

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

3 June 2015 \$2 (incl VAT)

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A CIP celebration of corruption, 50 years in the making

Is corruption being masked by discretionary powers?

The Cook Islands Party Government has in recent times literally boasted of their commitment and good governance to eradicate the scourge of corruption from within the belly of politics and government ministries and agencies. Placating themselves with as much hypocrisy they can muster before the international gallery of donor colonialists, the permanent imprint of corruption made a fine art by the likes of the Deputy Prime Minister Teariki Heather is a hallmark brand of the Henry Puna administration.

Well crafted spin doctored anti corruption rhetoric delivered before the regional and beyond conference audiences are applauded in the theatre of wishful thinking do gooders and gets the boxes ticked but back in our own vineyard it's all sour grapes for those whose taxes that have to fund such audacious grand stand acting.

Self enrichment and blatant pocket lining conflicts of interests by our leading political masters and senior officials is seen as a rite of passage funded by the

continued next page



Nandi Glassie our anti corruption champion

Te Aponga Uira announces electricity tariff reduction

Te Aponga has reviewed its cost of electricity generation, and is now able to announce a reduced tariff for all consumers. The major savings for Te Aponga have been a reduced cost of diesel and reduced fuel consumption due to the contribution

of PV solar power generation which will result in a projected nett savings of almost \$1 million per year.

Chief Executive Officer, Apii Timoti, explains that whilst the focus of the public has been on the drop in the global price of oil a number of factors influence the cost when the fuel reaches the country. "For a start what we see on TV is the price of Crude Oil and what we pay includes refinery, intermediate transactions, shipment etc.

Naturally, extra cost is incurred along the way. Other factors include volume but the most significant one is the exchange rate with fuel being traded in US dollars. The

net effect of the exchange rate has not really been in our favour and so the decrease in fuel costs

is not proportional to what we see on TV".

Te Aponga is passing this saving on to consumers, which provides an average reduction in all tariffs of 4 cents per unit. The new tariff, to come into effect on meters read on and after Wednesday 1 July 2015, is summarised in the table below:

According to Timoti the average domestic customer, someone who is paying \$240 per month can expect to say \$10 per month for example.

Renewable Energy

Te Aponga is very conscious of its obligation to become 100% renewable by 2020, and has some major equipment to purchase, and major civil projects to undertake to achieve this goal. This year sees the

purchase of five new high-speed, fuel-efficient diesel generators which will allow faster response to the fluctuations of solar power. Also, a large new generator platform is to be built to cater for these engines, and a modern control system (SCADA) is being installed.

The coming years will see the installation of upgraded power lines to cope with distributed generation, and the installation of special equipment at the powerhouse to cope with the extreme fluctuations possible from renewable energy. Work is being done now on the engineering of the energy storage needed to supply consumers at night with solar electricity generated during the day.

In addition, a 'Smart Grid' will need to be implemented, which allows all aspects of the electricity network to be remotely monitored and controlled. This will require new computer systems, software, networking and field equipment.

These upgrades will allow much more renewable energy to be installed, by Te

Aponga, individuals and businesses, to take us to our 100% target.

Diesel engines will always be required as backup, and there is a plan to ultimately run these engines on bio-fuel during backup periods.

The extensive capital works will be funded by a mixture of Te Aponga's own resources, grant funding, and debt."

UNITS	Unit Rate Now (Cents/unit)	Unit Rate from 1 July 2015 (Cents/unit)	Decrease (Cents/unit)
Commercial	81	77	4
Demand	72	68	4
Domestic – 0 to 60	57	53	4
Domestic - 61 to 300	80	77	3
Domestic - Above 300	84	79	5

self sacrifice of the hard working shrinking pool of tax payers.

The self denying dismissive CIP government refuses to provide a transparent disclosure of the slush fund conveniently called the Civil List. Swept into power in 2010 on a platform of reform and good transparent practises including the publishing for public consumption of the secret sacred cows such as the Telecom Cook Islands financials and details of the Civil List under the protective custody of Parliament Services but once in the box seat of power every lame excuse to fulfil promises of transparent disclosure became a blurred mirage. Sleight of hand double talk focused public attention on political diversions to dissipate public disappointment the incoming government's broom wasn't sweeping anything clean.

Not only is it the rule of thumb to say the right things but one must be seen to be practising what they are preaching, sadly it's something alien to current crop of politicians collectively. Just because one lot are in the Opposition that's no indication

of purity of thought or practise it just means their opportunities to rout and plunder the public trough has its limitations, but how they crave like cold turkey for their turn to gouge themselves without restraint in the smorgasbord of opulent

The self denying dismissive CIP government refuses to provide a transparent disclosure of the slush fund conveniently called the Civil List.

trappings opened by the political door.

Recent questionable indicators are perceptual corrupt practises are becoming more sophisticated and blurred in favour of the government who

promote the scenario money is in short supply to do everything on their bucket list.

Ministry Officials are quick to defend their Ministers and the government through media releases painting the mental picture as long as there is intent

country learns after a 100 years of self governing.

As long as the Puna government keep the Civil List's itemised expenditure under wraps from the preying eyes of the public there will be suspicions something underhand is bubbling away, try as they much to stealth navigate their way through the political maze their sin catches up with them.

Many punters suspect the bloated Civil List budget has been squandered feeding the addictive compulsion of jet set travelling and grandiose trappings of international socialising.

If the Civil List is not being under arm bowled why the secrecy? Has corruption wormed itself in the fabric of our society so much so we have become desensitised and apathetic giving greater licence to those commanding positional powers?

Such is the perception Heads of Ministries enjoy perks and privileges beyond the reach of private sector employment 108 applications have been *continued next page*

PREMISES FOR RENTAL



Premises formally Cook Islands Steel are available for long term rental. Expressions of interest for main road frontage, 4 upstairs offices and the warehouse at the back open for negotiation either seperately, or as one whole package. The building can be rented on an "As is" basis or modelled to suit client requirements.

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A CIP celebration of corruption, 50 years in the making

Is corruption being masked by discretionary powers?

received for the 12 Ministry positions recently advertised. The gravy train only comes around and stops momentarily every three years and with only 12 seats available one only has a chance if they buy into a ticket, unfortunately the best person doesn't always get job when Cabinet has the final say and political persuasions and affiliations have a sway.

Ushered into governance by the outer Islands voters the CIP government has to reciprocate that support and one recently discovered inventive grease palming gratitude is the funding of outer Island travel to and from Rarotonga.

Hitch hiking on chartered flights especial those to or from the Northern group Islands is easily defended and smudged because the layers of the degrees of separation by third parties.

The closer southern Islands are catered for by medical referral refunds, how it works is the favoured person or persons pay their own way to Rarotonga then through an intermediary have a hospital appointment to legitimise a medical referral refund and a return ticket after their Rarotonga visit has transpired.

A shocked Minister of Health Nandi Glassie has vowed to correct any abuse of this practise if proven. Glassie was recently described by regional media sources as the Cook Islands anti corruption champion after he attended and addressed a recent United Nations Development Program workshop (Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption, GOPAC) in Tonga on anti corruption practises.

"GOPAC Cook Islands Chair Hon Nandi Glassie, who is also participating in the workshop

said MPs in the Pacific want to enhance anti-corruption policies, laws and institutions. "MPs understand that corruption robs our people of clean water and affordable health programmes—corruption keeps developing nations in poverty," said Hon Glassie. "We want to build up the capacity of our MPs in best-practice anti-corruption so we can advocate throughout all our isolated and diverse island communities." GOPAC is a worldwide alliance of parliamentarians working together to combat corruption strengthen good government and uphold the rule of law.

Note the media report quoted Glassie as saying *"corruption keeps developing nations in poverty."* After 50 years of independence our begging bowl hand out mentality that is reliant on the good will of donor partners is our fragile prop that that sustains our tethering at

the edge of the cliff economy. In reality our poverty is masked by loans, hardly a cause for the celebration of corruption. Our dignity, integrity, moral fibre, honesty and the rest that is good has become impoverished by the tolerance of corruption.

It's time to start seeing what we are looking at.

Henry Puna is no stranger when it comes to engaging GOPAC, in February 2013 at the Oceania Regional Workshop hosted at the Edgewater Resort he delivered a key note address in which he quite proudly stated, *"The Cook Islands is the right place to host this meeting as I believe this country is a leader in the Region for transparency and accountability."*

The Prime Minister further said, *"Recognition of the gaps and weaknesses is an essential step, especially as the culture of corruption can run deep below the surface of visibility."*

What passes for acceptable, conventional behaviour to some, could in fact be corrupt or be corruptive to the workplace, the home, and the community. We must recognise corruption for what it is. As parliamentarians, our communities look to us for the initiative and leadership in taking responsibility to tackle corruption – effectively and in a timely manner."

While Puna pushed all the right intellectual buttons before the regional practitioners with a well crafted anti corruption speech it's to his detriment he hasn't taken heed of his own words for his own camp is rife with compromised behaviour fully visible in his face but rather than stamp it out he dismisses himself via Air New Zealand. Unlike the former Prime Minister Jim Marurai, Puna simply doesn't have the leadership stomach to deal with issues of confrontation.

- George Pitt

Hotel Group appoints Chief Operating Officer

Pacific Resort Hotel Group (PRHG), the Cook Islands leading resort operator, today announced the promotion of Marcus Niszow to Chief Operating Officer. Niszow will continue to report directly to Greg Stanaway, Chief Executive Officer in this newly created role.

This appointment recognises the significant contributions Niszow has made to the business since joining PRHG and will ensure the management structure at PRHG is optimised to best serve and exceed the expectations of its shareholders, partners and landowners in the face of rapid growth and development.

In his new role, Niszow will continue to oversee PRHG's Sales & Support teams and will

now also actively support the CEO with oversight for all PRHG resort operations across the group. He was most recently Deputy CEO and Chief Financial Officer for Pacific Resort Hotel Group.

