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Government retirement proposal too little too late

Doomsday for public servants a matter of fact

Had the newly elected Cook Islands Party government heeded the warning bells and red flags in 2011 and knuckled down into a prudent strategic fiscal policy that included a Public Service retirement plan the depth of inevitable personal suffering would have been cushioned and a ripple.

We've all known it since pre General Election 2010, the bloated Public Service wasn't sustainable then and the Cook Islands Party Government has continued to add weight to an already overly obese body of a highly unproductive work force that is on the brink of collapsing our fragile micro economy. The CIP jobs for votes may have been a success for keeping them in power but consequently it's a disaster for the country.

The irresponsibility actions of the CIP government has not been executed in ignorance but in the full knowledge its end would be tragic, it's simply been a desperate government doing whatever at the expense of the vulnerable.

The horrible thought of being sacked to renovate the Public Service into a sustainable enterprise is a frightening prospect for those struggling to keep the greedy unsympathetic foreign Banks at bay.

Under Finance Minister Mark Brown and his Financial Secretary Richard Neves the economy has failed to fire, instead it has fizzled, none of Neves' repetitious projected surpluses has materialised exposing a serious shortfall of wishful thinking they hoped would overshadow and absorb the incrementing personnel cost. Had they been



Mark Brown

sport coaches they would have been sacked long ago.

Handed the simple task creating jobs for locals to hedge depopulation and grow a micro economy Neves and Brown have been hell bent on resorting to lazy initiatives of growth by taxing plus growing jobs for expats and Chinese contractors which has the opposite effect, economic shrinkage. To cover their clumsy nenevanomics they have resorted to borrowing money underwritten by resource obligation.

In 1996 the total national Budget was \$46 million, with a demographic shrinkage of 6,000 people since then the personnel cost is now a staggering \$48 million. The Cook Islands economy footprint has dehydrated under Brown and Neves, there can be no finger pointing, those responsible are obvious; the sheer arrogance of the pair of incompetent guardians of our sovereign funds must no longer be tolerated.

On reflection, Brown's dysfunctional management of the Ministry of Finance is a replication



Richard Neves

of his own financial predicament, his out of order house has become nationalised and many will pay the painful cost of his post graduate life experience education.

Government's recently softly mooted retirement plan for Public Servants was to test public reaction seeing it was not included in the CIP Election manifesto. The government is struggling and fiscally juggling to pay their fortnightly wage bill more so in a three pay month.

600 jobs have to go, the Public Service Commission knows it and so too does the Prime Minister Henry Puna and his Cabinet, the whole of MFEM know it and now we all know it. In 1996 over 1,000 public servants woke up one day and discovered to their horror their jobs no longer existed, that reoccurrence must not be ever allowed to happen again.

One solution is to start by laying off all expats working in the public sector bar those who are married to indigenous Cook Islanders before government introduces voluntary retirement and redundancy packages for

those less than 60 years of age. All those over 60 be compulsory retired but provision for consultancy contracts if or when needed.

In 1996 those over 60 were retired but those with irreplaceable skills were employed as consultants under contract.

The Herald has learnt that MFEM secret squirrels are about to propose a "rob Peter to pay Paul" scheme that has its merits, it recommends all public servants over 60 be means tested and be ineligible for the pension until they cease being employed by the government.

Unlike 1996, many redundant public servants and their families had to emigrate to get employment, currently there are plenty of local employment opportunities. Here are over 1200 foreign workers employed mainly in the private sector, it is estimated 35% of the work force are expats therefore a well thought out right sizing of the public service would result in a reduction of expat workers

- George Pitt

A Health service or disservice?

Is our Health System geared to provide a true community service?

By Charles Pitt

How flexible is our health system? How far can the rules and procedures and policies be stretched, bent, overridden in the greater interest of health care? How much discretion do health professionals have in order to ensure no one in the community falls through cracks in the systems?

We all appreciate that money allocated to government agencies is limited and that there will arise from time to time, urgent cases that should be dealt with in the interests of the community but which are like square pegs being tried to fit round holes. While the expectation of service is there, the funding is not. So what happens in these cases? How should our health system or professionals deal with such

cases?

This week we bring you the story from Jean Mason of one such case involving her mother. It is a case which illustrates that regardless of the limitations on funding, the restrictiveness of policy, the lack of discretion, the overriding priority for our health system, if it is to be a genuine community oriented system, should be that no-one should fall through the cracks.

Jean's story

I am so angry I cannot grieve properly

"My mother worked for Ministry of Health for 50 years, the last 17 or 18 years of it was served on Mauke, but in all of that time her salary never got above \$24,000 or was it \$21,000? Disgraceful either way.

For the last years of her nursing career at Mauke, Ake was often the sole medical practitioner

for long periods as there was no doctor on the island.

At the end of 2012 Ake had a stroke while on Rarotonga (she had retired by this time) and CI Health wouldn't even give her a referral to NZ.

Apparently they were "guided by policy" (Liz Iro's actual words). What that policy was, one can only wonder. Yet I was told by a staff-member afterwards that they didn't have a policy written up at that point - they were making it up as they went along. There are presently draft copies of the "policy" available for public consultation in some shops and in some public spaces around the island, which leads me to think they didn't have a policy back in 2012. They lied to me.

I arranged for my Mum's referral to New Zealand and I paid for a nurse to accompany

her (as Air New Zealand will no longer carry patients without a nurse).

I also paid for an ambulance to meet them on the tarmac in Auckland so that my mother could be taken directly to Middlemore Hospital. On top of this the nurse has to be paid a stipend.

A doctor friend in NZ told me how to go about it, and that I should take my mother to Middlemore Hospital first where they could make an assessment of her condition. They would then recommend a private hospital for her care. This was the best thing to do she said.

No one at CI Health would advise me of the best way to go about it. Even when I asked. So I asked if they had contacts at Middlemore since they refer enough people from here to

continued next page

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there. Alas, even the phone number they gave me was wrong.

Seemingly, Ministry of Health were prepared to throw my mother on the rubbish heap. My mother was to be discharged into my care because they didn't /wouldn't help her anymore. I had to find a way to help her so I decided to send her to New Zealand. In fact Rarotonga Hospital couldn't wait to discharge her but I had to tell them to keep her until I had made arrangements to refer her to a New Zealand hospital myself. To my shock they were expecting that I would make all the arrangements to get her to the plane too! I found this expectation by Rarotonga hospital quite despicable.

I had to argue for them to keep her in the hospital until a flight was available and I also insisted they take her to the airport directly from the hospital in an ambulance.

In her poor condition I could not have got her in or out of my house by myself, let alone to the plane! I have no medical training whatsoever should an

emergency situation arise.

I ask how many other poor families in the Cook Islands have had this happen to them? What did they do? Did they take their suffering/disabled family member home and watch them die because they couldn't afford to send them to New Zealand?

Cook Is Health couldn't even give me the correct phone contacts for anyone in Auckland to help us with Ake's admission once she got there. Thank God for the internet. I found all the information about St John's ambulance, costs, and admission contacts at Middlemore Hospital by Googling it.

Middlemore kept my mother for three weeks while they did an assessment of her condition and revised her treatment then they recommended to us several care facilities in which to place her.

Earlier, at Rarotonga Hospital I had asked for a meeting with doctor(s) treating my mother - they seemed to take umbrage with the request because when I walked into the room at the scheduled time (where I thought I'd be talking to two people at

least) there were over 20 people in the room! The clinical director, several doctors, the nurses and ward staff, and the cleaners too probably, were all there! I wondered who was looking after the ward at the time? The looks on their faces told me they were spoiling for something - a fight perhaps? But I didn't give them the satisfaction.

I just asked what the prognosis was for my mother since we'd heard nothing, and what they recommended as treatment for her condition? Ake had had a stroke resulting in left hemiplegia (paralysis on the left side of her body). I am not a medical person so I was looking to them for guidance but they weren't going to be helpful about it, that was obvious. With all those people together in the room, I can only think they were in defence/fight mode. I was looking to them who have had medical training to give me advice and guidance but I got more advice from a book on strokes which I borrowed from the public library than I did from them. I don't understand their attitude to the relatives of a patient: it is almost

as it to ask questions of "those in authority" is tantamount to being insubordinate, or something. Medically unskilled people should not ask questions because they wouldn't understand? What an arrogant attitude.

