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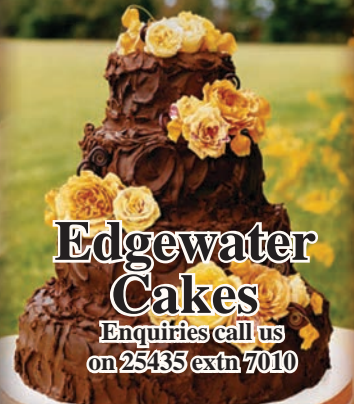
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Grubby CIP Brown nosing angers public - Pacific Schooners or Political schmoozing?

What enrages people more than anything else with this Cook Islands Party government is their endless jobs for the boys. It's simply not what you know with Puna, Brown and co that counts but it's who you know. Public tolerance with the CIP government's blatant up your nose abuses of political power is at an all time low.

On a live Radio Cook Islands programme the Financial Secretary Richard Neves got caught with a poser and when pushed in the corner had no choice but to reluctantly tell the truth about the Mike Henry Pacific Schooner's contract without telling the whole truth but he said enough to alert the listening public to how crass the Puna administration had sunk.

Despite a Pandora's box opening and evidence proving Puna's "no secrets" Parliamentary statement is more unconvincing silver tongue verbal claptrap the mute button has been pressed, there's nothing new about that, it's Puna and Brown's way of dealing with the embarrassment of being caught out.

No amount of letters to the Editor or concerns raised on the Radio and on TV will provoke the Government to respond to the satisfaction of the people except to repeatedly say through intermediaries the critics have got it wrong. This time around they left it to the Pacific Schooner's owners to do the spin with a media release.

The convicted tax dodger Michael Henry is the main proponent of Pacific Schooners, its foot in the door would not have been possible without his political connections to the CIP

Government. There are other reasons why this is true.

Michael Henry is the Chairman of the largest Government body in the country the Cook Islands Investment Corporation, with its assets worth millions and his Chairman's salary to rival the salary of elected MPs who day in day out have to help out their constituents whereas Henry is there mostly to help himself.

This is not just obvious with Michael Henry but true of his younger brother Nicholas who landed a plum position as Te

and the Tiare Taporo. He was kept the best shed simply because before he became CIIC Chairman he was Chairman for the Ports Authority. He's landed one cushy job after another and it's because he knows how to kiss ass and doesn't mind doing it.

Rumours abounded that the rent on the new shed remained unpaid for long periods, and his excuse was that he didn't have a vessel. Meanwhile hard working shipping transport providers and agents paid their rent for

The Puna Government in 2012 made the front page story in the daily rag, suggesting that the domestic shipping problems were soon to be a bad memory. PM Puna was not referring to Uma Shipping but on his good mate from Aitutaki and CIP party stalwart one Michael Henry and the Tiare Taporo.

The Tiare Taporo is now on its way and expected to arrive in early August. But we have to ask was the contract from PM Puna to provide the returning outer island visitors via the Tiare Taporo used to bank roll the release of the Tiare Taporo held in custody by the Canadian Courts? Was money advanced to Mike Henry to get the boat released? If it was, the Government has corruptly relinquished a substantial contract without proper tendering.

Got to hand it to Mike Henry, he doesn't appoint himself on Government Boards, he didn't award himself the repatriation contract, nor does he write the government cheques, at the end of the day the buck doesn't stop with him.

One thing is for sure this government is never going to come clean, even if Audit or PERC were to get to the bottom of this scandal and write scathing reports nothing will be done any more than have the reports tabled. The biggest fear that lurks in the Puna corridor is the secrets that will be exposed if this minority CIP government is turfed out by an alternative government of National Unity, that alone was compelling enough for the Deputy Prime Minister Teariki Heather to fall to his knees before Nandi Glassie.

- George Pitt

Despite a Pandora's box opening and evidence proving Puna's "no secrets" Parliamentary statement is more unconvincing silver tongue verbal claptrap the mute button has been pressed, there's nothing new about that, it's Puna and Brown's way...

Maeva Nui ambassador earning a reported \$70K per annum and all the parties and smooching he wants. Nick is accountable to nobody; just ask people in the Ministry of Culture, the \$70K salary he's got would have been better shared around to feed the 1000 outer islanders that have travelled under stressful conditions to be here to celebrate the 50th anniversary of self government.

For over two years the Ports Authority kept the best new Avatiu shed for Michael Henry

premises far from the main road and without toilets and the other plush amenities that Michael Henry demanded for himself and got by virtue of his political smooching than merit or competence.

The self serving Mike Henry has an eye for opportunity and is known to persistently badger his political connections till he wears down their resistance and give into his demands. At one stage he was on five government Boards with his fingers in as many pies.

PM Puna signals November elections

Despite the Prime Minister Henry Puna refuting in Parliament last month he would entertain the thought of an early election to increase his ruling majority, the first indicator has surfaced that he has a secret agenda he's keeping so close to his chest his Cabinet colleagues are none the wiser.

74 votes Prime Minister Puna's parliamentary comments can be taken for a grain of salt as he regularly pontificates promises he has no intention of keeping. His over his dead body parliamentary rant there will be no snap elections was cultivated to relax the nervous Opposition and his own jittery caucus.

Henry Puna the smooth talking politician is proving to be a devious bullduster who seems to be one step ahead of his detractors; for those whose senses are not dulled

by his verbal sweeteners but are alert and astute enough to discern his intended moves on the political chess board, the signs are there for the political astrologers who are not duped by Puna's superficial pretence he lacks political sensitivity.

The shipping manifest for passengers arriving from Manihiki will for the first time in history have less numbers than the manifest for passengers returning to Manihiki. It's a well known phenomenon that every Maeva Nui celebrations the Northern Group visitors attend, some have planed for years to use Rarotonga as a stepping stone to continue on to Australia or New Zealand. But this year the population of Manihiki will grow after the Te Maeva Nui celebrations.

The answer to this has nothing to do with a growing Manihiki economy but a copy

cat of a brilliant Northern Group plan hatched in Penryhn by Willie John way before the 2014 General Elections when incumbent MP Wilkie Olaf Rasmussen was dethroned one step away from clutching the role of Prime Minister.

This time Henry Puna intends to do the same but retain his seat and Prime Ministership by calling a snap election. This is the PM that will do anything to stay in power. His sole action to call a referendum on Sunday Flights for Aitutaki an obvious example.

Puna will take every opportunity to craftily politically milk the Independence celebrations for his tenureship cemented by the outer Islands who have 14 seats compared to Rarotonga's 10. While the CIP government's good will stocks are high after the Maeva Nui party and the gifts of the heavy

machinery plus the renewable energy electricity fresh in the minds of his power backers, Puna is being proactive, he's not going to leave his destiny to chance, he's going to stack the Manihiki electoral roll to guarantee his seat.

With the incompetent Opposition leader Smiley Heather being blindly lead by his CEO Eddie Drollet the architect of their last three Election defeats and the Demo Party anchored with \$180,000 of debt, Puna has the political edge to advance his cause. Right now late November 2015 is being framed for a snap election.

The political crystal ball forecasts the CIP retaining all their outer Island seats plus Mitiaro and Oneroa but losing Akaoa on Rarotonga giving Puna a comfortable four seat buffer.

- George Pitt

Clean and green, where Henry where?

The "Green and clean," mantra claimed in 2011 by Prime Minister Henry Puna, yes he said it.

Puna says leading the region in the clean and green stakes is an achievable ambition with the onus being on government to set an example for the rest of the country.

He says a starting point would be government adopting a policy that all its vehicles are fuel efficient, possibly even hybrids an initiative Puna says his government would entertain.

Nothing has changed and that's hardly a surprise, Henry Puna has bought \$600K worth of internal combustion cars and not a single hybrid or electric car in sight. Word is it was the Puna and Brown go to man Mike Henry who stitched the deal. It's all fancy foot work and fancy mouth work but by the

time the sun sets the situation hasn't changed.

Promises and lies, lies and promises all synonymous with Henry Puna.

It's not said for the purposes of actually achieving it but done mostly to impress people particularly those who are easily impressed by the smooth walking smooth jiving PM Puna. Will these flash cars be found travelling around with the political cronies of the CIP Government in them?

That's a bet you can win at a Las Vegas roulette table with the Elvis hit song Suspicious Mind being sang on stage by a Filipino Elvis impressionist.

Come to think of it, isn't Hyundai Motors owned by the Moonie Religion and the only foreign company assembling cars in North Korea?

- George Pitt



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Regional airline back on agenda

The possibility of flights between Samoa, Cook Islands, Tahiti, Fiji and Tonga is back on the agenda.

This time, the President of French Polynesia, Edouard Fritch, said he would raise the issue in Tahiti this week where Prime Minister, Tuilaepa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi, is due for the Polynesian Leaders Group (P.L.G) Summit.