"Since joining PRHG in October 2003, Marcus has made significant contributions to PRHG including establishing solid operating platforms and systems, and building the leadership capabilities within the resort group," said Stanaway. "Over the years he has overseen numerous key projects such as the establishment of our PRHG Sales & Support office, modernisation and standardisation of PRHG information and communication technology systems, to name a few, while also helping build

performance and success of the PRHG portfolio."

"Leadership development and continuity are critical components to a company's success. I am thrilled to have Marcus transition into a broader role as we set forth on creating the next chapters of our company's story," said Stanaway.

Niszow has 20 years of diverse global hospitality experience with positions ranging from various hotel management roles to group business analyst and financial controller. He is Harvard Business School educated and has received several professional recognitions including being named the 'South Pacific General Manager of the Year' at the 2014 HM Awards in Australia.

- Media Release

PM's Day's Numbered

Continuing allegations of corruption and abuse of government resources by the Prime Minister Puna and his Cabinet has resulted in more ongoing public criticisms predicting his days are numbered and prompting calls that he should step down and resign. The PM's scathing remarks and negative attitude towards those who dare criticize his leadership is evident of a failed administration because he himself as leader, has lost sight of the very principles and processes that put him in power in the first place echo many disgruntled Cook Islands Party supporters.

PM Puna is considered by his critics as the worst PM this country has had on record and his continuing failure to demonstrate good leadership, diplomacy and prudence in the way the country's finances are being managed, support the notion that maybe it's time to exit. What is clear to the public, is that he has lost his grip and no longer commands the respect and confidence of his own team let alone the public prompting calls for his resignation.

As his performance to date has shown, the PM is likely to continue to make irrational decisions that may not be in the country's best interests fuelling for example, the rumour he is likely to call a snap election should he realize he may not have the numbers behind him thus threatening his grip on power.

While the rumours continue regarding MP's from both sides contemplating crossing the floor, the reality is his team has lost confidence in his leadership and his ambiguity is now showing signs of desperation to cling onto the realm of power as PM no matter what the cost. It can only be seen as a case of political survival now and there is only one way out for him short of resigning and admitting defeat. That is to go back to the polls which is what he did in April last year, forcing an early General



: PM Puna on the skids?

Election following misinformed allegations that two of his colleagues Bishop and Maggie had left the CIP.

His mishandling and criticisms of three public contentious issues; shipping, purse seining and the Referendum on Sunday flights to Aitutaki has highlighted his poor decision making which

His mishandling and criticisms of three public contentious issues; shipping, purse seining and the Referendum on Sunday flights to Aitutaki has highlighted his poor decision making which he is now becoming renowned for.

he is now becoming renowned for. Ironically, each time a decision is expected of him, he travels overseas leaving both his colleagues and the general public waiting with bated breath for a decision.

Other examples include taxing the elderly, raiding of their bank accounts and increased VAT to

name a few. The outstanding legal resolutions to the Teina Bishop and Mona Ioane cases has also added to his dilemma reinforcing his indecisive behaviour at the top.

The delay in calling Parliament is but another example where he has failed to step up to the mark and take decisive action

to reassure the country that Government's books are in order and that the economy is on track to recovery. These are two key actions publicly maintained by his Minister of Finance and Cabinet that Government is performing well. Unfortunately, that doesn't appear to be the case and what the public is seeing

is tantamount to suspicious "fiddling and manipulation of the economy" to paint a picture that Government is reportedly doing okay.

The Deputy Prime Minister Teariki Heather and the rest of Cabinet should also consider resigning because they too, have failed to hold their leader accountable for his actions and have "misled" their constituencies into believing Government has been performing well and adhering to their election promises. Their performances to date and the many irrational decisions being made at the expense of the taxpayer, reinforces suggestions this Government is out of control and that the Cook Islands is being run by a three person Government (two Ministers and one official) at the whim and behest of the PM. This is reminiscent of the 2009 situation when the country was being run by the renegade Cabinet of Marurai and four Ministers under the Demo Government.

This behaviour cannot simply continue at the expense of the ordinary citizens of this nation. This is supposed to be a year of celebration, one where every Cook Islander can feel proud of their heritage but because of Government's irresponsible approach to positive development initiatives where inevitable benefits should be shared and collective efforts rewarded, it seems only those close to the PM and selected Ministers are reaping the benefits.

No doubt this is embarrassing internationally when a country is in turmoil and economically in disarray while its leaders continue to abuse the privilege of office to achieve their own ends. Perhaps this may be the opportune time for the PM to cut his losses and leave while the going is good rather than face continued public ridicule as a failed leader which will haunt him for the rest of his days. Who knows, will he do the right thing and step down, only time will tell!

- George Pitt

Who is responsible for the NZ Aid project for pearl farmers on Manihiki?

Over the last few weeks Herald has reported concerns, complaints or allegations of political favouritism or corruption by the Manihiki Island Council which is fast eroding the primary objective of the NZ Aid project, to revitalise the pearl industry in the Manihiki Lagoon. Even with the impending visit of NZ Foreign Minister McCully to Manihiki the expectation was that these complaints would have to be addressed before McCully arrived in Manihiki and the piles of farm material and equipment distributed to most of the farmers who have been waiting for these for almost two years.

The Herald was informed that McCully was well aware of the concerns expressed in the Herald. It is therefore amazing that before, during and now after the Minister's visit to Manihiki no public statement has been made by either the NZ government or the Cook Islands government about this million dollar project that appears to have gone off the rails. Also, no-one from either government has challenged the validity of the concerns expressed in the Herald articles.

Therefore, one can only surmise that the single most important objective of this NZ aid project, to revitalise the pearl industry by increasing the volume and quality of pearls out of the Manihiki Lagoon, is no longer valid. Especially, when some of the largest farms in the lagoon are facing ruin because they mistakenly waited for two years for essential materials and equipment ordered via this project.

Also, the silence by bureaucrats from both governments can only mean that their political masters must have given them directions for 'hands off' on this project unless, of course, these people are totally incompetent and can't do their jobs.

Interestingly, this project has unique features which makes

it even more intriguing that no reaction seems forthcoming from both governments over concerns by the very people whom the project is supposed to help.

This project was one of the first success stories for the newly elected PM Henry in appealing directly to his friend McCully for funding. Some on Rarotonga reacted to the project with derision about Henry lining his own pocket as he is a pearl farmer. (We will not debate this allegation here). Then through the incompetence of those in government who were supposed to prepare the details of the project for funding the New Zealand High Commission in Rarotonga threatened to scrap the project. In stepped some of the pearl farmers who asked the High Commissioner to give them a chance to do the

necessary project preparation. The High Commissioner gave them one month to perform. Low and behold! These farmers accomplished the work within the month. Work, which those in government could not do in nearly one year while spending thousands of dollars in charter flights and other expenses.

With the project ready for implementation MFEM was given the list of materials and equipment to put through governments tendering process. This resulted in material landing in Manihiki in June 2014, a year behind schedule, then the Island Council got in to the act.

If this project achieves its designated objective it should see Manihiki and the Cook Islands economy with 300,000 pearls p.a. at an export value of between \$4.5m - \$6.0m. Hopefully, this will stabilise

the sharp decline of the pearl farming sector over the last decade and ensure the future viability of existing farms.

Based on the Herald's experience over the last month and the apathy displayed by both governments to date, the above objective seems to have been lost in a quagmire of incompetence and corruption. Furthermore, not achieving the above objective does not appear to overly concern officials and politicians and, least of all, the Manihiki Island Council. Only the few serious pearl farmers are expressing concern and frustration! Therefore what is left for this project is for the initiator of the project, the Prime Minister to publicly explain what he thinks of the progress or lack of progress on this project. The bug stops at his desk!

- George Pitt

Our Frontpage model



Our front-page model for Herald Issue 769 is Ngatupuna Teinaki. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck. and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald



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NEW STOCK ARRIVING SOON

Norman George on: Law Reform

My final comments on our traffic laws

By Norman George

Apart from the blood test laws and its accompanying jarring penalties, the penalties in other areas of the Transport Act 1966 (The Act) were increased to incredibly harsh levels under the 2007 Transport Amendment Act (The Amendment Act)

Let me show you these for comparisons purposes.

Section 25 of the (The Act) relating to causing bodily injury or death through reckless or dangerous driving or driving under the influence of drink or drugs. The penalty was 5 years imprisonment and a fine of \$5000.00. The 2007 Amendment Act (The Amendment Act) increased the penalty to 10 years imprisonment and \$10,000.00 fine.

COMMENT

This increase was not necessary. Traffic related deaths can be regarded as "Traffic Manslaughter" under Section 176, 180(6) 191 and 197 of the Crimes Act 1969. The penalty is life imprisonment. Five years imprisonment and \$5000.00 fine was adequate and there was no need to increase it to 10 years imprisonment and \$10,000.00 fine. Again, a barbarian approach by certain legislators to law making. Section 26 of (The Act) relating to causing bodily injury or death through careless use of a motor vehicle. The penalty under this section of the Act was 3 months imprisonment and \$100.00 fine.

Under the new Amendment Act, it was increased to 5 years imprisonment and \$5000.00 fine.

COMMENT

What an over-reaction! Why not 12 months imprisonment and \$1000.00 fine?

Section 27 of (The Act) reckless or dangerous driving. The penalty was the same as the above, 3 months imprisonment

and \$100.00 fine. Under the new Amendment Act, it was increased to 5 years imprisonment and \$5,000.00 fine. My comment remains the same as above. These are areas where the questions that need to be asked are – has these top heavy penalties reduced the road accident rates? Has anything improved in the last 7 and a half years? Are there better options than what we are stuck with now?

I offer for discussion purposes, my thoughts on a combination of sweeping changes. I believe that deterrence can be implemented in different ways than severe penalties. A rapid reaction force to catch offenders and impose instant fines should be considered. Here we go:

TRAFFIC COURT:

There should be a permanent Traffic Court sitting every week, maybe on Wednesdays. The Thursday Court should be spared for all other matters except traffic cases.

MOTOR VEHICLE FORFEITURES:

There should be powers created for the Courts to have the right to order the forfeiture of motor vehicles, particularly motor vehicles from young offenders creating havoc on our roads, for repeat offences. The forfeiture can be temporary or permanent. The Court should have the power to order the sale of forfeited motor vehicles. If any vehicle is still on hire purchase, then an agreement should be reached between the motor vehicle dealer and the authorities.

