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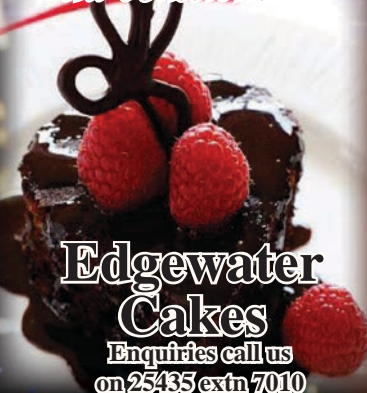
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Serial molestation of finance and continued abuses unstoppable by weak Demo opposition

Every year for five years since 2011 the Cook Islands Party Government has failed to register any signs of management maturity in sovereign fiscal responsibility. Is there any other Western country that has to introduce a supplementary budget every year because the Ministry of Financial Economic Management (MFEM) can't get their heads around administering a micro economy the same size as a regional town in New Zealand?

Every year the Budget is over spent, every year the Budget is guillotined to avoid scrutiny debate, every year there is unbudgeted expenditure, every year there is a pile of Audit and PERC reports that never see day light, every year there are abuses of the Civil List and excessive travel and so the list goes on, enough for the Opposition to make a feast of.

Every year the Democratic Party Opposition caves in without a substantial offensive bombardment of the government's sloppy excuse for their annual Budget statement, their lack of parliamentary leadership is an embarrassment to the Demo stocks. Instead of coming to the House armed with pages of well researched arguments that would have the government on the ropes being pounded into numerous counts of eight, the dithering Demo leadership in this latest one sided engagement lead by the 'lost in transition' puppet Smiley Heather made one thing absolutely clear to the whole nation, He isn't cut out to be the leader of the Parliamentary team. The deputy



Democratic Party Leader and Leader of the Opposition Smiley Heather

First and foremost a representing individual is elected to be a Member of Parliament, yes a Member of Parliament, not a community worker or any other function they become preoccupied with.

Captain Tama failed to back up Heather because he too lacks the intellectual capacity to read between the lines to debate the mechanics of the Budget.

Had it not been for outsiders James Beer and the One Cook Islands tag team of Teina Bishop and the ferocious George Maggie the Budget debate would have been all over in less than a week with Smiley and his team blankly staring into space in bewilderment.

The shocking admission

most Parliamentarians don't have a working grasp of the tools of their profession i.e. the Constitution, the Standing Orders and the MFEM Act is a serious concern. First and foremost a representing individual is elected to be a Member of Parliament, yes a Member of Parliament, not a community worker or any other function they become preoccupied with.

The Democratic Party Leader is at fault and is in breach of his responsibility to lead by example,

it is his role to ensure his team have read and studied their tools of their profession so to be competent practitioners who prioritize their functions in the House of Representatives.

There are numerous issues that should have been raised by the Opposition who surrendered because their \$1200 a week supposedly financial wiz Eddie Drollet is incapable of understanding financial applications. Drollet failed to itemise a single point of contention for Heather to argue in the Budget debate.

Once touted by the CIP government back in the day Drollet was destined as a future Financial Secretary whatever evidence he may have shown back then certainly isn't apparent today. Drollet's lack of professional conduct as a highly paid official of the Opposition is compromised by his refusal to

continued next page

Can Puna save the day?

Yes he can. The 1 Million dollar Man - PM Puna

Add up all the things that the Prime Minister has financially cost the Cook Islands and you become to realize he's in this game for Henry Puna and no one else.

No other PM has spent as much as he on Civil List expenses, no other PM and no other Minister spends as much as he on travel and Air Raro charters.

In 2011 he spent a record \$58,000.00 out of the Civil List, in 2012 \$47,000.00, in 2013 \$49,000.00 in 2014 it is said he spent close to \$250,000.00 in Charters and travel overseas.

In 2015 it has been estimated that Henry has travelled no less than 10 times to the Northern Group on chartered flights either using

the Civil List or the Renewable Energy budget, which has by the way ballooned from its \$500,000.00 annual budget to almost \$4 million to date. Which explains why he's been covering his behind by using this budget to fly his wife and driver with gear for his homes in Manihiki.

In total it is estimated that the lofty jet setting PM Henry Puna spent a total of \$1 million dollars on charters and travel and expenses. The long list of wasteful spending and ineptness shown by his leadership has made the people of the Cook Islands poorer as a result. In addition to his disregard for the hard working tax payers he has been a diplomatic embarrassment in more ways

than one. be critical of government in any shape or form. This is likely due to his immediate family links tied back to the CIP government, namely his wife and daughter.

Heather has his hands tied with his CEO because Drollet virtually singlehandedly rigged the Conference that got Heather installed as the Party leader. It's a compromise Heather is content to live with at the cost of the Party masses.

Demo insiders now realise the Party is heading for many more years in the opposition if the next Conference doesn't address the Leadership matrix. If Henry Puna pulls the plug and dissolves Parliament for an early election it's curtains for the Demos who may have strengthened their Rarotonga seats but still lack the means to convert more outer Island seats to become the Government.

While the Demos scuttle about trying to become the government, for the CIP it's the same story, same song, nothing changes. The CIP Government plays the same song every year.

"Things are going good, it all ticking over nicely," chirps Finance

Minister Mark Brown who makes the claim that international financial bodies say the Cook Islands are a model that the rest of the Pacific should aspire to following.

Colagate, Grey Power grievances, petitions on Te Mato Vai, conflicts of interest, petitions on the lack of consultation on fishing licenses, the Appropriation Bill guillotining, and Political reform. It's all too hard to be honest about the truth. This CIP Government approved \$620,000.00 of over expenditure in 2011 their first year in Government. The more things change the more things remain the same.

There are whispers the winds of change are beginning to blow, will the CIP members who have seen this molestation of the country's finances finally do something about it in their 10th August party conference? Not likely.

They, CIP party delegates, will remain with leader Henry Puna because Teariki Heather is too autocratic and strategically incompetent, as for Mark Brown, well he's a follower doing the bidding of others. - George Pitt



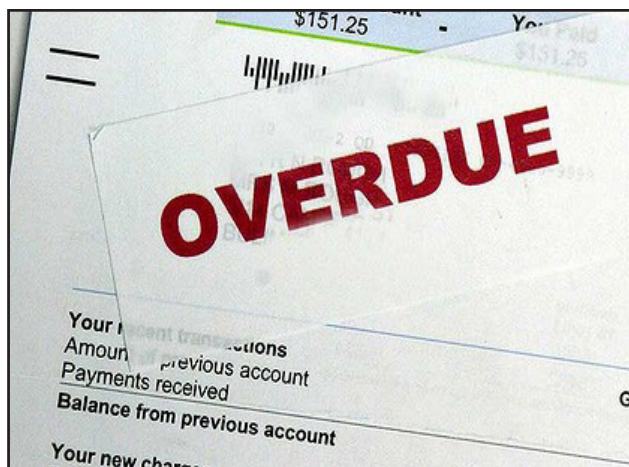
PM Henry Puna

than one. numbers may never be known. Few of our people really To really save the day and save know how much PM Puna has the Cook Islands there is one squandered on overseas trips thing the life style PM can do. and aircraft charters but the And that's to resign. - George Pitt



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Nicky and Mickey-Cars, Schooners and Pageants

No sooner had \$600K worth of Hyundai's arrived that the public observed Nicky Henry the \$70K a year Te Maeva Nui ambassador come out and publicly defend the wasted purchase and why do you ask? Because it's said that his brother Mickey Henry a convicted tax dodger, Prime Minister Puna and Mark Brown's \$100,000 go to man made the purchase in his role as Cook Islands Investment Corporation Chairman.

Two things have become synonymous with the Henrys in the last few weeks.

And cars aren't all of it.

Nicky Henry in trying to get the Miss Pacific pageant authority in Samoa to change the pageant organizers from the 28 year long organizing committee of

MCIPA led by Clee Marsters to the newly formed Rohan Ellis and Dianne Clarke Bates of CITC committee, and Mickey Henry and the Tiare Taporo schooner and the allegations of the blatant breakdown of due process and Magna Carta.

It's a pungent recipe of insider information of who you know rather than what you know and this abhorrent game that the Cook Islands Party Government is playing at is now more obvious than ever before.

Shiny new cars, schooners with unadvertised government contracts and new pageant committees trying to wrestle away a benefaction that has been around for three decades

The manner in which the Henrys have landed lucrative



Mike Henry
unadvertised plum jobs ahead of others when neither lifted a finger or contributed to the election campaigns is a sticking point within the CIP who have sweated without reward.

In all this, Henry Puna the



Nick Henry
unpopular 74 vote Prime Minister of the Cook Islands continues to make one frightful mistake after another. Backing the wrong pony and gleefully jumping on a flight to leave behind the messes of his creation. - George Pitt

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Health Conference 2015: Towards a healthy future 2015

By Noeline Browne

The 17th annual Cook Islands Health Conference which runs from 20 to 22 July 2015 held at the Rarotongan Beach Resort and Spa attracted some 200 health professionals, observers and distinguished guests. The overall theme was: Towards a healthy future, with subthemes of NCDs, child health, men's health, women's health, research and trauma and emergency.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr Kiki Maoate.

Cook Islands Medicine pre and post 1965

Highlights from the first morning session were the historical perspective given by Dr Joe Williams of his experiences in his early days in medicine, which work eventually led to the eradication of filariasis (elephantiasis) in the Cook Islands. Other doctors he mentioned included the late Dr Tau Cowan (later Kainuku Ariki) and Dr Terepai Maoate (later Prime Minister then Treasurer/DPM). During question time, Pa Ariki noted that many of the past Prime Ministers of the Cook Islands were originally doctors, including Dr Williams. This was followed by Dr Teariki Tamarua who took a more lighthearted approach to the subject with his humorous recollections of his very early days in medicine as an intern.

Dr Williams is still pioneering medical treatments such as his work treating eczema which his research shows is an allergic reaction to certain foods. At his Mt Wellington clinic, he has successfully treated patients of all ages from babies to adolescents through to adults who have had the condition for years. His treatment plan is very effective and within 5 to 7 days, the eczema is cleared. Dr Williams has written a book about the treatment so that other doctors can help their patients as well.

Injury related disability & helmets

Tuesday's morning theme was

Social Services and Research chaired by Dr Kiki Maoate with a keynote speech by Prof Richard Poulton from the University of Otago, followed by Dr Aumea Herman on establishing the Cook Islands injury surveillance system and Mayor Tairi from MOH on injury and injury-related disability in the Cook Islands. Statistics show that we have 9,500 registered motor vehicles, of which half are 2-wheel (ie motor bikes, motor scooters). Law enforcement for alcohol were satisfactory, relatively poor for speed, poor from helmets and none at all for seatbelts, car restraints (baby seats) and use of mobile phones.

During question time, the subject of non-compulsory wearing of helmets for those driving up to 40kmph became a bit of a hot topic, with some blaming 'women power' because women said it would ruin their hairstyles in the way to church. Others blamed the politicians. Yet another had a novel solution: how about compulsory for all men at all ages and all speeds, and compulsory for all women after 7pm (adding that should take care of the church going ladies). Others blamed the 'lethal' combination of motor bike riding and alcohol for taking a toll on our youth in injuries or fatalities.

Youth wellbeing

Eliza Puna from AUT presented her findings on Cook Islands Youth views towards positive mental wellbeing and suicide prevention. Her study was on Cook Islands children: half the study were NZ-born and the others were those Cook Islands-born in the 16 – 24 year age bracket. She noted the taboo nature of suicide and stigma attached to the subject and advocated taking a 'multi-sectoral approach to the problem such as having a national suicide plan strategies. Key findings in her study were that identity, culture and family were important to addressing the issues of the youth. She

found that children with mixed Pacific heritage preferred their Cook Islands side. The inference being that other Pacific parents tend to be stricter and felt they could not confide in them.