After my mother had been there some weeks in Rarotonga hospital they did very little to try to rehabilitate her. In fact she noticeably became weaker and unable to walk by the time she left the hospital (yet she had walked into the hospital upon arrival). Te Vaerua (NGO) thankfully came to our aid. They provided the therapists and a wheelchair. Of the two wheelchairs in the Rarotonga hospital only one was operational but it was being used by another patient. The other wheelchair had flat tyres. How hard would it have been for the hospital to get a \$30 tyre pump? In fact Te Vaerua were so good they let us take the wheelchair out of the country.

What sickens me most about CI Health is the way it gives no support to its former staff-members; in fact their general

continued next page

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attitude (and ageist “policy”) toward elderly Cook Islanders is shameful. This nation professes to be Christian but it has shown time and time again through its “policies” that it really doesn’t care about old people. Elderly abuse is on the rise in the community; Are Pa Metua ran out of funding and was threatened with closure; elderly pensions are taxed and taxes are being grabbed unceremoniously from their bank accounts.

Seemingly, the attitude toward old people is: they have outlived their usefulness, who cares about them?

Shame on Cook Islands Ministry of Health for its lack of support and care facilities for stroke victims; the inability of their staff to communicate effectively with family members of the patient and the pathetic way they make people feel bad for asking questions, and lastly, their lack of maintenance of the

equipment (like wheelchairs and IV drip holders) at the local hospital. Rarotonga Hospital looked cleaner (and certainly smelled cleaner) and were better served in the 1970s when Matron Matapo, Ake Chapman, Lepasi Ikimaunga, Ma’anga Snowball, Vaine Bates, Nooroa Samuel, Ritua Koteka and others were at the peak of their nursing careers.”

The Minister for Health and the Secretary of Health have been invited to comment.

It is understood that the Minister cannot be involved with individual cases but can comment on the adequacy of government policy.

It is also understood that the Secretary cannot divulge any information as to the patient’s medical records as this is confidential but can comment on policy, procedures and future proposals regarding the referral system which is currently under review.

Response by Liz Iro, Secretary for Health, Ministry of Health

Referral policy

Quality assurance is a key component to address some of these gaps and after a couple of years without a Quality Manager (due to difficulty to get the right person with right credentials) we have only last week appointed a Quality Manager and will see this type of concerns are addressed and to improve systems where appropriate.

I have involved her in going over the issues raised in this letter to ensure some processes are improved on or provide information packages where none exists to help families and patients.

Non-referral to NZ

I am restricted to comments on some confidential information but as you indicated where policy /procedures are of concern I am happy to comment.

Current policy

The patient referral policy at the time of Ake’s admission was the 2010 version which has been the guide for the purposes of referrals until its recent updated version of 2015 – following a widely publicized distribution for public comments.

Policy covers for all costs for transportation of patients from Raro to NZ once case is accepted by a medical officer in NZ.

Otherwise it falls into a private referral where the individuals and family will bear all costs.

Middlemore Hospital/private hospital

Comments from our Doctor

is that he did talk to his counterpart in NZ for advice and he did pass on this information to Jean as to option of getting her into a private home in NZ. The Doctor provided her a letter to get through to MMH to support Ake’s assessment prior to admission to a private home.

Hospital staff met the complainant and her brother

Our Doctor admits to meeting with Jean and her Brother.

Non-supportive attitude by hospital staff

I apologise if the hospital staff had a non- supportive attitude to Jean to make the necessary arrangements and say that this should not have happened to anyone! This is highlighted for me as a concern also and support for family and patients around this area of private referrals must be improved!

Cost to families of referral to NZ

The hospital has been a default home for the elderly/disabled for some individuals for many years (some patients have been in this position for over 20 years and still living at the hospital!) and the MOH continues to offer respite care for some families when they have required support and will be happy to provide you with some names if you want to follow up on this line for a story

Meeting with hospital staff regarding mother’s treatment

I apologise to Jean for this type of attitude from the staff as we hope that staff are more

supportive and helpful in their interactions with family and the public.

Having family meetings is not an uncommon thing for Hospital staff to do and does prefer people who have had any part in the care of the individual to be present so comments are constructive and supported and not a blaming situation. This type of meeting has been used to resolve issues as sometimes who an individuals’ family actual is maybe quite extended and this has been a good forum for hospital medical staff to get messages across to all extended families.

Allegation of arrogance

Again I am unable to comment on this as this is how Jean was feeling at the time but I think it was not the intention of the family meeting as per comment above.

Te Vaerua wheelchair

The MOH has a MOU with Te Vaerua for rehabilitative services and which was reviewed and signed by me and their president in 2012 and we continue to

renew and strengthen this partnership with an expectation of early intervention for a better recovery of patients.

Care of the elderly

Ake and her husband were provide a side room with 2 beds so he could sleep at the hospital with her. This type of arrangement is extended to Ake because she was an ex employee of MOH and it was possible to do so at the time of her stay.

Please refer to my comments above in respect of care of the elderly at the hospital.

Quality of service

There were some areas identified with the Quality Manager that needed some further input for patients and families and this was about providing clear information packages on what support is available to families and patients – stroke victims, having flow diagrams for private referrals etc.

The new Quality Manager will be following up on some of these concerns to improve on our health services.

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CIP Conference to deliver Puna to the Sharks?

It's true. Henry Puna is as slippery as an eel even on calm nights, but he is now on ice thinner than he can skate on and the reasons are all too obvious.

The list of malfeasance is so copious to make even the most experienced auditors eyes water. Within his Party the insurgency is growing and the calls to dump him at their next conference being held on the 10th August are becoming a hail storm. If the Cook Islands Party retain the unpopular Puna it will spell the end for the CIP, he is their anchor weighing them into the abyss, he is their leader of lost causes and he is the leader that has divided the Party like no other.

The issues are simple that his sensitivities to the Vaepae Tautu promises have been broken and not kept will become his mill stone. His sidelining of Mona Ioane despite his promises for Ministerial position and his casting aside of RAPPA John Henry for Albert Nicholas will be just the tip of more to come. Puna has made exaggerated claims of being a promise keeper citing a recent wasteful \$30,000 to charter an Air Raro flight to Penryhn to turn on the switch for the new solar power system as an example, Puna justified the expense by stating he promised he would return as the plant wasn't ready when he and New Zealand's Murray Mc Cully visited only a few weeks earlier.

On several occasions the Prime Minister has in face to face confrontations promised the Grey Power he would refund the money unlawfully raided from their Bank accounts, the total being about \$30,000, and some 18 months later those promises are yet to be honoured. Puna is a Hollywood Leader, a showboat performing pretender who has a trail of broken promises in his wake whose leadership is under

more threat from the enemy within than from the impotent Democratic Party Opposition who are dominated by their misfit self serving Party officials.

Puna is banking and praying on the jubilation following the Te Maeva Nui celebration that will carry him on a wave of victory with exceptional plaudits he is hoping to come from New Zealand PM John Key and the many other dignitaries that have arrived to witness the celebrations. Even though there is very little to celebrate. The shallowness of the outer Island delegates is what Henry Puna is hoping will get him across the line. Unpopular on Rarotonga the 74 vote Prime Minister knows his salvation is in the hands of the outer Island delegates who collectively hold the reigns of political power.

Puna will have competition, and the bulldozer driver can play the same game. He has been slowly working on the delegates and their committees from the CIP constituents in the outer Islands and Rarotonga. Teariki Heather, Deputy Prime Minister will be in their ear reminding them about all the chilly bins of sausages, steak and chops that he has personally packed for them and all the BBQs he's had at his Nikao homestead feeding, fattening and entertaining them all for this 10th August Conference. He will also remind them that it was his visits leading up to the election using Government charter flights as a guide to campaign for the candidates and to campaign for his own cause.