One solution is to auction off the vehicle, settle the H.P. and pay the balance into public funds.

All risks must be placed on the owner. If the owner risks giving the vehicle to his son or others, he must accept the risk of forfeiture if that

person commits serious traffic offences.

An NGO built around the Road Safety Council should include the employment of Road Safety Traffic Officers (STO). These STOs can do driving school training for young drivers, visit schools for lectures on traffic road safety matters and traffic laws.

The law enforcement should remain with the Police. The STOs will concentrate on accident prevention and road safety.

A temporary forfeiture relates to offenders being placed on community service, a forfeiture of 6 months can expire only if the offender does 6 months satisfactory community service. The option of auctioning the vehicle must remain.

Other sweeping changes include:

(A) Compulsory wearing of safety helmets .

(B) Instant fines for road safety breaches such as "unsafe driving" by speedsters zig-zagging, doing wheel stands (wheelies), failing to stop at private driveways, hedges by driving out and then coasting along the side of the road until merging with traffic, dangerous passing/over taking, driving with more than one passenger (Motorcycles only). Imprisonment from 1 month to 3 months. The fines should be a minimum of \$100.00 and a maximum of \$300.00.

COMMENT

This is a ready reaction, new measure, instant fines on the road with 24 hours to pay. This should apply to both locals and tourists. A Traffic Court hearing is a ready alternative to hear the matter.

(C) A third conviction for this type of offence should include motor vehicle forfeitures. The forfeiture provisions should be added to the 2007 Amendment Act Offences.

(D) Evidence- for evidential purposes, a citizens road safety scheme of reporting unsafe driving should be given admissibility status in the Court; where a citizen witnesses unsafe driving and his evidence is independently supported by another witness, then the Court may accept this evidence to convict the offender. Legal immunity must be provided for these good citizens.

(E) Any Heavy Duty Truck of over 5 tons must be restricted to 40 KPH. The stopping ability of these huge heavily loaded speeding trucks, are deadly tragedies waiting to happen.

(F) There should be restrictions on heavy loads being moved during normal working hours, the shifting of houses and extra long loads including fuel tanks, should be restricted between the hours of 8pm and 6am in the morning.

(G) All heavy duty truck drivers should be properly tested. Road courtesy should be taught to them over and over again as a refresher course. Example; when there is a queue of 10 or more vehicles behind them, they should pull to the side (If it is safe to do so) and let other traffic pass. Failing to do so should lead to an instant fine of \$300.00 for unsafe driving.

In conclusion, let me repeat that these are for discussions. Some smart "A.H." (Ant- hater) smokied a line of why I did not make these changes while I was an MP. For your purpose only, let me say democracy can be an utter nuisance. I spent too much time in Opposition L.O.L! Had I been permanently "IN" Government, changes would have happened like clockwork.

Next week

The Narcotics and Crimes Act Laws.

Ka Kite.

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TE MARAE ORA
COOK ISLANDS Ministry of Health



Old photos bring history alive

Last week the Herald reported on the visit by Oliver Sutherland and his wife Ulla on 20 May 2015 to the Cook Islands Library and Museum where he donated a book by his father Dr Ivan Sutherland who visited and wrote about the Cook Islands in the 1930s. Oliver also presented the Library and Museum with a large number of photos taken during his father's travels. The photo below is of Captain Viggo Rasmussen of the Tiare Taporo. An extract from Dr Sutherland's writings of his experiences with the famous Captain is set out below.



Captain Rasmussen



Tiare Taporo

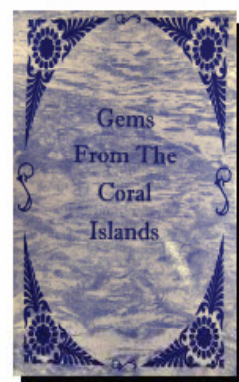
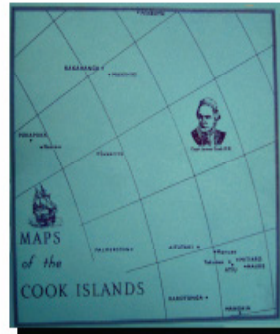
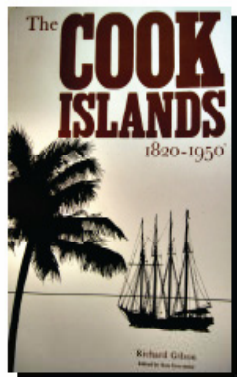
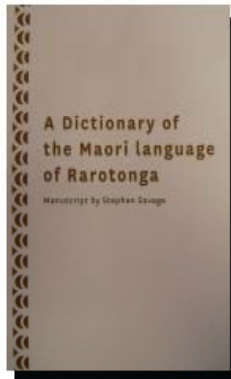
Extract from "An Island trip"

1. On the Schooner "Tiare Taporo." By Dr I.L.G.Sutherland

The "Tiare Taporo" is commanded by Captain Viggo Rasmussen, a Dane, and thirty-seven years in the Pacific. Captain Viggo-it was some time before I knew the rest of his name, for no-one uses it-is one of the best known personalities in Eastern Polynesia. He is a man who at once commands respect and, on better acquaintance, admiration, while intimate and prolonged contact with him is an addition to anyone's education. At the end of the trip I was profoundly glad that I had not taken cautious advice and gone on the mail steamer, and that I had been fortunate enough to sail with Viggo.

Printed in the New Zealand Magazine. A Journal of Current Life, Vol. 12 No 1, June-July 1933. Page 9.

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Cook Islands Herald Issue 769

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, WEDS 27th MAY 2015

Uapou fundraiser leads to uniting the North

Tina Akama, Secretary of the Pukapukan community of Rarotonga, was the guest speaker on Te Kave Korero on Wednesday 27th May 2015.

In Maori she advised that a 'uapou' has been set to raise funds for the Pukapukan community to assist them clear outstanding debts on their hostel.

"E manako teia tei puta mai mei roto mai i te au Komiti o te iti tangata Pukapuka i teia tuatau, te kimikimi moni nei i te akapeke i ta matou au kaiou aere, kua puta mai i reira teia manako, me ka rauka paa i te kimikimi moni na roto i te uapou".

Uapou is a traditional form of 'praise and worship' in the Cook Islands Christian Church (CICC). It involves singing traditional CICC hymns and individuals answering Biblical questions.

Akama said the decision to hold the uapou was made for two reasons, to raise funds, and to bring the northern island communities of Pukapuka, Manihiki, Rakahanga and Penryhn together.

"Kua tae atu te patiangia ki te au akaaere o teia nga enua, Manihiki, Rakahanga e Mangarongaro, kia akaputuputu mai tatou, kia raveia tetai uapou na tatou, ko te manako mua, kia kimikimi ravenga, kimikimi moni, e ko te rua i reira o te manako, teia nei, e tuatau manea teia no tatou kia taokotai".

She stated that bringing the northern group island communities together also provides an opportunity for them to jointly welcome each community group from Pukapuka, Manihiki, Rakahanga and Penrhyn as they arrive on Rarotonga (for the Maeva Nui and the 50th anniversary celebrations of self-government).

"E tuatau manea katoa i reira teia no tatou, te paenua tokerau, kia vai teateamamao tatou, teia nei ka rauka tetai tuatau no tatou, i te akonoanga i to tatou iti tangata mei vao mai, i teia nei te ra mua, kia riro na tatou i Rarotonga nei, ko tatou te au metua i konei i te ariki atu i a ratou, te tuorooro atu i a ratou i te ra mua takai mai ai ratou ki runga i to tatou enua, na tatou na te



Makirere Poila, President of the Pukapuka community (left with his back to the camera) and Daniel Apii, President of the Manihiki community (next to Poila with back to the camera) preparing the men to do a Pukapukan tila (chant) at the Pukapuka Uapou fundraiser held on Sunday 31st May 2015 at the Pukapuka hostel.



Tina Akama, Secretary of the Pukapuka community On Rarotonga, seen here at the Pukapuka Uapou fundraiser on Sunday 31st May at the Pukapuka hostel.

paenua tokerau e rave i teia tuanga".

Akama said that Cook Islanders in the southern group who have intermarried with those in the northern group are welcomed to attend and support the uapou.

Te Kave Korero presenter, Tony Hakaoro, was present at the Uapou on Sunday 31st May at the Pukapuka Hostel.

He said there were three groups at the uapou namely the Pukapukan group, Fuinga-O-Niva (the Manihiki and Rakahanga communities combining as one group), and the Tongareva community.

On Monday 1st June, Tina Akama came back on Te Kave Korero, and informed

listeners that the Uapou raised a total of \$5,574.00.

She thanked the Manihiki, Rakahanga and Tongareva communities for supporting the Pukapukan community's uapou fundraiser.

Finally she stated that plans are in place for the groups on Rarotonga to unite in welcoming each northern island team as they arrive for the Maeva Nui and the 50th anniversary of self-government.

Te Kave Korero would like to express its gratitude and appreciation to Akama and her team for permitting Te Kave Korero to record the hymns at the uapou. Some of the hymns were played back on Te Kave Korero programme on Monday 1st June.

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, MON 1st JUNE 2015

Headstone restoration now a possibility

Local artist, Tangata Vainerere, also known as Ta, was the guest speaker on Te Kave Korero on Monday 1st June 2015.

Tony Hakaoro, Te Kave Korero presenter, invited Vainerere onto the programme.

"I saw what I consider to be a very unique talent in Vainerere and I wanted to talk about it on Te Kave Korero" Tony said.

"While living overseas I have come across many people with specialist skills but never someone who restores headstones", Tony added.

Tony said that he was very impressed with Vainerere's skills and talent having seen one of his works recently.

On Te Kave Korero Vainerere confirmed that he restores worn down headstones and that he acquired the skills by learning, studying and practicing it privately as well as conducting research on the subject matter online.

Vainere said that the first headstone he restored is that of the late Reverend Tara Ariki Pitomaki buried in the Avarua Cook Islands Christian Church yard.