Cultural resilience in Cook Islands

Meg Perkins from the University of Queensland presented her PhD thesis on cultural resilience in the Cook Islands as it affects youth and rates of incarceration (imprisonment). Meg recalled her early days in dealing with prisoners after having moved to Australia. She was disappointed to find the very high rates of incarceration of indigenous Australian people (the Aboriginals) and also in New Zealand – but not quite at the same rate. Over the 25 years she finds that the situation is even worse (noting that's a disgrace') Then at a conference she heard of 'cultural resilience' of Cook Islands and was intrigued as to what that phrase meant.

Meg came to Cook Islands to carry out her study and found that it embraced culture, family and a certain way of dealing with matters. There are no youth facilities (praise the Lord);



Keynote Speaker Dr Kiki Maoate

no children's homes (they are taken into extended families as 'tamariki angai') or what the Western society call 'informal adoption' or foster care. Her PhD thesis was very well received by the University and she plans to allow access to her research by putting it on Open Access on the QLD University website.

Our Frontpage model



Our frontpage model this week is 16 year old student of Tereora College, Ananya Raeina. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck. and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald

Letter to the Editor

Shame on Rashneel Kumar!

Dear Editor,
It was very disappointing to read on the back page of the Cook Island News on Saturday 18th July with the headline of a story by Rashneel Kumar "Bronze medal relief for poor performing sport."

What's more disappointing is the fact that Rashneel Kumar linked our success at the Pacific Games to a story about a ranking of men's football and I'm not sure why this article was linked to the Pacific Games, which had no relevance whatsoever.

Our National Women's Football Team eliminated his home country Fiji, with a population of almost a million people, from the Pacific Games as they failed to defeat the Cook Islands. He goes on to say that the bronze medal win at the Pacific Games will provide

some relief to football in the Cook Islands. It seems it had only provided some disappointment to him.

The Cook Islands National Women's Football team is ranked 105 out of 209 countries. In other words, if there were only 20 countries playing football in the world, the Cook Islands would be ranked 10, which is pretty good for a very small country. His home country Fiji on the other hand with almost a million people is ranked 37 places behind Cook Islands on 142.

Mr Kumar should be aware if he did some research the Cook Islands National Football Women's team have won bronze at the 2010 Oceania Nations Cup, and again in 2014 at the Nations Cup. A tournament with a higher football status than the Pacific Games, which included

New Zealand.

Editor, Rashneel Kumar should be ashamed of himself for linking us to a article which has no connection to Women's Football and the Pacific Games.

I really feel for all the girls in the National Women's team, the coach, team management and their families who represented the Cook Islands at the Pacific Games. They all trained hard and their commitment and achievements should be recognised and not linked to an article to suit Rashneel Kumar's thinking.

We as a nation should celebrate success of the entire team Cook Islands at the Pacific Games and let's hope it is an inspiration to all young Cook Islanders to know with hard work and commitment comes success.

Let's not be side tracked by

the gutter and irresponsible journalism of Rashneel Kumar who should be reminded he is a visitor in our country and should use his space in the newspaper to be honest, fair and respectful.

Our players don't deserve this.

Liz Harmon

Captain of the CI National Women's Football Team

For the Record;

Cook Islands, population 20,000, Women's Soccer Team ranked 105

Fiji, population 1 million, Women's Soccer Team ranked 142 (37 behind the CI)

Cook Islands Women's Soccer Team;

Bronze Medal 2015 Pacific Games in PNG (Eliminated Fiji)

Bronze Medal 2014 Nations Cup (Higher status than Pacific Cup)

Bronze Medal 2010 Oceania Nations Cup

Disgruntled people of the Cook Islands - enough is enough

Kia Orana e to Tumutevarovaro,
Greetings to our dearest Minister, Hon. Teariki Heather and associates.

We write to voice our deepest and utmost disgust in what is happening on the island. The corruption, the bribery, the day light robbery - you name it. All happening under this government CIP! Sad and shamefully to say, under the leadership of Henry Puna!

Our people are suffering on our island due to the selfishness and corruption enforced by the Prime Minister!

The Grey Power are still being taxed, the Nikao School still unfinished, flash new cars bought in for what? Hiring and firing of HOMs! Why? Because they aren't affiliated with your political party? Ae te tangi e!

We have just heard about the recent departure of Mr. Terri Rangi who has been serving this country, his own blood and people for 23 years, only to be pushed and ousted by coward Minister Turepu Kiriau. Why? He has done a tremendous job!! What do our people do when your Government push them out? Leave the country and then? Who are all left here? FOREIGNERS!!!!

We have interestingly heard that the Prime Minister has pressured & intervened the Minister Kiriau to hire his own family and blood, Mr. Teariki Vakalalabure who is a close relative on Henrys line. Where is the fairness here? Angaanga kino tikae.

This same person Teariki, who works at the BITB is in charge of Foreigners registration. He is responsible for allowing all

these manu kaomani or porenas into our Country! The very same person who was involved in the George Speight coup in Fiji some years ago and was charged.

Look around you, how many foreigners do you see? 80% more than some 5-7 years ago!

What will happen to BITB and the locals their? Honorable Teariki Heather, I beg you to intervene and put a 100% local in that seat that will look after our iti tangata and safe guard our country from corruption and mis-treatment. Or bring back Mr. Tere Rangi.

You are our only hope in Government.

We Vote for Teariki Heather, he has the peoples back and vote!

Vote for Teariki Heather for PRIME MINISTER, not Henry Puna!

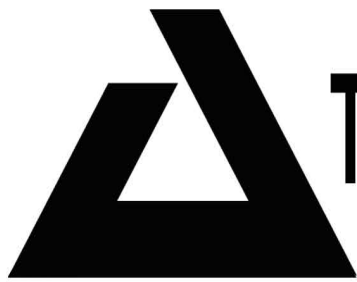
I sincerely hope our voices are

heard. We cry tears of sadness looking at our country.....e toketoke enua au, kare na tetai ke e tara mai kiaku.

Te Atua Te Aroa

Editor's note:

This paper has always maintained that Cook Islanders have a right to know how many foreigners are living and working here. Details on the number of ex-pats working for government and the salaries they are receiving should be known to the PSC. Numbers of foreigners holding work permits and the work they are permitted to do should be known to the Immigration Service. Government's continued failure to publish these figures will in time only lead to public resentment, antagonism and opposition to foreigners. It may even become an election issue.



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South Africa High Commissioner to visit

Tuesday 21 July 2015

South Africa's High Commissioner to New Zealand Ms Ntombizodwa Lallie will travel to Rarotonga in August to present her letters of credence to His Excellency Tom Marsters, the Queen's Representative to the Cook Islands.

The Cook Islands established diplomatic relations with the Republic of South Africa in February 1996 and in May this year; the two Governments approved the accreditation of South Africa's High Commission in Wellington to the Cook Islands. Previously, South Africa's mission in Canberra had oversight of its relationship with the Cook Islands.

While the Governments of the Cook Islands and South Africa have had limited engagement to date, it is hoped the accreditation of the Wellington mission, and High Commissioner Lallie to the Cook

Islands will provide a foundation upon which future cooperation can be strengthened.

The two countries signed a Tax Information Exchange Agreement in 2013 which came into effect in the same year in support of international efforts to strengthen cooperation in the area of taxation and the two have shared interests as members of the Commonwealth family.

"We are heartened by the accreditation of the South Africa's Wellington mission to the Cook Islands and have a good working relationship with High Commissioner Lallie," said Deputy High Commissioner Tapaeru Herrmann.

High Commissioner Lallie and Deputy High Commissioner Herrmann were part of a panel who presented on Women in Leadership during an International Women's Day event hosted by



South Africa's High Commissioner to New Zealand Ms Ntombizodwa Lallie and Cook Islands High Commissioner Tiki Matapo

the Australian High Commission in Wellington earlier this year.

Africa is important in regard to multilateral alliances and engagement and within the Pacific its profile is rising with the

beginnings of African diplomatic representation in Wellington.

High Commissioner Lallie will attend the 50th celebrations in Rarotonga as part of her visit to present credentials.

Letter to the Editor

The Kia Orana campaign by the Tourism Corporation a failure of a misguided and misdirected pr promotion

Dear Editor,
I don't know how much money was allocated for this campaign but it appears to me to have been a lot of money used to prepare media material, an extravagant launch and subsequent advertising.

First I have to ask what is the purpose of this campaign? Is it to convince the general public to be kind and friendly to our tourist? Or is it to convince the community that the tourist industry is good for our country and we should wholeheartedly support it. These objectives are of course not mutually exclusive but the execution of the campaign appears to me to be nothing more than a pat on the back for CITC (not you Trevor) and the tourism industry for a job well done and keep supporting us Joe public.

In the last 40 years, since the advent of our tourist industry, certain aspects of our tourist industry has changed while others have not. The dominance of non Cook Islanders in the ownership and management of the industry

has not changed much. However, those employed in the industry has changed with the large influx of migrant workers and the frontline face of the industry is increasingly Fiji/Indian and Philippines dominated. This begs the question, are Cook Islanders feeling more marginalised in our tourist industry, if so does this not pose a real problem for the industry?

The latest evidence of this lack of appreciation and support for our most important industry is the Aitutaki Sunday flight. Despite several years of debate about the pros and cons of this issue the people of Aitutaki said no to the Sunday flight. Forget about the politics and the hair splitting about the numbers who voted, the simplest interpretation of the referendum is that the majority who cared to vote said NO.

The development of the tourist industry in Aitutaki is without doubt, one of the success stories of the industry in the Cook Islands and yet the people of Aitutaki showed they value their traditional lifestyle, tied to their

church, as more important. Is this because too few in Aitutaki have benefited from the tourist industry or is there some other reason?

The extravagant launch of the Kia Orana campaign at the Maire Nui Garden looked to be an exclusive event for the selected from the industry and community and Joe public had no role or place in that launch. I believe the beer, wine and food flowed freely during the night and a great time was enjoyed by the invited. This event seems to me to be an exercise of preaching to the converted.

Indeed, if this campaign was directed at Joe public why not plan a big launch at the Punanga Nui Market on a Saturday morning where we are guaranteed the biggest gathering of tourist and local people every week. What role has the churches been asked to play in this campaign or the churches not the most influential institution in our community?

I remember in the late 70's or early 80's the tourism week

promoted by the Tourist Authority. Admittedly, they were not slick campaigns and their budgets I am sure were not in millions of dollars but I knew then what they were trying to do which was to get our people more involved in this new industry and benefit from it. Interesting topics like sports on Sunday and using our culture, foods etc. as resources for the tourist industry, were directly addressed and debated. I am also sure those Tourism weeks were always opened at a Sunday church service.

Even the slick advertising leaves me confused as to the message it's trying to convey to me. The ads may be funny but they are also somewhat condescending. Since we are in the social media age, what about some robust specific social media campaign to canvass young Cook Islanders views and ideas about the future of our industry. I hope the new blood injected in to the CITC Board will give more strategic thinking to future local PR campaigns in the future.

Joe Public

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, WEDS 15th JULY 2015

Te Maeva Nui Update

The Te Kave Kōrero on Wednesday 15th July 2015 was an informative program for listeners.

The first guest speaker, Sonny Williams, Secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Development, said that for the first time ever in the history of the Cook Islands, plans are in place to televise Te Maeva Nui 2015 'live' to the outer islands, enabling our people there to watch Te Maeva Nui on their television sets at the same time as it is happening on Rarotonga.

