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you

Sunday at 10.30am

My Te Maeva Nui Lights, Camera, Action

By Teherenui Koteka

It is that time of year when the sound of drums caresses your ears as you drive throughout Tupapa Maraerenga. Te Maeva Nui has always been a high point of the year here in the Cook Islands, and for those of us who participate in the celebrations by taking part in a dance team it is definitely one of the most lively.

I myself have taken part in the Manihiki dance team this year. I always find it fun to take part in out of school activities and Te Maeva Nui is definitely one of my favourites. I first joined the Constitution celebrations in 2012 by joining the Manihiki 2012 dance team. Joining the Constitution celebrations has been one of the most fulfilling experiences in my life. Although the late nights are tiring and the costumes are hard work, the outcome is well worth it. I have found that joining Constitution has also helped me connect to my Cook Island roots.

I really think that in our day in age it is important for the youth to become involved in cultural activities, and Constitution celebrations is a great way to begin. I think one of the best things about joining Constitution is seeing the youth link together to make something great, especially since it is Cook Island authentic. One of my favourite parts of practice is the meeting we have after. Every night when we gather for our meeting one of our leaders shares a Manihikian

term with us. I truly enjoy hearing all the knowledge our elders share with us.

Practices have also really given me the opportunity rekindle old friendships and even start new ones. It has truly been great to see our Manihiki community bond together and aim to be the best we can be. We have already had one fundraiser, it was a housie day held at the Tupapa Club House. With the help of the community we were able to pull it off. It was fantastic to see the community come out to support us. It is terrific to see everyone in the group pulling their weight to help us progress further.

Next Thursday the 14th of May we will be having a fundraiser to assist with their preparations for the Constitution celebrations this year. We will be having a quiz night at Rehab night club. Come, bring your friends, family and join us for a night of laughter, fun, entertainment and brainteasers. The theme is 'Beyond the Reef' and the dress code is 'Vintage Island Wear', so dust off your Mumu, and showcase your beautiful pearls in your island wear. Come in to win some amazing prizes. There will be plates of food for sale, auctions and raffles. If you require further information or want to make a reservation please contact:

Georgina Williams Ph: 55789

Jeannine Daniel Ph: 55270

Jezebel Karika Ph: 55710

So come on down to Rehab on the 14th of May at 6:00pm and support Manihiki 2015.

By Lucianne Vainerere

This past weekend starting on Thursday at 9pm a few of us keen and excited students participated in a 48 hour film competition based in Auckland. Every group that enters is given a genre, a piece of dialogue, a character, a prop and a camera shot that needs to be included in their 4 to 7 minute film. There were two groups that entered from Rarotonga who were both from Tereora College.

We started brainstorming the two genres we were given during the first few hours of Thursday night and by Friday morning we were out filming as much as we could starting in our school.

Our first team Plus682 filmed all around town from taro patches to teachers houses to pride rocks and abandoned roads, which made our work cut out for us. Our team directors, producers and editors were really encouraging in terms of helping the actors, handymen and writers do their jobs awesomely and input ideas to our story plot.

Throughout the weekend we went through sugar rushes to hype up our sleepy eyes and minds and boost up on energy, which kind of wore out a few hours later. In terms of actors for one of our scenes, we went through a rough one having the originally chosen bail on us twice but in the end we found someone manageable to fill in and take one for the team.

The overall atmosphere was nice and friendly, slightly contrasted but we managed to work well together. Apart from the hectic mishaps bouncing here and there our teams were very productive, creative and astounding especially since most of our participating students were year 10's and 13's and a bit of year 12's.

Our second team 'Tereora College' had further grounds to cover as they based their production at the abandoned bush area in Titikaveka, the secret waterfall in Rutaki and a few of the members houses to try and set the setting and feel for their film.

It was quite an experience being part of this fun time chaos and an exemplary challenge for every single one of us who participated. As first timers I'd say we did pretty great and we couldn't have done it without each others support as well as our two amazing teachers who've been there since day one Mr. Moffat-Wood and Ms. Napa, our parents and the behind the scene teachers who contributed to the hunger busters with delicious food prepared for us.