He added in Maori that the headstone looks like a new one installed yesterday.

"Me akara koe i te toka i teia taime, oro te aere te manea a? Kore ake rai e, no nanai ua i akatuia ai ea?"

When asked whether he is the only Cook Islander who's a headstone restorer Vainerere said he wasn't sure and wasn't prepared to say that he is the only one.

"Kare e papu i aku e, me ko au ua rai, kare katoa au e inangaro i te karanga e, ko au ua, ko te openga e, ti vao mai i te are tetai tangata meitaki atu i aku, ka riri mai a ia i aku i te karanga e, ko au ua teia. Inara, i teia nga ra, ko au ua teia e rave aere nei i teia au angaanga mei teia i teia au ra".

He said that as a restorer one has to work in the sun and has to repaint the headstone up to three times.

"Tetai mea taku i kite, no runga oki i teia angaanga eaa, te mea mua, ka rave oki koe ki roto i te ra, no reira paa kare e tangata e inangaro i te aere ki roto i te ra angaanga ai no teia angaanga, e te rua, taku i kite au, kare oki e, e tai ra o ou ra peni ei, ka tuku oki koe i taau penianga mua, e te rua, e te toru, e toru oki o ou penianga a, kare koe e peni e tai taime e oti, kua oti rai i reira e ka tiati koe i te aronga na roto te toka, kare, e



Ta Vainerere, artist and local headstone restorer, standing next to the headstone he recently restored, that of the late Rev Tara Ariki Pitomaki, in the Avarua Cook Islands Christian Church yard.

takaiainga rai tetai".

Vainerere said that in terms of the colours on damaged or worn down headstones one has to restore them as close as possible to the original colours and one has to have the right type of paint to do it.

"E pera katoa oki no runga i te peni ka taangaangaia, kare oki taua e rave ua mai i te peni o te kainga oti, ko ta taua ia ka peni ki runga i teia toka a, ka akara rai taua i te peni ka tano, te ka meitaki i roto i te ra, ka meitaki i roto i te ua".

He said that he can easily replace any photo on a headstone.

"Noa atu eaa te tutu i runga i te toka, ka rauka rai i aku i te replace, i te kiriti mai i te ra mea takere, tamou atu tem ea ou. Ko te ngai meitaki i ta matou tutu, kare oki a ia e maratea, na te computer oki e print ana i teia au tutu a matou".

Vainerere said that not only he can restore headstones but he can also make new ones if families want.

Ta Vainere can be contacted on mobile phone: 79-396.

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, TUES 2nd JUNE 2015

Poor state of Cook Islands Maori language

Owing to the Catholic Church's radiothon held on Friday 29th May Te Kave Korero took a break from its regular programme on Radio Cook Islands.

In lieu of a summary of Te Kave Korero program on 29th May, Tony Hakaoro, Te Kave Korero presenter, writes this article about the Cook Islands Maori language and grammar on Rarotonga.

Some listeners of Te Kave Korero programme may be aware that I am passionate about the Cook Islands Maori language, hence why I started Te Kave Korero programme in Maori, on Radio Cook Islands, but with flexibility to conduct interviews in English for guests or commentators unaccustomed to speaking our language.

This is therefore a good opportunity for me to write about the Cook Islands Maori language, or rather, the poor state of the language, here in Rarotonga, at this present time.

I became particularly interested in our language while studying at the University of Auckland in the early to mid 2000s. I studied grammar and structure of Cook Islands Maori. I pay respect to, and acknowledge the wealth of knowledge and expertise of my lecturer at the time, the late Papa Rangi Moeka'a QSM.

Papa Rangi, in my opinion and with all due respect to other advocates of our language, was a fine lecturer who was passionate about ensuring that our language is widely spoken and written in New Zealand.

After graduating I became an advocate of Cook Islands Maori and tutored at the University of Auckland, at Massey High School and at Rutherford College in Auckland. I also worked on a part-time basis translating for the New Zealand Department of Labour.

Having returned to live in our beautiful paradise, the biggest change I notice here in Rarotonga, with respect to our language, is that school children are speaking English every day as opposed to communicating in our mother tongue. Most government employees and retail outlet workers speak English. In fact, I have come across staff in some government departments who do not speak Maori at all, yet they are Cook Islanders.

I have also noticed the subtle changes in the grammar in today's spoken language compared to the language I spoke in the 1970s and 1980s prior to my moving overseas. For example, today on Rarotonga, I often hear fluent speakers of the language say sentences such as: "Apopo, kua tae mai te pairere".

"E rima meneti toe kua tangi te ora ngauru".

Please allow me to illustrate the grammatical errors in terms of translating the above examples into English. Of course, before translating the above sentences or examples, we need to know or understand the equivalent English words for the Maori words used in the sentences.

Maori	English
Apopo	tomorrow
Tae mai	arrive
Pairere	aeroplane (or plane, jet, aircraft etc)
Rima	five or hand
Meneti	minute
Rima meneti toe	five minutes to or five minutes left (to go)
Tangi	sound or noise but when used in the context of time, it means 'strike' or 'to'.
Te	the
Ora	time or clock
Ngauru	ten

One will note that I have left out the word 'kua' in the above list. There is a logical explanation for this.

Kua has no English equivalent because, in Cook Islands Maori, kua denotes 'past tense'. It is a 'verbal particle' and when used with or before a verb, it indicates that the action, in the form of the verb used, had or has already taken place in the past. So, when someone says "Apopo, kua tae mai te pairere", if translated the way it was said, or written, it would be, "Tomorrow, the plane arrived". Common sense will tell us that, this is grammatically wrong in English, isn't it?

So, what is the correct way of saying it in Maori? In my opinion, the correct way of saying it is, "Apopo, ka tae mai te pairere". "Tomorrow, the plane will arrive" or "The plane will arrive tomorrow".

The verbal particle 'ka', in the above example, used before the verb 'tae mai' (arrive) signifies that an action is or will be happening or taking place in the future.

Likewise, if someone said "E rima meneti toe kua tangi te ora ngauru", translated into English, would be something like: "It's five minutes left (to go), ten o'clock has struck. Again, that is poor English.

So, what then is the correct way of saying it in Maori? In my opinion, it should be: "E rima meneti toe e tangi ai te ora ngauru". "It's five minutes to ten".

When it's obvious that someone or a speaker is referring to an action that has or had already taken place in the past, the verbal particle 'kua' is the most

grammatically appropriate and correct particle to use.

On the other hand, when it's obvious that a speaker is referring to an event or action that is to happen or take place sometimes in the future, then the verbal particle 'ka' must be utilized.

It appears to me that some speakers of Cook Islands Maori are not too concerned with their poor grammar. They ought to be concerned because, if they were to say in English, for example, "Tomorrow, the plane arrived", I would imagine that people around them would probably correct them and in doing so, in the act of correcting their grammar or mistake, may unintentionally embarrass them.

I have no doubt that some Cook Islanders are very particular with their English grammar and would hardly make mistakes. But in terms of the Cook Islands Maori language they can be ignorant. Perhaps some of them are unaware that Maori, like English, has its own set rules of grammar and structure, just as any other language in the world has.

I am aware there are parents who prefer their children speak English only and have no intentions of teaching or passing to the children their language, traditions, arts and culture. This is sad.

Imagine yourself and your partner being the only two in your immediate family fluent in speaking Maori in your home, and you have six children, and all your children speak English and unable to communicate in Maori. Then one day you realize you have made a mistake not taking the time and effort to teach your children the language. Imagine if both you and your partner pass away and your children are taken care of by one of your relatives who him or herself do not speak the language. What would happen to your children's identities as Cook Islanders? What do you think?

It is sad indeed because, the moment you and your partner pass away, your language, in so far as your children and household are concerned, is lost forever. Would they blame you for that? Do you think they should? Would you accept responsibility for the loss of the language in your immediate family? I challenge you to think about it.

In the next piece I write, I shall challenge politicians and educators, in terms of their responsibilities, or should I say their lack of responsibilities, with respect to the state of our language on Rarotonga at the moment.

Until then kia orana e kia manuia.

What is this thing that we call Cook Islands culture?

Part 1

by Te Tuhi Kelly

In my previous articles I usually tend to write about or make reference to Cook Islands traditional knowledge or lore. Lore is a subset of what we generally refer to as 'Cook Islands culture'. I contend that the term 'Cook Islands culture' means whatever the observer wishes it to mean, depending on interpretation, use, and context. Let's explore this further. The world's first exposure to the Cook Islands is through the glossy images, magazines, social media, advertising, TV and Face Book personal photos, and selfies taken at all sorts of places and events in the Cook Islands. We see the dancing ura girls, the warriors in their finery, the beaches, lagoons, resorts and daily life and we and tourists remark wow this is Cook Islands culture at its best. Let's develop this argument further and define what we mean by culture. Culture is a term that has a number of meanings depending on whether you define it from a social science perspective, lay person's perspective or depending on what outcome you are pursuing. Let us agree that in this article we shall define culture as:

'A peoples accumulated knowledge, customs, experience and skills developed and learned and passed down through the generations such that it is indistinguishable from their daily lives and more importantly determines and identifies to the world who they are'

This is a pretty good start for describing culture and we'll now flesh out how we came to have a Cook Islands culture from our earliest traditions. First of all let's put aside the notion of noble savages, idyllic lifestyles and a quality of life we can only dream about. The fact of the matter is that life was reasonably harsh, physical and literally life or death. Centuries ago those early adventurers who eventually became the people we are today, were hardy, tough and ocean going travellers. Moananui a kiwa was their highway and the islands were their waystations where they travelled from island to island trading, marriage, setting up or cementing alliances, seasonal fishing or food gathering or exploring and setting down new roots. To avoid getting lost or to travel to where ever they needed to go they developed a sophisticated navigation system for sailing from island to island out of sight of land. This navigation system was developed over generations of observation and painstaking testing of their new found ideas and then passing this knowledge to those coming after. This at a time when most Europeans were floundering around off the coasts of their countries before venturing out on the ocean, because they relied on dead reckoning and generally stayed within

sight of land. They also believed the world was flat and if you sailed out of sight of land you would fall off the edge of the world, I kid you not, that is what they believed. We need to go even further back than the time period in which I am talking about, back to the time when the Proto-Polynesians set out from Asia all those thousands of years ago and spread across the Pacific Ocean as far as the Americas. Archaeological digs from Asia across the pacific to the Americas are continually chipping away at the accepted archaeological evidence of our tupuna. Time frames have had to be revised to unimaginable periods in the past to such an extent that the scientists are questioning their own investigative techniques, analysis and findings and using DNA techniques to push back the time periods. You may recall within the last 150 years that the NZ Maori waka migration was described by these scientists as an accident. The painting by Goldie depicting a vaka with starving Polynesians on it battling the elements sums up how much they knew. That's pretty much been the whole approach by papa'a to our culture; it just shows the arrogance and superiority they felt toward us and our achievements.