"I manakonakoia na teia, kua tae rai pa'a ki te toru `ā mataiti i teia taime, me ka rauka i te tuku atu na runga i te tivi, broadcast ki te pa enua. Kua roa teia manakonakoanga, inara, kare i rauka na i te rave, i teia mataiti ra, ka tae mai ta matou matini taviri teata ou, nenei ou aere, ka rauka i a ratou i te tukati atu i teia ki runga i te mea broadcast a te Telecom e te TV Cook Islands, e tuku atu ai ki te pa enua".

He added that Radio Cook Islands would be broadcasting Te Maeva Nui 2015 'live' also which would enable listeners in the outer islands to listen to Te Maeva Nui on their radio sets, as has been the case in the past 30 years and more.

Williams said that the priority to date is to ensure that outer island groups are warm given the recent cold weather thus far on Rarotonga.

"Ko te manako maata i teia nga ra, ko te `ākonokonoanga i to tatou iti tangata no te pa enua mai, no te mea, kua kite tatou e, te tomo mai nei ratou mei roto mai i te reva maana i te pa enua tokerau, ki roto nei i to tatou reva anu i Rarotonga nei".

He added that it is also a priority to welcome groups arriving from the outer islands and making sure they have settled down well at their respective accommodations.

"No reira, ko ta matou angaanga maata

roa atu teia i teia nga ra, e tae mai nei kia `ākonokonoia ratou, kia mako te tikitikianga i a ratou i ko i te pa'i, ko i te airport, e to ratou taime, kia kore ratou e taii, kia kore e manamanatā, ko te angaanga maata ia i teia ra, e pou ua mai to tatou pa enua a teia nga pa'i, Varaire pa'a e tāmanako'ia nei, me e `āpōpō Varaire, me e Maanakai".

Williams said Air Raro is in the process of flying other groups to Rarotonga from Mangaia, Atiu and Aitutaki.

Bishop Tutai Pere of the Apostolic church was the second guest speaker on the programme.

He said that a thanksgiving service has been set for Wednesday 15th July at 7pm at the National Auditorium.

"Ko te akakoroanga maata, ko te pupu taokotaiaanga i to tatou ngakau, to tatou manako, to tatou vaerua, te iti tangata te Basileia Kuki Airingai roto i tetai tuatau pure, akaoki akameitakianga ki te Atua no tana tiakianga i a tatou i teia rima ngauru mataiti, i te riroanga na tatou rai tatou e akatere, tae mai ki teia ra".

Nick Henry, the third guest speaker informed listeners that on Constitution Day, 4th

August, there are a number of events set for that day.

"The morning program starts with a thanksgiving prayer service at the National Auditorium, and that's a combined service lead by the Religious Advisory Council. And then at about midday we're encouraging everyone to come down, there will be vendors and we'll have a kids zone and a team zone".

"The Constitution celebrations will be at the foreshore and that will be from about midday to two o'clock and then just after that we'll start the official part of the 50th Constitution ceremony with the arrival of our VIPs, the Queen's Representative, the Prime Minister, we'll have our flag raising ceremony, we have some speeches from some of our students who won the speech competition earlier on in the year, and then we'll have a presentation from the Prime Minister of New Zealand, John Key, and then we'll have a presentation from our Prime Minister, we will blow out the candles on our 50th anniversary celebration cake".

Te Maeva Nui officially opens on Thursday 23rd July followed by the annual float parade on Friday 24th July. Saturday night 25th July will see the beginning of the cultural performances and the start of Te Maeva Nui 2015 competition.

Te Maeva Nui concludes on Sunday 2nd August with the imene tuki competition (traditional hymns).

Association established for retired Police Officers

On Tuesday at Police HQ, retired Police Officers met and established an Association. Aitutaki MP Moana Ioane advised the Herald on Wednesday that some 20 retired Officers elected; former detective Norman George as Chairman, former Chief Inspector Tini as Secretary and former patrol boat captain Garth Henderson as Treasurer.

The Association is the brainchild of Sir Frederick Goodwin and Tevai Matapo. Moana said the Association now encourages former Officers to join the march on Friday with the Police float and to assemble at Police HQ in formal attire (white shirt/tie). Moana said there may be up to 50 retired Officers on the island. -Charles Pitt

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, FRI 17th JULY 2015

BlueSky connects Outer Is TV

Janette Oliver, Marketing Manager at Bluesky, the new owner of Telecom Cook Islands, was the guest speaker on Te Kave Kōrero on Friday 17th July 2015.

Oliver said that Bluesky is working in partnership with the Ministry of Cultural Development to televise Te Maeva Nui 2015 'live' to the outer islands.

"Telecom Bluesky is really proud to be sponsors for Te Maeva Nui 2015 and part of that sponsorship is actually we are going to be doing a stream to the outer islands, to all of the outer islands, on their tv stations, so essentially what we're doing, we're providing the footage from the Te Maeva Nui celebrations and other 50th celebrations so our feed goes from our encoders and decoders in Rarotonga at Te Maeva Nui and then it is spread across the island council station, the tv station, to be watched by our viewers or our people in the outer islands".

"So, as far as Penrhyn as well as low as Mangaia, they will all be able to watch Te Maeva Nui from their own home".

Oliver said that the television footage from Te Maeva Nui will be broadcasted via Bluesky's internet feed.

"It's not going directly through our satellite feed, it is going through our internet feed, that is, that would be broadcast out".

"We are indeed going and sponsoring the feed to be fed out to the outer islands and so what happens there is because it's going directly to the tv station that are looked after by the island council, then it is fed back as any of the tv station are, they just need to make sure they're on the right frequency and they will be able to see it just as they do with anything they have on local television".

Looking far and beyond Te Maeva Nui 2015 Oliver said that Bluesky is keen to sponsor

other events further down the line.

"One of the things we have sort of looked at, further down the track, the ability to show the Miss Pacific Islands Pageant, the Miss Cook Islands Pageant, things like that. There are other events that we could certainly look at supporting and providing this service for but what it does mean is that knowing that we have the ability we can look at opening up those types of things".

With regards to residents on Rarotonga being able to watch Te Maeva Nui on their television sets Oliver said that collaboration between the broadcasters would need to be effected.

"Over here in Rarotonga there are broadcasters and so it would also mean that those broadcasters would need to be a part of that discussion".

"In terms of broadcast here in Rarotonga there is the encouragement to go along to the event, apart from that, we'll need to see about those types of things".

Oliver said that Bluesky is very excited about televising Te Maeva Nui for the first time ever.

"We are extremely excited, we are very proud to be bringing this to the outer islands, we are very proud to be involved with Te Maeva Nui. I'm really hoping everybody is going to be as excited as

we are. It's just going to change the way that we are able to show our own people what's going on".

She added that Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) is available in the Cook Islands.

"There has been a thought of having IPTV technology available in the Cook Islands. There are always things that we are working on. Certainly with the Bluesky Group, IPTV is available. There are always new and exciting opportunities that we're wanting to look at to provide to your customers".

If everything goes as planned everyone on the outer islands should be able to watch Te Maeva Nui 'live' on their television sets, at the same time as groups are performing on stage inside the National Auditorium.

Te Maeva Nui 2015 officially opens tomorrow, Thursday 23rd July, followed by a float parade on Friday 24th, then the formal cultural performances and competition kicks off on Saturday night 25th July.

Te Maeva Nui continues next week and concludes with the imene tuki competition (traditional hymns) on Sunday 2nd August.

The 50th anniversary celebration of self-government will be marked with a thanksgiving service on Constitution Day, Tuesday 4th August 2015.

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TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, MON 20th JULY 2015

Understanding “smoke free”

The anti-smoking law was under scrutiny on Te Kave Kōrero on Monday 20th July 2015 and was one of two subjects of discussion.

A DVD with advice and recommendations with respect to growing vanilla was also the other subject on the programme.

Te Kave Kōrero presenter, Tony Hakaoro, stated that he was at Trader Jacks on Saturday night 18th July and noticed there were people smoking at the bar.

He said that he spoke to the Bar Manager and was told that people can smoke at the bar and that the only smoke free zone is the restaurant.

Contributing to the discussion concerning this issue of smoking at the bar was Police Commissioner Maara Tetava and Marae Ora anti-smoking officer Maina Tairi.

Tetava said in Maori that smoking is prohibited within 70 per cent of the seated area of a restaurant but is permitted however within the other 30 percent remaining area.

“Te ngai i reira o te restaurant mei taau e taiku mai ra i nakonei, i raro ake i te irava ture rua ngauru ma iva, te karanga nei oki e, me e restaurant toou, at least e itu ngauru patene o te ngai nooanga o teia restaurant noou, kare e tangata e akatikaia i te kai avaava ki roto. E toru ngauru patene i reira i teia restaurant noou, ka akatikaia te kai avaava ki roto. Ko teia pa`a te ngai e taii nei ta taua e akakite ra i nakonei. Ko teia toru ngauru per cent e te itu ngauru per cent. Penei e, te oro nei reira te au taeake no ratou teia au ngai, i raro ake i teia vavaiaanga i teia tuanga toru ngauru e te itu ngauru”.

Tairi contributed saying in Maori that under section 29 (4) of the anti-smoking legislation smoking is prohibited at restaurants.

“Me `ākara mai ra tatou i raro roa mai i roto i te irava rua ngauru ma iva, te numero `ā, te karanga katoa ia nei e, kare e akatikaia te kai avaava i roto i tetai ngai kaikai uatu, e pera katoa, in any area designated as a non smoking area. E oti, i roto katoa i te ngai kaikai, i muri ake i te tuatau, me, karanga taua kua pau oki te mataiti i tuku ai teia ture, karanga taua kia taangaanga ine, e tai mataiti i muri ake i teia ture i te

akamaramaiaanga, e rua tauatini e itu oki teia ture, te akatakaanga i konei, kare e akatika akaouia te kai avaava i roto i te restaurant”.

Furthermore Tairi said that after one year after the commencement of the anti-smoking legislation smoking is prohibited in public places.

“E tai mataiti i muri ake ka akataangaanga ai, mana teia ture i te taangaanga, kare e akatika akaouia te kai avaava i roto i teia au ngai nei”.

“I raro roa mai i te tuanga tai i te irava rua ngauru ma iva, tuanga tai, e, a, b, c oki tetai, e tuanga rua, e tuanga toru, teia e tuanga `ā i raro roa mai i roto i te ture, te karanga nei i konei kare takiri e akatika akaouia te kai avaava i roto i teia au ngai nei, tera i reira, ka neke atu te tangata ki vao, ki vao ake i te restaurant”.

Tony said he expressed to Trader Jacks on Saturday night that he believed smoking is prohibited at the bar but they disagreed.

“Kua karanga au ki a ratou i te po Maanakai, i taku i mārama, kare e akatikaia te aronga kai avaava i konei i te ngai e oko nei kotou i te kava”. Kare ratou i `āriki i toku manako”.

Tairi agreed with Tony.

Society gives thanks for gift of 1855 Maori Bible

Cook Islands Library & Museum Society Inc hosted William Tailby to morning tea today, to thank him for his gift of an 1855 Maori Bible (brought to Rarotonga last year by a friend).

William Tailby's grandfather (same name) was the Resident Agent here 1943-51.

Tailby, a retired school principal from Northland, NZ, was accompanied by his wife Elizabeth and two daughters along with their partners and children.

Tangata Vainerere was invited to represent the CICC whose church

“Kua tano taau. Manea toou manako e apai ra koe, inara, ko te reira oki tetai ngai e taii nei ratou”.

Tony suggested that te Marae Ora may want to contact Trader Jacks with a view to addressing or resolving the smoking issue at their bar.

Tereapii Pita, owner of Onu Studio, now a DVD producer on Rarotonga, talked about his latest DVD production, a highlight of a series of vanilla growing workshops held in Rarotonga in 2014.