Prime Minister Tuilaepa is scheduled to arrive in Papeete tomorrow where the meeting is being held.

And according to information from the Tahitian media, President Fritch said he would raise the issue on the sidelines of the meeting, which ends on Friday.

The key agenda of the P.L.G meeting is the preparation of a joint statement to be presented at C.O.P 21 in Paris later this year. But there are other key issues pertaining to

the development of regional partnerships.

For Mr. Fritch, he has indicated that he wants to use the opportunity to raise the possibility of restoring an inter-Polynesian air service to establish direct links between the various regional destinations.

The President referred to a project that had already been suggested in 2011 by Oscar Temaru.

The idea, he said, is to revive and develop a road served up during the 50s by the company Teal (Tasman Empire Airways Limited), which became Air New Zealand Limited in 1965.

The company had previously served by seaplane, the Auckland-Tahiti road via Fiji, Samoa and Cook

Islands.

The route was referred to as "Coral Road".

"The TEAL company for strategic reasons served Tahiti

and some Pacific islands, Aitutaki and Samoa and Tonga," said Mr. Fritch.

Today, given the importance of developing the tourism industry in Polynesia, the President said the idea of reviving the "Coral Road" is worth looking into.

Mr. Fritch said the idea was raised by former President, Oscar Temaru.

"My request - and that's what I explained to Tonga, during my last trip - would be that the large operators serving the Pacific today can meet around a table with our company: the project is interesting, but we do not want to do it alone," he said.

Asked if the Coral Road holds any potential to develop tourism, he said: "What interests us most is economic development, tourism in each of our countries. We are not alone in expertise in this field.

There are others doing better

than us. I think of Fiji. And in this context, do not try to reinvent the wheel; we must share our experiences".

Lastly, Mr. Fritch said raising the issue with Polynesian leaders is the first step.

"I first want to see how far our heads of states or regional governments are willing to invest," he said, adding that the next step will be to talk to the major airlines in the region.

"Today, nobody is able to say that it will bring money. But it is a necessity for the development of our islands".

President Fritch also wants to utilise the marketing pull that Air Tahiti brings to the table.

Air Tahiti has five Airbus A340/300 flying twice daily from Tahiti to Los Angeles and on to Paris. It also has a domestic arm, which services 41 airports on 118 islands within Tahiti as well as the Cook Islands.

Samoa Observer



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Congratulations to Mama Akarotoua Marsters

Eighty-two year old Mama Akarotoua Marsters, better known as Mama Aka, from the island of Palmerston is this month Woman of the Month recipient. She is currently here with the Palmerston Group for the Te Maeva Nui Celebrations, staying at the Avatiu Clubhouse. A lady strongly involved in her island community, she has previously served as Clerk for the local Government of Palmerston, tutor for cultural activities and arts and crafts, Secretary for the Palmerston NGOs and she has also been a tailor and mid-wife on Palmerston for the past 20 years. Today she serves as a Government representative for Palmerston; she is a Senior Deaconess and has served as a member of the Church at a very young age, since 1994. She is also currently the President for the Palmerston NGOs and Leader for the Palmerston Te Maeva Nui 2015 group. Mama Aka has continued to maintain the areas of Arts and Crafts and tailoring and still enjoys helping out as a Mid-Wife. Mama Aka, alongside her four brothers and four sisters, were all born and raised on Palmerston, she has been living on Palmerston her whole life, making only occasional trips



Woman of the month of July Mama Akarotoua Marsters

to Rarotonga, for events such as Te Maeva Nui. She attended Palmerston School from the age of five and although she left school at the age of 13, she continued her education at home. Mama Aka has five generations in her family, making her a great-great grandmother. She has eight children, one of them being

the Queens Representative, Hon. Tom Marsters and she has one daughter living in Palmerston with her, who is also here for the Te Maeva Nui celebrations. In her youth days, Mama Aka was involved in a number of different sports, in particular, cricket as it was the most popular sport in Palmerston; she says

it was very different to how it is being played today. As a young woman, Mama Aka's goal was to meet the needs of her family, which she has successfully achieved. Today her goal is to serve God for the rest of her days and enjoy it with her children, great-grand children and great-great grandchildren.

Woman of the Month Sponsors:

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Letter to the Editor

MCIPA confirmed by governing body in Samoa as having the rights to host Miss Pacific Pageant

Dear Editor Kia Orana,
Who would have thought that winning the bid to host an International Pageant would cause such mayhem. Very seldom do I write letters to your column but I am compelled to by our supporters and I believe the public needs to be better informed and for this reason, I can no longer stay silent.

There are now two pageant associations the Miss Cook Island Pageant Association (MCIPA) and the newly formed Miss Cook Islands Association (MCIA) to further the personal development of our young Cook Islands women. There are those of the opinion that this is not viable, I beg to differ. Just like there are many different sporting associations. More opportunities now exist for our young women in their personal development.

The reigning Miss Cook Islands Teuira Napa is not a casualty of this saga because of MCIPA's doing. Her heart remains with all contestants in all pageants. She has chosen not to endorse the new association, because of their past conduct. She has chosen to stand for the values she believes in, she is a big girl now, has anybody bothered to ask her?

Life is about choices. All contestants were well aware that there are two pageants. Our contestants have given up "the car" and chosen to continue the legacy. If you have been misled by false promises by your association, then your gripe is not with us.

We are two separate pageant

associations both very capable of delivering what is required. One based on passion, the other business orientated, we also comprise of individuals with very different personalities, values and ethics, that just might make us incompatible.

An "unconstitutional voting process" was allowed with good intentions of welcoming new members into the MCIPA association. These new members voted themselves in a planned takeover. We are not naive, these things do happen. They checked our constitution, "the voting process was unconstitutional", struck off, too messy, whatever their intentions. They sort legal advice and formed a "new association MCIA" without our knowledge or participation. We are not going to continue a public tit for tat debate. There is an appropriate place and time, where this saga shall continue.

We as an association of volunteers are not perfect, being "struck off" is not a criminal offence. We have faced the music, acknowledged our shortcomings, gone through the necessary legal process with the Ministry of Justice, we have been endorsed by their stamp of approval, put our house back into order and are moving forward.

We now have in our possession the official letter endorsing MCIPA as having the rights to host the Pacific Islands Pageant under the Presidency of Cleo Marsters from the Board of the Miss Pacific

Islands. They have acknowledged our loyalty and unfaltering participation for 28 years, for that we are truly grateful.

Nick Henry as Chairman of the 50th Celebration committee did not seed the idea to host, the Miss Pacific Islands Pageant.

If he has chosen to support the new association MCIA, then that is his prerogative, he like them have only been around for less than a year. Now on behalf of the Prime Minister and Government of the Cook Islands, he is making this unfortunate saga an international spectacle. He has written to Samoa asking that they revoke their endorsement of MCIPA/Cleo Marsters and award the Ms Pacific Islands to the new association MCIA as the rightful MCIPA, now I am really confused.

I would think that Government would have better things to celebrate in the last 50 years, than a Pageant.

We have no option but to commence legal proceedings, a decision that we have not taken lightly now that Government has chosen to meddle in the affairs of a private association. We as an Association will not stand for the underhand tactics we are being subjected to behind the scenes and we have never misled the public.

Is this about ego? Not at all. For the first time in the 25 yrs of my association with MCIPA, I am sitting around a committee table and I am out-numbered.

I am surrounded by dynamic

Cook Islands women, the majority former Miss Cook Islands/ Miss South Pacific contestants. Women who have dared to "walk the talk" and bravely push through their personal boundaries and stand with pride representing their beloved country.

Women who have committed themselves to endless hours of practice, mentoring or abuse (most of it dished out by yours truly). All who have broken down and cried as they went beyond their limits, and whatever the result, they strove on, because all they wanted to do was make their families and the Cook Islands proud.

Please allow these dynamic young women to continue their legacy with dignity. The rekindled flame is being passed into their hands.

Many people, supporters, sponsors, families, committees and our Governments have contributed to the success of MCIPA over the years. We will forever be indebted to them.

To the new association, please make your own history. MCIA is not the Miss Cook Islands Pageant Association (MCIPA)

Aere ki mua, tuatua tika.

Oki ki muri, tuatua tika.

Uri kite katau, tuatua tika.

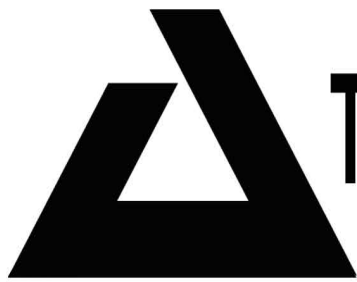
Uri kite kaui, tuatua tika.