From all the participating students, thank you all very much for just being there and extending our film knowledge. Overall I believe this is absolutely a beneficial event and an encourager to the young ones who dream to enter the 'movie' world some day and most definitely an event to look forward to in the next few years. In the end we all ended up knackered, thoughtless and ready for bed. (Oh really?)

But after all this merrymaking madness, I think I need a sandwich.

**ADVERTISE WITH THE
COOK ISLANDS HERALD**

Sure enough the daily tribble's vegetarian eatery reporter had another one of her very best in her life in her latest restaurant review, this time it was a biscuit. Next time in may well be the very best carrot she's ever tasted in her life in a vegie soup and she has eaten all around the world.



Good to hear the Demos Smelly Heta has got his smile back, a few weeks ago he was threatening to sue this outstanding publication for a factual story that he was blatantly telling lies to the good people of Vaipae/Tautu during the by election campaign and he was so angry with the smart new boy Albie he wanted to punch him in the mouth. Well Smelly is seen waving not only with his free hand while driving but he is now sticking his head out the window as well whenever he sees a RAPPA renegade, why wouldn't he, he's getting paid \$87,000 plus allowances without having to earn it courteously of the down trodden tax payer.



Good to see a well known local personality is repentantly reconciled to his betrothed after he caught his longstanding mistress in the act with another rooster who fled for his life fearing physical therapy. Now the cost of chick pleasures have been terminated mother hen can now enjoy a night out at the bingo again.



While Pensioner Bank account raider the faceless expat Andrew Haigh is away in Bulla land getting married to the mother of his child, his black uniformed Tax grabbing staff are harassing pensioners at their homes. No longer are the aged and frail safe and protected from predators in the

sanctity of their homes. Rather than send the raiders of the lost taxes around to visit and lean on Trevor CITC to recover the alleged millions of Colagate scandal taxes, they are chasing dimes and nickels hidden under the mattresses of the infirmed to make sure the old die penny less, well done Andy, just another grubby, shameless, obesely paid expat forcing under paid local staff to behave like Gestapo home invaders. One physically challenged pensioner welcomed a tax raider stark naked and accused them of being a peeping Thomas.



Heard about the dumb worker who applied for a job, got an interview then without telling their boss did a no show. Three days later they were begging for their job back, they thought getting an interview meant they got the job, well guess what the old boss said?



The incompetent gym junkie Crown Law boss Sawnders is advertising for an experienced criminal lawyer because she's not up to scratch to do that work herself, the only thing she manages to do with a measure of success is come up with political suck ups and reasons why charges shouldn't be laid plus why things can't be done. She should have done the

right thing by the people of this country and left when her time was up and gone someplace else to bludge.



You heard it first right here, the controversial over the reef pipeline in Panama is going to get the go ahead.



Wonder who paid for the Air Raro chartered flight to Manihiki last Saturday? It left Rarotonga with just two passengers, Mrs First Lady and Elvis' driver. On board were a few Chinese made mats presumably for McCully's fleeting visit and presumably there will be another chartered flight next week to ferry Elvis and his entourage north.



After a well earned six months break Grey Power activist Denis T is back and ready to rally the troops to harass the CIP government over their broken promises to repay the illegally raided Bank accounts way back in 2013. Watch for a new series of TV commercials that are sure to get Elvis to hurry along.



Oh dear chooks! The smiling Leader of the opposing force wants to slip across to Aitutaki and apologize in person to the

natives for Sunday flights. Why he would want to do this is uncertain and puzzling. Perhaps he's feeling guilty Sunday flights began when the Demos were in power or that is was then PM Sir Terepai who promised a referendum after 6 months. Right now it is up to the CIP and Crown Prince Puna to announce what government is going to do. The truth is, a smile is not going to achieve much. As famous pianist Victor Borge once said, "If you smile and smile and smile, your face will get sore!"



