

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

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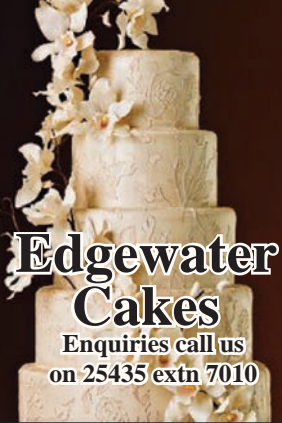
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15 29 31 32 33 39 SUPP: 12 22

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The country deserves a quality leader! Who are the contenders?

The status of our political system today is such that the principles of our democracy are being undermined because of the selfish ideology of a number of “dis-enfranchised and self centred MP’s including the PM” who maintain they have the mandate to govern this country even though indications show, they do not command the support nor the confidence of the majority within their own political parties let alone Parliament which is at the heart of our democracy.

Obviously the unpopular Prime Minister Henry Puna who scraped into contention with the measly sum of 74 votes is concerned as to whether or not he can maintain a credible level of support from within his

team today. The growing lack of leadership and the political will from both the Cook Islands Party and the Democratic Party shows cracks are beginning to form in their armoury suggesting the Cabinet and Opposition are in trouble and are worried about the numbers game. One would ask “where is One Cook Islands” amongst this political turmoil and leadership uncertainty?

We can deduce that if Puna has failed, who is willing to step up and take control? Is the Deputy Prime Minister Teariki Heather capable of running this country given his weak leadership performance to date and the marginal support of his constituency voters or can we assume that his brother and Leader of the Opposition Smiley Heather has the attributes and

credibility to step up to the mark and demonstrate he has the ability to lead this country forward potentially as PM? He certainly has fallen well short of the mark expected of an Opposition leader so we cannot expect anything from him short of a miracle should the Democratic Party be successful in wresting the Government off Puna.

That leaves us with one other option and potentially future kingmaker Teina Bishop. There have certainly been short bursts of success during his time as a Minister with the CIP and currently, he is one of the few MP’s with the depth, experience and commitment to become a good leader. While he does have some shortcomings, he is probably the best option

available today however this is dependent on whether or not OCI will be in a position to negotiate itself as a future coalition partner should the occasion arise.

Bishop has the commitment and enthusiasm to drive initiatives forward and is a very capable operator given his business and teaching backgrounds. His ability to understand political and fiscal issues is beyond doubt and he is credited with possibly being the only MP who fully understands the complexities of the Parliamentary processes given his 17 years as a MP. Bishop also has the flexibility and is fluid with all layers of societies’ demographics mix, unlike the Heather brothers who are

continued next page

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

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

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.”

narrow casters unable to relate to the wider community not only locally but internationally.

The only other person with some form of credibility is Mark Brown, however his alignment to the PM has not served his own performance well so this could very well go against him but potentially, he does have future merit providing he weans himself off his dependent reliance on the Financial Secretary Richard Neves and he leaves the arrogance behind and starts hearing the advice of his minders.

As for potentials within the current rank and file of MP's from both camps, there is little choice and many are newcomers who are inexperienced, lack depth and capability and are well outside their comfort zones when it comes to budgetary, national and international affairs. Today's political leaders must possess a global perspective of a range of issues and financial intelligence, a restricted village cognitive is no longer the predominant ingredient for sovereign leadership.

So what is the solution? We have a situation where our current leader is failing his people and his team are just standing by not doing anything about it because perhaps they too, are in denial mode. We have a self serving DPM who considers himself beyond reproach and believes he should be the next Prime Minister. Heather's autocratic style of management and bullyboy tactics displays political arrogance and naivety and definitely disqualifies him from contention in the minds of non locals who shudder at the thought he lusts for supreme power.

There are probably two other contenders within the CIP ranks who consider they are also worthy of consideration for the top job as well. They include Mark Brown and Nandi Glassie but neither are overly popular nor have they demonstrated individual quality leadership ability that stands out at the top although Mark Brown would probably see favour with expatriates because he speaks their language, his stance towards economic reforms and his ability to look after foreigners rather than locals.

On the other side, no one

stands out within the Demo camp. The two most experienced campaigners (Munukoa and Vavia) do not want the top job and the rest are divided into the categories of "has beens or wanna bes."

The Demo hierarchy of Heather, Captain Tama, Selena Napa, Willis and Drollet hardly have a political savvy movers and shakers look about them;

If the Demos were able to persuade CIP MPs to defect having the numbers won't guarantee them success, their execution attempts recently have been amateurish and clumsy to say the least.

none of them individually or collectively put anything game changing on the table, by excluding James Beer they lack a trump card, nothing for Puna to lose sleep about there. The socially experimenting Demos are literally doomed before they start so realistically their best bet of political survival is to look at perhaps joining with OCI and to give the top job to Bishop on the basis of "collective government and shared leadership."

The removal of Puna is easier said than done, (Have the lessons realised during the former PM Jim Marurai's reign been forgotten so readily?) there has been a lot of ego stroking exaggerated talk that has evaporated into thin air, indiscriminate boasting has telegraphed every move the Demos and OCI have envisaged giving the CIP plenty of time to counter responses eliminating any threats. One thing is certain the critical element of surprise isn't one of the Demos fortes.

If the Demos were able to persuade CIP MPs to defect having the numbers won't guarantee them success, their execution attempts recently have been amateurish and clumsy to say the least.

If Puna is to get bumped off his perch, it will most likely happen from within their camp at a party conference pencilled for in August this year. Teariki Heather sees that as a democratic process health for the Party and the least disrupted path to his own political career, while he may

have a ground swell of delegate support, being the leader of the Party does not mean one is automatically elevated to the throne, parliamentary leadership is a completely different ball game and Puna would rather call an early election rather than give in to Heather. Any challenge to his Prime Ministership will have to be attempted in the House of Representatives and right now

the political planetary line up is completely out of sync.

No doubt the PM has Heather in his sights and if need be Puna could tap him on the shoulder and quietly suggest a possible suspension from the Ministry of Police and ICI while the

appropriate institutions look into the allegations of corruption levelled against him. Having the gun put at his head may be the compliance reality check Heather needs to encourage him to go with the flow.

If a dark horse exists, it's the overlooked unassuming Kiriaua Turepu who provided with the right incentives could pull the rabbit out of the hat, the nine existing Demos failed to turn every stone in their quest for the better coalition solution that has them on the inside looking out rather than facing the prospect of wandering in the political wilderness for the next ten years.

Until we are willing to accept change for the better within our political system, the levels of mismanagement, lack of capability and capacity and potential for corruption will continue to prevail. What we need now is quality leadership irrespective of political patronage and it's time to encourage people with the right skills, attitude and commitment to step up and be counted.

- George Pitt



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Neves puts the brakes on the DPM Heather's illegal big spending

Fully aware his Deputy Teariki Heather has grandiose ambitions to become the Prime Minister, Henry Puna taken the advice if you give someone enough rope they will hang themselves, the unaccountable Heather has done just that. Rather than intervene on the basis of suspicion Puna's patience has paid off handsomely.

Confrontation simply isn't Puna's cup of tea; he's more prone to the Pontius Pilate approach to resolving conflict, Puna might load the gun well away from the action letting others pull the trigger, there will be no blood on his hands. Puna's close allies regard Heather as a political menace whose pride has precipitated his eventual slide into oblivion.

No trap was need to snare Heather, left to his own devices and his elevated self image it was only a matter of time before he became the blind leading the blind. His philosophy and practise the end justifies the means is well off the good governance radar, do as you will with your own money but the public purse is a sacred cow that is subject to transparency and accountability.

Teariki Heather's emersion into the fiscal realm of millions of dollars has driven him out of control, in his unmanaged state public funds flowed freely gratifying his whims and fancies to the extent his ministry portfolio Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) has spent nearly one million dollars of unappropriated public money.

ICI's cheque book is no longer in their possession; the Financial Secretary Richard Neves has it locked up in his top draw. Sympathy goes out to Mac Mokoroa who was drafted into ICI after the former Ministry Head Donnie Numa was suspended pending an inquiry into the operations of ICI then as the scape goat she was sacked leaving many



Richard Neves



Teariki Heather

Someone is going to have to shoulder the blame for the financial fiasco ICI is in and this time the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) have got it right, Teariki Heather is the culprit.

suspicious why she maintained her silence taking the fall for her Minister Heather. With a sizeable mortgage hanging over his head the rubber stamping Mokoroa became subjected to being micro managed by the DPM.

Someone is going to have to shoulder the blame for the financial fiasco ICI is in and this time the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) have got it right, Teariki Heather is the culprit. To what extent Heather is disciplined for

this fiscal mischief will be left to Neves to prompt. With public scrutiny focused on Neves the serious breaches of the MFEM Act by Minister Heather cannot be swept under the carpet.

This political fauxpas is reward for Puna's patience, the PM cannot intervene, the consequences of Heathers autocratic arrogance have to be sifted independent of political interference or due influence. Heather has no excuses to wriggle out of this self inflicted

politically ending predicament, any attempts to keep this embarrassment in house will not be tolerated by the public who demand nothing less than full disclosure. The enormity of Heather's financial management of ICI must not be watered down with meaningless financial gibberish.