Will Heather instead be slaughtered then dumped



PM Henry Puna

from Cabinet? Or will this be aside to reveal the entrails of Puna's last stand and will the the CIP Government with all its veiled language of diplomacy dysfunctionality and discourse? he has thus far carried be cast Time will tell. - George Pitt

Chooks extra

Talking about School Float parades, very few people watching the float parade were impressed with CITC's Palm Corn Beef sponsor of a primary school. Big Red thought the Ministry of Health were trying to wean people off this obesity and life style disease causing food and at least not allow impressionable minds like primary school kids from becoming corn beef addicts?

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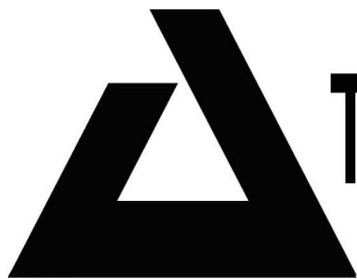
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Littering and spitting concerns

A concerned property owner expressed her frustration on Te Kave Kōrero on Wednesday 22nd July 2015 with regards to littering on her and her neighbours' properties.

Speaking entirely in Māori she said that she and her neighbours are very concerned that the access way coming from the Pukapuka and the Tongareva hostels, to the Convenience Store, cuts through their four properties.

"E ākā manāmanātā tikāi to mātou, ko au, ē tōku ngā taeake i te pae mai no te mea, to mātou aranui, te aranui, me `ēre mai mei raro i te hall o te Tongareva ē te Pukapuka, ka nā te pae mai i to mātou ngā ngutu`are, e ta`i, e rua, e toru, e `ā ia ngutu`are, e `ēre atu ei ki te toa, o te Convenience Store".

She said that when the Pukapuka group arrived they started littering their properties as they use the access way to get to and from the shop. She added that she contacted the Police and asked them to pay a visit to the Pukapuka hostel, to ask the leader of the Pukapuka group to counsel members of his group, that when they come to the shop, not to throw and leave rubbish on their properties. She said that after the Police visited the Pukapuka hostel the littering stopped.

"Te tae mai`anga te Pukapuka, te tae vave mai`anga te Pukapuka, me `ēre mai ki te toa, tiritiri ua i tā rātou tītā, te ice cream, te a`a atu, te a`a atu. Rīngi au i te au `Akavā, kia `ēre mai, pati au ki a rātou, e `ēre ki raro i te hall o te Pukapuka, e pukapuka ki te pū o te tere Pukapuka, kia akoako i te `iti tangata no Pukapuka mai, me `ēre mai rātou nākonei, ei a`a e makamaka i tā rātou tītā, kua ro`i `oki au i te ko`i tītā, `akakite atu nei au. Inā, kua `akakite au ki te `Akavā, kia `ēre rātou kia rave i tēia, i mua ake ka tupu ai tēta`i pekapeka, kāre tātou e `ināngaro ē kia manamanatā, e tuātau mataora tēia. `ēre te au `Akavā `akakite ki te au Pukapuka, `akamutu rāi, meitaki,

kā`ore atu".

However she said that when the Tongareva group arrived littering started again. She stated that she paid a visit to the Tongareva hostel and asked the group's leader to counsel members of his group. She said that someone had left a dirty nappy in the access way close by to her property.

"Tae mai to te Tongareva, e a`a ia pākau, te tītā. `Oki au, `ēre au ki raro i korai, te pati i te pū o te Tongareva, kia akoako i to rātou au taeake, te au māmā, no te mea, e plastic pēpa nappy t ūtae tēta`i, maka`ia mai ki runga i te aranui, nā te pae i to mātou kāinga. No rēira kua `ēre au kua pati, mē kā tika, e akoako ki te iti tangata i rēira ē, ei a`a e `akariro i te aranui e `ēre mai nei rātou, ki te toa o te Convenience Store ē, `e ngā`i makamaka`anga tītā na rātou".

She said that if they have to close the access way people would have to go right around Vakātini Ariki's residence or around the CICC church, to get to the Convenience Store.

"No rēira au i `ēre mai ai ki runga i te māreva `e Tony, pēnei ake ē, te `akarongo mai nei te au tere, `akamutu, no te mea, mē ārai ana tēia aranui nei, mē ārai mātou

i tēia aranui nei, ka takapini rava rātou i te `are o Pāpā Vakātini Ariki, e, nā korai i te `are pure ra`a o te Porototani, ki te toa".

She added that people are spitting in the access way and it is unhygienic because some children are going to the shop without shoes. She asks that those coming to the shop not to litter anymore and mothers with children not to leave dirty nappies around.

"Ē te mea mē `ēre mai, te mare māi ra, tūtuāvare pīrau māi ra ki runga i te aranui, `e tamariki ta`i e `ēre māi ra nā runga i te aranui `ēre atu ki te toa kāre e tāmaka. Te vī`ivī`i i tēia e tupu nei, inē, no rēira au i rīngi atu ai, mē kā tika, mē tē `akarongo māi ra, te au tere tūkētūkē, mē ka nākonei mai kōtou i to mātou au kāinga, e `ā ia kāinga i konei ki te toa o te Convenience Store, ei a`a e makamaka tītā, `e te au māmā e pēpē ta kōtou, ei a`a kōtou e `akariro i tēia ngā`i e titiri`anga nappy nā kōtou".

Te Kave Kōreo agrees with the caller and supports her plea for groups in the hostels nearby to respect their neighbours' privacies and other users of the access way and to refrain from littering the access way and the properties around it.

LPG Gas prices to increase

On 15 July 2015, the Price Tribunal issued new prices for petrol, diesel and gas under new pricing arrangements. These prices came into effect on that date. Concerns were made to the Price Tribunal by some companies regarding their ability to operate under the reduced prices. Given this, the Price Tribunal have decided to give more time to adjust to the upcoming changes and will revoke Price Order 12/2015 for LPG prices only, effective 22 July 2015.

The effect at the market is that some companies will be allowed to continue to sell LPG at no more than \$3.72 per kg wholesale price and \$4.45 per kg retail price.

A number of companies supplying LPG have advised the Price Tribunal that they were able to adopt the new prices immediately and will continue to sell at those lower prices. These companies are Origin Energy, Cook Islands Gas and DJ Gas.

Under the new pricing arrangements, the new LPG prices were reduced significantly to no more than \$2.92 per kg wholesale price and \$3.87 per kg retail price.

The new LPG prices are expected to now come into effect on 15 September 2015.

Float parade gets thumbs up

The annual Maeva Nui float parade was the subject of talkback on Te Kave Kōrero on Friday 24th July 2015.

Listeners were invited to give their feedback, positive or negative, in respect of the float parade held earlier in the day on Friday 24th July

A caller said that the positive for him was the fact the float was televised 'live' on local television as well as in Aitutaki according to one of his relatives he spoke to over the phone in Aitutaki.

"Mānea te `anga`anga i tēia rā. Tāku mea i rekareka au e Tony, tēia kua 'live' ia mai nā runga i ta tātou tīvī. Te tuatua atū ra au ki tōku taeake i Aitutaki, kua 'live' ia ki Aitutaki, no te pō`ā mai rātou i Aitutaki. To rātou pekapeka ma`ata i Aitutaki, kāre e rava ana ta rātou aerial, no te ma`ata i te au tīvī `aere, ka `inangaro`ia te aerial kia ririnui mai te signal i ta rātou tīvī".

A caller from Tongareva, Pāpā Saitū Marsters, acknowledged Government's initiative televising the Maeva Nui 'live' to the outer islands.

"Te tuku atu nei te `akameitaki`anga ki te Kavamaninotemea, kotamātoui `ākarakara i tēia rā, ko te float, `akameitaki`anga ki te Kavamani no te tīvī. Thank you ki te Prime Minister. Te `ākara nei mātou i Te Tautua nei ē Omoka atu. Te sō atu nei te aroa ki te tere o te Māngarongaro e no`ō ra ki te hall, te hostel, ē pērā katoa te hostel i Panama".