The DVD captured the advice and recommendations of one of the big vanilla producers in Tahiti.

Amongst several recommendations the DVD offers and suggests a variety of options in respect to choosing the right altitude where planting vanilla is highly recommended.

Pita said that the DVD would be on sale at Annie Pita's stall at the Punanga Nui Market this coming Saturday 25th July.

For further information or enquiries regarding the DVD please contact Apii or Annie Pita on telephone 20294 or mobile 72257.

ministers are great users of said Bible, which was published in the UK at the instigation of Rev Wyatt Gill (who was based in Mangaia for 30 years in the 1800s). They like comparing the Maori of yesteryear with today (and there are a lot of changes). Many seem to prefer the 1855 Bible to the current versions in use, published in Fiji in the 1980s. In fact the Bible is so popular we've been asked to reprint it but because of its volume and fragility, costs are prohibitive.

Jean Mason

Are Tapaeanga Opens



Today marks a significant milestone as Cook Islands Tourism along with the Ports Authority officially opened the much anticipated Are Tapaeanga. Are Tapaeanga is an excellent example of Cook Islands design and culture being incorporated into some of the country's infrastructure says Halatoa Fua, CEO for Cook Islands Tourism.

Fua, supported this notion in his opening speech outlining what a project of this scale is all about 'a coherent and strategic approach towards developing tourism', he continued with the statement that 'we must continue to foster innovation in our thinking as an industry and acknowledge that by facilitating those ideas into reality'.

The opening included a stone laying ceremony like that of our ancestors to commemorate a special event or occasion. The stones laid were a symbolic representation of a 'Mana

Tiaki' (one of the core values of the Kia Orana Values Project recently launched by Cook Islands Tourism) which represents a guardian or keeper with a sacred purpose. Two types of stones were selected the "punga" coral rock which represents Te Tua Tokelau (Northern group islands) as they are atolls and the other being volcanic rocks to represent Te Tua Tonga (Southern group islands) of raised volcanic makatea.

When driving pass the Avatia waterfront it is difficult for one not to stop and admire the iconic building with its coral rock wall and its open style design. The Are Tapaeanga has many cultural elements such as the bronze fitted 'wind dial' in honour of our voyaging history and knowledge. The names used in the wind dial are in two groups Te Tua Tokelau and Te Tua Tonga to reflect the different Cook Islands dialects

and languages. The centre of the building highlights a map of the Cook Islands as islands rising out from the ocean and finally the Manutai design represents the birds in which our voyagers followed to distant lands.

For future proofing of the building it is also important to note that modern technology has been integrated in the design which helps to minimize maintenance. Water saving and flow reduction taps have been installed in the bathrooms to minimize water wastage. A state-of-the-art Biolytix treatment plant has been installed with distribution lines that will take effluent directly to the gardens & trees landscaped in the area with a "fruit" garden to be added at the end of the site. Solar hot water and solar power has also been added to provide hot water and electricity to the building as well as LED lighting and sensor lights.

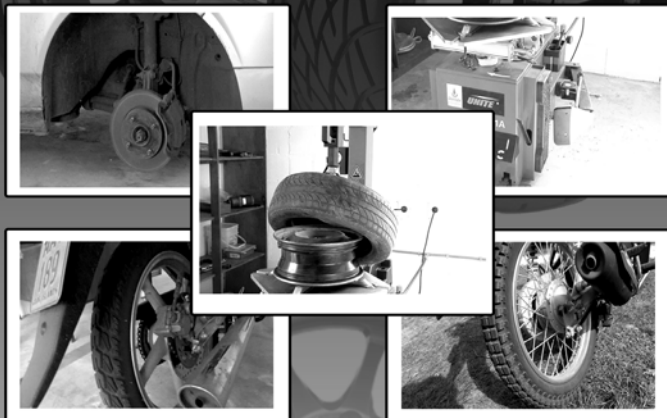
The project has been a 5

month partnership between Cook Islands Tourism & Ports and going forward this relationship will continue to work collectively for the benefit of all marina users and the Cook Islands economy as we continue to strive forward with our cruise industry says Metua Vaiimene, Director for Destination Development.

Cook Islands Tourism looks forward to seeing the building being used to host events right on the water's edge with all of the cultural elements as well as the modern features on display.

The building construction was completed by local construction firm RVK Contractors under the supervision of Project Manager and Architect Romani Katoa of Romani Design Consultants. Cook Islands Tourism would like to thank the New Zealand Government for its continued support towards the Destination Development program which enables such investments of this calibre to be made.

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**COOK ISLANDS
BREAST CANCER
FOUNDATION**



TE MARAE ORA
COOK ISLANDS Ministry of Health

PUBLIC NOTICE

Breast Screening Programme

The Ministry of Health in partnership with the Cook Islands Breast Cancer Foundation would like to advise that this year's **Mammography Screening Programme** will be held from **Monday 20th July to Friday 31st of July** at the Rarotonga Hospital.

This year the first three days of week one are dedicated to call backs - **if you were last screened in 2013** and advised to commit to 2 yearly screening, you should be seen again this year too.

If you turned 40 within the last year and have not had a Breast Screen before you should have one this year – next Thursday and Friday are your days!

If you fall into either of the above two categories and have not already been contacted please phone Rarotonga Hospital on 22-664 for an appointment.

The first three days of week two are for **women from the Pa Enua**. From Monday to Wednesday **shuttle transport will be provided** from the hostels to the hospital and return.

If you are under 40 years and are experiencing breast pain, please phone **Dr May** on **22-664 ext 813**.

Please keep your scheduled appointment.

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Please contact Lydia Marsh Ph: 24296 or Mob: 58382

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More details released Monday 10 August 2015



COOK ISLANDS
50TH ANNIVERSARY
1965 - 2015

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



First sod
turned
April
2014





Pipeline project months ahead of schedule

The last piece of Te Mato Vai's new pipeline around the back road has been laid and the pipe being laid around the main road is progressing well.

If the present rate of progress continues the pipeline will be completed months ahead of schedule.

The only section of the 'inner ring main' remaining to be done is a section between Avaavaroa and Titikaveka where there currently isn't a back road and where negotiations are ongoing with landowners.

An overwhelming majority of landowners have already agreed at a public meeting to pipes being laid across their land. The proposal was made very attractive by an offer from the government to put in a road and thus open

the land up for development and in addition to reticulating water also lay on power and telephone cables.

The rest of the back road pipe was joined up just after 3pm on Thursday afternoon. The workers, both Chinese and Cook Islanders, popped some champagne and had a smoke to briefly celebrate, and then got on with filling in the trench; enabling that section of back road down near the National Auditorium and Pa Enua hostels, to be tidied up and open for use during the Te Maeva Nui celebrations.

There is one further area of unfinished pipe, where the main is expected to be routed around the back of the Sheraton Hotel site, but that work can't proceed until the clearing of the pro-

posed access is completed.

Next week the back road crew will move to the main road and continue with that pipe working to close the gap and link up with their colleagues who are currently in Avana heading towards Avarua.

After a late start to the ring main project in April 2014, the anticipated two years of work should have taken 'til July' next year to be completed.

Instead if the present rate of progress continues and there are no further hold ups, the pipes could all be in the ground by September or October.

Under normal circumstances the crews are laying about a hundred or a hundred and fifty metres of pipe a day.

Making this project happen has and still will require a commitment from both our Government and person on the street to a lesser or greater degree.

A huge thank you maata to the people of Rarotonga for your patience over the last 15 months. Stage One of the Te Mato Vai project – the replacement of the ring mains is over 80% complete with 47,604 meters of pipe already laid, Stage 2 which complements the pipe upgrade by improving both the quantity and quality of the water to each consumer is programmed to commence early in 2016 taking us that much closer to our new water supply that will serve us well into the foreseeable future.



Last connection on back road pipeline done July 2015





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Te Maeva Nui 2015

Te Maeva Nui 2015

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Event Night Performance Programme



50th

Te Maeva Nui 2015

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SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
25 JUL	26 JUL	27 JUL	28 JUL	29 JUL	30 JUL	31 JUL	1 AUG	2 AUG
REO TUPUNA Mauke KAPA RIMA Aitutaki UTE Nikao URA PAU Tongareva	CHOIR Mangaia Rakahanga Atiu Tupapa Manihiki Puaikura Pukapuka	REO TUPUNA Atiu KAPA RIMA Rakahanga UTE Mangaia URA PAU Mauke	REO TUPUNA Puaikura KAPA RIMA Manihiki UTE Tupapa URA PAU Atiu	REO TUPUNA Nikao KAPA RIMA Tongareva UTE Mitiaro URA PAU Takitumu	REO TUPUNA Mangaia KAPA RIMA Mauke UTE Takitumu URA PAU Nikao	REO TUPUNA Takitumu KAPA RIMA Pukapuka UTE Puaikura URA PAU Manihiki	REO TUPUNA Manihiki KAPA RIMA Guest UTE Pamati URA PAU Guest	IMENE TUKI Puaikura Pukapuka Takitumu Mitiaro Tongareva Nikao Aitutaki
INTERMISSION	INTERMISSION	INTERMISSION	INTERMISSION	INTERMISSION	INTERMISSION	INTERMISSION	INTERMISSION	INTERMISSION
REO TUPUNA Mitiaro KAPA RIMA Takitumu UTE Pukapuka Tongareva Nikao Aitutaki Mauke	Pamati Takitumu Mitiaro Tongareva Nikao Aitutaki Mauke	REO TUPUNA Aitutaki KAPA RIMA Nikao UTE Tongareva URA PAU Mitiaro	REO TUPUNA Rakahanga KAPA RIMA Mangaia UTE Mauke URA PAU Aitutaki	REO TUPUNA Pukapuka KAPA RIMA Puaikura UTE Manihiki URA PAU Tupapa	REO TUPUNA Tongareva KAPA RIMA Mitiaro UTE Aitutaki URA PAU Pukapuka	REO TUPUNA Tupapa KAPA RIMA Atiu UTE Rakahanga URA PAU Mangaia	REO TUPUNA Pamati KAPA RIMA Tupapa UTE Atiu URA PAU Rakahanga	Mauke Mangaia Rakahanga Atiu Tupapa Pamati Manihiki





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WEDNESDAY 5TH AUGUST
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Pa Enuia ladies in town – time for a mammogram ?

Women from the pa enuia who are in Rarotonga at the moment and who are over forty years old, are being encouraged to take the opportunity to have breast checks while they are here.

A team of breast cancer specialists will be here next week and the week after, and the early part of the second week is being set aside for women from the pa enuia.

The Ministry of Health will be getting in touch with leaders from the visiting outer island groups to give them more information. But from Monday week – Monday the 27th of July – pa enuia women should watch out for a little green bus,

which will be providing free transport for women from the area of the outer island hostels, to and from the hospital.

Women, who are under 40 but think they may be having breast problems or have a history of breast cancer in their family, should take the opportunity for tests too.

The group of women breast specialists from Australia have been visiting Rarotonga – taking annual leave from their regular jobs – to carry out breast checks for six years now.

For the first part of next week they will be seeing women they've seen before and have asked to come back for further checks. Those women should have been contacted by now –

or will be shortly – for a recall, and given an appointment time.

The latter part of next week is for 'first time' mammograms from Rarotonga.

The president of the Cook Islands Breast Cancer Foundation – Jaewynn McKay – says all women over forty or women under that age with a family history of breast issues should make arrangements to be checked out next week.

"This wonderful team of women from Australia has been giving up their annual leave to come here and carry out these simple and non-invasive checks. There is nothing they enjoy more than to see us take up their generous offer of

having these checks."

"Both the Breast Cancer Foundation and the Ministry of Health are urging women in the susceptible age group, or from susceptible families, to come forward. So make an appointment and please keep it! If you have trouble getting to your appointment, please let us know we might be able to help you get there."