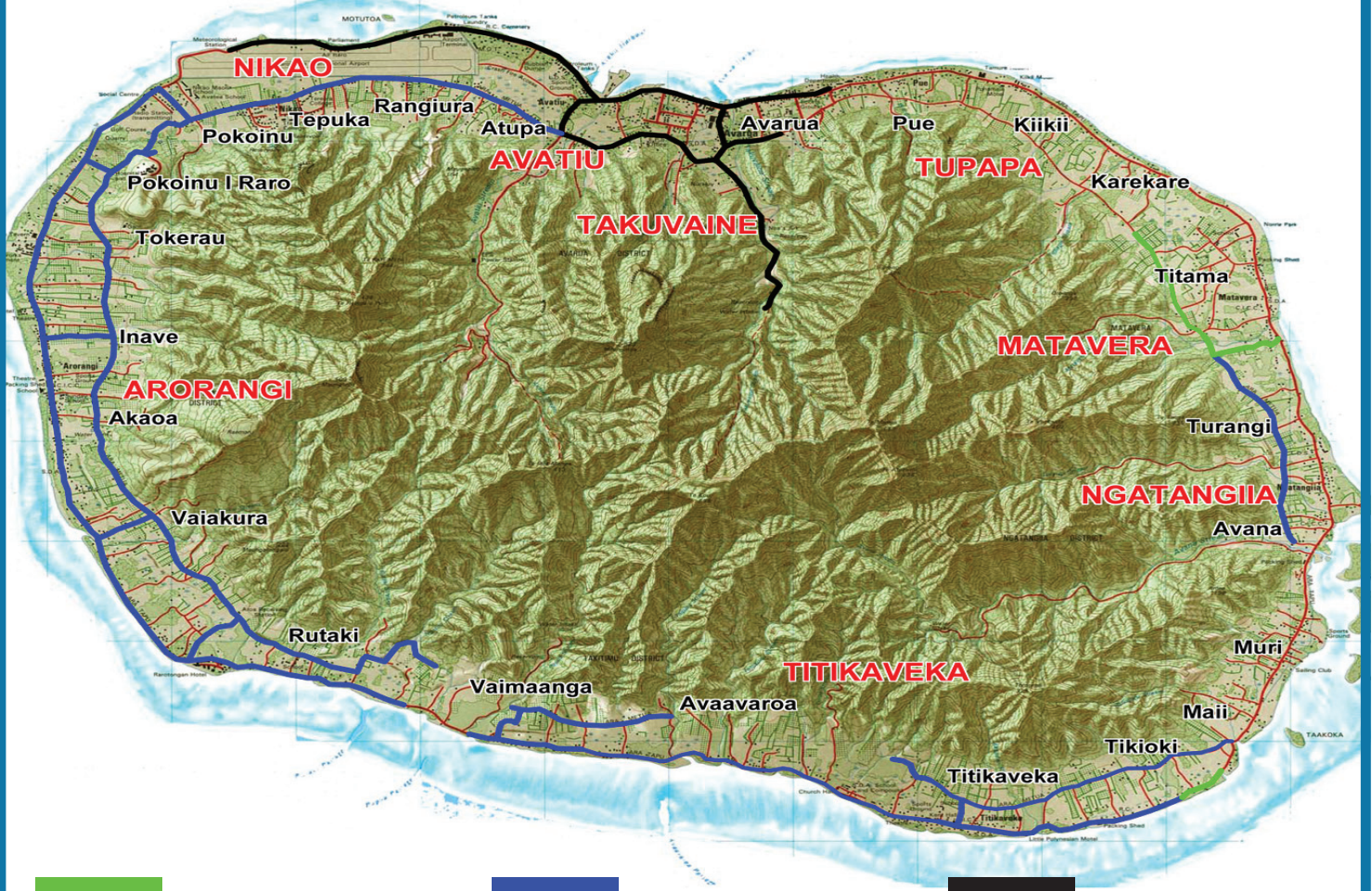
\$800,000 or whatever the amount is has been misappropriated, we aren't talking about petty cash, this is serious money Heather has spent without the legal mandate to do so.

The audit by independent auditors of ICI instigated by the New Zealand High Commission exposed irregularities that reinforced Numa's sacking but it seems nothing corrective has been adopted, it's been business as usual.

Heather's political future now hangs in the balance, for his own sake and the public reaction to the CIP government the DPM should resign before an investigation unearths irreparable damage that becomes his lasting legacy. What a man sows he reaps.

- George Pitt

**MEITAKI MAATA KITE ITI TANGATA KATOATOA
KO TEI AKAKOROMAKI I TE TUATAU OTE AKAOU
ANGA ITE AU PAIPA OU, I TEIA AU MARAMA I
TOPA. KIA VAI UATU RAI TEIA TU
TAKINGAMEITAKI NO TATOOU.**



Green line –
Constructions works
carried out from 01
to 31 May 2015

Blue line –
Construction works
carried out up to 30
April 2015

Black line – Pipeline
construction works
completed as of
2013 - Project City

A huge thank you to the people of Rarotonga for your patience over the last 14 months. Stage One of the Te Mato Vai project – the replacement of the ring mains is now over 70% complete, taking us that much closer to our new water supply system that will serve us well for the next 50 years.

Our Frontpage model



Our frontpage model for Herald Issue 770 is 21 year old Natalia Short. Natalia is in the National netball squad and will be representing the Cook Islands at the Pacific Mini Games in PNG next month. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald

Letter to the Editor

More on water standards OMG!

Dear Editor
Last Tuesday 2nd June in the Cook Islands News they say they are going to work on a water standards policy. Late 2013 they were saying "Policy and standards will be reviewed and developed". Think I feel 'sick' reading these rehashed articles, then I do drinking local tap water.

This has been highlighted in the Binnie report back in 1985. Then the Brockman Tym report 2000 and the 2009 ADB report and the draft and current Master Plan. Millions wasted on 'ideas' or 'concepts', and still no return on investment! The same concerns since community discussions way back in 1998.

Same issue different spin doctors. The W.H.O standards reflect weight of an individual being at 60kgs last time I checked and purification of 5 microns. Chlorination is used to kill bacteria in computed doses, normally parts per million, with regulated flow rate. This does not include other water diseases like e-coli, cryptosporidium and giardia. Other contaminants like iron, nitrates and so forth as they must be tested and measured against set standards.

In New Zealand average weight used is 70kg and the filtration levels are at 1 micron, from the Water Care (Auckland Regional Council), Tauranga and Rotorua City Council websites along with their acceptable levels of mg/ltr ratios. They test regularly or when reported by consumers. There are a wide range of impurities and these standards are all documented and adopted into law.

Firstly, what standard do we apply? What body weights, do you use? We need to test for a variety of impurities, diseases and other trace elements like pH, toxins or poisons. These become standard or guidelines and then we need to use a laboratory to carry out all these tests and measure the results. The standards that are used are to be adopted into law. How often do we test daily, weekly, monthly? What about all the Outer Islands? Assuming this is the same 'potable' water we want to use to flush down the toilet and water our crops with? Reality check it is not going to happen!

Always tests and measure. Speaking to one of our locals when they told me the tests and measures of making 'RC Cola'. This is more excessive than WHO standards.

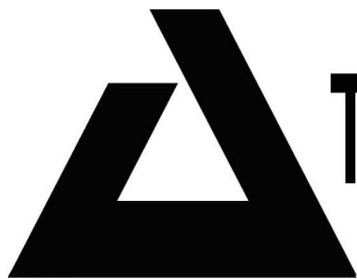
Maybe if I was a Consultant from overseas and was able to write more than 300 pages on this issue I would be allowed to collect from the Cook Islands 'tax payers' \$1.2 million dollars. Why do you think a PETITION highlighting so many Landowners, Consumers and 'tax payers' concerns about this 'Te Mate Vai' project needed to be addressed before this project started. Read page 7 of the Master Plan.

James Thomson for TMV Petition committee.

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Norman George on: Law Reform

“The narcotics and misuse of drugs act”

By Norman George

Before I start on the Narco trail, let me start by expressing my disappointment and puzzle about the lack of interest and response to my articles on the Transport Act reforms. Did I hit the jackpot or did I miss it completely? Are you happy with compulsory disqualifications? Are we going to wait for more road fatalities and maiming before waking up to express temporary concern? I console myself by saying that it is better to have tried to do something, than doing nothing at all.

There is present in our country today a well established culture of drug use. Silent, secretive, and well organised. The users range in age from teenagers to older men and women. How do I know? As a Barrister I act for many drug offenders. Many have asked why I act for people like them (drug users). My answer is, “do you ask surgeons why they treat smokers for cancer or treat drunken drivers involved in accidents? So stop asking lawyers stupid questions subject to Lawyer-client privileges. I pick up a lot of information from my clients. Drugs are brought into our country by sea and air. I am advised that our home grown cannabis is not as good as those imported from New Zealand, Australia and Fiji.

Big money is made by the successful importers. Detection rate is not very high. Drug usage is widespread and increasing here. Many consumers use both alcoholic liquor and cannabis for entertainment. Few parties are held without the presence of drugs here.

Regular usage drives the user into complete dependency. It restructures your brains, hallucinations come in. Some will think they are kites, flying in the sky. An addict’s habit is always structured around the

next dosage, the next high and the next hit. (Hallucination)

I have handled clients who are totally dependent on smoking cannabis regularly every day. The habit is expensive and leads to the commission of crime. There are some casualties around. Now and then, you will sight a young person wandering around on the road seemingly lost, wearing the wrong clothes for the time of day and other attention drawing activities. These are brain damaged people. Some experimented with (Magic) mushrooms earlier in life and suffered severe brain damage. While we hope they recover eventually, that does not seem to be happening.

The law prohibits the use, possession and sale of drugs. It prohibits the importation, possession for sale and cultivation or planting of cannabis plants.

The law classifies prohibited drugs into 3 classes. Class A, Class B lesser and with C being at the lowest end of the scale.

I will highlight a few examples, there are so many prohibited drugs listed in the First, Second and third schedules of the Narcotics and Misuse of Drugs Act 2004. (The Act)

Examples of a class A prohibited drug include cocaine, amphetamine, benzphetamine, heroin, lysergide (LSD), methamphetamine (P), and thalidomide. (First Schedules)

Examples of class B include cannabis, preparations containing cannabis resin or hashish and cannabis oil, morphine, opium, cathinone and so many unpronounceable scientific names. (Second schedule)

Examples of class C include cannabis fruit, plant, seed, Catha edulis plants, coca leaf, codeine, propoxyphene and many more unpronounceable scientific definitions in the Third Schedule.

It is an offence to have

possession of utensils for using cannabis. The popular term for it is bongs, the penalty is 5 years in prison and \$5,000.00 fine.

Under Section 6 of the Narcotics Act, dealing with, possession and use of a class A drug is punishable by 20 years imprisonment.

Class B controlled drug carries 15 years imprisonment and 10 years. The Section spreads to conspiracies to commit offences under the Act, with penalties flowing in the same pattern, 20, 15, and 10 years imprisonment.

Section 7, possession, procuring, consuming or smoking of class C drugs (cannabis) carries 5 years imprisonment and \$5,000.00 fine in some instances.

Medical practitioners, dentists and pharmacists are exempted for possession or dealing with these as a part of their professional work and responsibilities under Section 8.

Planting or cultivating cannabis carries a penalty of 20 years imprisonment.

COMMENT: This is one provision in desperate need of reform. Plants should be graded from seedlings to medium and adult plants. The quantity should also be taken into account when considering the penalties. Seedlings have

no value, even medium grown plants, only mature commercial quantities should command serious penalties.

We should follow New Zealand’s example of reducing the penalties in relation to possession and use of cannabis considerably.

COMMENT: Cannabis use to be legalised? Sorry my junkie friends, I am from the old school, I have witnessed enough brain damage as a former New Zealand Cop and practicing solicitor to change my mind. I do consider medical use of cannabis as a pain reliever accompanied by powerful medical evidence to be allowed to mitigate harsh sentences.

There are many other offences under this Act which I am unable to cover without boring you. I want to end by saying, “I do not like drugs, I have never used it, I do not condone the use of drugs, and will always give my support to the Police and law enforcement agencies to stop illegal drug use.”

At the same time, I will continue to help those who are caught in the conflicts of the drug curse to ensure their rights are protected from the rigours of law enforcement.

Ka Kite
(Next week- The Crimes Act)

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Backtax was introduced, abolished, then re introduced by the CIP Government.

The Basileia has now reached a milestone in its growth, development and maturity without a backtax. Grey Power wants a 50th Anniversary Celebration free of the ongoing pension debacle that this CIP Government is so passionate about. Stop being cruel to the elderly people

GET RID OF THE BACKTAX

Dennis Tunui
Grey Power

Longline fishery achieves MSC sustainability certification

The Cook Islands albacore longline fishery has become the first Chinese tuna fleet to be certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). Certification of this Pacific tuna fishery is welcome news as it represents growing supply of MSC seafood and tuna from Asia.