Over the many generations from our migration out of Asia the people who eventually became the Micronesians, Melanesians and Polynesians had developed a sophisticated seafaring culture. This seafaring culture enabled them to island hop and sail right across the Pacific Ocean with landfall in the Americas. They created a culture that spanned over a third of the planet and in doing so planted crops, trees and plants from the new world right across the pacific and back to Asia. How do we know this, those self same scientists, archaeologists, anthropologists and just about every other ologist showed from their scientific expeditions that the people from the pacific had a common culture, language, customs and ways of life that could not have been had by chance alone. Chickens, dogs, rats, crops and plants indigenous to the Americas are found right across the pacific to Asia. DNA proves the links across the pacific are not random or by chance. Captain Cook the world renowned English explorer remarked how similar the Polynesians of the various islands looked and the languages, customs and cultures had a similarity about them that could not be coincidental. During those thousands of years we developed a series of skill sets that enabled us to enjoy and pass on our knowledge to our descendants. Through song, dance, storytelling, tatau, carvings, arts, crafts and our tikanga we flourished and spread our people to the four winds.

We can now see how Polynesians developed culture and how culture developed Polynesia. The culmination of generations of knowledge, skills and experience passed down which helped shape Polynesia as we know it now. If you were asked to list in 5 minutes how many aspects of our lives correspond to making up this thing called culture, how many could you list and describe. In my first go at it, I got to 40 after about 5 minutes thinking, and here is the list I generated: arts, craft, entertainment, language, beliefs, customs, dance, tatau, storytelling, speeches, formal processes, traditional knowledge, lore, plants, crops, trees, clothing, dress, costumes, martial arts, weaponry, weapon making, music, building hunting and fishing techniques, vaka, food, food preparation, hierarchy, titles, status, fortifications, child rearing, marriage, death, mourning, relationships, barter, barter systems, warning systems, tapu, spirituality and the list goes on. The only problem is that what we are telling the world as being Cook Islands culture is nothing of the sort. On the list of 40 that I generated to give you an idea of the scope of what we call culture, you will see entertainment. I submit that cultural entertainment is what we have sold the world on and ourselves, the idea that this is our culture, this represents what we are. Unfortunately that is only part of the equation; the reality is a lot more complex. Cultural entertainment actually represents what we have become. Hence right at the very beginning of this article, what we call culture is actually cultural entertainment. That is one aspect of our culture the one that is most visible, is physical and leaves an impression. But this is not culture it is a window into our culture a snapshot of one minuscule part of our daily lives. It doesn't describe our interaction with each other and our environment. Nor does it describe in minute detail the subset of interactions that occur on a daily basis, the village life, how we live, prepare food, eat, work, fish, build, look after our children and how we love and work. These are all parts of the culture that is unique to us as a people and what is missing from the so called culture that the world sees.

You can now see that what is described as Cook Islands culture is in fact not culture in the truest sense of the word. This Cook Islands culture is an idea that has entered our vocabulary riding on the back of a number of conventions, the English class system is one, academia is another and what lay people call culture is another. For example you may have heard Lord or Lady so and so describing commoners as those people without culture,

continued next page

you know without blue blood, breeding, the right schooling and such like, without refinement. Or this thing called culture which has been rejigged by the social scientists to describe their interactions and observations of indigenous peoples and then reinvented and been taken up by the tourism industry until the term has lost its true meaning. Or the anthropologist in describing the culture of the New Hebridean natives as pagan worshippers. Or the layperson who when asked what culture is, replied it's what we are. You may ask who is right, the answer is they are all right but again they are only describing a snapshot of culture.

The trouble is that the term culture especially with respect to the Cook Islands has become more and more synonymous with the arts, craft and entertainment. This has been picked up by the tourism industry in particular and has also been the driving force behind the economic recovery and prosperity of the Cook Islands in the last 40 years. We have the resorts, the motels, all sorts of accommodators, island nights, punanganui market, and island tours and so on and this is what we call culture. In reality what we believe is Cook Islands culture was that period of time before the coming of the Papa'a. In fact if you want to be pedantic, each of the islands that go to make up the Cook Islands had their own culture. So why do we call cultural entertainment the culture of the Cook Islands when clearly it is not. The answer for this has to rest with those in the tourism, events and entertainment industries who market a brand called the Cook Islands. For want of a better word they use the term culture as a general term to make some sense of what they don't know or understand properly. Very much like the term 'common sense' as everyone knows, is not common at all. Tourism, events and entertainment are about marketing, brands, and enticement and creating an image that will attract people to part with their well earned money whilst at the same time selling them on a dream. Along with this dream they have created a whole new descriptive language and used sophisticated images and dialogue through

advertising that appeals to ones sense of "I must go there", "take part" and "support" mantras. They create that wow factor which is like an opiate and seduces you into taking that next step. They use words like, "come and experience the culture that is the Cook Islands" or "come and support your team" or "come and welcome the vaka voyagers". How can one resist? Therein lays the foundations for the belief that this is the Cook Islands culture.

Let's look a little bit more at modern Cook Islands culture which was once rich in cultural interaction, the means of greeting one another formally, the hidden and subtle meanings of words, gestures and the protocols that were used in formal settings and on the marae atea. Unfortunately they have been consigned to history and have now taken on the role of being no more than entertainment value. The turou or the formal greeting protocol which was so rich and meaningful is now no more than a 20 or 30 second chant of welcome or introduction to a theme. No more telling the visitors who you are, what the formal names of your marae, village, chiefs, your rivers, mountain and island whence your ancestors came from. No more challenge to ascertain who the visitors are, and what they are seeking or what their intentions are (peaceful or warlike), and what your connections to them are. No more reply to the challenge from the visitors as to their reasons for being there, all this has gone the way of the Dodo, extinct, defunct and lost. The turou has become the Claytons opening gambit for any function formal or informal, speech competitions, introductions or international welcomes and greetings. Go to the auditorium, Te Vara Nui or Highland Paradise and you'll see a turou being performed as the opening welcome to guests, visitors and rikiriki. The turou has been relegated to an add-on for the amusement and entertainment of rikiriki, officials and tourists.

If that doesn't get you wondering about the Cook Islands culture, then how about how do you assemble properly for the turou welcome? I submit that Cook Islanders have forgotten the importance of

how to assemble according to rank, status, role and gender. They have forgotten or are at a loss as to how they should form up to receive the turou, how to assemble as a Tapere, village, family so that they show pride and mana in who they represent. In these modern times, in any formal meet and greet ceremony it is a shambles of all the mana munchers getting in each other's way. People from different Tapere, village and family all mixed up together. In an informal sense it is relegated to entertainment by those requesting it and those performing it.

The tapu lifting ceremonies are parodies of what they used to be propped up by Christian bible scripture and pure'. The cadence, structure, knowledge and the richness of the turou, the mana of the speaker, the presence, and the whole occasion are now a mere shadow of a bygone era. Tourists and visitors are exposed to a culture of ignorance of the importance of traditional lore and apathy all in the name of Christianity and tourism dollars. The cultural groups are no more than dial-a-ura group, you know all the groups you get to entertain the tourists or to appear at formal functions, you just get on the mobile and dial them up to come and perform,

oh and get paid as well. We used to call these dial-a-kaumatua or dial-a-kapahaka group in New Zealand. You trot them out when you want to welcome a big-wig or international VIP's, then shut them away again till they are needed. Or you take them on overseas missions or tours and you market and sell the group as a 'Maori Cultural Group' representing the Maori Culture. Which is nothing of the sort? The choreography is copied by rote so that the ura or kapahaka dancers are all doing the same thing. There is very little spontaneity in form; no one steps out of line to showcase their own family, village or oire skills because the choreographers have been conditioned to take spontaneity out of the ura dancing. We have also been conditioned to see the ura as entertainment value only and that is what we have been fed so that is what we expect. What passes for traditional culture in the Cook Islands is in reality cultural entertainment for the tourists and increasingly rikiriki. Hence my reasoning that what we have is cultural entertainment on a grand scale masquerading as the Cook Islands culture. In article II I discuss other aspects of this thing we call the 'Cook Islands culture' which is sure to raise some comment.

A song for every mood

By Hayley McNabb

Everyone has their own style of music and a song that they will always have on replay. Whether it's a song from their favourite movie scene, that brings back unforgettable memories or just a song that changes their lives.

Music is one of the most amazing and wonderful things I think you could have in your life. And I honestly don't know what I would do without it. I love music. It is one of my passions and even though I don't actually know how to play any instruments properly, I still know the few simple chords to hit out a song on the guitar and piano. I listen to music everyday at school, when I'm doing homework, exercise and chores though I sometimes often hear my nana screaming at me to take my earphones out so I can hear what she is saying.

Music also helps with my education. Even though some teachers may not understand how students think it helps us work better, but it really does. Once we put in our earphones, everything and everyone is blocked out and it just lets us focus on ourselves and what we need to do. There is no one in our ears distracting us from doing our work.

As well as all these things, there is always a song for every occasion. Whether it may happen to be for a wedding, birthday, and even funeral. The songs that are played at these events will let us remember these times as we hear them again. Music also helps us to express our feeling and there is a song for every mood you're in. Happy, sad, whatever you feel there will always be a song to fulfill your emotions perfectly.