Another caller said that the float was beautiful because there were no rubbish hanging on them.

"Tuatua `uā atu au nō runga i te float, tāku `ākara`anga pouroa, mānea, te tumu rā `oki i mānea, kāre e tītā, te rau tī, kīkau `akatautau ē te tumu meika `aere, mei tē rēira `aere, ko tēia `ākara`anga koe, ka kite rāi koe i rēira e, o, e float tikāi tēia i te `akamānea`anga mai, noātu ē tūkēkē `aere

te `akamānea, mānea rā `oki".

Tony Hakaoro, Te Kave Kōrero presenter, said that a positive for him was the fact that it never rained during the float parade.

"Tēta`i ngā`i meitaki tāku i mataora ai au i te `akakoro`anga i tēia rā, noātu oki ē, tāpokipoki te rangi, kāre rava rā `oki i ua ana".

He added that two friends watching the float with him said that this was the first time the float started on time.

"Te `akarongo atū ra au i ngā taeake i nakōnei, i a mātou e no`ono`o `ākarakarā ra i te terēra `iri`iri, te `akakite māi ra ki āku ē, ko te mata`iti mua tēia, ka ta`i nei nā rāua ai, ē, i `akamata te `akakoro`anga terēra `iri`iri i te tuaero tikāi, 'on time' na to mātou reo Tūtakimoa ai".

Hakaoro said that having seen all the floats and in terms of presentation and entertainment, in his opinion, the best float was from Manihiki `Enua.

"Ko te terēra ō to tātou iti tangata, Te Fuinga o Niva, iti tangata Manihiki, tāku

`i`o`i`o atu`anga i nakōnei, nā rātou, nō rātou te terēra `iri`iri meitaki roa atu, mātūtū ē te mataora. Ko tāku `i`o`anga tēia, te terēora `iri`iri o Te Fuinga o Niva, to tātou iti tangata Manihiki, i tōku `ua`orāi manako, i tāku paunu`anga, nūmero ta`i tā rātou terēra i nakōnei".

As to the winner of the best float competition, Sonny Williams, Secretary for the Ministry of Cultural Development, said that the judges have sought a postponement in announcing the winner, perhaps it could be done at the same time as the presentation of the Maeva Nui 2015 winners.

"Kua pati mai i rēira rātou kia tuku atu te `ōronga`anga rē o te float, pēnei ē, e ta`i oake`anga mei tō te kātōatoa rai".

Overall most callers to Te Kave Kōrero agreed that the float this year went very well indeed and far exceeded expectations.

Congratulations to the organisers and to Sonny Williams and his team at the Ministry of Cultural Development for a very successful float parade this year. Well done.

Open day on HMNZS Otago

HMNZS OTAGO will return to Rarotonga on the afternoon of Thursday 30 July, and will be open to the public between 10am and 3pm on Monday 3 August.

Visiting members of the public will be guided through a number of different areas of the vessel, and will have a chance to speak to members of the OTAGO's crew. The Royal New Zealand Navy band will perform during the open day.

HMNZS Otago last visited Rarotonga in September 2014 said OTAGO's Commanding Officer, Lt Cdr Tim Garvan.

HMNZS OTAGO has come to the Cook Islands from Tonga.

OTAGO is scheduled to leave Rarotonga on Friday 7 August for New Zealand.

HMNZS OTAGO is one of two Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs). OPVs have the ability to conduct helicopter operations using a Seasprite SH2G helicopter, boarding operations using the ships Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats, or Support Operations with embarked forces. The ships are highly automated with a core crew of 35, plus 10 flight crew to operate a helicopter.

Final entry to the ship on Monday 3 August will be at 2.15pm. The public are advised that there is no wheelchair access to the OTAGO and navigation between levels is by steep stairs and ladders.

TE KAVE KÖRERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, MON 27th JULY 2015

Public sale of Bluesky shares

Local carver and artist Mike Tāvioni was the guest speaker on Te Kave Kōrero on Monday 27th July 2015.

Tāvioni was interviewed regarding the sale of Bluesky's shares to the public. The total shares on sale is 15 per cent of Bluesky's 60 per cent share in Telecom Cook Islands.

When asked as to why he is passionate about encouraging locals to buy Bluesky's shares, Tāvioni said that as a national asset (referring to Bluesky as a telecommunication company), locals should invest in obtaining shares in the company and share the profits if any.

"Ko tēia business e national asset. Tērā te `āite`anga na te Bāsileia tēia kimi`anga moni. E a`a ka `oko`ia ai ki te foreigner i va`o mai? Mē kā `oko, e a`a kākore ai e rauka kia `oko mai i tēta`i mānga ki to tātou `iti tangata, invest tātou i ta tātou moni ki roto ē kia share tātou i te profit o tēia business mei te mea ē, e profit tēta`i".

Tāvioni said that Government had the first choice of buying the shares and he did wonder why it didn't.

"No rātou te tika`anga mua i te `oko mai i tērā au share. Ko tāku tērā i māniana au i te last year. Ko tēia tika`anga mua i te `ōkea no te Kūki Airani, kore tātou e rave i tērā tika`anga kia peke mai i te Bāsileia, ko tērā tika`anga tāku e tuatua ra au".

Tāvioni explains that the shares are up for sale courtesy of Bluesky.

"No rēira, ka `inangaro au i te `akamārama, ko tēia share i `ōmai`ia, `ōmai`ia e te aro`a `ua o te Bluesky".

When asked why Bluesky is keen in him selling the shares Tāvioni said they had appointed a different company earlier but that company was cancelled and he was appointed to replace it.

"Tōku manako, e aronga kē ta rātou i `iki i mua atu. E mānga tāravake pa`a tēta`i, kua kite au, kua tīpū`ia te ingoa o tēia kamupani mua, kua tāru`ia atu tōku i rēira".

He said that the shares are not his but the people's.

"Tērā rā `oki, ko te tika`anga tikāi, kāre nāku tēia share, kāre nāku, nā te `iti tangata".

Tāvioni added that one can buy a unit, not a share, as there are 10 units for sale.

"Ka `oko rā koe e unit, kāre e share no te mea, e ta`i nga`uru units i te katoatoa".

He said that one unit is worth \$210,000.00 and one can buy a unit directly from Bluesky. But if one wants to invest in a unit that is what he (Tāvioni) is promoting. He said if one does not have sufficient funds collectively buying a unit as a group may be more affordable.

"Ko te unit, ko tōna value, ko tōna pu`apinga, e \$210,000 tārā. Ka `oko koe i kō i te Bluesky. Mē kā `inangaro rā koe i te invest ki roto i tēta`i unit, ko tāku ia e rave nei. Mē kāre e ma`ata tā`au moni, ka kāpitipiti ta tātou moni pouroa, e peke ei te unit i a tātou".

Asked to clarify the share or unit values Tāvioni said that the value of each unit is \$210,000.00. The total value of the 15 per

cent shares up for sale is two point one million dollars.

"Two hundred and ten thousand dollars, ko te total value o te fifteen per cent, is two point one million dollars".

Tāvioni stated that he and two of his Executive colleagues had sold more than \$10,000.00 worth of units on the first day of promotion.

"I tēia ra, kua `oko au ē tōku ngā taeake Executive i mua i te `Akavā, i tēta`i tua i te `Akavā, i te toru ē te `āpa `ora, kua `oko mātou runga ake i te \$10,000.00 worth o te shares. Te share `okota`i e \$125.00.

Tāvioni said a website and a prospectus is being prepared and the details would be made public as soon as they are available.

Anyone interested in buying a unit or share may contact Mike Tāvioni on mobile 73667.

The Floats

By Tiana Haxton

Tiana is a 15yr old student from Mitiaro

On Friday, my Aunty invited my brother and I to walk to town with her to watch all the floats go by.

We decided to sit at Café Salsa. While we waited for this float parade to begin passing by, we ordered breakfast. As we ate, the float parade began with the boys and girls brigades marching to the rhythm of the band.