The fishery produces almost 10,000 tonnes of tuna per annum which makes the certification of this fishery significant for the Cook Islands as fish accounts for 97 per cent of export from the Islands. Tuna from this fishery is mostly exported to Europe and China but the fishery hopes that by achieving MSC's certification, it will expand into other markets.

The Cook Islands fishery now joins a leading group of more than 250 MSC certified fisheries that are helping to ensure healthy

marine ecosystems for this and future generations. Achieving MSC certification brings global recognition to this pioneering fishery's efforts, and will also help safeguard the livelihoods of many in that region.

Bill Holden, MSC Asia-Pacific Fisheries Manager says "The Cook Islands EEZ south Pacific albacore longline fishery has undergone scrutiny by an independent team of experts who have assessed the fishery's performance against the MSC's robust and widely recognised requirements for sustainable fishing. The fishery will continue to make improvements to meet the conditions set for it in order to remain certified"

The MSC program provides a powerful instrument for transforming the global tuna fisheries market to a sustainable basis, and improving the way

tuna fisheries are managed and governed.

Joe Murphy, Senior Vice President of Luen Thai Fishing Venture expressed his excitement at the news. "We are so very happy to receive the certification and to be a part of MSC, a standard bearer for all sustainability entities. There is no doubt that being MSC certified, the Cook Islands tuna would influence more Chinese seafood companies to join this sustainability movement" he said.

By being certified, The Cook Islands EEZ south Pacific albacore longline fishery has undergone scrutiny by an independent, third-party certifier who have determined that the fishery meets the MSC's robust standard.

Ben Ponia, Secretary for Ministry of Marine Resources

says a significant part of the certifier's evaluation required assessing government's capacity to manage the albacore fishery in a sustainable manner. The process has taken over two years to complete and involved in-country visits with full disclosure of the Ministry's policies and operational data.

"Achieving the industry gold standard and having the 'blue tick' label of MSC is a significant milestone for our longline fishery. It is recognition of the high standards here in the Cook Islands. It will enhance the exclusivity of our fishery and add value to our albacore tuna export," he said.

To remain certified, the Cook Islands fishery must now implement harvest control strategies that ensure healthy stock, and also demonstrate that fish stocks are well managed.



MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is an international non-profit organisation set up to help transform the seafood market to a sustainable basis. The MSC runs the only certification and ecolabelling program for wild-capture fisheries consistent with the ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards and the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries. These guidelines are based upon the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing and require that credible fishery certification and ecolabelling schemes include:

- Objective, third-party fishery assessment utilising scientific evidence;
- Transparent processes with built-in stakeholder consultation and objection procedures;
- Standards based on the sustainability of target species, ecosystems and management practices.

The MSC has regional or area offices in London, Seattle, Tokyo, Sydney, The Hague, Beijing, Berlin, Cape Town, Copenhagen, Halifax, Paris, Madrid, Stockholm, Santiago, Moscow, Salvador, Singapore and Reykjavik.

In total, over 340 fisheries are engaged in the MSC program with over 250 certified and around 100 under full assessment. Together, fisheries already certified or in full assessment record annual catches of more than ten million metric tonnes of seafood. This represents over eleven per cent of the annual global harvest of wild capture fisheries. Certified fisheries currently land over seven million metric tonnes of seafood annually – around nine per cent of the total harvest from wild capture fisheries. Worldwide, more than 27,000 seafood products, which can be traced back to the certified sustainable fisheries, bear the blue MSC ecolabel.

For more information on the work of the MSC, please visit www.msc.org

2015/16 Budget - provide increased engineering support

The Minister for Infrastructure, the Honourable Teariki Heather outlined increased support for Infrastructure Cook Islands in relation to engineering support.

Minister Heather outlined that the Government would provide a further \$110,000 in ongoing funding for the engagement of two civil engineers to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry which would enable it to deliver capital projects.

In announcing the additional funding, Mac Mokoroa, outlined that the resources will assist the Ministry to improve planning, undertake technical design and preparation of project documents for capital projects which have been outlined in the National Infrastructure Investment Plan.

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, WED 3rd JUNE 2015

PM on false reporting & Sunday referendum

Prime Minister, Henry Puna, was an unexpected guest on Te Kave Korero on Wednesday 3rd June 2015. The 'tumu tapura', the subject of discussion, was Cook Islanders' New Zealand citizenship.

In his opening remarks in Maori the Prime Minister said that he decided to come onto the programme when he heard on radio, Te Kave Korero presenter, Tony Hakaoro, introducing the programme and what the subject of discussion was to be.

Te Kave Korero believes that the Prime Minister was upset and decided at the very last minute to come to the radio station and onto Te Kave Korero when he heard on radio that the subject of discussion was to be 'Cook Islanders' rights to New Zealand citizenship'.

The Prime Minister has been reported to have told Colin Tukuitonga, the South Pacific Secretariat, that he was considering giving up Cook Islanders rights to New Zealand citizenship in lieu of becoming a member of the United Nations.

In his introduction of the programme in Maori, Te Kave Korero presenter, Tony Hakaoro, said:

"I teia nga ra, the hottest subject i runga i te tatou avata tutu, e, i roto i te nutipepa, the hottest subject na te ra reo ai, ko to tatou tikaanga o Aotearoa, to tatou tikaanga New Zealand citizenship, to tatou tikaanga kia taangaanga tatou i te passport o Aotearoa, to tatou tikaanga kia ngoie ua i a tatou i te turotu atu, oro poto atu no tetai nga tuatau orote ki Aotearoa, e pera katoa ki Australia. Ae, ko te tumu manako, tumu tapura teia no tatou i teia aiai nei.

Mei ta tatou e akarongo nei i teia nga ra, te akaapaia nei to tatou Arataki o te Basilea, koia te Prime Minister, ko Henry Puna, te akaapaia nei e tetai nga papa'a tei tata ma te akakite e, kua 'akari ana to tatou Arataki o te Basilea, Henry Puna, Prime Minister, kua akari ana a ia i tetai manako e, i te akakite e, te anoano nei a ia i te tipu i to tatou pirianga ki Aotearoa, e to tatou tikaanga i raro ake i te turanga New Zealand citizenship. Ae, ko te tumu manako, me kare, ko te tumu tapura oonu tera, i teia nga ra i a tatou, kare ainei? Ae, ka arikiia toou manako, taniuniu mai i ta tatou porokaramu, Te Kave Korero.

In Maori Tony advised listeners that he had invited the Prime Minister but there was no response.

In his introduction Tony said:

"E mea tau kia orongaia tetai tuatau, tetai tikaanga ki te Prime Minister, kia akamarama mai i te reira ki to tatou iti tangata. E mea tau kia riro te Prime Minister, ei karere, turama mai i a tatou, akataka mai, eaa tikai te tikaanga i tona au manako, me kare ra, i tana au tuatua. Inara, uatu oki e, kua tae te patiangā, kare rai e pauanga i tae mai. Tena ia to tatou tumu tapura maata i teia aiai nei. Me manako toou, taniuniu mai".

When the Prime Minister came on air he said:

"Te taiku nei to tatou taeake a Tony, e, ko ta tatou tumu tapura ia i teia aiai. Mei teia te tu e te iti tangata, ko teia manako e, i ripotia mai mei Nutireni mai, a teia nga taeake i tata e, i to tatou Basilea kia tipua to tatou pirianga e Nutireni, e tuatua taravake, e tuatua maani ua te reira, e tuatua na raua rai i manako. Kua kite tatou e, ko tetai taravake teia i te media i o teia tuatau nei, ae, e kua rave teia nga tamariki i teia taravake, tata ratou i tetai tuatua no teia Basilea, e, no taku au tuatua i ripotia kia raua e, kua tuatua au, kare roa ra raua i ringi mai ana i aku, me kare i te aere mai i te pati, me kare i te tiki i taku tuatua, no runga i teia manako, never, never at any stage, so kare au i kite e, i akapeea raua i te anga i teia au tuatua, oti, tou mai i te rima ki aku, e naku teia au tuatua nei, when they've never had the decency to interview me, that is, inangaro au i te akakite ki a tatou e, te apai nei au i teia manamanata ki te Media Council o Nutireni, kia discipline ia, kia papaia teia nga taeake, auraka roa raua e manako e, they can do that, ki tetai ua atu iti tangata, me kare, ki tetai ua atu Basilea".

Referring to Dr Colin Tukuitonga, Tony put the following to the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister kua ripoti katoaia mai i teia nga epetoma i topa ake nei e, i pukapuka ana koe ki a Colin Tukuitonga, te Tekeretere o te South Pacific Commission, i tana akakiteanga, kua taiku koe ki a ia te reira....."

The Prime Minister responded:

"Ko teia tamaiti kua ringi mai ana i aku i te apologise, no teia tana i tuatua a ia, ma te kore roa a ia i check mai ana ki aku e, me e tika rai teia tuatua na na. No reira, I don't want to talk about it except kare teia i te manako tano e kare katoa i te ripoti tika.....".

With regards to the Sunday flight



referendum, Tony asked the Prime Minister as to when a decision banning Sunday flights to Aitutaki would be expected.

Prime Minister Henry Puna said:

"I want to deal with it, have it done with, kia kore e manamanata akaou, as soon as possible".

"Teia te uipaanga nei te Paramani i teia nga epetoma e tu mai nei, that's a beautiful opportunity no matou te caucus o te Kaomani, i te noo i te uriuri manako, as a team, that's the best time".

"It's got to be a team call, so, ko te tikaanga manea teia, everybody will be here i Rarotonga nei, e uriuri manako ai matou i reira".

Tony then invited the Prime Minister to come on Te Kave Korero once a decision is made in Parliament regarding the Sunday flight referendum to which the Prime Minister agreed in Maori as follows:

"Me ko te manako ia e, kia marama to tatou iti tangata, kia rongu mai e, eaa te tupou nei, of course. Inara, inangaro ua au i te akamatakite atu i a koe e taku taeake, mei te mea e, kare au e tae mai ki runga i to porokaramu e no tetai ua atu tumu, eaa koe e akakino mai i aku, eaa koe e akaapa i aku e, kare au e aere mai e, no te mea, ka manako to tatou iti tangata e, a, penei e, e matakū to te Prime Minister i te aere mai, I'm not ashamed, I'm not afraid of any issue i roto i to tatou Basilea, I have a responsibility to inform i to tatou iti tangata and I see your programme as an opportunity, as a forum, i te oronga i te manako ki to tatou iti tangata, i te akamarama".

Bowls Update & Purpose of Te Kave Korero

Te Kave Korero on Friday 5th June spoke to sports commentator and broadcaster, Ben Mose, with his report on bowling. Te Kave Korero also highlighted its role or purpose in the community as a radio programme.

Reporting 'live' from the Rarotonga Bowling Club Mose confirmed that the Bowling Team for the Pacific Games had been announced and has been reported on both radio and television.