"Breast cancer is a hideous disease. But early detection and treatment greatly increases the chance of affected women living much longer to enjoy, and be enjoyed by their families."

For more information or to make an appointment please phone Rarotonga hospital on 22 664.

Handing over the bras!

Women from the pa enuia could be going home sporting a new bra or two courtesy of a gymnasium in New Zealand's Bay of Islands.

Each October for the last eight years Sonya Marsh, the owner of Curves has been collecting bras from her members and sending them to places where they are needed or in short supply. The bras have been sent to Samoa, after the tsunami, and to the outer islands in Fiji (twice). After 2011's collection the bras were donated to Dargaville's Girl Guides and assisted in their effort to create a chain of almost 170,000 bras breaking the previous world record of over 166,000 bras set in Australia in 2009.

For the last two years the women who work out at Curves gym have been donating brassieres for the ladies of the Cook Islands. The bras are



Cook Islands National Council of Women (CINCW) Coordinator, Taputukura Mariri and Vice President of the CIBCF – Patricia Tuara-Demmke.

then sent to the Cook Islands Breast Cancer Foundation for distribution.

The Vice President of the CIBCF – Patricia Tuara-Demmke – says, "The bras come in all colours and sizes and have plenty of life left in them yet. We hope our local

women will be able to make good use of them. The National Council of Women will be responsible for distributing them."

On receiving the bras Cook Islands National Council of Women (CINCW) Coordinator, Taputukura Mariri commented

that priority would be given to the women from our most northern islands, who seldom get the opportunity to access bras. CINCW are taking the opportunity presented by TeMaiva Nui to spend time with our women at the various hostels.

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

by Te Tuhi Kelly

I believe that child abuse is a noose around our neck as a developing nation and if we want to have any chance of joining other nations at the global table on an equal footing then we must nip it in the bud. We are celebrating our 50th anniversary of self-rule and we must operate under the mantra that: "Our children are our greatest asset and our people are our greatest commodity". As children growing up, we thrive in an environment of stimuli, so as soon as we can talk, we ask questions, soon as we can control our bodily functions we look, listen, feel, taste, smell and then explore, experience, and get hurt and that is how we learn and that is how we engage our burgeoning intellect. That is at odds with the way many children growing up here in the Cook Islands are reared. Contrast that with what I have heard here, with adults, and you would be surprised at the so called paragons of our villages who treat their children shockingly. The parents are talking and a child wants to interrupt and ask a question. The parent's response to the child is to tell them to piss off and stop bothering me and I have heard even stronger language used to deter or deny the child.

The child learns that this is the appropriate behaviour and that it is alright to use this sort of response in their dealings with others. You readers, you can't tell me that you haven't personally seen this going on. They take this attitude and behaviour into their adult lives and this becomes the norm or the standard by which they live. Then they use these same responses to their own children and this can escalate into domestic violence against their partner or wife using the same lessons they learnt as a child as their parent was their mentor so they must be right. Any negative response to a demand or order from them to their child or their partner is met with abuse, physical assault and in some cases violence of a degree that outweighs the original issue. They do not have the necessary maturity or coping mechanisms that would enable them to make a reasoned response, instead they take this as a personal attack and they get very defensive which can quickly escalate into violence when alcohol or mood altering drugs have been ingested. What I have also noticed in the Cook Islands is that the parents talk at or through their children rather than engaging them in constructive conversation. Yelling seems to be the way they speak. When the heck are you parents going to wise up. We are turning out a nation of kids with very poor social skills, unable to explain themselves properly, unable to make proper decisions and unable to stand on their own two feet without constant propping up. These are the

next generation of parents we are dragging up, parents who are throwing their teenage kids out of the house because the parents have lost control of their relationship with their child or children. That's the only thing that they have learnt growing up as children, is to react rather than act to cement the relationship with their child. How as a so called developing nation are we going to put our people first when our basic building blocks of our future, our children appear to come last?

Thus as children they have been subjected to being growled at for the most simple of things and prevented from taking part in meaningful discussions that adults are having, they are seen as a nuisance rather than the inquisitive and nosey little intellectual-sponges that they are and should be encouraged to ask questions no matter how inane or innocuous the question. Instead they are constantly being told to shut up or you'll get the bash, told to stop making a noise, don't climb on this or that and go outside and play. The adults making these comments are generally poorly educated in the proper rearing of children and have picked up the nations bad habits of punishment before praise, with punishment being the main criterion. It's no use taking guidance or helpful instruction from the older people or grandparents. Do you know why? They are just like you, they learnt the same poor parenting skills that you are leaning now. It's come down through the generations. Ask yourself, why did you have or are having children only to abuse the privilege of having these precious commodities. You want to sort your child out, well don't do it in public, you will embarrass the child, yourself as well as others watching or listening in. When you do sort your child out, do it in a fashion that doesn't belittle or demean the child but make it very clear that the behaviour you saw them engaging in is not appropriate. Remember this little saying, "praise in public and punish in private" and resist the temptation to react or lash out at the child.

Don't get me wrong on this, okay, most parents here love their children, the problem is that unconsciously they put mental and physical impediments in the way of their children's development, and are stifling their child's innovation and their ability to take calculated risks is stunted as they grow to adulthood. I believe that they are at a distinct disadvantage at a time when the country needs innovation, enlightenment and Cook Islanders with initiative that can perform at the highest levels of the community. So we stunt the mental and physical abilities of our children, and what do you think happens when they grow to adulthood and start

having babies themselves. They carry on in the same merry old way as they were taught and experienced growing up as a child and we perpetuate the same old same old. Lord help us if they become the future business and political leaders of this country. The survival instincts they developed avoiding punishment and abuse as a child and the skills they learned to become invisible and how to manipulate situations they are in are quickly used in their dealings when they get to adulthood. Outwardly they may portray this professional persona, but put them under enough pressure and push the right buttons and they revert to type, like a possum caught in the headlights. Is it no wonder that we have blue and white collar crime, we have politicians crossing the floor of the house, we have cronyism and we have public service leaders who are incapable of performing at the level required. It is so noticeable that when you ask college students here to use their initiative, they struggle because they have been brought up not to speak out of turn, not to contribute to meaningful discussions and not to get themselves noticed. By keeping under the radar they will not get noticed by adults and then growled or belittled for having an opinion.

Guess what, you speak with any of the employers in the Cook Islands and they will tell you of their frustration that their staff in the main lack initiative, drive, nous and common sense. They don't perform at the highest levels expected (being poorly trained notwithstanding), take no responsibility for any wrong doing, believe in a blame culture and do not volunteer if they can help it. When they get promoted to supervisory roles, they have time-spent experience on the job but precious little else. This is quite noticeable as they struggle to manage, mentor or get their staff to operate at the highest performance levels without resorting to some sort of threatening, abusive or coercive behaviour to get them to comply or perform.

Tourists all complain about the poor customer service in this country and having been on the receiving end of poor customer service in private as well as public sectors, I can see the effects straight away. We've all seen it, you walk into a shop and immediately get ignored. Worse if you go to a government department. Nobody wants to take responsibility or to look after the customer unless they are coerced to. That's why I assert that we have turned into a nation of, "it's not me' it's someone else's responsibility", because we are subconsciously thinking about what happened to us as kids when we stuck our heads up or put ourselves out on a limb. An adult, usually a parent growled us.

to be continued next week

Letter to the Editor

Can government “part the sea?”

Dear Editor, Tim Tepaki's intentions are promising until he puts in the 'political' rant and says the Government will part the Sea. Get Real! Firstly have you pitched the Government on your Fishing Proposal? Acquiring debt from EXIM (China), ADB are forms of dependency. These are not charities! We were on this same band wagon prior to 1997 and we all saw the fallout then! You were not here then so out of sight out of mind is it? A total 'Financial Disaster'! This looks like 1997 round 2. This is also mentioned in the Te Mato Vai 'petition'. Many people since then have told me "I should have signed the petition." This includes Water Intake Landowners, Grey Power members, family and friends from Aitutaki who await an outcome from a referendum held recently and Nikao, Avatea school kids parents. Just look at the financial situation of Greece to see its effect on the people. Have you realised 'assets' can also include our people?

Must agree that all the blame cannot fall at the feet of today's government however when you mention the Te Mato Vai project this draws the line! That whole project is owned by the people and the Government regardless of who is in power. Government is only a service provider, hence the term 'Public Service'. The loans that service all projects are to be paid by the 'taxpayers'. The Lands where the water is derived from (check all the block files, the 1915 Act and the Constitution article 64 part b and c) and the Water Resource are owned by the Landowners. Not Government! If so where is there law to say they own it? If you have \$500,000 of kirikiri or sand under your lands are you saying "Government can just come in and extract all that resource" and then say "Sorry, no compensation as long as we restore the land back to its original condition we may need to pay for damage of a few coconut or mango trees?" Some family members who voted for the Minister of Akaoa have told

me "They must compensate Landowners." Read article 40 of the Constitution. That's why we have Laws. It's called a democracy!

Editor, maybe Tim has a belief that his man Henry is above the law and doesn't need to be accountable to anyone only Neves. Remember that statement on National TV "He has the Law"?

Read past articles on-line at the Cook Islands News. "Grave concerns about water project" Dec 10, 2013, "Projects are Bankrupting our people and our Nation" Sept 2014. The water quality standards in Cook Islands Herald last month. You believe there is peace, order and good in society? Read Standing Orders 394 and Article 39 including those who believe that Government "will part the sea. Most of the \$11 million dollars to fund AECOM and the PMU is going off-shore. Don't you think that could be utilised to fund your fishing venture?

Meeting with so many 'local assets' this project would have been done well under half the price tag and no debt, simply by using our people, our 'iti

tangata'! The 'cartel' will say I am not qualified to make statements on water systems, however in some cases they must listen to themselves before they comment. All that is shared comes from qualified engineers in New Zealand and Australia and knowing of water quality standards regardless if it's by WHO, New Zealand or Australia and the process of water projects. Local expertise like those who set up the treatment system at a World class Tourist Resort. A local who has commercially sold and treated bottled drinks for over 20 years. My father worked for the Rotorua City Council, specialising in treating water. Are they not local 'assets'? Inclusive of all locals who help our economy. Look at how they treat the 'Tangata Whenua' on the watercare services website. They acknowledge, respect and have a say, just like it is stated on the Master Plan. Do our Landowners here have a say?

Look at the goal of the Te Mato Vai project, "Supply of potable water to network by 2016." If people were the first priority, wouldn't they have started straight away with the water

treatment? Instead lay new pipes at a cost of \$34 million dollars (it's in the Master Plan) and fill it with water that is deemed 'non-potable' by the Travel In Travel Out Experts (TITOE). Here's a fact that Tim appears blind to. Locals are discriminated, neglected, disrespected, towards when it comes helping our own people on these big projects. The "people" or 'iti tangata' of this nation vote all MPs into power and pay the debt that the Government incurs. Sources say "this project is already over \$30 million" and all we have is pipe laying, water tanks, talk on water standards, quality and reporting. To put guttering off a roof and into a water tank, laying pipes and treatment can all be done by locals, Keep us updated on your fishing proposal and pitching government!