Crikey chooks! High ranking woman from the ruling cabal does not even get a look in at big chin wags in Suva and Bangkok! Head of delegation? No way! That job goes to a low ranking woman from the opposition!



If we have no control over the price of oil and its delivery costs chooks, that must mean our Price Tribunal cannot order any reduction in the price of fuel. Therefore it follows that the Tribunal has no alternative but to rubber stamp fuel price increases.

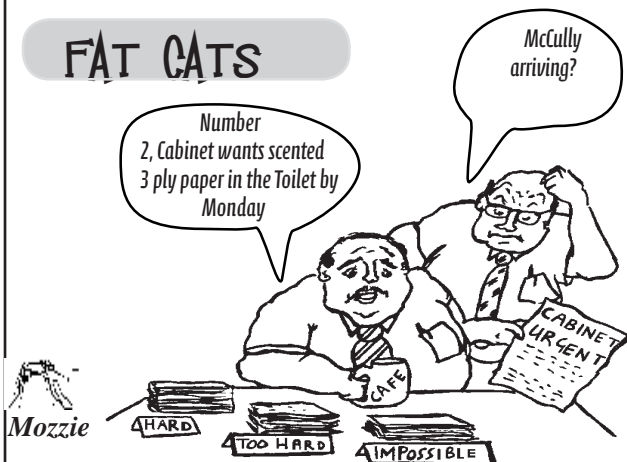


Are we celebrating 50 years of independence through self governance or 50 years of dependence through self gratification? The amount of overseas handouts we come to rely on each year equals our total budget back when the Demos came to power. Today one third of our government's budget is made up of aid money from overseas donors.



Recent visitor just back from Atiu says you may as well call the island Pig Island. Wild pigs have overrun the island and such are their numbers, they may soon be standing for Island Council positions, even Mayor and one day, MP!

FAT CATS



COCONUT ROUNDTABLE



PUBLIC NOTICE



COOK ISLANDS
Ministry of Education
Maraurau o te Pae Api'i

2015/2016 SHORT TERM TRAINING AWARDS (STTA)

Employers wishing to develop staff in New Zealand are invited to apply for assistance from the New Zealand Aid Programme supported Short Term Training Awards. This may include new studies towards courses at tertiary institutes (e.g Universities and Polytechnics), provided that completion is within a period of less than 12 months. Please note, degree studies, postgraduate studies, conferences and workshops will not be considered under this scheme.

STTA will not be awarded where the proposed training is available in-country.

The STTA awards are open to Cook Islanders from all sectors of the community, public and private, living here in the Cook Islands.

Scholarships and the STTA are offered in specific subject areas that are relevant to the development needs and employment opportunities of the Cook Islands. Applications will be prioritized according to the following HRD priorities for 2015/2016: Agriculture, Education (Secondary teaching in Mathematics, English & Science subjects), Health, Environmental Science, Waste Management, Fisheries/Marine, Renewable Energy, Tourism, Business/Entrepreneurship, Public Sector Management, Finance Management and ICT.

For further information and application forms, contact Anna Roi on ph 29357 ext. 245 or email aroi@education.gov.ck or MOE website: www.education.gov.ck. Application forms must be received no later than 12pm Friday 8th May 2015.

TENDER



COOK ISLANDS POLICE SERVICE SEARCH AND RESCUE BOAT C01/2015

Tenders are requested for the supply of a Search and Rescue Boat for the Cook Islands Police Service. Tender specifications can be uplifted from the Police National Headquarters at Avarua and is also available on the CI Police Service website www.police.gov.ck or contact Inspector John Hosking on 22499 extension 2110 or email: john.hosking@police.gov.ck. Completed hard copies, secured and labeled clearly "CONFIDENTIAL" and have following information:

Inspector John Hosking

Search and Rescue Boat Tender C01/2015

Cook Islands Police Service

P.O. Box 101

Avarua

Rarotonga

Cook Islands

The Tender Box is located at the Drivers License office of the Cook Islands Police Service.

Tenders will close on the 15th May 2015 at 3pm.