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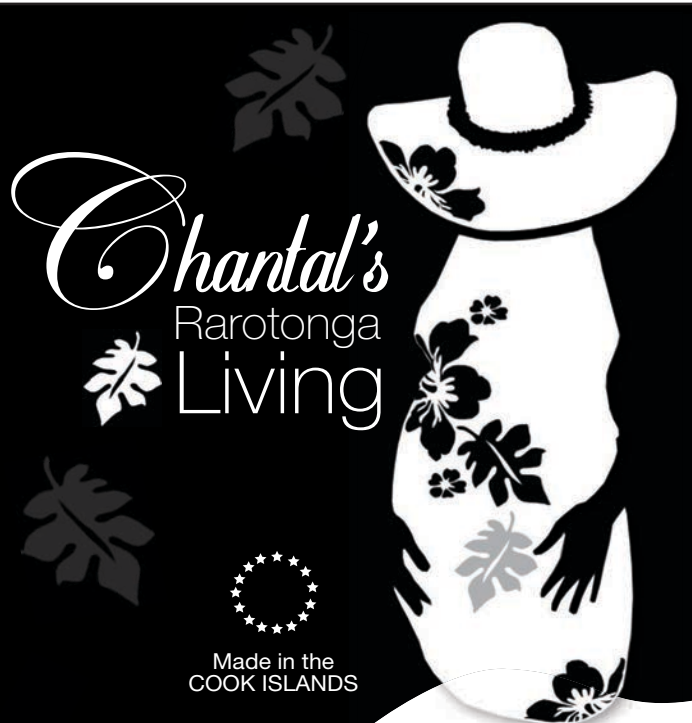
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'New Chinese' like a 'flood'

The Secretary of the Samoa Chinese Business Association has described the influx of what he refers to as "new Chinese" as a "flood."

Friday, 29 May 2015 05:40

Lanuola Tupufia
Samoa Observer

In doing so, businessman and Member of Parliament, Papali'i Niko Lee Hang, has backed a call by businesswoman, Moe Lei Sam, for the government to consider the impact of these new businesses on the local business community.

"It's a critical issue that is affecting the local businesses," Papali'i told the Samoa Observer. "There is a huge impact (on local businesses) because under the reserve list, they are restricted to run retail businesses.

"What is happening is that the new Chinese are coming in like a flood.

They are running and operating shops that should be left to locals to operate."

But Prime Minister, Tuilaepa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi, offers a different view.

Asked for a comment yesterday, he reminded that competition is good for Samoa. He said the most important thing for members of the public is that the Chinese businesses force the prices of goods to drop.

For the Associate Minister of Public Enterprises, he said competition is healthy.

However, he said the competition must be fair.

In Samoa today, he warned that the conditions favour the "new Chinese" and this is having a huge impact on struggling small business owners. He said the situation has gotten out of control and something must be done to change it.

"It is spreading so quickly," he said.

In reference to Ms. Lei Sam, Papali'i said the prices for the Chinese products are very low.

"It's cheap and it's good for competition," he said. "But the downside is that it's not good for local businesses. A lot of the products are also not



Businesswoman Moe Lei Sam

appropriate for Samoa.

If this continues the local businesses will be forced to close down and where will they go?"

Papali'i pointed to another critical issue.

"The profit earned by the new Chinese businesses is not being circulated in the country," he said.

"It's being remitted back to China."

In comparison, Papali'i said local businesses stimulate the economy.

"Local businesses are employing our own people but the new Chinese are bringing in their own people and that has a big effect on us.

"The only benefit is it helps in the cost of living but the long term effect is it's a disadvantage for our business."

So what can local businesses do?

Papali'i urged local businesses to stand up and support Ms. Lei Sam's fight for local businesses.

"A lot of them see it happening and it's affecting them but they aren't doing anything about it," said Papali'i.

"I applaud this woman for standing up and voicing her concerns.

"I encourage the local businesses not to sit around but do something like Moe by going to the Prime Minister."

The Tautua Party's Shadow Minister of Finance, Afualo Dr. Wood Salele, also shared his views on the issue. "A lot of people aren't happy with these new Chinese," said Afualo.

"We are seeing many local shops close down because they just can't make a profit."

The M.P. added that with the financial situation in Samoa today, unemployment would continue to be a major problem.

"Our people are unemployed because these businesses don't hire our people, they force shops to close down and bring their own employees." Veteran M.P. A'eau Peniamina Leavaise'eta agrees.

He said, psychologically the impact on the country, as a whole is extensive.

"It affects the wellbeing of our people and the economy's growth."

Two weeks ago, Ms. Lei Sam wrote a letter to the Samoa Observer, rallying local businesses to gather to discuss the issue.

In her letter, she said during the recent Mothers Day, her shop recorded the lowest amount of sales ever since she started her business.

"The reason behind it is that the local businesses are no match for the Chinese businesses that have set up shop right across the whole country," she said.

"Sources informed me that a shop in Apia belonging to overseas Chinese were selling their products at \$1. One tala for bras, for all kinds of products.

How can we the local business owners match that?

"It does however bring to mind another question; are these people paying taxes like the rest of us? How are they able to sell their products for such low prices?"

None of the Asian owned businesses approached by the Samoa Observer for a comment responded on the record.

Lawn Bowls Taurira (Junior) development has gone global

By Ben Mose/Tony Hakahoro

Two local Taurira (junior) bowlers have booked themselves entries into the Commonwealth Youth Games according to Bowls Cook Islands.

Taiki Paniani and Ngametua Tera, junior bowlers in the National Taurira Bowling Championships held in April, were selected to attend the Commonwealth Youth Games. They will represent the Cook Islands in bowling in September 2015 when the Games begin in Samoa.

Tony Hakaoro, presenter of Te Kave Korero programme on Radio Cook Islands, who recently

took up bowling said: "Identifying young talents and sending them to compete overseas, to gain that international experience, demonstrates to me that Bowls Cook Islands' Taurira Development Program is a success and is certainly going global given the

teenagers' participation in the Commonwealth Youth Games". The Youth Games bring together young people from Commonwealth countries between 14 and 18 years of age to celebrate and compete against each other in sports and

in the spirit of sportsmanship. In the meantime, George Paniani, President of Bowls Cook Islands, over the weekend, announced the team to represent the Cook Islands at the Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea next month. The team is as follows:

Te ka mata atu ite Basilea ki PNG Pacific Games.

Pupu ote Kamaatu

Tai Tangi (Rakahanga BC)
Irene Foster (Mauke BC)
Nooroa Daniels (Atiu BC)
Linda Vavia (Mitiaro)
Porea Eliza (Araura BC)
Coach/Mgr : Anna Kairua (BCI)

Te Kamatoa

Lawrence Paniani (RBC)
Vou Ioane Ina Tou (Atiu BC)
Joe Akaruru (Arorangi BC)
Pita Totoo (Mangaia BC)
Philip Tangi (Araura BC)
Coach/Mgr : Anthony Turua (BCI)

Lawn Bowls results, rankings and team selections- Bowls Cook Islands, Inc

Games held at Rarotonga Bowling Club Tutakimoa

By Ben Mose/Tony Hakahoro

2015, National Results:

Arama Tera Taurira Kamatoa C'Ship	Papapi Paniani (RBC) defeated Adoni Rairoa (Mangaia BC) 21-8
Arama Tera Taurira Kamaatu C'Ship	Tiare Tangi (Rakahanga BC) defeated Teiti Tupuna (Mauke BC) 21-18
Men, National Singles C'Ship.	Mia Tuteru (RBC) defeated Vou Ioane Ina Tou (Atiu BC) 21-19
Women National Singles C'Ship	Tai Tangi, (Rakahanga BC) defeated Tamoe Tamapi (Aitutaki BC) 21-9
Men National Pairs C'Ship	Nelson Akava and Vou Ioane Ina Tou ((Atiu BC) defeated Alex Kairua and Joe Akaruru (ABC) 12-9
Women National Pairs C'Ship	Kura Rubena and Sam Ngatoko (Rakahanga BC) defeated Tonina Browne and Mene Taringa (Mangaia BC) 15-11
Men National Triples C'Ship	Nelson Akava, Vou Ioane Ina Tou and Moti Tokorangi (Atiu BC) defeated Mia Tuteru, George Paniani and Vavaka Rairoa (RBC) 20-5
Women National Triples C'Ship	Porea Eliza, Barbara Ngatikao and Metua Goldsworthy (Aitutaki BC) defeated Tai Tangi, Sam Ngatoko and Tiare Tangi (Rakahanga) 18-10
Men National Fours C'Ship	Not Completed
Women National Fours C'Ship	Not Complete

How to earn the respect of others

Part 1

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

The purpose of this message is to encourage us with our attitude and behaviour throughout our lives.

Some people in the community are not getting the respect that they should get from others simply because of their attitude or behaviour. Yet they wanted people to respect them.

Let us look at what the Bible says on 'How to Earn the Respect of Others'. Proverbs 22v.1 reads "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favour rather than silver and gold." It is in our nature to want to be respected by others, to be valued as important by others, to have a good reputation!

The key to good reputation is character! Reputation is what people say about you. Character is what you really are in the inside! The Bible says that 'man looks at the outward appearance of a person, but God looks at the heart!' Our character produces respect. The question is "What Character or Behaviour, produces respect?" The Book of Proverbs says...Speak with Integrity / Honesty; Serve with Intensity; Share with Generosity; Succeed in Humility. If we manage to do the first 3, then we will be able to succeed with the last one.