The street sidewalks were suddenly packed with people. Many were armed with mobile phones or cameras, prepared to capture in order to revisit and remember the moment.

One by one, schools, Rarotongan villages, businesses and outer island representatives matched, strolled, danced or rode around the roundabout. They proudly presented their floats. Large vehicles decorated and transformed into many things. Giant cows and chickens and laptops were very popular with photographers while young children were attracted to Air Raro's life sized air planes and the comical card board box aircraft replicas the Air Raro Staff members were wearing. They 'flew' around offering lollies to the children.

The police department had a full on motorbike crash death scene on the back of their truck while another group had the tourists laughing with a cannibal pretending to feast on a tourist who was sitting in an old black soot covered Cauldron atop a smouldering fire. Scribbled in white chalk on the side of the pot was the phrase 'NEED MORE TOURISTS'

Mitiaro had a truck covered in leaves and vines of many varieties. On top, a young girl stood inside a beautifully woven eel trap. Inaki. The other young children standing with her waved, greeting all the people who stood on the sidewalk.

Further up the road the real action was happening. The float groups put on magnificent shows, while they were judged.

It was enjoyable watching everyone, float members and the audience having fun, thoroughly enjoying the show.

I enjoyed it a lot.

All the floats were amazing. So far all the performances that have taken place at the national auditorium have also been stunning and I am looking forward to watching the rest take place as well.

Letter to the Editor

Do we have something to celebrate?

Dear Editor
While we celebrate our 50th anniversary celebrations of self government rule, there is plenty to be happy about and there is also plenty to reflect on. I cast my mind back since the CIP government took over in 2010.

Without a doubt a lot has been carried out over the past 5 years with some progress and development, on Rarotonga and the Outer Islands. The question is, are our people much better off today since the CIP took over or not? Has the cost of living reduced over the past 5 years and have we achieved economic growth to a level where employment has increased? Are our people happier now than before?

What we do know is that Governments annual budget keeps rising but at the same time, our people keep leaving for greener pastures. More and more aid money is pumped into our economy but are these really creating new jobs and businesses? Is the \$600,000 spent on new cars a real need or

a fancy want? What we do know is that the level of corruption has definitely increased. This has involved corruption in employment by giving jobs to political supporters.

Most of the failed CIP candidates have got jobs either with Ministers Offices or on Boards. Some of them have 2 jobs as consultants. The recent appointment of Taoro Brown as Chairman of the Airport Authority goes to the heart of corruption. Here is an MPs husband who was convicted by the Courts on various serious offences but was promoted to a high position by Government. Where is the integrity and the code of conduct published by Government? Look at the Auckland Office appointments too. The Pacific Schooners shipping scandal is clear nepotism by government to a close party supporter, through Director Mike Henry. Millions of dollars of public money disguised by tender for political favours. Even his brother, Nick Henry's appointment as Chair of our celebrations leaves a lot to be desired.

The theft of the Grey Power elderly money and the taxing of the old age pension by Government is another ugly aspect of our history that will never be forgotten. The demolition of 2 perfect schools, only to benefit a certain contractor(s) and mistreating our school children by jamming them in a Hall, shows incompetent leadership in the highest form. The awarding part of the Te Mato Vai contract to a Minister's private company is clearly a conflict of interest and corrupt. The same with the NZ aid funded pearl farm grant to the Prime Minister and his wife. The continuous abuse of charter flights to Manihiki under the guise of the renewable energy project is another symptom of corruption, with free seats to family members and housing rentals for private benefits using public funds. Now we have the \$600,000 cars arriving for the rich and famous paid for by public money.

At the same time our people are finding it hard to make ends meet each day. Not content with

the voice and disapproval of the people, two public petitions are presented to parliament, one for water and the other for fishing. Both areas have foreign interests buying their way into government contracts. There are so many priority areas to improve our living standards and economy, so what does Henry Puna do ,he disrespectfully attacks our traditional leaders, the Ui Ariki, the foundation of each tribe, clan and family traditional ties to our land.

You be the judge whether or not we have something, in part or full or nothing to celebrate on the eve of our 50th birthday? Long after the singing, dancing and celebrations are over, we return home but government's cycle of misuse and abuse will remain. Depending on whether you support good governance or government corruption, your answer will dictate your choice how you feel about the future direction of the country.

The jury maybe still out but not for long before we go back to the polls, again.

Not a CIP Celebrate!

First Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology

Address by Cook Islands Representative

Honorable Acting Prime Minister and Chairman for the First Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology

Director General of SPREP, Mr David Sheppard,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Kia Orana

The Cook Islands has been a blessed nation in terms of severe weather events in the past.

We however do have our moments in terms of the devastation of Mother Nature in some years.

As a country that has compiled weather information for more than a century now, the issues addressed at this moment in time, in terms of early warning and climate service could not

have come at a better time.

The importance of regional cooperation has also been identified as a means of progress, especially for our small island states. The status of the recognition of the SIDS Programme as part of the WMO mandate in the recent WMO Congress last month is a catalyst for us to look into sustainable development for our region.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, We would also like to pay tribute to our warriors, the Directors of our respective National Meteorological Services, who has been our eyes and ears in this technical field and at times the only time we see their effort is when they could not perform at the height of an early warning of a severe event.

Cyclone Ian in Tonga last year, Cyclone PAM in Vanuatu this



Associate Minister Tutai Tura with the Met Service Director Arona Ngari

year and even Cyclone Martin 18 years ago in my country when 19 lives were lost, is a check for us that we are vulnerable to these natural phenomenon.

As my country celebrate our 50th year of Self-governing this week and next, we are also aware of our responsibility as a warning institute for our respective island

states and region.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I look forward in supporting the issues during this inaugural Ministerial Meeting and look forward to a very good deliberation, especially pertaining to the Declaration
Kia Orana e Kia Manuia.
Tutai Tura Associate Minister



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Short film may be the start of something big

Artist Mike Tavioni is at the edge of the next frontier, the world of film

By Charles Pitt

Local artist and master carver Mike Tavioni, is on tenterhooks as he awaits news of whether his application for funding for his short film, to be considered by the NZ Film Commission (NZFC) in the October 2015 funding round, will be successful.

An earlier application was unsuccessful.

It was on 19 June 2015 that the NZFC advised Mike and his production group his short film "The Stove" had been shortlisted in the Fresh 30 category. He was informed that a panel of 3 external film industry assessors together with 3 from the NZFC would meet early in July 2015 to decide on funding. Up to 4 films may be funded. An official announcement of which projects would be funded would be made on Friday 17 July 2015.

On Friday 17 July 2015, Mike was advised by his collaborator in NZ, Julian Arahanga of Awa Films Ltd, that the NZFC had informed him they had decided not to fund his film in this round.

Apparently the NZFC loved the story and wanted to back the project but wanted a little more direction visually. Mike and his group are taking this as

a positive and believe that with some work on the story and visual treatment, the NZFC will fund them in the October 2015 round.

Mike told the Herald should this attempt be successful, the NZFC funding will provide about a third of the total funding needed for the movie. He said plans are to raise the rest of the funds needed by private means.

Having mastered most forms of art, it seems inevitable Mike would seek to conquer the world of film making. It's his next big challenge.

It was last year that Mike, with help from a group of leading NZ film makers, developed the project to produce a short film of about 10 minutes duration, which Mike says will be the stepping stone to the more ambitious production of a full length feature film.

Mike says this short film is about the cultural clash of greed and good and how the mana of "Te ra ao o te Po" (the spiritual world) transcends into "Teia Ao" (this life) because something unthinkable took place within the context of the Maori world where every stone, tree, person, has the mauri/magnetism without which there

will be no interaction in this universe.

Mike's locally registered film company "Kiva Films Ltd" will produce the 10 minute film.

Once the short film is out of the way, Mike and his group will look to fundraise to produce a full length feature film based upon true events in Auckland, NZ.