Akara kite rangi, e korona no te Atua.

Akara kite one, e takaianga vaevae no te Atua.

I remain respectfully yours in open justice,

Gina Keenan-Williams



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TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, WEDS 8th JULY 2015

New Matavera Sunday School

Vaitōtī Tūpā, Coordinator of the Matavera Sunday School Building Project and Travel To'u, the President of the 'Ui Ariki, the House of Ariki, were the guest speakers on Te Kave Kōrero on Wednesday 8th July 2015.

Tūpā was interviewed regarding the official opening of 'Gibeona', the new Matavera Cook Islands Christian Church's Sunday school building which was officially opened last Friday 10th July.

Tūpā said in Maori that planning for the new building started in 2007.

"Mānako te 'Ēkālēsia i te mata'iti 2007 kia 'akatū'ia tēta'i 'are 'āpi'i Sabati 'ōu tākiri.

He added that Gibeona is a two storey building and serves as a Cyclone Centre also.

"Kua tāmānako te 'Ēkālēsia ē, kia riro katoa tēia 'are ei Cyclone Centre nō rēira 'oki i 'akatū'ia ai e rua ta'ua. Karanga tāua ē, ā runga i te rua o te ta'ua, kā riro te rēira 'e ngā'i no'ono'o'anga no te 'ōire tangata Rangiatea nei, mē roko'ia ake rātou e te au tūmatetenga i te tuātau o te 'uri'ia mē topa mai ki a tātou".

Tūpā said that the new Sunday school building is multi-purpose in that it was designed to host weddings or birthdays as well.

"Ē pērā katoa te parāni'anga ō tēia 'are, kua 'akano'o'ia no te 'akakoro'anga o te, karanga tāua ē, mē 'e 'akaipoipo, mē kore, 'e birthday ē te vai atū ra, kā riro tēia 'are i te host i tērā tūtū 'anga'anga".

According to Tūpā conferences can also be hosted in the building on the top floor.

He said that 200 people can be accommodated downstairs and a further 200 on the top floor.

Tūpā said that a traditional hymn for the opening of Gibeona, the new Sunday school building, was composed by Ngā Mātaiō, General Secretary of the Cook

Islands Christian Church (CICC), and his wife.

Rev. Tua'ine Ngāmetua, President of the Cook Islands Christian Church, had the honour of officially opening the new Sunday school building last Friday 10th July.

The opening was attended by well over 500 invited guests and dignitaries including the Queen's Representative, His Excellency Tom Marsters, and the Deputy Prime Minister, the Honourable Teariki Heather.

House of Arikis

Travel To'u, the Kaumāiti Nui and President of the 'Ui Ariki, the House of Ariki, informed listeners that the 'Ui Ariki is looking at asking Government for an increase in their operations budget.

"Ko te toe i rēira, ko te moni tūtaki'anga i tēia au no'o'anga e no'o nei tō tātou au Ariki eā, mei tāku e 'akakite atū ra au, tei raro ake 'oki tē rēira i te moni tei 'akamana'ia i roto i te ture ei tūtaki i te aronga 'anga'anga, tei raro ake te moni ā te 'Ui Ariki i te rēira kōtinga. Tēia ta'i ā mātau i rēira e pati 'aka'ou nei ki a rātou, kia 'ākara i tēia tūranga, kāre e tano ē, tei raro ake, nō te mea, meitaki atu te aronga ko'i tītā i runga i te matāra, i tēia tā rātou e 'ōronga mai nei".

He said that at present the 'Ui Ariki's budget is \$176,000.00 a year of which \$40,000.00 goes to employing a full time worker, \$10,000.00 for the Kō'utu Nui, \$10,000.00 for general expenses and the rest on maintenance of the House of Arikis' property at Atupare.

However when asked as to how much more they want to increase their budget to, the Kaumāiti Nui was unsure and did not give an indication of the amount.

"Kāre mātou i tuku nūmero 'aere ana, kāre mātou i tuku nūmero ana ē te taeake, kua 'aere rikiriki mātou i te tuku nūmero'anga".

The Kaumāiti Nui said that they would like

the House of Ariki to be responsible for the traditional titles and to be an umbrella or advisory group with respect to disputes concerning the titles.

"Te tāmānako nei mātou, tēia au tu'anga, na tēia ngutu'are e raverave ana ,
kia 'aka'oki'ia ki roto i tēia ngutuare, tā tēia ngutu'are rā, e tāmārumaru 'ua, ko te 'anga'anga ma'ata tikāi tei roto rāi i te matakeinanga, me kua kite koe i tō'ou tupu'anga mai, tērā i rēira te 'āite'anga, i roto rāi i te matakeinanga, me ko tēia te au tika'anga, tei 'akano'o'ia, nā'au e mou i tērā tao'anga, nā'au e mou i tērā tao'anga, no'o rāi ki rēira, kāre 'oki koe i rēira e 'oro ki te Akavā'anga 'eā".

When asked whether the 'Ui Ariki was behind the failed attempted coup against Government in June, the Kaumāiti Nui declined to answer the question and threatened to hang up the phone.

"Toku taeake, ea'a koe e 'akave'u i te ko'angā rango, no te mea, 'akarongo atu ra au, tē 'akakite ra 'a ia ē, ko tēia te 'anga'anga a te 'Ui Ariki, eia'a e 'aere mai 'akatere i te Bāsilēia, no rēira au e pa'u atū ra au, ko tī rēira, ea'a koe e 'akave'u i te ko'angā rango, e te taeake, ka tuku au i tēia phone ki raro".

"E te taeake, kua 'akakite atu au, kua warn atu au i ā koe, te 'akave'ū ra koe i te ko'angā rango, eia'a koe e 'aka'oki i a tāua ki rēira, kāre e tuatua 'Ui Ariki, kua 'akakite atu au ki ā koe, i kite ana koe i te ingoa o te 'Ui Ariki i runga i te pēpā, e ta'i tangata, tuatua koe ki ā ia i te rēira, nāna e pa'u atu i te rēira, tā'iku mai koe i te 'Ui Ariki, eia'a e 'akave'u ngākau, inē, kāre au e kaimoumou i te pa'u atu i te rēira kia ā koe".

Te Kave Kōrero have grounds to believe that last month, Travel To'u, the Kaumāiti Nui and President of the House of Ariki, and Puna Rakanui, Clerk of the House of Ariki, were actively involved in enticing and encouraging CIP MPs to join the Democratic Party and One Cook Islands in a failed attempt to stage a coup to topple the CIP Government.

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, FRI 10th JULY 2015

CICC week long assembly

Ngā Mātaio, Secretary General of the Cook Islands Christian Church (CICC), was the guest speaker on Te Kave Kōrero on Friday 10th July 2015.

The 31st General Assembly of the Cook Islands Christian Church was the subject of discussion.

The week long Assembly began last Sunday 12th July and will conclude this coming Sunday 19th July.

Mātaio said in Māori that up to 220 participants are attending the General Assembly.

“Ko te nūmero i rēira i te `ākara`anga i tēia mata`iti nō te mea kāre e `āiteite ana te nūmero i te au mata`iti katoatoa, i nā, i roto i tēia `Uipā`anga Ma`ata, tē `ākara`ia nei te nūmero, ti runga i te 200, 220, mei ti rēira”.

The 220 participants are mostly church Ministers and their delegates from over 70 CICC branches of the Church, in the Cook Islands, Australia and New Zealand, as well as observers and representatives of the church's partner organisations.

The Assembly is held every two years, the last one having been held in Melbourne, Australia, in 2013.

This year's Assembly started with two days of workshops held on Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th July and the Assembly proper being held over three days starting today, Wednesday 15th and concludes on Friday 17th.

Mātaio said there are three main topics on the Assembly's agenda, namely the Ministers' rotation, proposed amendments to the CICC Constitution and the Executive Council's review of the church's operations.

A number of callers to the programme asked some challenging questions. One of them, George George, also known as te Tiānara (the General), who is one of the Kārangaranga (talkback) hosts on Radio Cook Islands and a manager for local

company CITC, inquired as to the church's position on gay marriages.

In response Mātaio said in Maori that the subject was discussed at the 2013 General Assembly held in Melbourne and that no one supported it.

“Tēia tumu manako, kāre i te mea `ōu. In fact i tēia `Uipā`anga Ma`ata i topa ake nei i Melbourne, 2013, ko tēia tēta`i tumu manako tei `akariro`ia ei workshop topic, kua riro nā tēta`i Orometua i cover i tēia topic tikāi ā `au i bring up, and e, obviously, i roto i tē rēira `uri`uri`anga`ia tē rēira tumu manako, well, kāre rāi `oki e tangata i `āriki ana ē, kia pērā, so, ko tērā ia”.