He advised that the Rakahanga Bowling Club was holding its annual pairs championship competition at the Rarotonga Bowling Club greens that evening.

He said there were 15 teams entered in the men's pairs competition and 15 teams also in the women's pairs competition. He advised that the entrance fee to enter the competition is \$15.00 per player.

He also reported that the Arorangi Bowling Club's fours championship had started two days earlier, on Wednesday 3rd June. He said the prize money in that competition would be \$300.00 for the winners, \$200.00 for the runners-up and \$100.00 for third placing.

Mose said that it is a requirement of Bowls Cook Islands that all bowling clubs run a championship game each year to remain affiliated with Bowls Cook Islands.

With regards to Te Kave Korero as a radio programme, host Tony Hakaoro said in Maori that, as the name (in Maori) suggests, Te Kave Korero is a medium of communication and a vehicle to deliver the message to listeners.

"Te akakoroanga mua o ta tatou porokaramu, Te Kave Korero, mei ta te ingoa rai e akakite ra, kia riro ta tatou porokaramu, ei kave korero, me kare, ei kave karere, ki a kotou e te iti tangata, me kare, ki a koe e akarongo mai nei i ta tatou ratio, ae, ko te akakoroanga mua tera o ta tatou porokaramu, Te Kave Korero. Kia riro teia porokaramu ei kave korero, me kare,

ei kave karere, ki to tatou iti tangata, i te au mea e tupu nei i roto i to tatou Basileia. Ae, i te au manako, i te au akakoroanga e tupu nei, ae. Kia riro oki ta tatou porokaramu e, ei akakitekite i te au mea e tupu nei, kare ainei? Ae, to tatou reo tupuna, ei akari i te korere, ei kave i te karere, me kare, ei akakite i te kura, me kare ra, ei tukuanga i te karere ki to tatou iti tangata, ae".

He said that Te Kave Korero provides opportunities to speak Cook Islands Maori and is purposeful in terms of reviving the language particularly on Rarotonga.

"Te rua, kia riro ta tatou porokaramu ei tuatuaanga na tatou i roto i to tatou reo Maori, ae, ei akaoraora akaou mai i to tatou reo Maori, te ngaro nei to tatou reo i runga tikai i a koe e Tumutevarovaro, i runga tikai i to tatou enua Tumutevarovaro, kare ainei? Kare koe e ariki i te reira manako? Me ka ariki koe i teia tumu manako e, te ngaro nei to tatou reo i runga i a Tumutevarovaro no te mea, kare ta tatou tamariki apii e tuatua nei i to tatou reo.

He added that since returning home he

hasn't heard a child under 12 years of age speak Maori.

Tony said that Te Kave Korero also keeps a watchful eye on Government and would act to advise Government of its mistakes and wrong doings so as to benefit the people of the Cook Islands.

"Te toru o te akakoroanga i ta tatou porokaramu, Te Kave Korero, kia riro ta tatou porokaramu ei akava, ei akarakara i te au angaanga a te Kavamani e rave nei, kia riro ta tatou porokaramu i te akakite ki te Kavamani e, kare kotou e meitaki nai na, kare kotou e meitaki mai na, akatanotano akaou i ta kotou akateretereanga, kare ai nei? Kare ainei ko te au mea teia ta tatou i anoano, kia meitaki atu to tatou Basileia, kare ainei? E, ko te mea ua kia meitaki ai to tatou Basileia, kia meitaki te akateretereanga, me kare, te akaareanga a te Kavamani, me kare, te au tangata angaanga i roto i te Kavamani, kia tano, kia tukatau ta ratou au akateretereanga. Ae, ko te akakoroanga ia o ta tatou porokaramu Te Kave Korero".



Ladies Lawn Bowls team to the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow 2014

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, MON 8th JUNE 2015

Missing fisherman & nephew found

The happy ending story of the missing pair found by a Royal New Zealand Airforce P3 Orion, and the Takamoā Theological College Students' fundraising tour, were the subject matters on Te Kave Korero on Monday 8th June.

The missing pair from Manihiki was spotted by the Orion in their 16-foot aluminium fishing boat last Sunday afternoon.

An unconfirmed report say that the pair was drifting at sea approximately 34 nautical miles away from Manihiki when they were spotted by the Orion.

Local Manihiki fisherman, Mokoha Johnson and his six year old nephew, Kaina Fieeilis Isaia Karaponga, went missing for two days after the engine on their aluminium boat malfunctioned while out fishing last Saturday morning.

Te Kave Korero spoke to Papa Tarau Kaina grandfather of six year old Karaponga.

In Maori Kaina said that the people of Manihiki were united and came together as a community to support the families of the missing pair. He added that the people ate together, slept together and said prayers together as they waited for

news of the missing pair. When the pair was found and brought to Tukao village in Manihiki in the early hours of Monday morning, the people of Tauhunu village came to Tukao where they said a final prayer service together and also had morning tea together.

"To tatou hiti tangata i runga i te haurunga nei i Manihiki nei, i akamatahanga teia manamanata, mei te mea atu ra, te onohanga, e tahi fare o te tangata e moe ana i te rave i teia angaanga, to matou ngahi i Tukao nei, e noho ana ki roto i to tatou fare, i runga i te uapu, i runga i te Papa o Hamore, ono ai ki te moana, rave ai i te au pure, kakai atu ki reira, moe atu ki reira i roto i teia au tuatau i tupu ai teia akakorohanga. Te pera mai ra te hoire Tauhunu, te noho ra ratou e tahi ngahi, te kaikai atu ra ratou, te rave ra i te pure ki reira, tae hua mai teia au tamariki na tatou ki runga i te henua, momotu mai ratou ki teia hoire i Tukao nei, rave kapipiti ta matou pure hopenga, ta matou katikati inu ti, i roto i teia popongi roa nei".

Kaina said that his grandson was well when he was returned home in the early hours of Monday morning.

"Marohirohi hua i tae mai ai ki a matou.

Teia tamaiti e ono matahiti, mokopuna nei, penei e au tua aronga rai paha no te moana, marohirohi teia tamaiti, mataora tikai i te kite, manako nei matou e, ka amohia, no, he's okay".

Kaina expresses his sincere gratitude and appreciation to all the Manihiki people and the people of the Cook Islands for their support and prayers. He gives a big thank you to the Prime Minister and the Government of the Cook Islands, as well as all church Ministers.

"Te rua o te akameitakihanga, ki to tatou Prime Minister. Ko ia tei oparapara i teia akakorohanga nei ma te piri tikai, mei te tsunami te akatauhanga i te angaanga a to tatou Prime Minister i te akanekehanga, e no tona, no te mea no Manihiki noti nei te Mema, to tatou Prime Minister no reira i pera ai, ka akameitakihia to tatou Prime Minister e tona ruru Minita, te kopapa o te Kuki Airani, tauturu i to tatou Kavamani Kuki Airani.....".

"Akameitakihanga ki te au tavini o te Atua tei rave marohirohi i ta ratou au tuhanga akapumahana".

Six year old Kaina Fieeilis Isaia Karaponga is also a grandchild to Tutakimoa residents Sam and Nga Karaponga.

\$662,000 raised for multi-purpose centre

In the other subject matter, Te Kave Korero spoke to Reverend Iana Aitau, Principal of the Takamoā Theological College, regarding the College Students' fundraising tour to Australia and New Zealand.

Aitau advised that the tour was very successful financially. He said they have raised or brought home with them \$662,000.00 New Zealand dollars.

"Teia te manuia tei rauka mai i a matou, ono anere e ono ngauru ma rua tauasini, moni Nutireni, tei rauka mai i roto i teia tere no ta tatou anau apiianga, kia akameitakiia te Atua, teia maroiroi, no to tatou iti tangata i tera tua, na ratou teia turanga moni i oronga mai ki to tatou tere, ta tatou anau apiianga".

Te Kave Korero believes the \$662,000.00 is the highest amount ever raised by a touring or fundraising group from the Cook Islands.

Asked as to the purpose of the tour Aitau advised that it was to raise funds to build a



Takamoā was the host to last year's Nuku, but also, hosts a number of other events throughout the year.

multi-purpose centre within the Takamoā Theological College grounds.

He said that the centre would comprise of a conference room, a lecture theatre, a hall, a gym, an administration office,

sleeping or accommodation quarters and an achieve unit.

Aitau advised that the cost to build the multi-purpose centre is estimated to be around \$500,000.00 to \$600,000.00.

What is this thing that we call Cook Islands culture?

Part 2

by Te Tuhi Kelly

If you have been to funerals overseas or watched the last rites being performed on TV shows, movies or you are an avid reader, you will notice that those funeral scenes all have a common denominator. This common denominator is about the influence of Christianity on global humanity and in particular the Cook Islands culture. Christianity has had a huge impact on the way in which the death of Cook Islanders is now conducted. I was going to say, celebrated, but this celebration of death not only in the Cook Islands but in many countries to my mind is a myth. The funeral rites for the deceased are now mostly taken over by Christian beliefs which bear no traditional meaning apart from their Christian values and that the attendees are Cook Islanders. The funeral services where the Orometua gets up and talks about celebrating the deceased person's life, usually turn into a message about Christ and the whole funeral bears very little semblance to celebrating the life of the deceased.

If the funeral is held at the deceased family home, the casket is usually inaccessible to friends, family and mourners who sit outside under cover or under the sun. If in a church, the casket is closed. Traditional lore is not in evidence, if it were, the casket would be open in the church or, situated in such a place on the porch of the house so that visitors could meet the deceased's family and other mourners, pay their respects, talk to the deceased's family and the deceased before they moved off the porch. Many don't, many are dissuaded from doing this, many can't be bothered, and many want to shield their children from the deceased's body. Many follow just the way most papa'a do who tend not to let their children attend and if they do they separate them from the physical and emotional contact with the deceased love ones. How many times have you seen where a person has died and their loved one runs to embrace the deceased only to be held back by other people at the scene. Why? Because it will be too upsetting and at funerals, too upsetting for the children to attend. I mean to say they are already upset, it is a normal human reaction and by the way also cathartic. The reality is that it will upset the parents. Most parents do not prepare their children for funerals at all, they either leave them at home or if they take them, they do not tell their children what to expect. Notwithstanding that children are pretty resilient, they bounce back and they need the emotional interaction to prepare them for life. We are emotional creatures and to separate us from our emotions by denying physical and emotional contact with our deceased

ones creates those conditions for people who are not in touch with themselves and others emotionally. You will notice that the standard approach is to scrunch everyone up around the casket so that it is difficult for anyone to come and say their farewells or condolences, because there is little or no room to manoeuvre and hence no flow through of visitor traffic. The ambience for welcoming mourners is at best non-existent or missing. Actually personally paying ones respects to the deceased is not actively discouraged, but neither is it encouraged either. In general paying ones respects is about giving a perfunctory greeting to the deceased usually from a distance rather than actually engaging in conversation with the deceased. Speakers, who get up to make a eulogy about the deceased, make it to the living rather than to the deceased. They use distancing language to eulogise about the deceased. You know the terms such as he, she, him, her, them, or their name, but this korero is addressed to the living. What about addressing the deceased and actually talking to them and telling them how you feel now or felt when they were alive. Isn't this what celebrating the life of the deceased should be all about, you know, including them in the celebration, before their final journey? The person or persons charged with the protocols in such gatherings is unsure and looks for affirmation from others who are also unsure. Or no one has been appointed officially or they give this over to someone who doesn't know what they are supposed to do properly according to traditional lore and so they do it according to an interpretation of Christian lore. Ashes to ashes dust to dust, wow, great. Not.