Our Frontpage model



Our frontpage model this week's Herald Issue 777 is 16 year old Nooroa Anitonia Tuakeu, from the island of Aitutaki. Nooroa was the model for Regina Potinis beautiful costume that got 2nd placing for the Rakei Manava competition, which Nooroa is pictured modeling with, alongside Goldmine jewellery. The young beauty is the face of the Miss Aitutaki Pageant Association (MAPA) and came first runner up in the Miss Manea Games 2014 in Mauke. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald

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Pa Marie Upokotini Ariki 25th anniversary as Ariki Vaine of Takitumu

Noeline Browne

The celebrations for the 25th anniversary of Pa Marie Upokotini Ariki of Takitumu began with an early morning church service at the Ngatangia Cook Islands Christian Church. There were some 250 guests including the Queen's Representative, the Cook Islands High Commissioner to Wellington and the Cook Islands Consul based in Auckland. Many dignitaries and groups from Aotearoa, Tahiti and Hawaii had come to pay their respects to Pa Ariki and to take part in the special milestone celebrations. The crew from Tagata Pasifika were in attendance for the entire day.

Pa Ariki seemed rather overwhelmed and later said that she had sent out invitations and was surprised and delighted when nearly all of them accepted – or sent a special rep in their stead - and had come all the way to Rarotonga to celebrate her special day with her.

Utianga te Reva

After church, all the guests adjourned to Pa's palace in Turangi for the Utianga te Reva ceremony took place. The flag raising began with Pa Ariki who has her own flag; the Takitumu flag by her son, Sam; the Ui Ariki and Koutu Nui flag by Turi Mataiapo; the flag for the Kuki Airani by Minister Kiriau Turepu; the Tainui flag by Whatumoana Paki son of the Maori King; and the flag for Tahiti by the son of Oscar Temaru also called Oscar. All guests then partook of a light breakfast before moving on to the next event held at Pokata Marae which is where the akaururu rites and rituals of office for Pa Marie on 27 July 1990.

Pokata Marae

At Pokata, Pa Marie stood on the ceremonial stones surrounded by her Ui Rangatira, who were formally announced to the guests by her vaa tuatua to the guests. Sir Tumu Teheu and Dr Patu Hohepa each presented a special stone which they laid on the marae. The gesture apparently was



to symbolize the connection between those they represent and those whom Pa Ariki represents.

The marae experience was also in remembrance of the tupuna who had gone before including her mother Pa Terito Ariki, Teia Mataiapo (Lady Maui Short), Takau Rangatira (Sir Apenera Short) and Mama Vai Maoate to name a few.

Dreams of establishing a Retirement home

Guests then proceeded to the site of the old palace, now in ruins, which Pa Marie said had been occupied by Pa Maretu Ariki. However, the missionaries wanted everyone to be closer to the church, so they relocated to Mata o te Enuā, the site of the new palace that Pa Marie built in recent years. At the site, Pa Ariki announced her dream or intention to establish a retirement home. It was not clear whether Pa meant that the old palace grounds would be the site or just as a backdrop for her announcement. However, in her speech Pa noted that the Rarotonga hospital does not have facilities to take care of the elderly and that she wanted to do something for the welfare of the people. At the site, the Tagata Pasifika crew interviewed Dr Hohepa for his impressions of the day thus far.

More celebrations at the Palace

Back at the palace grounds, after

Pa Marie delivered her speech to welcome all the guests to the event, the MC, Pastor Ngarima George, invited all the guests to come inside the place to inspect the artefacts relating to her taoanga. Immediately afterwards, the MC called selected dignitaries to come forward to deliver their congratulations to Pa Ariki. When they came forward to speak, it was obvious that the special guests hold Pa Marie in very high regard as an Ariki and as a person and a dear friend and all said it was an honour to take part in the 25th anniversary celebrations.

Queen's Representative, His Excellency Tom Marsters delivered the compliments of the Government to Pa Marie while Maoate Mataiapo (Minister Kiriau Turepu) recalled his early days as vaa tuatua for Pa, his returning of the title, and taking up the mantle once again at the request of Pa after the passing of Sir Terepai Maoate who held the title after him.

Sir Tumu Teheu spoke on behalf of the House of Potatau Te Wherowhero and of Te Heuheu (ie on behalf of Tainui and Tuwharetoa) and praised Pa Marie for her leadership qualities. He also pledged the support of his people for the retirement village concept proposed by Pa Ariki.

Tuku Morgan from Tainui also came forward followed by Dr Patu Hohepa, who is a leading

anthropologist of Maoridom touched on the voyaging exploits of Kupe who sailed to Avaiki Tautau from Avaiki Raro (but noted that there were three by the name of Kupe). He said it was the Kupe from Avarua in Raiatea that first saw Te Ika o Maui (actually it was actually the wife according to Hohepa). Hokulea Captain Chad Bison spoke of Pa's voyaging adventures.

Then when the ladies from the 'Tiare Taina Vaine Tini' based in Mangere and Rosie Blake (a senior Rangatira to Pa Marie and also the Cook Islands Consul) they broke into song. This was followed by Miss Vainerere who sang a song that she composed especially for Pa Ariki. All the singing must have encouraged the others because when Mere Darling sang an early song composed for Pa Marie, she was accompanied by first one dancer, then several including Rosie and Turi Mataiapo the Parekura of the Koutu Nui. Oscar Temaru Jnr said he had been told to deliver a two minute speech, and joked that if he had known that there was to be singing and dancing, he would have brought an entire group with him.

Then it was time for lunch where the guests were entertained by a Kapa Rima group from Ngati Tamatea who were absolutely delightful. The guests were still there when I left the palace grounds around 1pm.



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

by Te Tuhi Kelly

As the Director for Human Resources at the Ministry of Education in 2010, I spoke to many teachers who were struggling with the 'no corporate punishment policy' for their school pupils. They wanted to discipline pupils by smacking them, just as they were smacked as children. My advice to them was that they needed to develop a whole range of coping mechanisms that would help them manage their frustrations when children were being (in their minds) antisocial. Although I spoke at length to the teachers, I could see many of them were not convinced. Even one teacher going so far as to quote, "spare the rod and spoil the child" to me. My response was that our tupuna would not have been happy with the way we were treating our children in this modern day, all in the name of Christianity. One said, "Aue tau e, those kits (sic) are so naughty, they won't listen to me and need a smack". I said that despite what you think, children do not start out in life with antisocial traits. What they do have is a range of psychological mechanisms that they use to gain attention from adults. They are hard wired to learn by example and they will mimic both good and bad adult behaviour, it is a survival mechanism for us as humans. Take away that ability and you create a rod for your back as the children will engage in, at times, negative attention seeking activity. They cannot help themselves, we all notice the fidgeter, the one who cannot stay still and whose attention strays. Their brain is going at a million miles an hour and if their interest is not engaged, they can become disruptive or they switch off.

Disruptive behaviour by children can also be a mask for violence or abuse in the home and like body language needs to be interpreted not from a single incident but from a cluster of tell-tale signs or incidents over time. Unfortunately our teachers in the main are not trained to deal with these sorts of issues and so the child who is not engaging in class room activity ultimately falls through the cracks. If they manage to get through college using their wits and not much else and leave, they soon become a statistic. Criminal activity, suicide and teenage pregnancy are their lot in life and the cycle begins all over again. Our children need you to make sure that they have boundaries and that there are consequences for breaching those boundaries and smacking is not the response. They need to know that they are responsible and accountable for their actions but not in a manner designed to belittle or demean them. They need to know that their parents will be absolutely consistent in their relationship with them. They cannot trust someone if their first experience of their parents is based on mum or dad constantly changing the rules and thereby not giving them the stability they need to trust and be trusted. Yet in most Cook Island homes, the first response is to smack or threaten to smack

or to demean. It is an absolute crime when you hear children as young as 6-month old babies, being assaulted by one or both of the parents. The immediate response from the public is, "bastards", "they should be strung up" or other expletives that are used, because people are so emotional about it. Funnily enough those same people making those comments are also hitting their children and think nothing of it. Interesting isn't it when it's so graphic and being reported on TV, News media and social sites, how indignant people get and baying for blood. Yet they seem so off hand about meting out physical punishment to their own children and cannot see the difference, "it's only a little smack". Yehright, it's not the smack so much as the physical response that the child remembers for life. "It didn't do me any harm", isn't that what a lot of people say? Well people it's still not might over right is it?