Mātaio added that members of the Religious Advisory Council, namely the Apostolic Church, Assembly of God, Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist and Latter Day Saint, also do not support gay marriages.

“Tēia tēta`i `ākara`anga koia `oki, pouroa te au members o te RAC, karanga tātou i rēira ē, i tēia rā, i roto i tā tātou tāokota`i`anga CICC pērā katoa the other five members o te RAC, te AOG, te Apostolic, te Raitu, te Katorika `e te Mōmani, kāre katoa rātou i `āriki i tēia tumu manako”.

Papa Rairi Rairi, correspondent for Te Kura Māreva, the Cook Islands Community Program on Radio 531PI in Auckland, New Zealand, called Te Kave Kōrero and said in Maori that the Tiare Association, a group of `akava`ine` exists in the Cook Islands.

“Te tatau ake nei au i tāku nūtipēpa nō te rā rua ō Tiurai, kua tupu tēia putuputu`anga, tei kōnei tēia putuputu`anga i a tātou. To rātou ingoa, tē kāpiki nei rātou i a rātou ē, ko te Tiare Association. I nā kua `akamata tēia i kōnei i a tātou, e oti te karanga nei te nūtipēpa ē, kua tāokota`i`ia tēia pupu tangata, tei karanga`ia e, ko te au `akava`ine. Kua tāokota`i`ia rātou i te marama November 2007”.

`Akava`ine is a local term used to describe males who act and behave like females

and who have more female hormones than male. Some sectors in the community consider them to be gays.

Papa Honu Ben rang Te Kave Kōrero and asked why some Takamoa theological students have been posted to some churches without having completed their four year studies at Takamoa Theological College.

Mātaio responded saying that there have been cases in the past where students sent out early have done better than those who have completed their four year theological studies.

However he said that it may be appropriate for the Executive Council to look at the issue again and that he has made a note of it to put it on the agenda for the Executive Council to consider.

Tony Hakaoro, Te Kave Kōrero presenter, inquired as to the CICC's position concerning Sunday flights to Aitutaki.

Mātaio said in Maori that the question is the most difficult one to answer for several reasons but is one he could refer to the Executive Council for their consideration.

“Tony, the best I can say i konei koia `oki ka rauka tēia tumu manako i te `aka`oki ki roto i te Kōmiti ei `ākarakara `aka`ou mai nā te Kōmiti”.

The Assembly proper have started today, Wednesday 15th July in Matavera. It continues tomorrow in Avarua and finishes in Nikao on Friday.

Saturday 18th is a rest day for most of the Assembly participants but is a meeting day, 'one-to-one', for anyone wanting to have a meeting with the Executive Council. The 'one-to-one' meeting will be held at Takamoa Theological College.

The General Assembly closes with a prayer service at the Arorangi CICC church this coming Sunday 19th July.

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, MON 13th JULY 2015

Local tradition of Pātai

Pātai was the subject of discussion on Te Kave Kōrero talkback on Monday 13th July 2015.

Interviewed and contributing to the discussion was former MP for Avatiu-Ruatonga and Pū Tapere for Avatiu, village spokesperson, John Henry.

Pātai, according to Henry, is a traditional welcome and symbolizes the cleansing of salt or sea water in respect of persons in a tere party, a touring group, following a boat trip and having reached land or arriving at their destination.

“Pātai, ko te kiriti`anga i te tai, te taitai o te tangata no runga mai i te moana te tere mai`anga tae mai ki runga i te marō”.

Henry said that his Village of Avatiu is reviving the pātai tradition and welcoming all outer island dance groups arriving in Rarotonga by boat at Avatiu harbour for the Maeva Nui 2015 and 50th anniversary celebrations of self-government.

“Ka `akaora `aka`ou tātou i tēia `anga`anga i roto i te tapere nō te mea, e rave `ua iā ana tēia `anga`anga nā te ngā metua ai, tēta`i metua pakari i tae mai ki tērā `uipā`anga, kua roa ake nei tēta`i tuātau”.

He added that pātai is not new but it is a privilege that young people today can witness and revive this old tradition in Avatiu.

“Kāre tēia i te `anga`anga `ōu, ka karanga rā tāua e, e tūtū `ōu tēia ki a mātou te uki `ōu i tēia tuātau, no tēia kua `akaora `aka`ou`ia. Ko te mea pu`apinga i konei e te taeake, e te bro, kia rauka i teia uki `ōu i te mou mai i tēia peu `ōire, i roto i te tapere Avatiu”.

“Te tūranga mātūtū tāku e kite atū ra au, te mā`ora`ora, mea mua, o te au taeake, te au metua e no`o nei i va`o ake i te tapere i Avatiu, ē, no rātou tēia tere `enua e `aere mai nei, tē rave`ia nei te pātai, kua `aere mai rātou i te tauturu, kua `apai mai i tā rātou raurau, tā rātou mereki”.

When asked whether pātai would be rolled out to every boat arriving at Avatiu harbour, Henry said that it would apply and be performed only to tere parties (traveling groups) arriving in Rarotonga by boat from the outer islands.

“Meitaki, kia taka meitaki i konei tēia ngā`i, thank you Bro no tei `ōronga mai koe i tēia tika`anga `aka`ie`ie. Ko tēia `akakoro`anga, ko tēia peu `ōire, te `akaora `aka`ou`ia nei, kia ora `aka`ou `a ia, no te au tuātau, no te au `ati`anga ravarāi, ka tere mai tēta`i pa`i no te pae `enua mai, tō tātou pā `enua, i va`o ake i a Tumutevarovaro, ka `apai tere, ka `apai pupu mai ki Tumutevarovaro nei, pēnei, ki konei ka no`ono`o, mei konei ka rere atu ki Nu Tīreni no tēta`i au `akakoro`anga”.

A caller defined pātai as a tradition where one removes the smell and taste of sea or salt water from one's self as he or she arrives on land after travel by sea.

“Ko tēia au peu, karanga oki rātou e, e kiriti`anga maro tai, kiriti`anga au tai no runga i ā koe te `aere atu nei i te tomo i tō rātou `enua”

“Ka rave`ia tēia i te kiriti`anga i te `inu`inu takere o te moana `apai mai te `inu`inu `ōu o te `enua, kiriti atu `oki koe i te rā au tai,

no reira `oki rātou i karanga ai, e pātai”.

The caller said that pātai is a Ngā Pūtoru tradition and perhaps is also an Aitutakian tradition as well.

“Ko te pā `enua tāku i kite i tēia `anga`anga, nā te Ngā Pūtoru, na te Ngā Pūtoru, pēnei, ē te `enua katoa ko Ara`ura.

“Irinaki rā `oki au ē, i roto i te tuatua`anga ā te au metua ō Ngā Pūtoru, nā rātou tēia peu, nā te Ngā Pūtoru, ē, mei ta`ito mai e tae mai ki tēia tuātau, te rave nei rāi rātou i ti reira”.

Ngā Pūtoru is the three sister islands of Ātiu, Ma`uke and Mitiāro.

Pātai will be seen in practice tomorrow or Friday when the people of Avatiu village will welcome the Penryhn and Rakahanga dance groups arriving in Rarotonga for the Maeva Nui onboard the Samoan ferry the ‘Lady Naomi’.



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Ake Kairae Chapman Maruariki **(6 October 1941 - 22 June 2015)**

Proverbs 6: 6-9.

To our friends, extended family and Ake's friends and her former work mates in the nursing profession, who remained her lifelong friends, and especially those who helped, visited and supported our Mum during her illness over the past two and half years, we give you our heartfelt thanks. We also thank those people who visited Mum, every week, whilst she was in NZ - she felt less isolated from her culture as a result. We also thank all of you who comforted and supported us after our loss. Please know that your kind words, deeds, prayers, songs, hymns, wisdom, companionship, labour, equipment, monetary gifts and the gifts of food, went a long way to help make a sad and stressful time less difficult.

In Rarotonga

Special mention: Te Vaerua (NGO) staff who came to Ake's aid when she was failed by the Health system she had served for most of her life; thank you Te Vaerua for the stroke therapy and the wheelchair when none were available at the hospital. Thank you Cook Islands Herald for the free notice; thanks also to friends and family who met the casket at the airport & Maki Tamaiva for conducting prayers at Rarotonga airport; Minar Henderson for the beautiful floral tribute; Mau Munokoa & Macan Munokoa for providing sumptuous feasts here and in Mauke; Essie Mokotupu for your unconditional friendship and support; Ana Makara for your organisational skills; Anna Koteka for your friendship to Ake and the hot drinks and food; Father Freddie Kaina for the poignant Mass; Bishop

Donoghue; St Joseph's Choir for your angelic voices; Church staff for support of the order of the Mass. Nooroa Ellingham & Metua Tereora & Marie Melvin for helping with floral and casket setup at the cathedral.