Christian proceedings are not Cook Islands tradition or culture; they are an inherited set of belief systems from the 19th century. God, Christ or Jesus is the central figure also included is the triumvirate of the father, son and the Holy Ghost. Christian practices or processes are then used by papa'a who were in the presence of greatness and who transcribed their words of wisdom onto tablets to deify and worship in his name. Here in the Cook Islands they seem to have forgotten how to follow traditional lore properly and if they want to do this, they come up against the prejudices of family, Christians and others. Having been witness to a number of funerals recently and overhearing the deceased family asking their uncles what they should be doing about the casket arrangement, showed how uncertain they all were including the uncles about traditional lore attached to Polynesian funerals. Thus what starts out as well intentioned celebrating the life of the deceased, quickly turns into celebrating

Christian values and the evils of what people are doing. What is even more disturbing is if the deceased has a final wish stating they want everyone to be in colour and songs are to be lively and in celebration of life, and what happens? the Christian traditionalists turn up in black. They then pass disparaging remarks against those in colours or for wearing the wrong attire. They influence or encourage the mourners to play hymns and dirges of a sombre note and I thought this was about celebrating the deceased person's life and their final wishes. So instead of celebrating the deceased person's life, the whole affair is made depressing by those in black who treat the deceased's last wishes with disdain. Added to this they all tend to fall under the spell of the Orometua who then tends to dominate the proceedings with bible scripture and as a consequence they all join in a mockery or parody of celebrating the deceased person's life.

The karakia, which is now called pure' shows how engrained Christianity is in the Cook Islands. It demonstrates how Christianity has separated the people from their traditional belief systems including their culture and their attachment and connection to the land. It has set Christian values against non-Christian values and at the same time tended to marginalise those who would offer an alternative view. The Christian god is not in or on the land; he is supposedly everywhere but generally up there, where ever there is. Traditional lore beliefs place Atua or gods on or in the land which makes our connection more real with our Polynesian culture than does Christianity. Unlike the Christian God, Atua is real; you can see it, touch it, talk to it and know that it sits on the whenua proclaiming to all, its significance, its physical presence is reassuring.

Thus our status as caregivers and caretakers of the land and our spiritual connection to it is guaranteed by the reverence we give to the land which owns us and not the other way round as papa'a and many Cook Islands land owners think. That is why we have so much trouble with land today because we believe that we own it when the reality is a lot simpler if we say the land owns us, like a parent-child relationship. That simple reverse look then places the onus on everyone to make sure that we look after the land or the parent. Currently our doctrine is that land is the child and we are the parent and the child has to be trained, shaped, brought into line, coerced and manipulated to do our calling. Thus as a parent we make the rules by pulling down the hillsides to use as fill, or to shape it flat for development or fill in the streams. We neglect to do our homework

continued next page

because unknowingly we have levelled a hill which used to deflect flood waters away from our settlement and now with it being flat and the streams filled in, the flood waters now carve a new channel through our homes and our village.

So this thing we call the culture of the Cook Islands is really just cultural entertainment. Culture as we know it is just a former shadow of how we once lived and there will be people out there who will say thank goodness we don't live that way again and we live much better now. Well it depends on your perception of what is 'good and right' rather than 'good and might'. I know there are people who will disagree with my article and some will be saying that I am mistaken. The question I ask then is, when the missionaries first arrived on Rarotonga, did they show respect to our culture and our ways of life. I can tell you they didn't; they did everything in their power to ensure we adopted one set of value beliefs for another. Well some of you will say, it happened a long time ago, I had nothing to do with it and it is for the better. Unfortunately whether you or I agree or disagree, we wear the legacy of both the assets and the liability because of those historical events. Those missionaries changed our belief systems by learning our culture, creating a written language and thereby changing or influencing how we spoke reo and by training our people to deliver God's message to us through connecting religion to our spiritual beliefs, starting with our paramount leaders. Then it wasn't too long before we adopted the Westminster or English law and created the conditions for the demise of our Cook Islands culture. Eventually as our traditional leaders woke up to what was happening to them, it was too late. Ordinary rikiriki got into parliament and through deceit legislated through the House of Ariki's Act 1966 how our traditional leaders were to conduct themselves, turning them into kowtowing welfare beneficiaries of the Cook Islands Government. At the same time the creation of the Koutunui a house of lesser traditional leaders further put a nail in the coffin of the mana of the Ui Ariki. We had given up a

silk purse of traditional law for a sow's ear of papa'a law and we had done it to ourselves. We then set up the conditions for political competition between constituents which helped continue and support the conditions for cronyism at a new level of graft. Then we couldn't decide for ourselves how we were going to manage our land equitably so we gave that up to Cook Islands law and created generations of disenfranchised and landless Cook Islanders as well as a money-go-round grievance industry for our lawyers. With the adoption of capitalism we gave up our subsistence farming for tourism which is subject to global variables. Pretty depressing isn't it? That's what we have inherited as our forefather's legacy. I am sure that many rikiriki out there will be taking some aspects of this article as a personal affront but consider this, I believe that:

- They will be saying this while they wear cheap clothing made by sweat shop labour out of third world countries.
- They will be saying this while drinking alcohol that was manufactured by cheap labour under horrendous conditions and imported blended and mixed in NZ, Aus or the US.
- They will be saying this while walking on carpet made in India by hand and by child slave labour.
- They will say this while eating imported food that was manufactured by energy consuming manufacturing processes causing green house gases.
- They will say this while eating meat and chicken produced on US farms using drugs, growth factors and antibiotics to enhance their growth.
- They will say this while eating imported vegetables and fruit grown on land with inorganic fertilisers and herbicide and pesticide sprays that enter the water table and leach out into the ocean which affects the food chain.
- They will be saying this while their children are jobless, ill from being overweight; living on welfare payments and handouts and not teaching them proper sex education.
- They will say this while justifying their mistreatment of

their enfeebled or disabled iti tangata.

- They will be saying this while church constituents are wallowing in despair because they gave their tithe money to the church rather than paying their bills or keeping a roof over their heads and food and clothing on their children.
- They will be saying this while they keep silent about domestic violence and child and sexual abuse in their homes or the homes of their iti tangata and do absolutely nothing about it.
- They will be saying this while knowing their iti tangata or others are burglarising and terrorising the community and tourists.
- They will be saying this while the poor treatment of foreign workers in the Cook Islands is a disgrace.
- They will be saying this while espousing their Christian beliefs and faith.

So to use a well known verse, "let he who has not sinned, cast the first stone" and therefore show me that you have no knowledge of what I have just described and I will show you a hypocrite with selective memory

loss.

This article and the many I have written before shows how passionate I am about maintaining traditional lore. Our current obsession with the maintenance of a culture of law and order under English law in the Cook Islands is not working, despite almost 150 years of contact with papa'a culture, English law and Christianity. We have gained some benefits in that time and now have a semblance of civilisation about us but I can't help feeling that along the way we lost something in the exchange. As a nation we are struggling to keep up with the Joneses and all because we accepted an exclusive deal at the cost of our lore, a sow's ear for a silk purse. Funnily enough the tradition of biting the sow's ear in the Cook Islands during traditional leader investitures came into vogue post 1975. Finally if I appear to be having a go at some ingrained beliefs, then that is the nature of reasoned debate and you need to know what you don't know to be able to comment authoritatively, not everything is the gospel truth you know.

The Niuean cousins

By Hayley McNabb

It has been such a quiet week at home since the 11 members of my Niuean family travelled back to their home in Niue. After a week and a bit of their stay in the beautiful Rarotonga they were all truly blessed and thankful for coming here. It was also an amazing time to get to meet and spend time with them. They were very surprised about a lot of things while they were here. Like the fact that we are allowed to drive around on Sundays because they said back in Niue they're not allowed to do anything except go to church and also that we are allowed to go swimming in our everyday clothes and when it's raining. Two of their favourite places to go to on their holiday was Reefside and of course the Palace. I think one of my cousins got about four iced coffees a day because he loves them so much and filled the rubbish bin with empty cups of them. As well as that they would always go to Palace and get the best cheese burgers as they called it. They said they enjoyed them because they're bigger, better and cheaper than the ones you get in Niue. As well as all the food they ate, they did plenty of shopping for one of my cousins who are getting married at the end of the year and also for themselves. They nearly all went back with a whole new wardrobe. I showed them Wigmore's waterfall one day but they didn't really think much of it as the water was so cold but despite that, they were really impressed by the other things they did like the tour, buffet and show at Te Vara Nui, the nights out at Rehab, the Punanga Nui market on Saturday and a whole lot more. So after the non-stop questions and loud talking it was finally time to say goodbye to them last Wednesday as they came to the end of their holiday. I was a bit sad to let them go because now my nana and I don't have anyone else to talk to besides each other. But anyways it was such a memorable time getting to know my family better and now it's my turn to visit them sometime in Niue.

Government offer to Takuvaive Landowners involved in Te Mato Vai

Following the airing of Takuvaive Landowners concerns at the manner in which government approached the issue of acquiring land for upgrading the water intakes under Te Mato Vai water project, and Landowners proposal to seek court action, government has now made an offer. This offer is set out below in a letter from the CIIC to Landowners dated 4 June 2015. A draft of a proposed Deed setting out terms is also reproduced on pages 17 and 18. The Deed also sets out proposed charges for water and payments to landowners.

4 June 2015
Representatives of Land Owners Land at Takuvaive Intake Rarotonga

Dear Landowners,
RE: TE MATO VAI PROJECT- PROPOSED WORKS AT INTAKE- OBJECTIONS PROCESS

We refer to your objection filed at Te Mato Vai PMU office on 16 February 2015. We understand that the objections, for the most part, were reluctantly filed and then only in response to the Notice advertised in the Cook Islands News on 20 November 2014 declaring certain lands required for water works. We understand that for most of the Landowners this caused considerable offence. We apologise for the offence caused but reassure the landowners that the filing of objections was not only expected but helpful in establishing more formal dialogue with landowners affected.

Since then we would like to think that through the various meetings and presentations together we have made considerable progress in:

- Disseminating correct information on what work is actually intended;
- What land will be affected;
- What land is actually required
- Identifying Landowner's concerns;
- Identifying Landowner's position including but not limited to their reasonable requirements to participate in the project and
- Reaching agreement to address the above.

We understand from our meeting with you on the 18th May 2015, that the Landowners have agreed in principle to "park" their formal written Objections to one side for the time being, intimating that, subject to what happens from here on in the Objections may become

redundant and if agreement can be reached as to compensation and outstanding matters, then the Objections will be formally withdrawn.