No Government will ever part seas, however the truth will set you free! Akarongo meitaki, teia te autara a te au metua "Poto a mua, mamao a muri" Te Atua te Aroa no Tatou Katoatoa, teia ra e te au ra ka aere tatou ki mua. James Thomson (for Te Mato Vai Petition Committee)

Funeral Notice

Frank McNabb 12 November 1949-18 July 2015



Frank McNabb, born 12 Nov 49, passed away peacefully on Saturday 18 July, after a brave and long fight with illness. He leaves a loving legacy in his wife Teremoana, children Sidney, Jennifer, Sean, Brendan, Robert, Francis, Marina and Nathaniel, 18 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Proud of his service in the New Zealand Defence Force - FLIGHT SERGEANT (RTD) Adrian Francis (Frank) "Dawg" MCNABB G83404 Safety & Surface Worker. Royal New Zealand Airforce 16 Oct 1967 to 2 Oct 1988, then General Service

Hand 1 Mar 1989 to 31 May 1990 and then Civilian 3 Nov 2008 to 7 Jan 2013.

Frank lived in Rarotonga with his family from 1992 to 2004, he was secretary and bar manager of the local RSA, an avid member of the Hash House Harriers, the Game Fishing Club and the Golf Club.

His funeral is to be held in Rangiora, NZ on Wednesday 22 July, 11 am at the Rosburn Reception Centre.

Messages of condolences may be sent to rmcnabb19@hotmail.com

Exclusive Feature

How a miracle saved a man on the road to death

By Poko Utia

On Tuesday the Herald interviewed Owen John Pomana, about God's miracle in his life.

His is an inspirational story of how one man found Jesus Christ and how he hopes that people can find love and trust in Jesus Christ just as he did.

Owen Pomana is 44 years old; single with no kids or wife, he is from Hastings New Zealand. He is travelling to 37 different countries telling people his story in the hopes that they find Jesus. He is being hosted by Youth With A Mission (YWAM) community in Vaimaanga. Cook Island is the first of the 37 nations Owen plans to visit. He will also visit Pakistan and India. Owen said he believes that his past doesn't define his future, and that daily he receives emails and SMS from people who are struggling in life. He says that they suffer from depression; they might be on drugs or rejection, all things that he has dealt with before. Many would give to have an opportunity to speak to someone who has actually been in their shoes and has experienced what they have experience.

A falling away

Owen served in the New Zealand Navy but due to a relationship problem where he caught his best friend in bed with his girlfriend, it sent him off the edge because he didn't know how to deal with rejection. He became bitter and wanted to commit suicide. He fell away from society became very angry and didn't think anyone cared so he shut himself off as most Maoris' or Polynesians don't want to talk about their problems. Owen just wanted to run away from them. So he took off to Australia.

Owen struggled to get a job and became homeless in the streets, he lived in the streets, he made friends with street kids, he learned the language of the streets and fell into a path of destruction for 12 years he was in and out of prison with no hope,

drugs, guns, gangs, always in court, always in front of a Judge. He said it was embarrassing for his mum and his family hearing about his life story the things he was getting up to in Australia.

But when Owen returned from Australia he came back as a Christian and he said people think that when a person goes to prison they will find Jesus Christ and become religious and in a matter of time they're going to go back to their old ways. It's been seven years now since Owen has been clean because his love for Jesus and his love for being a Christian has never diminished it has motivated him to carry on down this good a righteous path.

Gangs, drugs, prison

Owen went from being in the Navy to becoming a champion body builder, to a person who almost committed suicide, then to a homeless person, then he became a male prostitute to a gang member, drug dealer, drug addict to bank robber, imprisonment then to finding Christ. Now he travels preaching his life story to people and feeding and clothing the homeless, helping people deal with their problems, giving them a reason to keep going.

Owen has been all around the world helping people and kids. He helped kids who were child prostitutes in Thailand, involved in human trafficking and slavery. He visits orphans, hospitals, schools. It's limitless the opportunities that are given to him because people haven't heard of a story like Christ in you. Owen believes that you're the evidence of love working in the community.

In 2007 Owen was in trouble with the law and on the run from an outlaw motorbike gang who wanted to kill him and he thought to himself in a moment of desperation that he's going to have a quick conversation with the Lord of the universe. He ended up on the beach saying "God are you real? I don't know

who you are, I just need some help! If you help me I'll give this up and I'll serve you!" Owen said that from that day onwards, God set up a plan that was going to change his life.

God's plan

Owen believes God always has a plan for our lives and he had one for him. He says God has fashioned our days for us in a book, God has books on who we are, in the book of Philippians it says I know the plans that I have for you oh Lord, to give you hope and a future and in that hope and future he was going to send what Owen calls a crazy man, a Pastor to come and speak love.

This Pastor heard about Owen's life and turned up at his door step to tell him about a guy called Jesus Christ. Owen was shocked and thought that this Pastor was crazy. Owen didn't know who Jesus Christ was and if he was even interested in getting to know him. He says Pastor Ken had compassion in his heart and he wasn't afraid to talk to him; he saw it as an opportunity to be able to speak life to him because his life was leading down the road of death.

The persistent Pastor

Pastor Ken knew Owen was suffering deep emotional pain and he wanted to help Owen find Jesus so he could put an end to the destructive path he was going down. Naturally Owen thought Pastor Ken was crazy. Despite that, Owen refused but Pastor Ken carried on trying to help him. Owen said jokingly he shouldn't have given his number to the Pastor, who called him for weeks and came around to his house. Owen and his mate would hide behind a curtain because they were high on drugs.

Owen said when he ended up in court again, he saw all these ladies there to support him. He knew Pastor Ken had sent them but didn't know why. They told him Pastor Ken had sent them for support because Jesus Christ loves you, he was shocked. One day Pastor Ken tricked him into



Owen John Pomana

thinking they were going to do something funny. Owen thought they were going to do drugs or look at girls dancing on the poles or go into a pub and drink, but Pastor Ken had something else in mind for him.

Inspired by the homeless

He took Owen to a homeless shelter where he showed him how to do well in his life. Pastor Ken told him how he and his wife come every night to the shelter at 10 to feed and clothe the homeless. Seeing how much Pastor Ken and his wife cared, inspired him to get his act together, knowing that these people cared about him, inspired him to do better help people find hope.

Owen is grateful to Pastor Ken for continuing to help him and showing him who Jesus Christ was. He is eternally grateful for Jesus Christ and hopes that people never give up and continue to help themselves.

Owen said he knows there are radical religious elements in Pakistan and India where Christians have been persecuted and put to death but he is not afraid.

For more information about Owen, check his facebook page. He will also be sharing more of his story at the YWAM centre in Vaimaanga this Thursday evening.

Pacific in Stone project to leave a lasting legacy

By Hayley McNabb

Master Carver and sculptor, Michael Tavioni is seeking sponsors for a proposed project called "The Gathering of the Pacific in Stone" where himself and other sculptors from Tahiti, Hawaii, Samoa, Tonga, New Zealand, Marquises, Austral Islands, New Caledonia, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea will sculpt 50 stones to represent the 50 years of self-government in the Cook Islands.

The idea came about last year and the purpose of it is to contribute towards the celebration of the 50th Anniversary by providing a lasting and permanent legacy in stone. Because the floats and dancing only goes for days, Tavioni says that the stone sculptures will signify the celebration more permanently as they will last for years. Tavioni thought that

because we are a Pacific island that the other Pacific islands should come and join us in the celebration as they have the same stories of when they are governed by foreign countries as well as their independent governing. He also mentions that a representative from each island will carve a large stone in their own home-land style but with 50 as the theme.

Tavioni has given himself one month to raise the awareness and interest and get people to sponsor some stones so that by mid-August they can start carving the stones so they'll be ready by mid-September. The sponsors will provide a story for the stone and then it's up to the carver to produce a version of that because when it's finished the stone will belong to the sponsor.

There will then be a celebration at the end of the carving for the



delivery of the stone to where it will be placed. In addition to the significance of these stones, they will become a tourist attraction as well because they can go

and read the background of the carving and also learn more about the history behind the 50 years of self-governing in the Cook Islands.

Rakahanga team from Auckland excited

By Hayley McNabb

On Monday 20th, the Cook Islands Herald got the opportunity to interview the dance team from Auckland, New Zealand who are here representing Rakahanga and practicing at the St Joseph's Hall behind the Cathedral. We spoke to a representative of the group Tuteru Samson and he said that they are very excited and ready for the performances that are starting next week after practicing for over 4 months. Two of the goals Samson mentioned was actually getting to Rarotonga and striving to do their best. Samson also spoke confidently about that if they were to take it out this year it would be a bonus as well as a personal goal.



Building a life of service

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

Some people say that the secret to greatness is money and lots of it. But God said "the secret of a great life is when you learn to serve." Jesus said in Matthew 20v.26 "Whoever wants to become great must be a servant of others." (New Living Translation) "Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant." Great Teachers serve their students. Great Shopkeepers serve their customers. In other words the key to being great at anything is to serve others. Leading People To Jesus Christ, is a Service to God. God says the way to go Up is Down. Meaning, the more you serve the Greater you are. The two words that best define the Christian life are GIVING and SERVING. Jesus said in Matthew 20v.28 "...I didn't come to be served but to serve others and to give my life as a ransom for many."

The 4 main reasons why we

should give our lives to serving God and others are.

1. WE ARE CREATED FOR SERVICE

God made us for that purpose. Ephesians 2v.10 reads "For we are God's workmanship, created in Jesus Christ to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do." The Bible say that you and I were put on planet earth for a reason. Human beings are here to serve, to help each other, to make the world a better place to live in, and we're created by God for ministry, and for service.

Illustration If you leave batteries in a torch for a long time and not use the torch, the batteries will corrode and ruin the torch. Why? Batteries are made to be used. Like Batteries we too are meant to be used, made for service, and if we don't serve others, we get corroded, ruined on the inside!

2. WE ARE SAVED FOR SERVICE

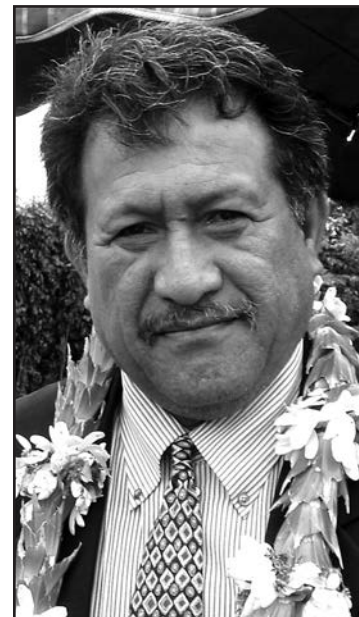
II Timothy 1v.9 reads "It is God who saved us and chose us

for His holy work." The words "...holy work..." means Ministry or Service. The Bible says you were saved to serve. God didn't just put you on planet earth to take up space, to sit around, watch TV, have a good time, and die. Why did God leave you here on earth the moment you became a Christian? And not take you to heaven, because He has something for you to do? You're left here for a reason. Remember that we are Saved For Service.

3. WE ARE CALLED BY GOD TO SERVICE

We're not only Created for Service, or Saved for Service, but we have been Called by God to Service. The Bible says that every Christian is called to Serve. Not everybody is a Pastor, but everybody is a minister. What is a Minister? A Minister is a Servant. What is a Servant? It is somebody who Serve. Every time you help other people in the name of Jesus, you're ministering to them. Remember, we have been called by God to service.

4. WE HAVE BEEN GIFTED FOR SERVICE



God did not give you your talents and skills just to spend on yourself, and retire, and then die. But He gave you those talents and skills and even abilities to help other people. I Peter 4v.10 reads "God has given each of you some special abilities. Be sure to use your abilities to help each other." All for the purpose of "Leading people to Jesus Christ".

May God bless you during this 50th Anniversary Celebrations. Te Atua te aroa.