Let us look at;

Lesson 1 SPEAKING WITH INTEGRITY / HONESTY Integrity means "If you say Yes! it means Yes!" "No! means No!" Proverbs 17v.7 (GN) reads "Respected people do not tell lies." People of integrity don't lie. Jesus said

that "He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life". God does not lie. Remember also that Satan is the 'father of lies'! Proverbs 25v.15 (GN) reads "Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of gifts he does not give." Are you a person who promises something and doesn't keep it? Let us look at some illustrations! "Don't worry, I'll return it as soon as I'm finish with it!" "I'll pay you back next fortnight!" "When I get my raise in salary I'll start tithing!" The great Napoleon Bonaparte of France said "Promise anything, but deliver nothing!" Proverbs 10v.9 (GN) reads "The man of integrity walks securely." In other words "Reliability" produces "Stability". Let us evaluate ourselves on Integrity!. "How honest am I with my wife?" "How honest am I with my husband?" "How about children with their parents?" "How about us with God?" Proverbs 27v.21 reads "The person's reputation can be tested." Test yourself on Integrity!

Lesson 2 SERVE WITH INTENSITY This means having the desire to help others, be interested in serving others, be enthusiastic about doing good, and in serving God. Proverbs 14v.22 (GN) reads "You will earn the trust and respect of others if you work for good." If you do good you will gain the respect of others. Jesus said "If you want to be great, learn to be the servant of others!" Jesus said "I come to serve and not to be served!" Mother Theresa (in India) once said that "It's not what you do that matters but how much love we put in it!" The Apostle Paul said in Colossians 3v.23

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." I believe that wherever we are, whatever we do, God put us there for His purposes. And that is why Paul said "...whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." (Colossians 3v.23) – serving with INTENSITY! Proverbs 11v.27 (GN) reads "If your goals are good, you will be respected." I also believe that

there is no such thing as 'great people', they're just 'ordinary people' committed to 'great purposes!' It is my prayer that you will find this article of Encouragement helpful and useful in your life.

I will continue with Part 2 of this Theme next week's issue of the Cook Islands Herald. May you have an enjoyable and a God blessed life. Te Atua te aroa.

So what about litter?

By Teherenui Koteka

Last week while I was heading to town I noticed that the woman who was driving in front of me was smoking a cigarette in her car, I continued to drive watching as she flicked the ash out her window every few hundred meters. She flicked, and flicked, and flicked until she finished the cigarette. To my dismay, instead of putting the butt of the cigarette into the ashtray of her car she flicked it out her window and continued towards her destination. Her actions infuriated me! I am just one of those people who hates litter! I hate seeing people driving along chucking trash out their car windows, or throwing garbage off their bikes. I hate seeing people walk, walk, walking along and chucking leftover junk food wrappers onto the side of the road.

Littering disgusts me! Firstly I cannot help but think that these people think it is okay to litter because someone else will come along and pick it up later, or nature will deposit it somewhere no one will see it. A mind set such as this is a lazy one. Although it may seem harmless to let's say flick a cigarette butt out the window, it really is not. It may seem silly to get angry over a mere cigarette butt; but it is not so silly when you think of the bigger picture. More often than not, no one will pick up that cigarette butt, and living on an island such as ours it very probable for it to find its way into our lagoon.

I will never forget this exhibit at the Whale Centre. It showed a swarm of cigarette butts that were found inside a sea turtle. Over a hundred cigarette butts were found inside the stomach of that sea turtle. Objects such as cigarette butts contain substances that make them indigestible. Common litter such as plastic bags, plastic bottles, bottle tops, and cigarette butts, are extremely hazardous to our ocean creatures.

We have heard stories about whales dying from eating plastic bags and still we continue to litter. Plastic bags often look like jellyfish in the water, and creatures that feed on jellyfish cannot distinguish the difference between the two.

When we litter we do not fully consider the consequences of our actions. Not only does litter make our gorgeous island look horrible, but that bottle top you throw out the window also has an effect of our oceans as well.

Next time you're thinking about throwing a piece of trash somewhere where it does not belong, take a moment to consider the consequences of your actions. Regardless of how small the piece of litter you are throwing out is, remember that it could have a huge consequence.

Correction

The article in last week's Herald, "Mitiaro School – ecstatic over new playground" was written by Tiana Haxton of Mitiaro not Teherenui Koteka.

Drifting Beneath The Stars

By Lucianne Vainerere

I've always had a fascination with voyaging and traveling long distances at sea but it didn't really spike my interests until the Te Manava Vaka Festival that took place last week. For one there was something about the welcoming that day that brought an overwhelming sense of pride and belonging and purpose. And secondly many of the voyagers were my age, which made my unspoken dreams a reality, knowing so young can discover and experience what our forefathers did before us and can gain the skill that's been passed down: to gaze and navigate the stars.

There's an unspoken sort of extreme that lies behind the purpose of voyaging. One that is so hard to explain yet so easy to experience. It links you to our ancestor's world and the evolution it went through: becoming our now. At the moment my mind is clouded with thoughts of the future and what it holds for me. It's an internal frustration that keeps developing as I get closer to my prime. Either I continue my educational journey or start a new one on a cultural expedition.

I have no profound reason to why my fascination and interest towards voyaging is great. It is purely based on earning a ground root of knowledge based around our ancestry and learning from the ones before us. Now many people may think that from this they become prodigies and no wisdom is passed down. What they seem to forget is that this way of travelling connects us to our people: in the beginning this is how they travelled from place to place and connected us to each other. By sailing Te Moana Nui o Kiwa. Wisdom grows mainly from experience, and we perceive it from people around us. It gives us greater and deeper understanding on a philosophical scale. It was also how they described our forefathers: wise.

My other reason is the knowledge of the stars. Gazing at them, using them to guide us to land and sleeping beneath them as we slowly drift to our destination. I admire the twinkling of the stars from a distance and how cameras can't capture what we see, only the naked eye can vision it's twinkling and that makes it a rare moment of appreciation. From that I imagine the burning flames so many miles away floating amongst many more twinkling orbs of gas that make up the Milky Way.

As we decide which path we become more passionate about it slowly turns into a continuous process that hovers above our heads instead of making its way toward our hearts and pursuing what we believe. Don't let it cloud your decisions, follow the stars and become your own person. It's your voyage, your own journey for self-discovery. Knowing who you are and what you can do. So then, dreams and journeys have an inevitable bond that allows us to pursue what our hearts desire, all we need to do is start.

ADVERTISE WITH THE

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

Big Red got egg all over last week, reports Vitau Mona was despatched to Tayln by Minita Kiriow not Elvis and contrary to milishius reports by an eye witness Mona only left his perch when he went to the loo or to the trough to pig out, and that is from another eye witness.



For all those gripping anti fishing protesters last weekend's Don Larger fishing competition caught more fish than flying pigs. Observer at Avatiu wharf said four boats came in with bumper catches of over 40 good sized fish in the time they were there including a 10 pounder tuna caught by an under 12 year old girl on her first fishing trip. If there are no fish out there then someone better tell Captain Moko and that fella Marsters because they have miracle lures and were lucky not to get tickets for overloading.



Word is one government Ministry employed an expat's wife on a consultancy contract and why not be gainfully occupied but the only cliché is she didn't have a work permit.



With the Budget to be tabled when Parliament reconvenes in a next week the dithering Demos are going to do just that dither like paralysed mullets. Neither Smelly or Deputy Tama will be able to take Minta Brown's 2015 Budget to task, their \$1200 a week raffle and election losing specialist Hello Drolley won't be much help, he usually scouts off to Atiu about this time of the year rather than prepare the Opposition Leader with an information paper to debate the figures in the House. Drolley will support whatever rubbish his friend and wife's boss Neneva Neves dishes up. The Budget debate will be a cake walk for the CIP exposing Smelly's incompetence as the Leader of a



dysfunctional opposition that continues to live in the fantasy they will topple Elvis and become the government. That's what happens when you pick people for self serving motivations and not because they are capable of doing the job, what a laughing stock Hello Drolley and the dithering Demos are going to be, poor Paulie, Drolley is going to dump the Budget response on him for peanuts.



One only has to see Kata's oldie but goodie cartoon this week about Elvis tearing off to catch the next Air New Zealand departure to know why Mac Attack Moko can't get enough loot to fix the roads and other unexpected casualties of inclement weather. Wonder if his bosses will tap him on the shoulder for contradicting neneva Neves and Minita Brown? A former cop Mac Attack isn't conditioned to telling firfys just the hard political damaging facts. While the carton was funny its message is no laughing matter.



Do religion and market gardening mix? Whisper is things market garden wise are about to sprout from an acre of Holy ground in Aitutaki and that it has the blessing of the Bishop! Not that sort of Bishop you say? The political Bishop?

Pardon me!



The SS Daily's traveling connoisseur of gourmet cuisine declares a certain eatery's pizza to be the best she has sunk her jaws into! As good as those in Italy! Having traveled the world we await her decision on delicacies Bhutanic. Will someone set up an eatery specializing in fine cuisine from Bhutan!



Ports Authority CEO Bim Bam is seeking another stint at the top and is not fussy where it is! He has been rumoured to have applied for every HOM job going including his current job as CEO of the Ports.



Poor Rose Brown the CIP government Deputy Speaker has been knee capped again by the Demos. This time Selena has grabbed the headlines on page two of the SS Daily's log on Tuesday! In Bangkok recently at an environment chin wag, Brown was a keynote speaker and the most impressive of the Cookie's delegation. Yet Brown does not get any mention. It's all about Selena! Selena, a Demo MP, led the Cookie delegation just as she did in Suva at another chin wag which Brown also attended. Who is the CIP Minister for Environment? The other Atiu MP? Shows

how much the CIP value Brown!

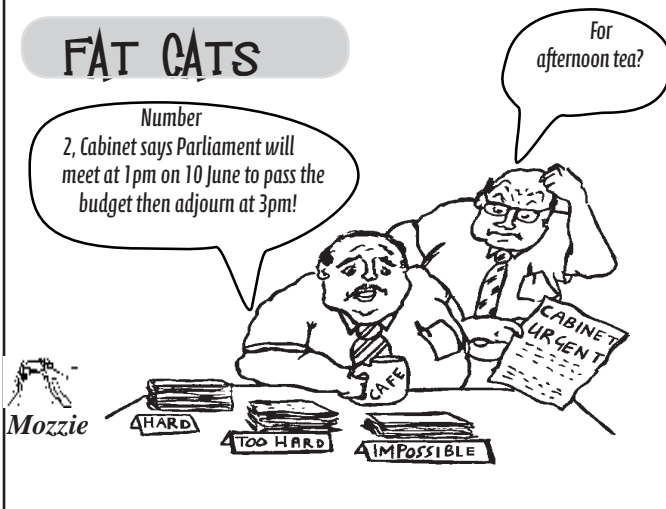


Singing Crown Prince PM Puna is trying to confuse the masses again with some smooth tongue twisting! This time he is playing the "independence" card to deliberately generate debate to divert attention away from a worsening economy which this budget will see Ministries taking unpopular cuts. Now the population is totally confused as to why Singing Crown Prince PM Puna even raised the issue in the first place, he will try and shift blame for the confusion onto the Demos. The fact is Singing Crown Prince PM Puna is in danger of losing a vote of no confidence when parliament resumes. The playing cards are ejecting from up his sleeves where they have lain hidden just for such an occasion as this.