Going forward then we understand generally that the issues that were identified from consultation with landowners include but may not be limited to:

- i. An acknowledgement that the Landowners' use and enjoyment of their land will necessarily be injured and affected over the time taken to construct the intended Waterworks;
- ii. An acknowledgement that once construction of the water works is complete, there will be ongoing loss of enjoyment by the Landowners to the extent that the land is occupied by structures or by treatment processing and storage facilities, or is otherwise fenced or subject to restricted access to ensure the security of those facilities;
- iii. Fair compensation for damages to the land and environment acknowledging

that Landowners have rights of compensation for damage under the Rarotonga Water Ordinance;

- iv. Fair compensation for use of the land, acknowledging that Landowners have further rights under the Cook Islands Constitution and the Cook Islands Act 1915 where land is taken for public purposes;
- v. In respect of ii above Land owners do not want a one off payment but would like an annual fee in perpetuity;
- vi. The Water Authority, that is to be established to manage and administer the water works, must always be Government owned;
- vii. The Water Authority must always own the assets;
- viii. The Water Authority cannot sell any of the assets;
- ix. The Water Authority must operate on a not for profit basis, that is to just cover the reasonable annual operating costs including the amount of the through put fee to Landowners;
- x. Tariff for water usage will be introduced;
- xi. Residential households

will not be charge a tariff until 3 years time;

- xii. Resident households will be given an allowance before water charges start;
- xiii. If Tariff increase so will the through put fee to landowners;
- xiv. Landowner may wish to create a trust; and
- xv. Government to grant such trust charitable status.

Please now find attached a draft agreement for discussion with your landowner families which we hope addresses for the most part the issues outstanding. We understand that you will require some time to discuss the draft and consider the offer therein. We understand and expect that there may be some revising of the draft. We invite all and any reasonable suggestions and advise that we can and will be available to meet with you if that is of assistance.

Yours faithfully
Tamarai Tutangata
Chairperson - Te Mato Vai
Legal Workstream

Government Deed

THIS DEED made the d a y of 2015

BETWEEN COOK ISLANDS INVESTMENT CORPORATION (C//C) a statutory corporation established by the Cook Islands Investment Corporation Act 1998; AND of R arotonga (the Landowners)

A. CIIC manages certain assets held by the Cook Islands Government Property Corporation for the Government of the Cook Islands, including the waterworks and water installations on the island of Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. It does this under the Cook Island Government

Property Corporation Act 1969 and Cook Islands Investment Corporation Act 1998.

B. The Landowners are the landowners of lands situated in the Takuvaive valley. In this Deed those lands are more particularly described (by name, section number and extent affected by this Deed) in the annexed Land Schedule. They are referred to as "the Landowners' Land

C. As required by section 4 of the Rarotonga Waterworks Ordinance 1960 ("the Ordinance"), notice has been given of an intention to use the water in the Takuvaive valley. CIIC now plans to

authorise contractors, acting under its authority, to enter the Landowners' Land for the purpose of constructing the waterworks specified in the notice that applies to the valley ("the Waterworks").

D. The Landowners have rights of compensation for damage under the Ordinance, and have further rights under the Cook Islands Constitution and the Cook Islands Act 1915 where land is taken for public purposes.

E. CIIC acknowledges the Landowners' use and enjoyment of the Landowners' Land will necessarily be

injured and affected over the time taken to construct the intended Waterworks.

F. CIIC also acknowledges that once construction is complete, there will be ongoing loss of enjoyment by the Landowners to the extent the land is occupied by structures, or by treatment, processing and storage facilities, or is otherwise fenced or subject to restricted access to ensure the security of those facilities.

G. The Landowners have agreed to compromise their rights of compensation from Government, on the terms and conditions of this deed.

H. The Landowners have further agreed to be represented by (together with their respective executors, administrators, successors and assigns) in giving effect to this Agreement.

DEED

Authority to enter

1. The landowners now authorise CIIC by its servants, agents and contractors to enter the Landowners' Land for the purpose of constructing the Waterworks as specified in the notices that apply to the Takuvaine valley. 2. This authorisation is not intended as an alienation within the meaning of the Cook Islands Act 1915; instead, the Landowners confirm that CIIC is entitled, in terms of the Ordinance, to construct the Waterworks on the Landowners' Land and to enter on that land for that purpose.

Compensation for damage

3. The Landowners reserves all their rights to claim compensation for unnecessary or unreasonable damage to the Landowners' land of any sort.

4. If the parties cannot agree whether damage was unnecessary or unreasonable, that issue will be determined by the High Court in proceedings to seek compensation under the terms of the Ordinance.

4. The Landowners now acknowledge:

a) the Waterworks will require earthworks, the removal of vegetation, the digging and reinstatement of trenches, and permanent but minimal alterations to the streambed in the valley.

b) this work is intended for the public good and benefit, in terms of improving the quality, quantity and reliability of the public water supply for the island of Rarotonga.

c) work will be carried out only in the terms of a Project Permit issued under the Environment Act 2003, setting out the requirements of the National Environment Service in terms of environmental protection; and the Building Control and Standards Act 1991 in terms of construction.

d) CIIC will require contractors to undertake the work with minimal damage to land, streambed, vegetation and foliage (including but not limited to established and mature trees whether native or exotic) and will dispose of all removed vegetation, timber, construction materials and waste in an environmentally responsible way. CIIC will make sure this is all done to the specific requirements of this Deed and as documented in the EIA associated with the Waterworks.

e) Following completion of the Waterworks, the landowner's Land will be landscaped and replanted in a manner that is set out in the Project Permit and/or the specific clauses in the Environmental Impact Assessment for restoration.

5. The Landowners are entitled to oversee compliance with this Deed and to be consulted as this Deed requires.

6. The Landowners must be consulted by any contractor wishing to materially alter the Landowners' Land, to trim, remove, uproot or destroy vegetation of any sort before that work is undertaken.

7. The Landowners now confirm where damage

does occur, it will not be considered, by the Landowners, to be unnecessary or unreasonable where that work is carried out strictly

a) in accordance with the terms of the relevant contract relating to environmental safeguards; and

b) in compliance with the Project Permit and its associated Environmental Impact Assessment; and

c) where there has been prior consultation with the Landowner.

6. CIIC and the Landowners agree that the authorisation granted by clause 1 applies only in respect of the term of the contract relating to the relevant Waterworks (including any extension of that contract). Once the Waterworks are completed, CIIC, by its servants or agents and contractors will, in the future, enjoy a right of way for the purpose of access to and from the completed Waterworks for the purposes of inspection, maintenance and repair. Further earthworks and waterworks of any description must be separately negotiated with the Landowners or their successors in title.

Compensation for loss of property rights

7. CIIC and Government agencies generally, have made certain representations to the public and the Landowners regarding Government's plans to impose water rates or other charges for water taken from the valley in which the Landowners' land is situated. In summary those representations (that CIIC now repeats) are that:

the provision of safe, reliable and clean water, in the context of Government's Te Mato Vai project, will need water rates or similar charges to be paid by consumers;

those charges will be set at an affordable level for consumers;

those charges will only be as reasonably needed for the ongoing maintenance repair and upgrade of the waterworks;

Government will operate the Rarotonga water system on a "not for profit" basis;

the commercial operation of that system will instead be focused on the social responsibility of Government to make sure the completed water system is technically and economically sustainable, as a matter of Government's social responsibility to the people of Rarotonga;

Government will not sell or privatise either the whole or any substantial part of the Rarotonga water system but will instead retain it as a public utility;

Government will not abuse its dominant position in the marketplace in the supply of water;

Government will not legislate to create a monopoly (or in a way that has the practical or commercial effect of creating) a monopoly over the use of water.

8. The Landowners now act in reliance of those representations, and their continuing accuracy in compromising the Landowners' right to compensation.

9. Specifically, for so long as those representations remain a true reflection of circumstances, the Landowners will not pursue, but will instead reserve, the Landowners' right to seek compensation, whether:

under the provisions of the Cook Islands Act 1915, or

under the general provisions of any other statutory law or rule of common law or equity.

10. In consideration of the Landowners not, now, pursuing compensation, CIIC:

expressly waives any

limitation, laches,waiver or estoppel defence to a future claim for compensation that might otherwise be statute barred or otherwise resisted by reason of the passage of time; and promises that CIIC will consult with the Landowners before Government makes any decision that might lead to one or more of those representations becoming inaccurate; and agrees to pay a Throughput Royalty (see below) to the Takuvaine Valley Environment Trust (see below).
Valley Environment Trust and Throughput Royalty

11. The parties agree, in respect of the Takuvaine valley:

the Waterworks will carry water that is collected from the whole watershed upstream of the Waterworks intake; and every landowner of that watershed is entitled to the water collected, and in choosing not to do so and instead allowing the water to flow on to the Waterworks intake, acts for the public benefit; and every landowner of the watershed downstream of the Waterworks intake acts for the public benefit in accepting the reduced flows downstream in the valley; and both parties to this Deed, Government generally, and the public, all have an interest in making sure the Takuvaine valley's environment is protected and enhanced through active management; and if CIIC pays a small throughput fee for the water taken from the valley, that fee can be used to fund an environmental trust, managed by landowners of the Takuvaine valley, and applied to address a range of environmental issues in the Takuvaine valley.

12. Subject to the establishment of a charitable trust in terms reasonably acceptable to it for the environmental care of the valley watershed (with particular emphasis on the watershed above the Waterworks intake, but not confined to that part of

the valley) CIIC now agrees that in consideration of the Landowner's promises in this Deed, it will pay a Throughput Royalty calculated at the rate of ZERO DECIMAL FIVE {0.5} CENTS per hundred cubic metres of water received into the Waterworks.

13. That trust will have charitable status (and CIIC will ensure that status is recognised for taxation purposes) and will be known as the Takuvaine Valley Environment Trust [maori equivalent]

14. CIIC will insure that accurate metering is installed to make sure the Throughput Royalty can be calculated. The Throughput Royalty will be paid to the Takuvaine Valley Environment Trust every six months in arrears, on the first day of February (for the 6 month period July to December inclusive of the previous year) and the first day of August (for the 6 month period January to June inclusive of the same year) in each calendar year.

15. If there is any dispute as to the form of the deed constituting the Takuvaine Valley Environment Trust, that dispute will be resolved:

if it relates to purely environmental matters, by Gerald McCormack, of Rarotonga, naturalist, acting as an expert not an arbitrator:

if it relates to a purely legal drafting matter, by a solicitor nominated for that purpose by the President for the time being of the Cook Islands Law Society, similarly acting as an expert not as an arbitrator;

if it is of mixed subject matter, then Gerald McCormack and that Law Society representative shall, as experts, jointly resolve that issue.

16. Each party agrees that this Deed relies on good faith and the prompt resolution of any disputes, time being of the

essence. If a dispute (other than as to the form of a deed for the Valley Environment Trust) arises between the parties concerning the interpretation or performance of this Deed the parties shall, prior to initiating any formal legal proceedings, each appoint a representative (empowered to make binding decisions on behalf of the relevant party) and such representatives shall meet as soon as is practical (but in any event within 72 hours of either party invoking this procedure) with a view to resolving the dispute in front of John Kenning acting as a mediator.