TENDERS



PURCHASE AND SUPPLY OF ATIU TIP TRUCK CONTRACT NO. C15-04

Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) on behalf of Atiu Island Government seeks tender proposals from Contractors for the Purchase and Supply of Atiu Tip Truck, Cook Islands.

Tenderers should ensure they are registered and have downloaded or received all files for the RFT including all prospective notices. Files can be obtained either online via www.procurement.gov.ck or from ICI office.

Tenders close at 3pm on Friday, 15th May 2015, and must be submitted in hard copy format in an envelope marked "CONFIDENTIAL" and have the following information clearly exhibited on the outside:

TO:	The Principal Infrastructure Cook Islands Arorangi Rarotonga COOK ISLANDS
FROM:	(Name of Tenderer) (Tenderers address 1) (Tenderers address 2) (Tenderers address 3)
TENDER FOR:	C15-04 PURCHASE AND SUPPLY OF ATIU TIP TRUCK
TENDER CLOSES:	3.00PM, FRIDAY 15 MAY 2015
All Enquiries to be directed to:	Solomona Solomona Contact Officer Email: solomona.solomona@

ici.gov.ck

Phone: +682 20321



MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF AUTOMATIC WEATHER STATIONS AND TRAINING

The Ministry of Transport through its partnership with the SRIC-CC Programme is inviting suitably qualified groups/companies to submit a tender for the supply of eleven (11) automatic weather stations and to provide training to personnel's in the installation, operational and maintenance of the automatic weather stations.

Registration and Tender Documents can be requested from the following contact person:

Project Manager – Mr. Arona Ngari Cook Islands Meteorological Services Ph: +682 20603

Fax: +682 21603

Email: arona.ngari@cookislands.gov.ck

Closing date for the Tender submission is 3pm on Friday 15th May 2015, (Cook Islands time).

For general enquiries please contact Mr. Arona Ngari on +682 20603 or email.

VACANCY

Qualified & experienced Chefs & Restaurant staff for The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa + Qualified & experienced Head Chef & Pastry Chef for The Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa PH: 25 800 or email hr@rarotongan.co.ck

SALES ADMINISTRATOR

with an outgoing and professional personality required full-time at Te Vara Nui. Please email your expression of interest and CV to accounts@tevaranui.co.ck

Cook Islands Jobs

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

Jobs of the week

Senior Criminal Lawyer- Crown Law, Rarotonga

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

PUBLIC NOTICE



COOK ISLANDS
Ministry of Education
Maraurau o te Pae Api'i

2015/2016 NEW ZEALAND PACIFIC SCHOLARSHIP (NZPS), REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP (RDS)& COMMONWEALTH AWARDS

The Government of the Cook Islands is seeking "Expressions of interest" for scholarship awards from suitably qualified Cook Islanders to study at a Pacific Regional Institute (excluding Australia) or a NZ academic institution.

1. NZ Pacific Scholarship – undergraduate study in NZ only
 - 5 multi year awards
 - 1 single year award – study options are at undergraduate, graduate or at postgraduate level that are designed to take no longer than one year to complete
2. NZ Regional Scholarship – are available for both undergraduate and postgraduate study at a Pacific based tertiary institution (eg. USP, FNU)
3. Commonwealth Scholarship – funded by 'Universities New Zealand' in collaboration with the New Zealand Aid Programme for resident Cook Islanders who wish to pursue their studies further at the PhD or Masters Level.

These scholarships are open to Cook Islanders from all sectors of the community, public and private, living in the Cook Islands.

Applicant selection will be based upon meeting the scholarship eligibility criteria, primarily that of academic merit and that the proposed course of study meets Government's HR development priorities.

TENDER



REQUEST FOR TENDER

1. HAEMATOLOGY ANALYSER (5part differential)
2. HAEMATOLOGY ANALYSER (3part differential)
3. ULTRASOUND EQUIPMENT

Tenders are requested for the supply of specific medical equipment for the Rarotonga Hospital. This tender is in three sections:

1. Haematology Analyser (5part differential)
2. Haematology Analyser (3part differential)
3. Ultrasound Equipment

The tenderer is permitted to tender on any one or more parts of the tender, but the tender must be for the whole requirement of that section.