Young dancers hard out at practise

By Poko Utia

On Monday the 20th of July, the Herald team visited Avarua primary school to interview young people who will be participating in Te Maeva Nui this year. We spoke to Agnes Daniels a year 13 student at Tereora who is dancing for Manihiki. Agnes has a positive attitude towards performing on stage, and is confident that all their performances will be A category. She said normally practises run from morning till mid-night. Agnes said their practising spots are hectic due to their schedule and sometimes they practise at the school or the markets and up at the Takavaine field. They only have a few matters to polish up on here

and there but overall, they are prepared to rock the stage next week. Agnes informs us that the costumes are all ready, and were made by the lovely Manihikian's in New Zealand. Agnes says at the end of Te Maeva Nui they might be hosting a show for people to come and watch them perform once more for all those who wish to watch them again.

We also interviewed another dancer Tereora year 13 student Teiti Tupuna who is 18 and dancing for the Mauke team. She said that despite that their team need a lot of work done she is confident that they will be well next week. She is very excited and can't wait to perform. Teiti said once Te Maeva Nui is over they will throw a party for all the Mapu and a KaiKai.



Agnes Daniels

Cobronutocks Enterprise Limited

Mitiaro goes for silver

By Tiana Haxton

On Monday the sixth of July 2015, all three year 10 Mitiaro school students and their Enterprise teacher arrived by air on Rarotonga. We were to stay at the Mitiaro Hostel.

We were here for the BCI business challenge 2015. What is the BCI business challenge? It is a competition for all Year 10 students across the Cook Islands. Five or less students form a team.

There are 5 roles in a team. As there are only three year ten students on Mitiaro, This means there will be two students with two roles. After some discussion we ended up like this:

CEO/Team Leader = Tiana Haxton (Me)

Finance Manager = Brandon Kaukura

Production Manager = Martein Taia

Communications Manager = Brandon Kaukura

Sales and Marketing Manager = Tiana Haxton (Me)

Each team member had different jobs. A CEO/ Team Leader, controls and motivates the team, double checks all is going smoothly and comes up with many ideas.

The Sales And Marketing Manager is a very creative person. They design logos, eye catching advertisements and finds ways to attract customers to the products manufactured.

As Finance Manager, Brandon had to keep track of our cash. Our Income, profit or loss, and so on. As he was also the Communications Manager, he had to keep track of everything! Note down the time we spent having team meetings, the time we spent producing our products and record all the things we produced and had donated towards our market days.

Martein is the Production Manager: he must make sure all our products are of high quality, we have enough for selling, he also motivates the team so we can work faster and more enthusiastically on our

products. He finds ways to make our products more appealing to customers and makes sure everything is going well.

Together we form the Cobronutocks Enterprise Limited.

For a few months before arriving on Rarotonga, we had been working hard on our products.

We produced Moina Tai (Coconut Sauce)

Purumu Kikau (Coconut Frond Brooms)

we picked and husked refreshing Nu (drinking coconuts)

Vai Uto (Drink made with 'Uto', white spongy heart of a maturing coconut)

And we painted Beautiful Rock Art.

We decided to bring Our Kikau Brooms, Nu, Vai Uto and Rock art to Rarotonga to show during the challenge.

On Wednesday the eighth, we all travelled down to the New Hope Church (situated to the right of the Computer Man) and set up our table. Before sitting down and going through our scripts in our heads while we awaited the start of the presentations.

After speeches and an introduction of the three judges, followed by song and prayer, Mitiaro was called up to the front.

I quickly opened up our Power Point Presentation before we began speaking about our little Business.

We explained our name, logo, visions and mission, our finance and business plans before showing images of us producing our products and selling them at Market Days.

When we finished, we were seated while we watched all the other presentations. Finally, everyone was done and the winners were to be announced. We were astounded when we were called up as the BCI business challenge 2nd place winners of 2015!

Mangaia was also surprised



Mangaia Team - First place winners



Mitiaro Team - Second place winners. Brandon Kaukura, Tiana haxton, Martein Taia Mrs Murare

when they claimed the 1st place prize.

We won the 2nd place trophy, a \$500.00 cheque and a bag of goodies from BCI.

Our experience is one we will cherish, we are very proud to be able to win this trophy to have Mitiaro's name carved onto it for everyone to see.



Congratulations

Welcome to the world Elizabeth Saffron Powell. Born Sunday, 19th July 2015
Congratulations to Ron and Beryl for the birth of their beautiful baby girl.

Breathtaking Phenomena

By Lucianne Vainerere

Tuesday 14th July 2015, 19:00 hours. The sky was stained with pinks and oranges and reds and I witnessed the best sunset I've seen in my entire life. I'm 17 now. Picture a deep maroon, sombre colour, that's the first colour sitting on the horizon. Now picture a pale yet vibrant orange. That's the second colour. Now think of a bougainvillea pink. Light but not pale. That was the background I saw that evening. Black silhouette clouds floated above the sunset while ripples littered the lagoon mirroring the colours the sun shone as it hid away. Little coral peeked out of the water embracing the cool air from the ocean. Rarotonga you take my breath away.

Sunday 19th July 2015, 19:16 hours. Maroon rushed over the sky leaving a blotch of purples. The crescent moon reflected its light and the stars twinkled endlessly.

The sunrises and sunsets lately have been breathtakingly beautiful. I've never appreciated them this much before but now I've been making more of an effort to see them every now and then. It has an unusual peaceful sensation to it that makes you feel inner peace. We live with these natural beauties everyday yet we take advantage of it. Sometimes it's good to go on your own just to have some 'me' time and break away from the world and the craziness it brings. I know it sounds a bit lonely and maybe depressing but honestly it's not. Actually, it's refreshing and allows you to savor the calm it brings.

I had a ritual where – since January – I would go down to Blackrock every Friday evenings and watch the sunset. It started when one of my closest and dearest friends left to go overseas for further studies. That was the last thing we did together along with another equally close and dear friend. So every time I go it lets me remember the unexplainable moment I had with them. We didn't speak, we just sat quietly breathing the same air, watching the same sunset, sitting on the same rock, being young, maybe a little bit wild and free. But half way through the year my plate kept piling and piling, then my body ached and ached, and I may have become restless. So I stopped going. Which I shouldn't have. Because it helped me. Looking at something so naturally beautiful, knowing that I can see it everyday, made me ignore all the ugly things I had going on – it made me look at the ugly things differently (if that makes any sense at all).

So if you're not feeling great at all, and have heaps going on, and you need a little break that will do you some real good. Don't hesitate to either watch the sunrise, the sunset, stargaze or maybe drive along the newly re-sealed roads at 20km/h. We're heading into a very busy time, for our country and our people. Don't stress, breath, stay cool, relax, eat, *sigh* bliss.

The Joy of Nature

By Teherenui Koteka

Just the other day I was scrolling through my newsfeed on Facebook when I came across a video. The video was captioned 'it never used to be this way'. The video contained two groups of people answering the same question, 'as a child what was your favorite thing to do'. Those who answered the question were divided into two groups, people around the age of 30-45 and people around the age of 8-10 years old. Their answers could not have been more different. There was a general consensus amongst each group. Every single member of the older group said they enjoyed the outdoors, saying that when they were kids they couldn't help but love the outdoors. They said they would spend every spare minute of the day playing outside, exploring, and embarking upon adventures. When I heard this. I could not help but think of my own childhood.

Growing up here in Rarotonga my childhood had many similarities. My days were spent exploring the mountains and plunging into the river by my grandmother's house. I would spend every Sunday with my friends and family at the beach, kayaking, swimming, building sandcastles and having picnics at the beach. My weekend nights were spent camping on the beach or in the bush.

After school the remainder of my days were spent building tree houses and playing war in the banana patch next door. I would literally spend every waking moment outside, until my mother called me in to do chores or eat dinner. The other group answered the question in a very different way. The general consensus in this group was that the best thing about childhood was technology. Every single child said that their favorite thing to do is stay inside and enjoy the comforts of technology.

Many of these children said that the outdoors was lame and they couldn't go a day without their electronics. They took pride in the fact that they could finish entire TV series in a week. Two girls shared the fact that they would not be able to function without their tablet, they said "I would literally die without my tablet". This made me incredibly sad. The comparison between the childhood that these children have and the childhood I had could not be more different.

Yes I enjoyed the occasional movie but I never ever had the 'luxury' of having a cellular phone at 10 and quite frankly I am so happy that I didn't. I realize that not all children are like this but this video was a clear indicator of the way our world is heading. Yes it is important to move with the times, but is it really worth our children forgetting the basic ways of childhood?

It makes me sad to think that so many children out there do not know the joy of nature. Growing up, nature was the only thing I needed to entertain me, and I sincerely hope that the children of this generation and the generations to come realize the joy that nature brings.

It's on all the tourist maps of Rarotonga but try getting there, the road to the famous land mark Wigmores water fall is atrocious and dangerous. So many tourists who have tried to get there have given up, even by motor scooter it's difficult, can someone do something to fix the road to one of our best natural attractions? Instead of caravanning overseas on frivolous joy rides how about Elvis give one trip a miss and put the money towards T&M Heather Ltd to buy a couple of loads of gravel for a start. Stop wasting money and fix up the pot holes before someone gets seriously injured.



It's about time someone with testicle muscle put their foot down on life style diseases that cost us millions, good on you Nandi Glassie for your stand on tobacco and smoking. Thank you for the great improvements in the Health Ministry. How about a ban on soft drinks?



Last week the Demos had their first fund raiser since the petition debacle, over 200 plates at \$10 bucks each not a bad haul. Bet hello Drolley who made a cameo appearance would love to get his grubby hands on the takings but the word is the money is for the next campaign should Elvis spring a surprise early election. The overpaid unproductive Drolley hasn't even started paying off the huge debt crippling the Demos foolishly accumulated, too busy taking and picking up the grand children from school. He can't even write a letter to the editor in support of his President whom he has bludged off for years, what a sponging user.



Part of the 74 vote Prime Minister's speech during the Ui Ariki Day was targeted at the Kaumaiti Nui Tou Ariki. Elvis stated that when the PM stays

overseas for more than 3 months, he loses his seat as the PM. But when Arikis from the Outer Islands go overseas or to Rarotonga, nothing happens. What Henry Puna failed to understand is that Arikis are bestowed their chiefly titles through their blood-rights from the kopu tangata or matakeinanga and are not elected officials like Henry Puna. Comments like this are a slap in the face for the Ui Ariki and a sign of disrespect and a disgrace.



T & M Heather Ltd the DPM Bully boy Heta's company has scored another win with government, by getting their garage approved for issuing vehicle warrants of fitness. All this while other real garages suffer and get rejected by the CIP Committee, this is so unfair.



Infrastructure Cook Islands contracted out workers to paint the town footpaths early on Sunday morning 19th July 2015. Has Government forgotten that it was a Sunday and most people would be going to their respective Sunday Service? At the same time, workers at the Are Tapaeanga at the western end of the Avatiu wharf were also busy painting and putting the finishing touches to the building. Are these Sunday activities the unpopular leader's plan to counter the Aitutaki

Sunday flights?



PM Elvis stated last year that all Ministers travel including his own would be economy travel. Lately, Puna was spotted in business and first class travelling to his many meetings and conferences. So why tell a lie and do something else Mr PM...Is the travel bug getting too much for you?



Can the minority government unpopular PM Henry Puna please explain why his 'The First Lady' as she has to be referred to in Manihiki is driving the PMI car around when he's off the island? She is not a public servant and doesn't work for the PM's Office. She is not even registered for insurance purposes to drive PMI...this is plain abuse and misuse of government property.



Has anyone ever wondered what has happened to the Chinese funded tractors? well most of them are all with their respective CIP MPs and they refuse to let them out to the community, not unless you are a CIP supporter...this is corrupt practice Mr Neves and what do you intend to do about it?



Mates and buddies can go a long way, see how the CIP government has awarded

Mikie Enry & Co with the shipping contract to return tere parties home after the celebrations. Pacific Schooners haven't even carried out the service but they have been paid? The question is, what for? Is this for the payment so their boat was able to be released from dry docks in Canada? This is blatant nepotism at its best.