How do you as a parent respond to your child when something unpleasant has occurred? Well, this is where you really put your adult hat on. Parents you need to use particular words to your child to tease out the responsiveness you are seeking. Use open words not closed words when you are engaging in a conversation with your child(ren). Don't use the word "What" at the beginning of the question because you will get a shrug or a negative word which closes off the discussion. Instead use these words at the beginning of your korero with the child, "Tell me" and use a moderate tone. Otherwise if you say, "Tell me" with a raised voice or with obvious tension in your voice, the child will instantly pick up on the tension and switch off. Here are two examples of what I mean, "What were you doing? The immediate response is, a shoulder shrug by the child and a "Nothing" response or even worse if you use, "WTF were you doing"? This immediately puts the child on defence straight away. It is far better to use, "Tell me in your own words because I am disappointed in what I have heard or seen" see the difference in this approach. I know many of you won't or don't, because, you don't have the necessary nous to want to change your behaviour even if you wanted to. The fact is that to act like a proper adult talking with a child requires effort on your part and a step change in your personal behaviour. Can you do it? Probably not. Remember this is the time when a child needs an adult, not another adult acting like a child toward them.

I submit that the downstream effects of child abuse and neglect have never been quantified. Our children need stability in their lives and if there is little or no stability in their lives, then they need to be brought up in an environment where they have been taught the necessary skills and tools to be able to make sound choices when there is instability. You cannot gain trust or stability for a child by threats, hitting, smacking or bashing them to conform

as all you are doing is creating resentment and damaging them psychologically so that those are the standards by which they will measure their human interactions in adulthood. Our children need to know that they can speak up, that their inquisitiveness is valued and that they can take some initiative. We need to start taking the initiative to creating a stable a home environment as we possibly can. Beginning before the age of 3yrs at which time the psychology of the child and its coping mechanisms with its environment will have already been cemented in place. They will take these skills into adulthood and apply them in their own relationships and with their own children. More importantly the skill sets that they learn in childhood including the good and the bad will make them a more valued member of society and the work force and ultimately their employers will have a valued team member. I know this all sounds simplistic, and I appreciate the amount of social engineering that will need to be directed at changing the nation's current poor attitude relating to child rearing, but, we need to start somewhere don't we?

So now that I've opened a few wounds, please have a thought as to what your actions and the actions of other iti tangata are having on their children. Get your head out of the sand and stop the tacit support that you give to these child bashers, instead, remind them that there are much better ways of getting the response that they want. I know you and they will all come up with tried and true reasons to justify smacking your kids because you believe they deserved it, well sorry about it no child deserves to be smacked or threatened with smacking. All it does is show that you have lost control as an adult and have become the child you deserve. Remember no matter how savage or heathenish our tupuna appeared to the missionaries, at least their children our forefathers and mothers were loved, cherished, supported and led meaningful lives, contrast that with modern Cook Islanders.

If you haven't already made a connection, you will notice in this article that I believe that there appears to be a link between child abuse, good mature adult performance and the poor decision making of our business and political leaders. This, I believe is ultimately having a major effect on the performance of the Cook Islands politically, culturally, economically and socially going forward into the future. Yes it is all about jobs, careers, opportunities and retaining our people. But if we are bashing them as kids before they have developed into stable, well socialised, happy and valued contributing members of our society then we are pushing kakauphill with a fork in providing a nation that is people proud, heritage proud, and sure of its place in the scheme of things. A place where our children are precious commodities, the future of our nation.

Chinese Foreign Policy *Part 2*

In this issue, I will be discussing China's foreign policy in our region. I will only cover a few essential topics given the broad scope of the issue.

By Tevita Vakalalabure

China – South Pacific

The crux of any country's foreign policy is to develop friendly relations and cooperation with other countries. The policies are premised on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equal and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. China's foreign policy, in our region, is met with ravishing critics especially from western researchers. They have interpreted China's foreign policy rationale as solely for its selfish ends to the detriment of the regional countries. Others argue that China's foreign policies are to foster their own political leverage in international political forums, ensure easy accessibility to raw local resources, economic opportunity for the growing Chinese population, military and intelligence gathering platforms for its militarized ambitions whether overt or covert. There is immutable evidence of China's growing influence in the region and that regional countries find immense value in their relations with China.

History

Most of the regional countries have sealed bilateral agreements with China; Samoa (1975), Fiji (1975), Papua New Guinea (1976), Tuvalu (1979), Nauru (1980), Solomon Island (1983), Cook Islands (1997), Tonga (1998), Kiribati (1980 – 2003), Vanuatu (2004), Federated States of Micronesia (2007) and Marshall Islands (2008). Initially there was diplomatic rivalry in the South Pacific region between Taiwan & China. However, this tension has simmered down with improved relations between the two following changes in political leadership in Taiwan. China's has immensely increased its aid package to the region since 2003. Traditional regional powerhouses, New Zealand & Australia, are seen by most researchers to be losing ground in its spheres of regional

political influence, which directly extends to that of the United Kingdom and the USA. These expert opinions are based on the regional fall out following the Fijian coup in 2006.

How does the foreign policy work?

China's foreign aid programs follow the traditional aid matrix practised by most aid donor countries. The foreign aid matrices ensures that as much as possible all materials and labour for projects are sourced from donor aid countries, with minor supplementary inputs from the aid recipient country. All donor countries practise this aid matrix. However, while our traditional donors are stringent with their western influenced concepts of transparency & good governance regarding their handouts, China has its own Eastern flavoured centuries old precepts which at best could be described as "all encompassing but vague in specifics". It is so vague that some of their aid projects fall in the "vanity" column of the ledger. In Chinese deal making, everything is negotiable depending on what the recipient desires. Perhaps, this is the real value of Chinese foreign policy that attracts regional leaders.

What aid they give

China does not publish or provide official records of its aid programs. A recent study from 500 sources including regional countries budget documents and translated Chinese tender documents places the amount China spent in the region in excess of USD 1.9 billion for the past 10 years alone. The largest beneficiaries in the region have been Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. Between these countries, they share about 167 projects in various sectors of their countries between the years 2006-2013. Though Australia remains the biggest aid donor in the region, its contribution to Fiji and the Cook Islands was exceeded by China in the years 2004-2013 by USD110 million and USD 28 million respectively.

What they get in return

China's foreign policy encourages and assists Chinese diaspora to establish frontier commercial communities in the region. There are about over 80,000 Chinese who live in the region. Although the Pacific-China relation is on the low end of the economic value scale compared to the African continent, Chinese State-Owned Companies are having an enormous impact on local regional economies. Some local population consider the impact to be detrimental to both local enterprises and their natural resources. These state-owned companies have heavily invested in every aspect of the region's natural resources, with some researchers asserting that Fiji's tuna industry has been completely wiped out due substantially to the influx of the mega Chinese fishing fleets. However, this situation could also be viewed as a result of poor policy planning or engaging a totally flawed strategy on the part of the Fijian policy advisers. China has also secured docking spots for tracking its Space Programmes in Fiji and Tahiti. In 2009, over half the South Pacific exports went to China.

Criticism

Like me, some western political scientists consider China's foreign policy in the region as a global image builder and a generous benefactor helping the struggling regional economies. China's increasing economic engagement in the region is also directly increasing the sphere of its influence and impact on the local, regional economies. The long-term indebtedness of some regional countries to China are a concern with some conservative economist asserting that there are no prospects of repaying the loans. Some are also wondering if the loan repayment will be settled in a friendly discussion for land leases, preferential access to resources and our votes at international organizations?.