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 No.2
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 with the subject line "Procurement of Medical Equipment 2014/2015 No.2". 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 22nd May 2015 at 4.00pm.

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 or contact Ms Vaine Ngatokorua on ph 29664, fax 23109 or email: v.ngatokorua@health.gov.ck

Meitaki maata

PUBLIC NOTICE



Business Trade Investment Board
Cook Islands

Notice to all Foreign Enterprises (companies and Individuals)

Pursuant to the Development Investment Act 1995-96, Part VIII, section 34 Annual Filing of Information notice is hereby given to all registered foreign enterprise and individuals that Annual Filing of Information is due on 30th June 2015. Forms are available at the BTIB office at Ruatonga or can be sent via email, postal on request. Failure to comply with this notice is an offence and on conviction shall be liable to a statutory fine.

FOOTBALL UPDATE

FIFA, OFC make generous donation to UNICEF

A substantial US\$100,000 from the FIFA Humanitarian Fund has been presented to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) by OFC Vice-President Rajesh Patel on behalf of FIFA and the OFC in support of the Vanuatu Cyclone Appeal.

"Homes, businesses and livelihoods were destroyed and many of our close friends, including our colleagues in the Vanuatu football community, were left without homes," Patel says.

"It is with great pleasure that I stand before you on behalf of FIFA and OFC to present our contribution to the Vanuatu Cyclone Appeal, and we hope to see the smiles returning to the faces of the children of Vanuatu."

The OFC and UNICEF partnered up for the duration of the 2015 Fiji Airways OFC Champions League in support of the appeal, with the region's premier club competition providing a wide audience – both regionally and globally.

Patel made the presentation to UNICEF Pacific Representative Karen Allen ahead of the 2015 Fiji Airways OFC Champions League final between Auckland City FC and Team Wellington of New Zealand on Sunday 26 April.

Dr Allen expressed immense gratitude to FIFA and OFC on behalf of UNICEF and the people of Vanuatu for the generous donation.

"Your contribution demonstrates your commitment to children affected by Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu," Dr Allen said.

"These funds will be used specifically to buy and distribute school and sports supplies for children in early childhood and primary schools. These supplies will relieve parents' anxiety of not being able to afford the costs of sending their children back to school."

OFC President David Chung was at FIFA House in Zurich when he learned about the extent of the damage being wreaked on the Pacific by Cyclone Pam.

The timing allowed him to



make an immediate and direct request for special assistance from his FIFA Executive Committee colleagues, who were equally as swift in committing to the worthy cause.

Further Information:

About The 2015 Fiji Airways OFC Champions League

The 2015 Fiji Airways OFC Champions League brought together the club champions from eight of the 11 OFC Member Associations. The annual tournament is a thrilling extravaganza of football with the teams vying for the ultimate prize – a spot in the 2016 FIFA Club World Cup – with Auckland City FC taking that honour this year.

About OFC

OFC is charged with the task of servicing and administering football in the Oceania region while also using the game as

a tool for social development. The confederation is led by OFC President David Chung who was elected to office in 2011.

The Just Play Programme is designed and monitored by the OFC Social Responsibility department, in partnership with the Australian Government through the Australian Sports Commission, Football Federation Australia, UEFA and UNICEF. For more information about OFC or its 11 Member Associations visit: www.oceaniafootball.com

About UNICEF

UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all

children, everywhere. For more information about UNICEF and our work in the Pacific visit: unicefpacific.org

About the Cyclone Appeal

Tropical Cyclone Pam, a Category 5 cyclone has affected over 166,000 people on 22 islands, including 82,000 children. Schools, hospitals and care facilities have all been affected, leaving children vulnerable and without many basic services.

UNICEF currently has about 65 per cent of the funds required to deliver life-saving aid to thousands of children and their families in Vanuatu and other affected countries. An additional US\$2 million is needed to provide access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene, lifesaving health and nutrition interventions, education and protection until the end of 2015.