Build Schools and Not Cars for \$600,000....Maggie the 500 vote Action Man has got it right, what a complete waste of public money by Neves & Brown. Never mind families who are struggling and finding it hard to make ends meet.



Just because you own a large tourist resort does not mean you leave dirty dishes on the tables for someone else to clear! No Sir! You clean up! "See it! Clear it!" A fine example was set when an owner cleared the empties back to the kitchen and did not wait for the hired help!



When can the paparazzi stand in front of invited dignitaries at a function for high flyers and obscure their view? When the shooters are being paid to get the money shot! Then it's every lensman for himself and damn the consequences!



Is it any wonder Minister Glassie has been on the goggle-box local news four days in a row? Could he be practicing for the day he ascends the throne and becomes PM? PM Puna was noticeable perched in the pews like a Cockatoo, at the grand opening of the new Tourist Wharf-side Ablutions Block on Monday morning, watching on! Like Neves with his trade mark red pareu shirt, Puna in public is constantly favouring a blue shirt.



FAT CATS

Number 2, Cabinet are concerned at the 2pm start for the float parade as there 53 floats!

Parade could end at Midnight!



HARD

TOO HARD

IMPOSSIBLE

COCONUT ROUNDTABLE

Rumour has it, Government may start the float parade on Friday at 10am

There are 53 floats to get through

Start the parade on Thursday!



Araura College Enviro Squad

Do you love it enough? Kia Ma...that is the motto for the Araura College Enviro Squad. Made up of eleven students in years 8-12 the Envirosquad is on a mission not only to clean up the school and community but also to promote environmental awareness.

The Enviro Squad was set up in late April 2015 to develop an environmental project to reduce waste and protect Aitutaki's land and lagoon by promoting the 3Rs – Reduce, reuse recycle.

The Aitutaki Conservation Trust and Araura College are working in partnership to support the Enviro Squad in introducing environmentally friendly waste management practices in the school. The goal is to become the Cook Islands first Enviro School, a status that is recognised in New Zealand and we hope one day will be recognised here in the Cook Islands too.

Throughout this term the Envirosquad has managed to change the way in which waste is dealt with at the college, says Tracy Spiers, principal of the college. No more rubbish is being burnt and all plastic is now being recycled, food scraps are collected for pig food and soon will be used to feed a worm farm. A compost bin is currently being built and this will be used to turn leaf litter into compost for the orchard.

The Enviro Squad together with their Principal Tracy Spiers and ACT member Clare Condon have researched and developed a waste management model that can be applied to other schools in Aitutaki and potentially the Cook Islands. Student empowerment, ownership and the sustainability of the project in the long term are key to its success. It is about changing behaviours so that protecting the environment is intrinsic in every decision and every choice.

There has already been some great achievements such as running a logo design competition (thank you to Bishops Cruises, Pacific Resort and Telecom for sponsoring prizes), setting up recycling stations and painting the old rubbish bins, covering over the landfill to stop unnecessary



burning, we will also be introducing biodegradable containers for our vendors, setting up a worm farm and compost area, and planting native flora and fauna around the school.

A big 'Meitaki Atupaka' to our College Principal Tracy Spiers, ACT Volunteer Clare

Condon, Mayor John Baxter, Island Secretary Tiraa Arere, Aitutaki Konitara and the Waste Management Centre for making this possible.

Our Mayor, Island Secretary, Konitara, National Environment Services and our Waste Management Centre are all in support of this initiative and as

pictured below, are happy to collect all waste from the College each Friday.

'Slowly but surely we will be changing the way that our students think when it comes to waste and recycling.' If you would like to follow our enviro journey please like our Facebook Page 'Araura College EnviroSquad.'

Protest mounts over sea bed mining

The International organization Avaaz is mounting a protest over sea bed mining and the possible effects this will have on the environment.

Here in the Cook Islands environmental concerns appear to have taken a back seat to the legislative framework and financial returns.

While government is setting up a Sovereign Fund to bank the revenue expected, government is yet to commission any studies of possible environmental effects of sea bed disturbance to marine life and more importantly, the food chain.

This is what Avaaz are calling for:

"For years they've poisoned rivers, devastated forests and displaced communities, and now massive companies are rushing to dig up the seabed for precious metals.

Twenty-four people can stop this plunder of our planet's most fragile places, and they're meeting this week!! The International Seabed Authority normally attracts as little attention as an underwater mine miles offshore, but our community can change that.

A few countries have agreed full or partial bans, and leading scientists just appealed for a freeze on deep sea mining contracts. Let's amplify their message with a million-strong call, take out newspaper ads to hand deliver to each delegate, then publish their names and their responses. Add your voice and send widely:

https://secure.avaaz.org/en/deep_sea_mining_en_dn2/?bRRcKeb&v=62025

Mining companies claim they can mine the seabed safely, but authorities in Namibia, Australia and New

Zealand recently blocked seabed mining projects. Scientists point out that many deep water species are being discovered all the time, and that the ocean floor can take decades to recover from disturbances such as the creation of sediment plumes from mining.

The International Seabed Authority has already issued licenses for exploratory mining across 1.2 million square kilometres of ocean floor. The body is almost unknown, and its 24-person Legal and Technical Committee does the detailed scrutiny of proposals and environmental safeguards with minimal transparency. We now have a unique opportunity to put its twenty-four members on notice with a demand that they freeze all mining until independent science proves it safe and the ISA opens up to concerned scientists and citizens.

Often, we don't realise the value of our most precious ecosystems until they're destroyed -- but this time we have the chance to take action before this whole new threat lets rip across our oceans. Join the call for a freeze on deep-sea mining, so we can hit a million and deliver to all delegates before their meeting ends:

https://secure.avaaz.org/en/deep_sea_mining_en_dn2/?bRRcKeb&v=62025

Together we've stood up to protect our earth's most precious, awe inspiring ecosystems -- from the majestic trees of the Amazon to the stunning species in the Great Barrier Reef. Now, we are standing on the brink of a new gold rush that could devastate an ecosystem that has so far escaped the ravages of mankind.

The Avaaz team"

TENDER



MINISTRY OF FINANCE
AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

Request for Tender for a Maritime Technical Advisor
for the Ministry of Transport

The Development Co-ordination Division (DCD) of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) and Ministry of Transport seek a suitably qualified company or individual to submit a tender for the provision of a technical advisor to work in the Maritime division. The technical advisor will be based at the Ministry of Transport in Rarotonga.

Tender documents can be obtained from the Development Coordination Division, MFEM, Level 3, Cook Islands Government Building, Avarua or downloaded from the Cook Islands Government Procurement website: <http://procurement.gov.ck> Tender documents are also available from the Tender Manager.

For any enquiries please contact: Tender Manager, Mr Boyd Ellison

Email: boyd@akairoconsulting.com; Ph: +682 22226 or +682 54221.

Tenders Close: 3pm Thursday 13 August, 2015 (Cook Islands Time).

VACANCY



Part time bar person required for our Drumbeat Bar at the Sunset Resort for 3 evenings per week, hours 4.30 to 7.30pm approximately, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Must be punctual, honest and reliable.

Call Tim on 55520

or email manager@thesunresort.com



NOW AVAILABLE

One on One and One on Group (2 to 4 persons) Cook Islands Dance Lessons, \$20 per session

Plus....

Urafitness classes at Topshape Studio. A great workout with local dance moves and music, full of fun and fitness.

Call Avera 50432 for details and pop into Topshape for class timetable

VACANCY



**Tender for the Maintenance of TE APONGA UIRA
Motor Vehicle Fleet**

All interested parties should register their interests by contacting the following:

Marlene Cuthers on 20054.

We are hiring: Tilers / General all-rounder Maintenance Man.
Please call 25-800 or email hr@rarotongan.co.ck

PUBLIC NOTICE



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE
TU'ANGA TAPOROPORO
COOK ISLANDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby advised that those who are intending on travelling overseas and wanting to take paua (clam) meat, shells or coral, that a CITES permit is required from the National Environment Service office.

A CITES permit can only be obtained during office hours, Monday to Friday from 8am – 4pm, and no permits will be issued outside these hours.

Please be reminded that if you do not have a CITES permit, you risk having these goods confiscated at your final destination.

For further information, please contact our office on 21256.

Meitaki Maata

Director
Vaitoti Tupa

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move more**

FOOTBALL UPDATE

2018 FIFA World Cup – The Preliminary Draw in numbers



On Saturday, the eyes of the footballing world will be on the Konstantin Palace in St. Petersburg as 141 nations await their destiny in the Preliminary Draw for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™. As the big day edges closer, FIFA.com looks at some eye-catching statistics from the qualifying competition's history as well as a few records likely to crash en route to Russia 2018.

17 million fans clicked through the turnstiles during the 2014 preliminary campaign, producing an average attendance of 23,000. Leading the way in this respect were Mexico and England, whose home fixtures attracted around 82,000 and 80,000 spectators per match respectively.

162 thousand and 764 was the incredible record attendance recorded at the Maracana in 1977 for a FIFA World Cup qualifier between Brazil and Colombia.

18,791 goals have been scored in the 82 years of FIFA World Cup qualifying, an average of

2.91 per game.

5,602 players, 310 referees and 650 assistants took part in the 2010 preliminaries, which kicked off more than eight years ago in the build-up to the finals in South Africa.

1,500 people, including a 600-strong band of volunteers, will be involved in the staging of Saturday's Preliminary Draw.

851 matches are scheduled for the Russia 2018 preliminary competition, taking the all-time number of FIFA World Cup qualifiers well beyond the 7,000 mark. At the end of the last preliminary competition, the total stood at 6,452, with a record tally of 853 matches having been contested on the road to South Africa.

206 teams, another record high, will take part in the 2018 preliminaries, topping the 203 who participated four years ago. The only association not to enrol is Russia who automatically qualify as hosts.

159 FIFA World Cup qualifiers have been contested by Mexico, making El Tri the most experienced of all the

preliminaries' participants.

82 years and one month have passed since Sweden and Estonia contested the very first FIFA World Cup qualifier in Stockholm in June 1933, a game won 6-2 by the hosts.

35 goals in 51 preliminary appearances established Iran legend Ali Daei as the most prolific goalscorer in the history of FIFA World Cup qualifying. The other leading marksmen by confederation are Andriy Shevchenko (Ukraine, 26), Carlos Ruiz (Guatemala, 30), Hernan Crespo (Argentina, 19), Vaughan Coveny (New Zealand, 19) and Didier Drogba (Cote d'Ivoire), Samuel Eto'o (Cameroon) and Moumouni Dagano (Burkina Faso, all 18).

31 unanswered goals against American Samoa in April 2001 gave Australia the biggest win ever seen in a FIFA World Cup preliminary match.

27 qualifying meetings between Mexico and USA have established this fiercely-contested North American derby as the FIFA World Cup preliminary competition's most-played fixture.

20 consecutive qualifying competitions, Russia 2018 being the latest, have involved Luxembourg, Portugal and Republic of Ireland, the only nations to have competed in all 19 to date.

9 seconds was the time at which San Marino's Davide Gualtieri scored the fastest goal seen in FIFA World Cup qualifying – a shock opener against England in 1993.

7 nations - Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Italy, Korea Republic, Spain and USA – have qualified for each of the last seven FIFA World Cups.

2 years and eight months is how long the 2018 FIFA World Cup preliminary competition is scheduled to last. The qualifiers began on 12 March 2015 and are due to conclude in November 2017.

2 defeats in 84 qualifiers have ensured current world Germany's reputation as the preliminary competition's most successful nation. The Germans go into the 2018 campaign averaging 2.5 points and 2.96 goals per game.