Also: Tai Kavana Adamson & family; Mrs Richard Akanoa & family; Mr & Mrs Andrew M. Turua & family; Gavin Aratangi & Sigrid; Betty & Lawrence Bailey; Engia Baxter and Rongo Vavia; CIFS (Charles Muriwai); CI Library & Museum Society council, staff & volunteers: Tim Buchanan, Tamara Suchodolsky, Sharon Tavioni, Moana Moekaa, Merita Wi-Kaitaia; Gerald McCormack & Elaina; Gwen Welland; College, Mac, Mata & Pairai; Cook Islands Police Association; Marjie & Nari Crocombe; Doug and Nooroa Ellingham & family; Hinano Ellis & Ian Bertram & family;



Catherine, Wi-Kaitaia & Evans family; Phil & Wendy Evans; Taki & Lydia Framhein; Tekeu Framhein & family; Vaine & Sifa Fukofuka & family; Joan and David Gragg; John & Nono Henry & family; Martha Henry & family; June & Andrew Hosking; Tuvaine Ibbetson & family; Mr & Mrs Ine Ingaua; Imogen Ingram; Josephine Ivirangi; Eddie & Heimata Karika; Ritua Koteka & family;

Carina Langsford; Paula Lineen; Maryann & Paiau Pirake & family; Vereara & Teanau & the Maeva-Taripo families; Taputu & Toto Mariri & family; Joel & Tai Marsters & family; Nga Mataio and family; Eileen and Ali McQuarie & family; Tai Marangai & Makiroa Mataora; Marie Melvin & family; Toni, Maria and Metuakore family; Moana & Takau Moekaa; Mrs Tapu Moetaua & family; Mr & Mrs Michael Mouauri and family; Eric, Nadine,

Ropati & Tamuera Newnham; Tia Nicholas & Temata Ngamatareu; No Assembly Required Ltd; Dr Teariki and Theresa Noovao & family; Paru & Tai, husbands and children; Tangaina Patia & family; Shona Pitt; Toto Powell & the late Tauri Shepherd family; Matairangi & Theresia Mareta & the Pura Family; Mona & Tahei Rakei & family; Mata Ringi John; Ngatoko Rongo e te anau; Nooroa Samuel & family; Mariana Powell Schmidt, Ashleigh Raita and family. SDA Ngatangia Fellowship; Betty Shepherd for her help & support; Sixty Plus Club: Patricia Metzker, Here Allan, Teresa Arneric, Maria Henderson; Deborah Tamaiva, Grace McDonald; Liz, Sani & Sosene family; Mr & Mrs Mapu Taia & family; Mereana Taikoko & family; Matilda & Aukino Tairea; Deborah & Maki Tamaiva & family; Ura Tangaroa; Henry

and Sharon Tavioni Mike Tavioni; Carmen & Ina Temata & family; Metua Tereora; Anna Tetevano; Children of the late Mama Ami Tetevano: Ami, Tau for help and support and Tai (Atiu) for helping with ei tiare; Jeff Tetevano for being there every time we needed him; Nii Tommy & family; Makiuti & Polly Tongia; Mama Topa & family; The late Mr and Mrs Panii Toru & family; Robert & Nooroa Tuoro & family; Tereapii, Philip & the Urlich family; Rongo Vavia; Tangata Vavia MP & Linda Vavia; Sally & Chris Voss; Mr & Mrs Isaia Willie & family.

In Mauke:

Metua Cuthers; Toreka Davida; Maunga Edwin; Tanga Ivirangi; Benina Kairae; Tuakana Moetaua; Martina Oti; Teata Pura and Tangata Ateriano; Fr. John Rovers; George Samuela; SDA Association Mauke; Mama

Tane (Tungane); Dawn Teaka, Tua Tonga, Tini Vainekeu; Tereapii Vainetutai; Ministry of Works & Infrastructure staff, Mauke; e te iti tangata katoatoa o Mauke.

In Auckland:

Teraimana & Kirei Tua for watching over Mum's welfare in Auckland throughout her illness; Genevieve & Maru Ngametua for your many kindnesses to us; Noel Tua for your prayers & support; Marcel Tua for keeping communications channels open; Karati Pura & family for your moral support; many thanks to our extended family: Rau Lenihan; Tere Pawley; Kairae family: Tai, Margaret, Kimiora for your prayers and visits; Tua Kairae; Siale Katipa (Aged Concern, Auckland) for your help and advice. Also: Grifford Anthony & families; Ngaere Atera & family; Naumere Auri, husband & family for your frequent visits to Mum; Naomi & Nga Ben & family & Papa Ngatuakana Aerenga; Christine Cusack; Tiama, Nina, Candy & Stuart Davidson; Mr & Mrs Martin George; Paere Heather, Veronica Haxton and Moana Okotai for your lifelong friendship & kinship; Teura Ina Papa for your unifying presence & for organising the function at the Mauke hall at Otara; Sholan & Iloga Ivaiti & family; Akeena Kapi (& Alex Loloa) for visiting & comforting Mum and for your help to the family; Helene & Paul Kay; Mr & Mrs Rauru Maruariki & family; Mr & Mrs Tau Maruariki; John & Tauaroa Maruariki & family; Judith Mason; Paul, Debbie Mason & family; Mauke Association, Otara; Agnes Mokotupu; Mum's sisters (& brother): Mii, Tokorima & Tungane; Metua; Jennifer & David Neil & family; Mama Tukoe Ngametua; Connie Nukupera, Ofa and Petra-Rose. Maria Oaariki & Purotu Oaariki; Marcel, Mii Papa & family and the late Aketeata Oti; Joseph Papa Snr & Joe Papa Jr families; John Prendergast & family; Jackie Puna Teaukura; Merani Mata Rakei; Terangi Rakei & family; SAFS (Robert Muriwai & staff); Bernard Tairea for his help in the initial stages of Mum's illness and for the radio announcements; Tangaroa family; Ruth Teaka Tapuni for your family stories; Toru and Tukuau Tereroa & family; Mary Tetevano & Po Turia; Mrs Taunga Tairea Tiaiti & family; Rongorau Tobia; Tai Tobia & family; Mama Topa & Family; Junior Utakea and family; Leo van Veenendaal.



Meitaki Nui to you all.

Mum's credo was "to live is Christ, and to die is gain". I am not dying: I am entering life. It was her fervent hope for all of us, her family and friends, to die with Christ. To rise with Christ, we must first die with Christ. "Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth...before the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it". Our lives are measured by time, in the course of which we change, grow old and, as with all living beings on earth, death is the normal end of life. Ake liked to remind us of our mortality to help us realise that we have only a limited time in which to bring our lives to fulfilment. Until that glorious day, when we shall all meet again, may God bless you all who loved and cared for our mother during her earthly life.

With love and deepest respect from the children (and their spouses) of the late Ake:

Jean & Brian Mason, Alan & Moana Chapman, Ngapoko & Remy Riou, Peter and Leanne Chapman, Mata and Taere Tapoki, Richard Bonno, Terence Maruariki. Thank you also from Ake's husband, Terii. Meitaki nunui from Ake's grandchildren: Moana, Anua, Xara, Kairae, Akekaru, Taratoa, Krystina, Jean Diane, Alicia, Thomas Kairae, Tereapii, Daphne, Jay, and her 6 great-grandchildren, Lexi, Riley, Asani Michal, Aiden, Dancy and Ngapoko. Te Atua te aroa.

The saga of child abuse and neglect in the Cook Islands – Part I of Part II

by Te Tuhi Kelly

In this article I want to tell you that 'child abuse and neglect'(child abuse) has ramifications for the prosperity of our nation, our people, our culture and our place in the Pacific family of island nations. Child abuse is more than physical harm; it also includes emotional abuse and neglect. It covers a whole range of conditions designed to control or reduce the child's ability to resist the unwarranted and uncalled for attention of adults and others. It is about adult to child power structures and power plays and is designed consciously or unconsciously to maintain a sense of power for those abusing the child. It is about denying our children the right and the means to grow up with the basic building blocks that will make them well rounded adults rather than psychological misfits. It is about parental neglect and ignorance and dismissal of the child's rights because every parent thinks they know what's best for their child. If smacking which escalates to bashing the child is part of that equation then that's what they will do. Child abuse in the Cook Islands is a national disgrace as it is hidden but its effects are generational and felt right across our country. The policy makers and those who deal with child abuse are pretty much tunnel visioned when it comes to the bigger picture. This is understandable as they are dealing with child abuse in isolation of the economic, social and cultural benefits that would accrue if we managed child abuse as a total holistic approach.