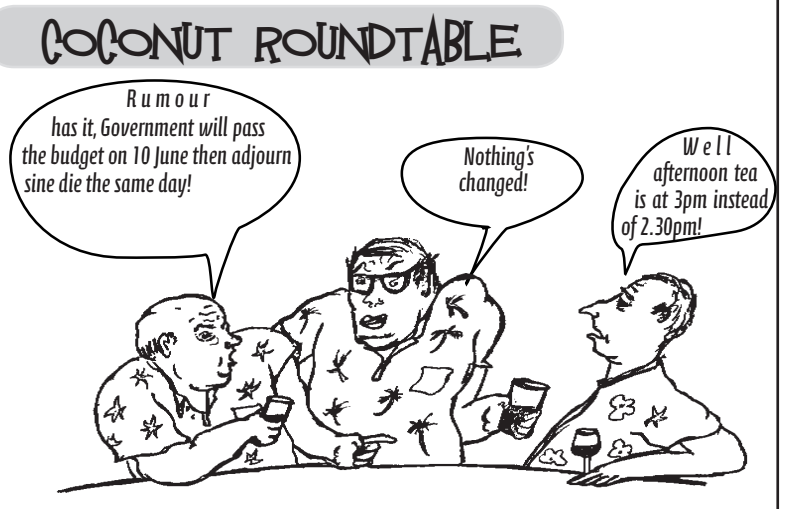


The Singing Crown Prince PM Puna is engaging in a bit of "brinkmanship" by naming a date for parliament to convene and for the budget to be tabled. The Singing Crown Prince is brazenly calling the opposition's bluff and whether they have the testicular fortitude to hatch a cunning plan remains to be seen. PM Puna has thrown down the challenge to the Demos to see what they can do. Will the Demos soft underbelly be exposed? Rumour is the Singing Crown Prince will weather the early storm brought on by the budget then put many into a contented doze after the celebrations then call a snap election before Bulldozer can get up speed to bury him. The snap election will come before the CIP Conference in September to neutralize the threat from the west. What response from the Demo camp? At this stage no Demos are in the trenches to face the onslaught. Clueless, they have run the other way!

FAT CATS



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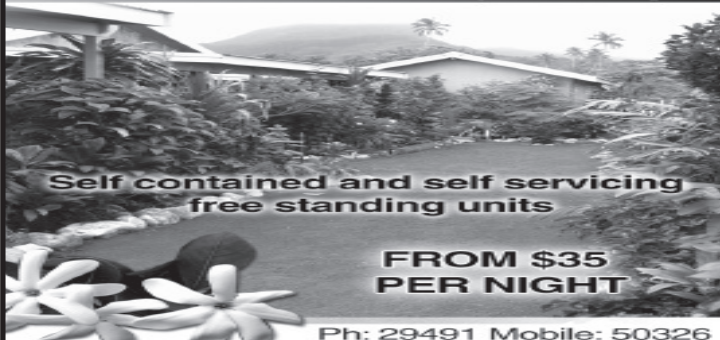
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She loves me. She loves me not.

By Taja Vaetoru

Somewhere deep in my bones
Or in the darkest trenches of my mind.
You've planted your seed.
My fingers behind my throat nor the drops leaving my
skin could get you out.
My tears are nothing but nourishing. Crucial for your
development.
You are now a prickly weed crawling through every vein.
Excruciating, yet vital.

All I can do is wish for you to grow.
And all I can hope for is an odd number of petals.

Description:
19 year old graphic designer.
Taurus. Born and raised in Manihiki.
Life motto is YOLO.



FOR RENT

Large Office space available from 1 June opposite the
airport. Fully carpeted and fitted with a kitchen, shower
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TENDER



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL – NEW POWER HOUSE

Te Aponga Uira invites bids from suitably qualified companies
or groups to procure all materials and construct the main
platform where new containerised generation plant will be
located at Avatiu Power Station, Rarotonga.

Upon registration at the following email address below, Tender
Documents can be requested from:

TAU Project Manager
Te Aponga Uira, Rarotonga, Cook Islands
Fax: (682) 21-944
Email: alex.napa@electricity.co.ck

The proposed timeframes for the bidding process are set out
below:

- Deadline for submission of questions:
3:00pm 3rd June 2015
- Deadline for submission of Proposals:
3:00pm 10th June 2015
- Notification to preferred Contractor:
17th June 2015
- Contract and budget negotiations:
From the week of 15th June 2015

This timeframe is indicative only and may be subject to change.

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.

85975



PUBLIC COMMENTS WELCOMED ON THE COOK ISLANDS NATIONAL WATER POLICY 2015

The Ministry of Health would like to invite the Public to comment on the Cook Islands National Water Policy 2015

How do you access the policy:

The Policies will be available at various shops and banks around Rarotonga and the Pa Enuu.

The Policies can also be accessed via the documents section of the Ministry of Health website www.health.gov.ck

Copies of the Policies are also available to read at the administration block of the Ministry of Health in Tupapa and at Rarotonga Hospital.

For further queries, please contact:

The Ministry of Health Manager of policy on PH: (682) 29664 or email: aremaki@health.gov.ck

Submissions close on Monday 15th June 2015 at 4pm.

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Send your 'Expression of Interest' and CV to jane.clarke@cookislands.gov.ck by Friday 5th June 2015.

We look forward to hearing from you!



TECHNICIAN/ PRINTER

Applications invited from suitable and qualified persons in the area of multi-printing, IT and FTR audio recording for a Technician Printer.

Full job description is available at the office or from Helen. maunga@cookislands.gov.ck Please submit application, CV and references to the Clerk of Parliament before Fri 5th June 2015 or by email john.tangi@cookislands.gov.ck

John Tangi

CLERK OF PARLIAMENT



**MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS**

VACANCY – Senior Inspector – Employment Relations

The Ministry of Internal Affairs has a vacancy for the position of Senior Inspector – Employment Relations within the Labour and Employment Relations office.

If you are interested in the position, a full job description and information pack is available upon request. Please contact Labour and Employment Relations Director, email patriciatuara.demmke@cookislands.gov.ck or phone 29370.

Applications must be addressed to the Secretary of the Ministry. Applications close Wednesday, 17 June 2015 at 9am.

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FOOTBALL UPDATE

Blatter re elected FIFA President - But will step down

At the 65th FIFA Congress held in Zurich on Friday 29 May, FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter was re-elected for a fifth term of office. After the first ballot (206 valid votes, 133 for Joseph S. Blatter, 73 for HRH Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein), HRH Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein addressed the Congress to announce that he was “withdrawing from the race”. At the beginning of the proceedings, the Congress had confirmed that all 209 FIFA member associations were entitled to vote.

After his re-election, Joseph S. Blatter stated: “First, I want to congratulate HRH Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein. He obtained a very good result. Then, I want to thank you for the trust and confidence. I take the responsibility to bring back FIFA where it should be. And I promise you: at the end of my term, I will give FIFA in a very strong position. Let’s go FIFA!”.

He continued by saying: “We need more respect for the Oceanian confederation. And although I agree that we don’t touch the FIFA World Cup, we need more balance for the FIFA youth tournaments. We also need more women in the football institutions.”

In his address to the delegates in the morning, the FIFA President had stated: “Events of this week have cast a shadow on football and our Congress. But the guilty ones – if confirmed guilty – are individuals, it’s not the entire organisation! Now, we, all together, have to repair the damage. Immediately! I’m calling on you to put FIFA



FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter

back on the right track. YOU are FIFA, and FIFA needs you.”

Following the intense mediation work led by FIFA President Blatter with the football and the highest political authorities in Israel and Palestine, the Congress approved the creation of a committee which, under FIFA regulations, will oversee different matters affecting the development of football in Palestine. This includes the movement of Palestinian and foreign players and officials within, in and out of the Palestinian territories. The decision was followed by a handshake between the presidents of both associations, Jibril Al Rajoub and Ofer Eini. Shortly before this decision, the Palestinian FA had withdrawn its proposal to suspend the Israeli FA.

FIFA President Blatter welcomed the Congress vote: “This is a landmark step that

once again shows the power of football to promote peace and understanding. I congratulate both member associations. FIFA will closely monitor the next steps to ensure the smooth implementation of the agreement for the good of football development in the region.”

Four days after being re-elected a surprise announcement made by FIFA President Blatter at a press conference in Zurich that he will lay down his mandate at an extraordinary elective Congress.

“I have been reflecting deeply about my presidency and about the forty years in which my life has been inextricably bound to FIFA and the great sport of football. I cherish FIFA more than anything and I want to do only what is best for FIFA and for football. I felt compelled to stand for re-election, as I believed that

this was the best thing for the organisation. That election is over but FIFA’s challenges are not. FIFA needs a profound overhaul,” says Blatter.

Blatter went on to say, “While I have a mandate from the membership of FIFA, I do not feel that I have a mandate from the entire world of football – the fans, the players, the clubs, the people who live, breathe and love football as much as we all do at FIFA.”

“Therefore, I have decided to lay down my mandate at an extraordinary elective Congress. I will continue to exercise my functions as FIFA President until that election.”

Until that election, he continues to carry out his functions. The FIFA President also announced a significant reform programme to be driven by Domenico Scala, the Independent Chairman of our Audit and Compliance Committee.