17. Each party agrees that the appointment of the representative and the scheduling of the meeting shall be undertaken promptly and in good faith. If those representatives fail to agree on a resolution within three days of the first meeting then the parties shall be free to commence formal legal proceedings or move forward as they see fit. Nothing in this clause however shall prevent either party from applying to the High Court in any appropriate case requiring urgent or injunctive relief.

18. This Agreement is governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the Cook Islands and

the parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Courts of the Cook Islands in all matters touching on the construction and performance of this agreement.

EXECUTED as a deed by the parties

THE COMMON SEAL of the COOK ISLANDS INVESTMENT CORPORATION was hereunto affixed in the presence of:

Michael Henry
Chairman

Tamarii Tutangata
Chief executive Officer

SIGNED by

in the presence of:

Witness signature Witness Name Witness Occupation Witness Address who certifies that have knowledge of the English language sufficient to enable them to understand the meaning and effect of this deed and that they fully understood the meaning and effect of this deed before they executed the deed (attached to which was, at the time of signing, a plan of the Land).

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How to earn the respect of others

Part 2

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

In Part 1 of this two Part article of Encouragement I stated that some people in society are not getting the respect that they expect to get from others because of their attitude. Yet they wanted people to respect them.

In Part 1, the key to good reputation is character! Reputation is what people say about you. Character is what you really are in the inside! Our character produces respect. The question is "What Character or Behaviour, produces respect?" The Book of Proverbs says that we are to speak with Integrity or Honesty; and to serve with Intensity; and to share with Generosity; and in our successes we are to remain HUMBLE.

In Part 1 the first two lessons we looked at were;

Lesson 1, SPEAKING WITH INTEGRITY or HONESTY according to Proverbs 17v.7 (GN) "Respected people do not tell lies." Furthermore, Proverbs 10v.9 (GN) reads "The man of integrity walks securely." In other words, integrity or honesty produces reliability and stability.

Lesson 2, SERVING WITH INTENSITY This means desiring to help others, serving others, doing good, and 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. The Apostle Paul said in Colossians 3v.23 "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." Proverbs 11v.27 (GN) reads "If your goals are

good, you will be respected."

Lesson 3 is SHARING WITH GENEROSITY. People who are respected are 'Generous people!' Psalm 112v.9 (GN) reads "He who gives generously to the needy and shows kindness will be powerful and respected." There are two kinds of people, there are the "takers" and there are the "givers". Proverbs 11v.25 reads "A generous man will prosper, and he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."

Lesson 4 is "in all of our successes we are to remain 'humble'. In other words SUCCEEDING IN HUMILITY. Proverbs 29v.23 (GN) reads "Arrogance will bring your downfall, but if you are humble, you will be respected." In I Peter 5v.5 it reads "...to clothe yourself with humility." Arrogant attitude turns people off! But humility attracts them! Humility does not mean ignoring the successes in your life, it just means sharing the credit, acknowledge the contribution made by others, your wife; your children, the family, your friends!

Above all, we must realize that so much of what we have was because of Gods intervention! Proverbs 3v.5-6 reads "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your path." Proverbs 10v.7 (GN) reads "Good people will be remembered as a blessing, but the wicked will soon be forgotten."

The question is "What do you want to be remembered for in life?" "How about your parents?" "your children?"

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



"your friends?" Do you want others to remember you as an "uncaring person?" or "a selfish type person?" The good type response would be something like..."My wife is a caring person!" or "She's a great mum!" or "He's a great dad!" and so on. Romans 8v.29 tells us that God purposed for our lives to be more like Christ. Romans 12v.2 reads "And do not be conformed to this

world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Jesus is our model. Speak with Integrity & Honesty; Serve with Intensity; Share with Generosity; Succeed with Humility.

May this article be an encouragement to you throughout your life. God bless. Te Atua te aroa!

Coping with stress

By *Teherenui Koteka*

Recently I have found it a little harder than usual to cope with my work load. I have found that my school work has really taken up a great deal of my time. Now-a-days although I am still managing to maintain and successfully manage my time, I feel as though I may be under a bit of stress. I figure that if I feel stressed from time to time, surely other students must feel the same pressure. Today I would just like to share a couple of way to cope with stress.

Coping with stress is something everyone struggles with from time to time. It is of an upmost importance to know when you have reached your limits, pushing yourself too hard often results in even more stress. Also if your mind is not in an appropriate state to take on more of a workload the chances are, the work you do complete will be incorrect. Here are a couple of ways I cope with stress.

Always take little breaks: Now don't take this the wrong way I'm not saying completely ditch your responsibilities, do not use this as an excuse to slack off and go and play video games, just take small breaks when you feel yourself getting frustrated. I find that I often feel frustrated when my workload becomes a bit too heavy. For example just the other night I was completing an assessment when I found myself getting frustrated at the computer for playing up. When you are under stress you tend to get frustrated at the tiniest things, it could be the spacebar not working or the internet being too slow, but either way it is best to take a break. If you find yourself getting a bit agitated just take a deep breath and step away from the laptop for a few minutes.

Paint my nails: It may seem silly but I find painting my nails to be therapeutic. Sometimes I think finding a little distraction from what is really important is a great way to deal with stress. I have noticed that a lot of my friends also find painting their nails therapeutic. Having to focus on getting that brush stroke perfect really takes my mind off whatever else is going on. The rhythmic stroking combined with the light chemical smell of the nail polish is quite calming. And then of course waiting for them to dry provides the perfect opportunity for you to gather up all your thoughts and put them into something that makes a lot more sense.

Sometimes we all just need to take a breather, especially in times where we are incredibly stressed out. I hope these tips are equally as helpful to you as they are to me.

Budget 2015/16 - record marketing budget for tourism

Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism, the Honourable Henry Puna, today announced a further \$950,000 per annum ongoing for marketing activities. The Cook Islands Tourism Corporation will be provided with \$14.7 million over three years to ensure the destination remains competitive and provides economic returns to the country.

In announcing the increase, the Prime Minister reiterated the importance of tourism to the Cook Islands economy.

"Tourism is directly responsible for contributing 60 per cent of our GDP, we are in an increasingly competitive environment with other countries for tourism, particularly those that come in on the underwritten flights from Los Angeles and Sydney."

Chairman of the Cook Islands Tourism Corporation, Mr Ewan Smith welcomed the increase outlining the significant challenge and opportunities which arise from the inevitable change in the fleet that will service those routes.

"This brings the challenge of filling an additional 3,500 seats on the Sydney route and 4,000 seats on the Los Angeles route. Ultimately the new economics of these planes, means that if they are filled then there should be a significant reduction in the overall cost of the underwrite of these two routes, and obviously increased revenue into the economy."

The Cook Islands Tourism Corporation will be working with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management to target a medium term strategy to manage down the cost of the underwrite.

Increased support for vanilla growers in 2015/16 Budget

The Government of the Cook Islands will provide \$350,000 over two years to support vanilla growers in the Cook Islands.

In announcing the additional funding, Minister for Agriculture, the Honourable Kiriau Turepu outlined the need for support.

"Raising the production of export quality vanilla is a key initiative for the Ministry of Agriculture. Additional resourcing of \$100,000 will be provided over two years to assist the Ministry to obtain technical assistance in the area and a further \$150,000 will be provided to the revolving credit scheme which currently contains \$100,000 which will free up almost \$250,000 in concessional funding for vanilla growers."

"I have been impressed with the plans that have been prepared by a number of farmers. We can grow export quality vanilla and this money will help growers position themselves, and I hope we can use these funds in a coordinated manner with FAO funding which has been provided to the Chamber of Commerce to improve agricultural outcomes."

The Ministry of Agriculture will consult with farmers and the optimal manner by which assistance will be provided in 2015/16 and 2016/17.

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Since Parliament was dissolved on 16 April 2014 till 10 June 2015, a total of 410 days, Parliament has sat for 8 days. Recently there were General Elections in the UK, after three weeks their Parliament sat. In New Zealand all issues related to the General Elections including coalition arrangements were completed in less than 10 days. The NZ Parliament expects to sit for 89 days in 2015. MPs are engaged in select committee work for much of the year with little down or idle time except to return to their constituencies for local work during the week ends. With no sittings or select committee meetings what's the point in having a Parliament with three people, Elvis, Marki and Neneva running the Country who needs the rest of them?



Most Minitas or officials would be happy to travel on a freebie with perks half way around the world to attend a meeting in the Republic of Kazakhstan but not our new Minita of Sport the champion coach from the swamp Albelas who has turned down an invitation from the World Anti doping Agency and staying at the Ritz Carlton Hotel. Albelas says international travel is like golf, once you start you can't stop; travel addiction prevention is better than the painful cold chook cure. Watch then non minister MPs put up their hands and feet to be his Associate Minister; they'll get to go on all the sports trips, hello Olympics.



The dithering Demos can scratch their testicles no more. Scotty J. has laid it all out for them to follow if they want to change the government and he isn't getting paid. After lurking around political troughs for 15 years hello Drolley the \$1200 a 20 hour a week failure specialist still couldn't come up with a game plan but he'll snatch the glory for any success. After three Election failures



hello Drolley still hasn't given account of his inability to read the political signs. Then again the Demos are so dumb they reward failure and despise success, success means hello Drolley will have to actually do some work for his money.



Some private sector types are moaning that Tourism Corp's latest marketing gamble involving the term "Kia Orana" and having pride in your nation strategy, is just a cheap re-vamp of the "Destination Cooks" strategy which belly flopped. Seems the "National pride" based marketing drive is based on rectifying visitor complaints. National pride stuff does not work as we are an island based and village based society. Nationalism is not a marketable strategy. Not after that hot head with the Charlie Chaplin moustache gave it a bad name. Also, if ministries did their jobs properly, Tourism Corp would not have to step in to address visitor complaints about trash, pollution, mosquitoes, flies, dogs, petty crime, noise and high costs!



Whisper is our high flying Auckland Consul General protested loudly at not getting an invite to an exclusive high powered chin wag with the PM recently! It seems the organizers deemed she was not important enough! Seems the organizers only wanted

"important" Cookies at the pow wow! What's wong with that? Perhaps the position of Consul General is not so rosey after all!



Kiwis go into local shop, the items they want to buy are not available so they walk out. Revenue for shop owner? Zilch. Aussies go into same shop. What they want is no longer available. All sold out. Aussies however, look around then buy something else. Curious cats Aussies never leave a shop empty handed. Revenue for shop owner? Over \$300. (A true story).



These budget, low spending Kiwis are not making us rich. Two budget, low spending, miserly Kiwis went to a local eatery and ordered 4 tacos. When the rather large, costly looking tacos arrived, the spend conscious, penny pinching Kiwis claimed they only ordered two tacos! What cheap skates? What did the Chef do? Throw a fit? Throw them out? No, he was most courteous and smiling, he graciously removed two of the four tacos.