Just to put the record straight, I'm not advocating that we do not discipline our children. It's how we go about doing it that concerns me and it should concern you people who are bashing your kids using physical violence or words to get them to conform or for not listening to you. Why do you think they don't listen? Who do you think they learned all this from? Why do you think they are disobedient? Why are they getting in to trouble as they get older? Well you parents out there, the buck stops with you. Yes. You, 'monkey see, monkey do'. As a developing nation it pains me to observe that whilst we have legislation banning corporal punishment in the Cook Islands, the fact of the matter is that it is more common than you can imagine. Not only is it common, it can be well hidden and this practice of beating up on your child or threatening to beat them up is an epidemic that will not go away. As long as those who have been beaten as children continue to believe that this is the way you discipline and treat our and their children, the practice will persist. If you were to take a survey of how many Cook Islanders believe that children should be smacked, I suspect that the statistics will show a ground swell of

support for this practice.

I'm waiting for my lunch at the Asian food stall opposite Raro Cars. A car pulls up with a couple of young boys of about 2 years of age. The driver goes to order takeaways at the same stall. Meanwhile the old mama in the back is looking after the two little ones. They are full of energy and are let out on the footpath and run around like mad things. She is too frail to do anything but yell at them to come back to the car. One reluctantly does and is immediately smacked for his troubles. The other runs off and tells the old mama, "No No" as she tries to get him within the smacking zone. This I believe is not an isolated incident as it happens right across the nation every day. It is only too easy for Cook Islanders to use force to get obedience by hitting their children first rather than adopting a more conciliatory understanding approach. Our children are growing up only knowing how to deal with their frustrations and anger by lashing out, because their parents, grandparents, siblings and all manner of *iti tangata* learnt that to be bashed or to bash was the accepted norm for child rearing.

Read the CI NEWS and you will see the court cases for domestic and public assault, every week there is someone being brought up on charges for assault on another person, usually male on female and often the reverse as well as male to male and female to female. Proper parenting skills are lacking in this country and it shows in Cook Islanders attitudes and behaviour to the over disciplining of their children, not just physically but also mentally. Then you add to the mix the domestic violence that we all know goes on and you have a generation of young men and women growing up to join the older generation of men and women who think that having a loving relationship has to be on their terms only. They use coercion and force to get their own way and when that doesn't work, guilt tripping, emotional blackmail, using their fists or their mouths to get the response they want. This is what they have observed and been taught is the action you take to get your own way. This is what works, if you want to control your partner. Wow you guys and gals, do you think that your show of violence on your partner or your children makes up for your inadequacies. Really it just goes to show how immature and ugly people you are, bereft of any ideas how to change your ways and you know in the end it makes you look like a bunch of dicks to the rest of us. Please, people, don't blame it on alcohol or drugs for your shortcomings, okay, you have a choice whether to drink or take drugs sociably and not to excess. I've heard all the excuses going, so don't even

bother to explain yourself to me. I'm not interested in your excuses and justification for beating your children. We've all heard the excuse, "if it wasn't for the alcohol, he would be a good man or woman". Well I can tell you that it's just BS, you're the one that made the decision to drink, no one forced or coerced you, did they? you are drinking to excess because you are using alcohol to prop up your inability to face the reality of your miserable existence because that's all you are doing when you go down that track. How's that for an introduction to child abuse and its downstream effects on our lives and its prevalence in our Cook Islands society today.

Why do you think that this came about? Unfortunately the fault for this has to be laid at the feet of the missionaries who came to the Pacific all those decades ago, preaching and espousing, "Spare the rod and spoil the child", in other words; if children are not physically punished when they do wrong their personal development will suffer. How doongie or porangi in the head is that and it is an interpretation based on a number of beliefs about proper child rearing and care. Look at this scripture from the bible, from, Proverbs 13:24, "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him." Here's another of those asinine sayings, "Children should be seen and not heard". This is nothing but social engineering by the missionaries, followers of the Christian faith, and hypocrites of the worst kind. Designed to subvert and subjugate the traditional child rearing beliefs and customs of indigenous people all in the name of God. The shame of it all is that Cook Islanders believe that this is part of their tradition, the right to discipline their children by abusing them.

If you read some of the writings of those who came to the Cook Islands before the missionaries arrived, they all state that the children had the run of the village and had the love and support of all adults who were their mums and dads. The children born into the same generation were treated as brothers and sisters, with the older generation being the uncles, aunties, mama's and the papa's. This extended family dynamic is what kept the family strong, sustainable and durable over generations. It was good to have friends but much better to have family and extended family on your side, because in a crisis, "blood always helped blood and blood always forgave your transgressions". The coming of the missionaries completely turned this traditional lore dynamic on its head and they introduced the concept of the nuclear family; mum, dad and the kids. They also frowned on premarital sex and

continued next page

encouraged the savages to look after their own children and not to rely on others. From this we know have; mum, mum and the kids and dad, dad and the kids as well as the extended family, single parent, the nuclear family and the blended family dynamic as well. The changing nature of all these family dynamics has meant children growing up with one parent, or different parents depending on who mum or dad brings home that night or same sex parents. As long as the children are a priority and their physical well-being and mental development is being catered for then the children will grow up as well adjusted adults. The reality is that in the Cook Islands this sort of dynamic is a rarity rather than the norm. The missionaries to the Cook Islands came from Great Britain where a class system determined your station in life. The working class were pretty much the bottom of the ladder. Next up were the middle classes, high society and then royalty. Within each of those classes were also subsets, but in this article to keep it simple I have just mentioned the general class terms. Many of you will have read the stories of Sherlock Holmes, Oliver Twist, Jane Eyre and other well-known stories relating to the 18th or 19th centuries. You will of course be well aware of how the children of the poor or working class were treated. Some had very good family backgrounds, but most children were in abusive situations and living in squalor. It didn't help that Britain was sending its citizens and children who were convicted of petty crimes, to its penal colonies in the Pacific and especially Australia. Out of this whole sorry state of history came the missionaries, who instead of learning from the inadequacies of the British class system in respect of Polynesian culture, actually promoted and endorsed some of the most despicable practices against children in their new heathen parish colonies. In two hundred years since first contact, we have allowed our children to wither on the vine and have become a nation of underachievers, moaners, gravy train riders, AID and donor dependent, our biggest export non-earner and criminals.

The mission fathers in Great Britain lived in a state

of sumptuous denial of the conditions to which their parishioners lived in the towns, parishes and villages of England and beyond. They gave their apprentice missionary's the most rudimentary training and then sent them out into the world to spread God's word and they did this with gusto. Too bad there wasn't a strategist amongst them of any note, as their effects on us have been traumatic and a public relations disaster. It wasn't as if they did not know that their contact with and effects on indigenous communities would be substantial. The Spanish Catholic influence in the Americas is huge. Since the 1500's when they made significant inroads into South American indigenous communities, Catholicism has had a huge and devastating effect on the indigenous traditional lore of those South American indigenous communities. It was as if the missionaries were the wedge that the rest of the world needed, to get access to not only the indigenous people but also to their lands, their hidden treasures, mineral commodities, and jungles and in return the natives experienced diseases which they were unprepared for, western food, capitalism and with money came greed, envy and covetousness and crime. All because those missionaries could not leave the indigenous peoples alone. Okay yes you're going to say; well if it wasn't the missionaries it would have been somebody else. True. But the missionaries didn't ask them, the natives didn't require their spiritual assistance for goodness sake, they already had one which predated Christianity by thousands of years. The missionaries just assumed the Indians needed to be brought to the one true faith from their savagery and their heathen ways. So armed with that sort of resoluteness and a total belief in God and God's word, the bible, the missionaries have certainly had an impact on the Cook Islands in the last two hundred years.

So we have a nation of supposedly God fearing people who are bashing and assaulting the next generation all the while espousing their faith and belief in God because the missionaries and the bible told them that they could do this. Please don't tell me that God doesn't want you to do this. Why? Because

you Christians keep telling your followers and believers and anyone else who will listen that the bible is the word of God. Therefore he does want you to use force against our children because it is written in Proverbs in the Bible for all to see about disciplining your child. A bunch of self-righteous hypocrites in anybody's language and please don't tell me that kids deserve to be hit. In most of my articles I make reference to the effect of Christianity and the missionaries on our traditional lore. What you may not realise is that in our adoption of Christianity and with the influence of the missionaries, we have forgotten those who can least defend themselves in our rush to be God fearing and righteous people. Look at the scriptures or the messages from the Orometua that are written in our Cook Islands papers, it is all about us the adults. How we should give ourselves over to God, and how we should be living our lives. Very little is written with our children in mind other than to give them a growling or to impart words of so called adult wisdom, which is hypocritical in itself. Considering what adults get up to and how they justify this to anyone who will listen. "Do as I say rather than do as I do" or is this the "the pot calling the kettle black".

I count myself fortunate that I was able to work and travel internationally. I was privileged enough to work in countries where I saw at first hand the poverty and the daily drudgery of work and survival for these people. There was no hourly rate for your labour and you were paid by the item you produced. In some of the countries I worked, the hourly rate was less than 50 cents per hour, there was no welfare, and if you got sick and didn't turn up for work you didn't get paid. How does that stack up with all those people complaining about the hourly rates paid here in the Cook Islands and the cost of living? At least you can go home and watch DVD's on your big LCD TV, talk on your smart phone and buy the latest clothes, or go to the Palace to get takeouts, many of those who are destitute in Asia, live on the street and you complain about getting \$6.00 an hour. It's all about me, me, me and you forget that there are billions of people on this planet who

are worse off than the poorest people in the Cook Islands.

In Borneo, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand where I visited some of the villages, their children were treated as the most precious commodity in the world. They were given free rein to run around and experience all that life had to offer until they reached an age of greater understanding and responsibility. There are many indigenous communities around the globe where the children come first, because they are the next generation of aged-care givers, leaders, the sportsmen and women, the politicians and the teachers and not a missionary or Christian in sight. They thrive because they are encouraged and motivated to succeed for themselves, their villages and ultimately their nations. They experience both the risks and the benefits associated with growing up, because the skills they learnt in this environment enable them to adapt, innovate and prosper and more importantly this flows on into adulthood. Any questions children asked of adults were readily answered or if they were not answered at that time, the child was advised that they would be responded to in a short while. That scenario I just described was prevalent before the coming of the missionaries to the Cook Islands and then it changed. The literature from those who came before the missionaries describe village life from those times. There was certainly no incidents of child abuse or neglect that they observed, on the contrary. The mothering and fathering of the children meant that when old age arrived, the children who were now adults looked after the old people and this cycle of life maintained and sustained the village. What do we find in the Cook Islands in modern times, escalating domestic violence, abuse of those infirm and disabled and not only are the children abused and neglected, but our old people are also abused and neglected. Come on, is this right? Not by any stretch of the imagination is this right, fair and just.

In Part II of this article I propose that child abuse and child neglect is a noose around our nation's neck and as we get older, is preventing us from performing at the highest levels for the development and prosperity of our nation.

Sweeter than Honey

By Lucianne Vainerere

In life we meet many different people. Some people walk in and out, while some stick like wallpaper. The most beautiful however are the ones you know play in the quietness of your life and have a major impact just from the small actions you observe from them. They're not your family but they're those people you wish you were related to even if it was a long distant relation. 'Those ones'. The simple words and affection shared between them as individuals and as a family and personally, I feel that's way sweeter than honey.

It's not something to be bought or earned. It's simply given through love and that's a hard thing to get nowadays with influences from the world and ignoring the small traditions that help make us better people. We end up missing out on the little things that can't be given from anyone else but family (blood or not). The inside jokes, the shared expressions and deep memories that go wayyyyy back to your dipper days. Although those moments don't happen ever so often, they remind me of the conversations I have with my older brother. It's over long periods of time so that when we do eventually talk, it's a long, meaningful conversation that makes me appreciate and miss him more and more each time. That's what I see, from my friends' families – and it's beautiful. (If I didn't mention my own family, it's probably because I'm too stuck in the moment to notice haha)

We get so caught up in our own selfish little bubbles that we don't seem to realize what we're missing out on. The things we didn't do together, the things we wished we did together, the things we made ourselves believe we did together but in reality never happened and our memory becomes faulty.

Sometimes or most times it's usually a tragedy in the family that brings us closer to each other, even when we hoped it could've been a happier time, we never admit that we became closer after tragedy hit us. From a death, to a sudden departure, and starting a new life elsewhere. It's painful to let go of the people we spent so much time with who are also the people we have an unlimited commonality with, without even paying much attention to it.

We don't say it out loud but deep down we know that's exactly how we feel and very true. I'm not ashamed though, I miss out a lot of those moments and I wish I had more, but that would be selfish of me. So I cherish the moments I did get. The moments that will stay with me for as long as I live. In a way they shape me to become a better person and understand situations better because of how much they mean to me, small but big at heart. That my friend, is sweeter than any honey ever made by the bees.

The name above every name

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

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

During the days of Jesus the Emperor Caesar was regarded as the 'lord of lords!' Even Saul before he was converted by the Power of God, was a man greatly feared by all Christians because he crucified and killed them. But when Saul was converted to be the Apostle Paul, he realized that there is a name greater than any other name which is the name of Jesus Christ!

Paul said in Philippians 2v.9-11 "God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name...that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow... and that every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

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

Jesus said in John 16v.33 "...in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good

cheer, I have overcome the world." Too often people rely on their own human knowledge, understanding and wisdom to try and resolve their problems. Jesus said in John 14v.13-14 "...whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it."

The condition to this is that we must believe in faith and recognise that Jesus Christ is the name above every name, and that He died for your sins, and receive Him as Lord and Saviour of your life. Having done that, then we should turn to Jesus for help regarding our challenges or problems! Psalm 46v1 reads "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." In Jeremiah 33v.3 God said "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know."

When we mention the name of Jesus it will open the gates of heaven and closes the gates of hell! It will draw us out of darkness into the light! It will maintain our relationships with one another, even in the family and also with God! It will bring peace and joy to the home! Because Jesus is our joy and salvation!

In Acts 3v.6, Peter, one of Jesus disciples, said to the lame man, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." This lame man was healed and could walk normally. In Acts 4v.12 Peter also said "...there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.", except

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



the name of Jesus!

People have been to the tomb of David; the tomb of Isaac; tomb of Joseph; tomb of Muhammad; and others, they're still there! But when they visited the tomb of Jesus, He wasn't there because He has risen and is in heaven with God the Father being our

Intercessor, our High Priest, and our Advocate. The name of Jesus is above every name because He is The First and The Last! The Alpha and The Omega! He is from Everlasting to Everlasting! Praise be His Holy Name!

May you have a God blessed week!

The Demo performance during the Budget debate made one thing absolutely crystal clear and that is their leader the dithering Smelly Heta is totally out of his depth and should be immediately replaced before they become a laughing stock. Backed with an office budget of \$202,000 their CEO hello Drolley gets \$1200 a week for being present 20 hours a week, but didn't come up with one shred of Budget analysis to debate in the House leaving it all to the One Cook Island unpaid volunteers who micro-scoped the fine print and have come up with many pointers of evidence the Budget is counterfeit and legally questionable. Where was Eddie? Some say in the kitchen making coffee for himself. The Opposition office now resembles a Faulty Towers operation run by Dumb Smelly and Dumber Drolley, what a pair of loose screws leading the Demos into another defeat, will they make way for others more in tune to winning? Not in your life with the big bucks they are earning to do virtually nothing, who in their right mind would give that up?



Best news last week was that Crown Law's incompetent gym junkie Kim Saunders has landed a District Court Judge job in Hamilton; she'll have to get an outside legal opinion before she can rule a judgement, that's how grossly incompetent she is. Like her soul mate neneva Neves she has used her job here as a stepping stone to bigger things. One wonders how many of the many of the overseas trips this user made was to go and lobby for the job at the expense of the Cook Islands tax payer? Let's hope she persuades the other life style expats cluttering up the Crown Law office to go with her then there will

be some opportunities for Cook Islands law graduates to be nurtured into the profession expats are blocking them out of. Big Red says good riddance, to think Elvis would cave in to her stupid demands for a pay rise and a job for her NZ policeman side kick. Just as well Makie Brown isn't the Crown Law Minister because he loves expats.



The BTIB gazette is a great little business booklet that provides details of what business are doing, what new ones are being granted to operate here in the Cook Islands. The latest issue has got some feathers ruffled at under the new companies that have registered at the courts a particular company that is owned by a person with permanent residency and is permitted to start a recruitment agency for bringing in Philippine workers. They ask how could the BTIB allow for such a company to start up? Could this not be detrimental to the local people of the Cook Islands? There are already over 300 here now with more on the way what will be the social impact? Is this an oversight or are they encouraging this? What is the business development team doing about this and even the Foreign Investment



team? Do they support this type of activity happening in the Cook Islands? What's going on at the BTIB? Are they truly the portal of Foreign Enterprise? Gosh, when the feathers are ruffled too many questions are being asked.



Our netballers at the PNG Games are trying to play the game at speed. In fact, too fast. They need to slow down a bit and exercise more ball control. The goal shooters should take more time to line up their shots not hurry them.



After watching our league team's narrow losses at the PNG Games, seems someone needs to remind the players that it's the big men that firstly need to take the ball forwards to set up the little fast men out wide, not the other way around! Time and again our little men were trying to crash through the opposition's big forwards.