Speaking of miserly, penny pinching, budget bums from Kiwiland, it's time government stopped them from bringing in food in their suitcases. Make these

lowlifes go to a local shop and buy food. Any food in Kiwi baggage should be confiscated and donated to the not so well off. Locals to be exempt from this rule because most of our food is imported from Kiwiland at outrageous costs.



This is the sort of visitor we need chooks, one who tips staff generously so as to push their pay packets up a bit! Well to do guest at a Muri Resort tipped the staff \$1,000 so it is reported. However it is not known how many staff shared this pot of gold and how much each staff member ended up pocketing. One thing's for sure, tips are taxable so watch out for the taxman! Red alert! Red alert! Here comes Haigh Man!

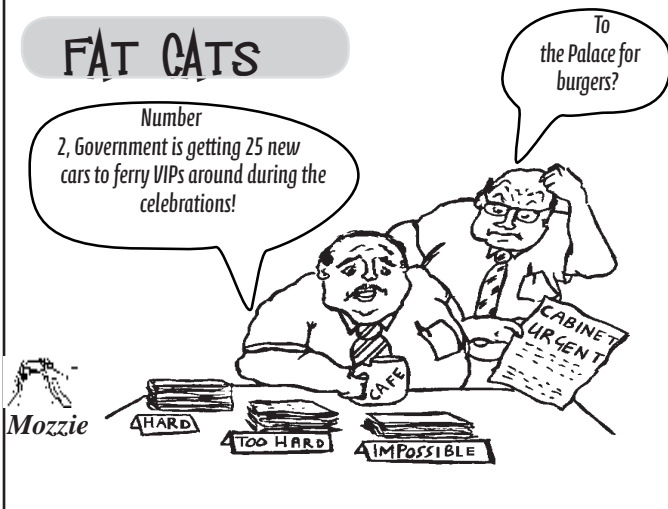


Here come the French! Yes chooks, it's the Froggies to the rescue! Seems outer islanders will get to Te Maeva Nui after all courtesy of the French! But chooks what does this say for our close relationship with Kiwiland? Back in the late 1880s it was the Kiwis who came, at the UK's request, to protect us against a possible Tricolor takeover. Yes we could have been eating snails and garlic today. Now here we are thrusting our begging bowl under French noses to pati pati a ride to the celebrations!

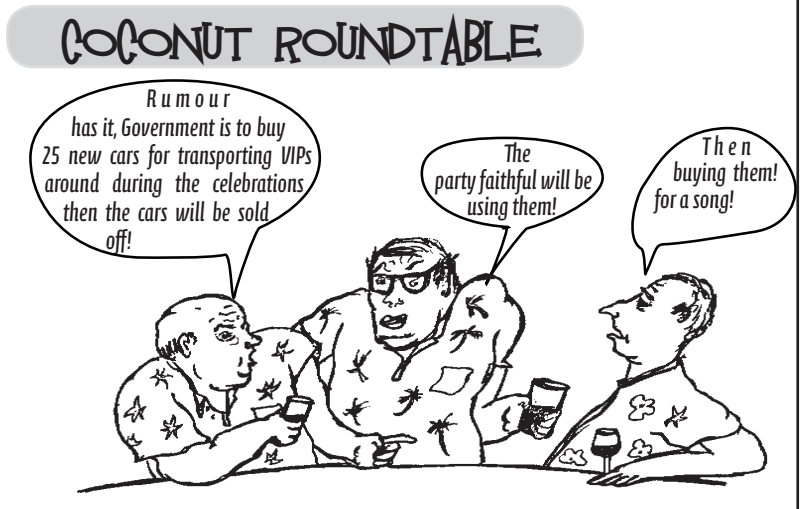


Whisper is government is to buy 25 new cars to cart VIPs about during the celebrations, then flog them off afterwards to the highest bidder! For around \$25,000 you may be lucky to get one. Lucky because an army of public servants flashing dollar bills are likely to be ahead of you!

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**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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PRHG currently owns and operates 3 of the country's leading properties. We are currently seeking an experienced Management Accountant for our Sales & Support office.

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- Strong analytical and problem solving skills

If you want to be part of a high performing team, please email work@pacificresort.com with your CV, cover letter and references.

Breakthrough offers hope for prostate cancer cure

By Sarah Knapton
1:00 PM Friday May 22, 2015

Scientists discover genetic background to disease - and treatments are already available. Photo / Thinkstock

Thousands of men suffering from advanced prostate cancer have been offered new hope of a cure after scientists discovered the genetic cause behind 90 per cent of tumours.

Nine out of 10 cases of late stage prostate cancer can now be linked to changes in the DNA of sufferers. In some cases, there are already drugs to tackle those genetic defects which are being used for other cancers.

Scientists said the breakthrough was like uncovering the "Rosetta Stone" for prostate cancer, in reference to the stone tablet which helped Egyptologists break the code of hieroglyphics. The research was hailed by charities as "incredibly exciting".

The study was led in the UK by scientists at The Institute of Cancer Research, London, in collaboration with researchers from eight academic clinical trial centres around the world.

Researchers said that doctors could now start testing for the mutations and give patients with advanced prostate cancer existing drugs or drug combinations which are known to target the specific genomic aberrations.

"Our study shines new light on the genetic complexity of prostate cancer as it develops and spreads, revealing it to be not a single disease, but many diseases each driven by their own set of mutations," said Johann de Bono, professor of experimental cancer medicine at The Institute of Cancer Research, London, and consultant at The Royal Marsden in London.

"We're describing this study as prostate cancer's Rosetta Stone - because of the ability it gives us to decode the complexity of the disease, and to translate the results into personalised

treatment plans for patients."

Nearly 50,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer each year in the UK and more than 10,000 will die from it.

Doctors from the Royal Marsden and hospitals in the US studied the genetic make-up of 150 tumours from patients with advanced prostate cancer and a slim chance of survival.

Nearly two thirds of the men in the study had mutations in a molecule that interacts with the male hormone androgen which can already be targeted by current drugs.

Around 20 per cent of patients also had mutations in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes. They are known to raise the risk of breast and ovarian cancer and there are already drugs to help.

The researchers also found for the first time that some people are born with genes which predispose them to prostate cancer, meaning that screening programmes could be effective at preventing the disease. Professor Paul Workman, chief executive and president of The Institute of Cancer Research, London, said: "These findings could make a real difference to large numbers of patients."

In the next phase of the study, researchers will genetically sequence tumour cells from at least 500 patients and follow the course of their disease to see how they respond to personalised treatments.

Charities described the work as ground breaking and said it was particularly exciting because changes to treatment could happen almost immediately.

Dr Iain Frame, Director of Research at Prostate Cancer UK said: "This is incredibly exciting and ground breaking research. It suggests for the first time the list of genetic mutations to search for in order to build up a blueprint of a man's prostate cancer once it has spread."

The research was published in the journal Cell.

- Daily Telegraph UK



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.

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NOTICE TO CINSF REGISTERED EMPLOYERS

Effective 1 July 2015 penalty charges will be applied to employers that are not complying with the CINSAct 2000. This directly affects CINSF Registered Employers that have elected to cease payments to their employee's superannuation accounts.

Penalties applied are in accordance with sections 52 and 67 of the CINS Act 2000.

Penalty payments are credited to your employee's superannuation accounts.

For more information please contact the CINSF Office on ph25515 or email: enquiry@superfund.gov.ck

FOOTBALL UPDATE

Women's World Cup brings new records

With no senior men's tournament to take centre stage, record after record looks set to be smashed at the women's World Cup in Canada which began at the weekend.

A new attendance record of 53,058 was set at Edmonton's Commonwealth Stadium for the opening game between the hosts and China, the largest crowd to ever watch a national team in any sport in Canada.

Four years ago, more than 400 million viewers tuned into the tournament in Germany and predictions are that this could more than double in Canada now that there are 24 finalists. The tournament is due to be broadcast in 187 territories.

Prize money has been increased to \$15 million, with winners taking home \$2 million, up by 50% from four years ago.

According to Sports DNA data by Repucom, leading advisers in sports and entertainment, global interest in women's football has risen from 16% in 2011 to 21% in 2014. Repucom research shows that the FIFA Women's World Cup itself has a global fan base of over 200 million.

In the United States, where coverage of the tournament is being broadcast by Fox for the first time there are 35.5 million potential fans, the second-largest single market behind China. Fox plans to broadcast five games in prime-time.

Michael O'Hara Lynch, Repucom's US Head of Consulting, said: "Based on what we saw at the 2014 Brazil FIFA World Cup, the London

2012 Olympic Games, and the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup, expect record North American interest in the 2015 FIFA World Cup.

"Football continues to grow in the United States and Canada through the ongoing success and expansion of Major League Soccer, United Soccer League, a rejuvenated National Women's Soccer League, the men's and women's US national teams' competitive performance, and grassroots programmes. Favourable broadcast time zones, and exploding digital and social media engagement, will provide a compelling North American platform for the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup."

Lynch added: "A new



FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter

coveted millennial generation of fans are being captured, making football an increasingly attractive proposition for sponsors – and the women's game offers a comparatively blank canvas for brands. As FIFA Women's World Cup 2015 will likely show, women's

football offers compelling commercial opportunities."

In overall terms, across global markets measured by Repucom, female interest in football around the world has increased from 34.3% in May 2011 to 43% in November 2014.

Champions Barcelona prove their worth

Barcelona's victory in Saturday's UEFA Champions League final enshrined the Catalan club as Europe's most successful team of the decade. Too strong for Juventus in Berlin, the La Liga champions added to their most recent triumphs in 2006, 2009 and 2011, and allowed iconic captain Xavi Hernandez to make the perfect farewell after claiming 25 separate titles with the Camp Nou outfit.

The 60th European Cup final was a similarly joyous occasion for four-time winner and man of the match Andres Iniesta, while Lionel Messi excelled in a performance that highlighted his qualities as a team player. In contrast, the showpiece event brought fresh disappointment for 37-year-old Juvegoalkeeper

Gianluigi Buffon, who has yet to lift the coveted trophy.

The champions

Barcelona's Olympiastadion win was the final instalment in a marathon journey that featured successive victories against the champions of England, France, Germany and Italy – Luis Enrique's men downing Manchester City, Paris Saint-Germain, Bayern Munich and Juventus to clinch their fifth European crown. They also became the first club to win a second treble of league, cup and Champions League, though to match their 2008/09 predecessors they will need to beat Sevilla in the UEFA Super Cup and Athletic Bilbao in the Spanish Super Cup, before winning the FIFA Club World Cup in Japan this December. Few,

of course, would put that past them, especially considering the calibre of their individual talents and their overall team ethic, with Neymar, Luis Suarez and Messi establishing an understanding up front that marks them down as one of the most fearsome attacking units in football history. Statisticians were waiting for Messi to rattle in his 11th strike of the campaign, but the Argentinian was watched closely by two or three markers in the first half and displayed another dimension to his game after the break, drawing attention in order to free up space for his team-mates and pick them out with sumptuous passes. The golden era of Xavi and Iniesta may be over, but Messi still has a frightening amount to offer.