Good grief chooks! Pukapuka lot arrive by steamer starving! Good thing the Avatiu tribe laid on some grub. But lo! Sun up they woke to no food for breakie at the Hostel! Out went an SOS picked up by the great Vae Peua! He rallied the troops, marched on the Demo Castle

and food was soon on its way! Coffee, tea, milo, sugar, bread, butter, milk! But chooks, where was the Pukapuka MP? Why was nothing supplied ahead of time for their breakfast? There may have been other food there, like frozen chooks or chops, but most people want something quick and easy to start their day!



Oh dear chooks! A bang of a time at the Sea Bed dorm. Seems all the electrical appliances were switched on at the same time the other day then Bang! The power went kaput! Detractors say it just confirms that lot are in the dark!



Our best known travelling troubadour, Elvis impersonator Penry Huna, has another complex issue to untangle besides the Sunday flights referendum fiasco, the Independence mind explosion and the third shipping license ice berg. Now it's the Miss Cook Islands "egg on yer face" dilemma! Does our globe trotting, singing PM have a solution for any of these problems? Eh? Eh? Little wonder the golf mad leader, by 74 votes, could not wait to skedaddle out of the country so quickly! Perhaps he should join the Harlem Globetrotters!



Employers who do not kick in their fair share of dosh towards their worker's super for when they retire just because there is no law saying government must guarantee the safety of the employer's contribution, are only deluding themselves but not their poor, hard working workers. The plain fact is no government in the world, no matter how hard it tries, can guarantee the absolute safety of anyone's money! There is no dream world where everything is perfect, nirvana, utopian, Eden-like. Look at what's happened in Greece. Their government cannot guarantee their pensioners will get paid.

FAT CATS

Number 2,
Cabinet says more people will be
returning to Manihiki than what came!

The
one's who
disappeared last
year?



HARD

TOO HARD

IMPOSSIBLE

COCONUT ROUNDTABLE

Rumour
has it, Government
will put on extra transport to
Manihiki as more people will be
returning than actually
came!

Sail
home boaters!

Fly
in voters!

The great bike theft

By Hayley McNabb

I woke up feeling good on Friday, went to school, went to work, came home and then got ready for dance practice. Just another normal day. Later that night my friend Ananya came over after her practice had also finished because she always stays over on Fridays as we go to work early in the morning at the market.

So we wake up at around 5:15, that's the time we set our alarm, on Saturday morning to get ready for work since we start at 6. We then walk outside to go and notice that our bikes aren't where we had parked them in the carport. I go to look up behind the cars to see if anyone had moved them out of the way but they were nowhere to be seen. We end up looking outside on the road, confused and frustrated as we're going to be late for work, to see if people had just been pulling a prank on us or something but still no sign of the bikes.

We both clicked and realised that they had been stolen so I ran inside, shouted at my nana to wake up and told her that our bikes were gone. My nana rushed up, gave us the torch light to look across the road to see if they had been dumped over there but we still got nothing. From that moment we were all angry and it was time to report it to the police.

Ananya and I then went down to the police station and told them what our problem was. We gave them our statements and description of the bikes after a hard time of looking for our registration papers. And they said they would try the best they can to keep a look out for our bikes. So from there on, we just went to work to carry on with our day with a grump because we could just not get over the fact our bikes were gone.

The next day came and I woke up from a phone call by the police. I was confused at the time because I was wondering why they were calling so early. They told me that they had heard one of the bikes were located. It turns out that Ananya's dad, because he couldn't sleep that night as he was so worried about her bike since it was only about a month old and they were still paying it off, he went out on a little hunt to see if he could find the bikes left anywhere.

It was around 2 in the morning when he found my bike behind the O'oa water station with the side guard ripped off and the wires pulled out from the thieves trying to hot wire the bike. So now I've decided to save up during these holidays to deposit a new bike and I'm always going to remember to lock the bike that I had wished someone had told me you could do since the day I had got a bike. But anyways, in the end I can't change the past so I'm just gonna have to move on.

We have not yet found Ananya's bike, it's a brand new black Vega RR. So if you know or have heard anything about it. Please call 29491 or text 50326.

What is a feminist?

By Teherenui Koteka

Just the other day I heard someone claim that they were a feminist. I stopped to think. What is a feminist? If we look up the word 'feminist' in the dictionary it will tell you that a feminist is a person who believes in the social political and economic equality of the sexes.

Personally I attempt to practice feminism in all areas of my life but I often get tangled and caught in the web of social practices society has silently put in place. I think we all try to practice feminism, after all we do live in the 21st century, a time where we have things like gender equality. It may seem easy enough to practice feminism, but in actual fact it can be quite difficult.

Feminism is about gaining equal rights and opportunities for women, and allowing women to have control over their lives and bodies. In our time women are often sexualized and objectified in so many cultures, feminism is also about empowering women and young girls. Laws to make sure we all treat each other with respect. However in actual fact the world does not treat women with equal fairness.

I thought that the world was a fairly sexually equal place until last term when I was digging through some statistics looking for information to complete a statistics paper, and do you know what I found? On average in most countries a woman will tend to be paid 75 cents to every dollar a male earns. What this means is, if I were to go and attend the top university in the world and then go on to get a job, my male colleague would earn 25 cents more than me regardless of the fact that we have the same job and the same qualifications. Heck I could have graduated with higher grades than him but as long as we have the same job he will earn more money than me. This is just one example of the lack of equality in the world we live in. This is quite a large problem.

If we look hard enough at the communities around us, we can see smaller examples of the lack of feminism in the world today. Women are often objectified. Women are often claimed as property, maybe not in the way we claim a T-Shirt or a dog but in many societies they are claimed.

Here in the Cook Islands we are lucky enough to live in a society that does not 'really' objectify women. I hope it remains this way. I advise those of you out there who have not stopped to think about the equality of the sexes to stop and do so. I urge you to think of the position women of the past have been put in, I urge you to consider becoming a feminist. If you already consider yourself to be feminist I hope you do not use this term lightly and put more effort into thinking about what it truly means to be a feminist.

VACANCIES

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VACANCY



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Cook Islands.

FOOTBALL UPDATE

New Zealand disqualified from Olympic football qualifying final after fielding ineligible player at Pacific Games

New Zealand has been disqualified from the final to determine Oceania's representative at next year's Rio Olympics men's soccer tournament after it fielded an ineligible player in the semi-finals, the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) says.

Fiji beat Vanuatu on penalties in the final on Sunday as behind-the-scenes ructions continued, ABC reporter Richard Ewart said, at the Sir Hubert Murray Stadium in Port Moresby.

He said the OFC is refusing to speak on the matter.

New Zealand had advanced to Sunday's qualifying final against Fiji, which is also the gold medal match at the Pacific Games, following a 2-0 win over Vanuatu in the semi-finals.

Vanuatu, however, lodged a protest with the Oceania Football Confederation Disciplinary Committee who found New Zealand had fielded an ineligible player, and awarded the game 3-0 to Vanuatu instead.

"The committee has declared that New Zealand has forfeited the match against Vanuatu ... and therefore Vanuatu proceed to the final match of the OFC Olympic qualifying tournament against Fiji," its statement said.

The OFC did not name the player, nor said why he was ineligible, though New Zealand Football later said that defender Deklan Wynne had been deemed to be ineligible and they would challenge the decision.

"We strongly refute the ruling regarding the ineligibility of the player in question and we will be challenging this decision," NZF chief executive Andy Martin said in a statement.

"While we firmly believe tonight's match should have been delayed, we will continue to do everything in our power to ensure that any final decision is



New Zealand heads for goal versus Vanuatu for a chance at the Olympic qualifier and gold medal at the Pacific Games

only reached after a proper and fair process has been carried out.

"We trust that Oceania Football Confederation will change its position and conduct that proper and fair process."

NZF said Wynne had been deemed ineligible due to him acquiring a new nationality under article 7 of the FIFA statutes.

Under the article, either the player or a parent or grandparent needs to be born in the country they wish to represent.

If they are ineligible under the first three criteria, they can

represent the country if they have lived there for five years continuously since the age of 18, making the 20-year-old Wynne too young to qualify under that clause.

Such a clause, however, would restrict many age-group players, particularly those wanting to play in the under-23 Olympic tournaments from representing a country they were not born in or had any family ties to.

Gordon Watson, former OFC media manager and Pacific Games soccer commentator, said the situation was quite extraordinary.

"I was just absolutely shocked beyond words," he said. "Who knows what is going to happen next."

"Where the discrepancy appears to have been picked up from what I understand is that he is not eligible to play for New Zealand until he has spent five years in that country after the age of 18.

"But he is 20 years old so he hasn't fulfilled that criteria."

The 20-year-old Wynne has played for the senior All Whites side, as well as playing in the under-20 World Cup recently held in New Zealand.