Food for Thought

We now exist in a global economy, where survival means getting engaged in the economic reality of dealing with nations such as China. We trust our leaders and their advisers are using China for valuable projects that will have continuous returns long after the projects are completed. In the next issue I will discuss our foreign engagement with the Red Dragon and why I believe that China is a generous benefactor helping the struggling regional economies.



Cook Islands Library & Museum Society Inc hosted William Tailby to morning tea today, to thank him for his gift of an 1855 Maori Bible. Tailby, a retired school principal from Northland, NZ, was accompanied by his wife Elizabeth and two daughters along with their partners and children. - Jean Mason

Sale of shares in Telecom to public begins

Mike Tavioni is pictured on Tuesday at the Are Tapaeanga opposite the Police HQ about to promote and sell shares to the public in Telecom.

Sales began on Monday with Mike Tavioni setting up a desk across from the Police HQ to promote and sell shares in Telecom to the public. Bluesky is making 15% of its 60% shareholding in Telecom available to Tavioni's group to sell on to the public. The group which is made up of reputable Cook Islanders, is properly formed in compliance with legal requirements and with a Trust Account opened to lodge funds collected.

Tavioni has already been on CITV News and Radio Cook Islands promoting the sale. On the Monday Tavioni told the Herald he sold some \$10,000 worth to the public within an hour. Locals are getting the first opportunity to buy before Tavioni opens up sales to Cook



Mike Tavioni (right), fellow executive member James Thomson (third from right) and two buyers.

Islanders in Australia and NZ who had earlier express an interest in buying shares. Overseas interest is strong with over \$1 million pledged by Cook Islanders based

overseas.

Tavioni said the share price has been set as low as \$125 as he feels this will be more affordable. This is one fourteenth of a full

share which is \$1,750. For more information, you can approach Tavioni opposite Police HQ or at his Atupa workshop.

- Charles Pitt

Cook Islands Self-Governing

By Teherenui Koteka

As you all very well should know, the Cook Islands is currently celebrating 50 years of Self-Governing. We have invested large amounts of funds, resources and time into making sure that this grand event is celebrated to its fullest extent. However over this 50th year of Self-Governing it has been brought to my attention that many of the youth out there (and perhaps even some of the elderly) do not have a firm understanding of why the Cook Islands becoming Self-Governing was/is so important and significant. I have heard the phrase "why is the government making such a big deal about the 50th?" and "all this is such a waste of money" countless times over the past year, so today I am going to shed some light on why the 50th Celebrations are so important.

Firstly you have to be able

to grasp the fact that the Cook Islands was not always like this and have a clear understanding of the circumstances that led to Self-Governing. Cook Islanders were not always able to make decisions that impacted the country. Before the Cook Islands became Self-Governing the majority of power within our country was held by New Zealand/Brittan. They made all the big decisions and we were merely just the working man. However in 1960 the United Nations began to urge countries to decolonize and that's where the original push for Self-Governing came from. The urge from the United Nations applied pressure on New Zealand; it was this pressure that led to the Cook Islands becoming more independent by establishing the Legislative Council of the Cook Islands and eventually led to New Zealand annexing the Cook Islands. When the

United Nations made a push for decolonization in 1960 New Zealand showed their full support. The immediate decolonization of the Cook Islands was put in play. New Zealand offered four options to the Cook Islands;

- 1) Complete independence
- 2) Full internal Self-Governing
- 3) Integration with New Zealand, or
- 4) Joining a Polynesian Federation

The Legislative Assembly unanimously chose the second option, full internal Self-Governing. The Legislative Assembly also requested that New Zealand citizenship be retained. The majority of the Cook Islands population favoured second option. A questionnaire conducted in the Cook Islands before 1965 showed that 72% of the population wanted to retain a relationship with New Zealand.

Cook Islanders saw Self-Governing as a way of being able to run our own country (internally) and still retaining New Zealand citizenship, so the choice was ideal.

As a result of the Cook Islands becoming Self-Governing in 1965, we now have full control over the Cook Islands, both internally and externally. Self-Governing has had multiple impacts on the Cook Islands, impacts that have shaped the Cook Islands into the nation we know today. Self-Governing has allowed the Cook Islands to branch off into industries such as tourism and fisheries which generate a vast amount of the Cook Islands income. Nowadays tourism supports over 70% of the Cook Islands economy and is a big part of the Cook Islands lifestyle that Cook Islanders have come to know. It is for these reasons the 50th celebration is so important.

Why we should thank God

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

Because we as a people, as a nation is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the attainment of our Internal Self-government status, I felt obliged for this article of encouragement to reflect a story in the Bible from Deuteronomy 2v.7 especially verse 7 to draw a Biblical parallel to the many years that we have come through, with the challenges that we have faced and how we overcame these. I want us to reflect on THE LOVE OF GOD on our lives as individuals, as a family, as a community, and as a nation. From verse 7 there are 4 lessons I want to draw our attention to.

1. "The Lord your God has blessed you in all the work of your hand."

God is telling Moses to remind the Children of Israel that what they have been doing over the past years, the Lord has blessed them. There has been difficult and challenging times, yet because of our perseverance and belief in God, and the prayers of the faithful ones in God through Jesus Christ, we became what we are as a people as a nation today the 50th year of our Anniversary. James 5v.16 (NIV) "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.". So long as we remain in God's favour, and do what is right in His sight, God will continue to bless the works of our hand. Hand speaks of our service to God. Colossians 3v.23 read "Whatever you do, do it heartily as unto the Lord and not to men."

2. "He knows your trudging through this great wilderness"

"trudging" or "walking" speaks of our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. The children of Israel have been wandering in the wilderness (desert). In the desert – at day-time it is hot. And at night it is cold. Even poisonous

insects and dangerous animals live in the desert – scorpions, snakes, spiders, etc. This can also speak to us of individuals Satan uses to poison the minds of others, places that caused people, even some Christians to fall to the 'way-side', to behave in a way not right in the sight of God. In His prayer for His disciples to God the Father in John 17v.15 Jesus prayed "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one." Jesus is asking the Father to protect His disciples, help give them strength to stay away from the things that bring harm to themselves. Satan's mission is "to steal; kill and destroy, but I have come said Jesus that you may have life and have it more abundantly." (John 10v.10). Remember that, although we are in this world we do not belong to this world. (John 15v.19). Jesus said in John 14v.13 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also." God knows our trudging or walking through this wilderness. God is re-shaping us, preparing us for His plans and purposes in the days ahead. Daniel 11v.32 says "the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits."

3. "These 40 years the Lord your God has been with you."

God has always been with the children of Israel in the wilderness for 40 years. In spite of their circumstances (sometimes they go astray) yet God never left them. Jesus said (Matthew 28v.20) "I will never leave you nor forsake you, I will always be with you till the end of the age." Regardless of our circumstances Jesus never left us "These past many years, the Lord our God has been with us."

as a people, as a nation.

4. "You have lacked nothing."

On mount Sinai, God commissioned Moses to deliver the children of Israel out of bondage in Egypt and lead them to the 'promised land'. Moses said "If they ask 'what is the name of this God, what should I tell them?" God said "I AM WHO I AM" is My name (Exodus 3v.13-14). This means their situation will determine Who I am – if they lack, I become their Provider; if they are troubled, I become their Comforter; if their enemy attacks them, I become their Protector; and so on. "I AM WHO I AM." God provided for the children of Israel in the wilderness. How can we lack when God is our Provider? Our Protector? Our Shield? and so on. The same

God who helped the children of Israel in the wilderness, He is the same God who helped us, this nation during these past 50 years. He is the God who is the same yesterday, today and forever. (Hebrews 13v.8). How can we lack. People around the world are dying for lack of Food. We die because of too much food. Our God is a good God. Jesus said ((John 16v.23) "Whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you." Provided of course that what we ask is within the "Will of God". For example it is the 'Will of God' that none should perish. (John 3v.16 [b]; II Peter 3v.9[b]). Ask for the salvation of relatives – uncle; aunty, cousins; and so on. Ask God for blessings upon our people, our nation, forthwith.

God bless, te Atua te aroa.

Jesus and the Judge

When did they meet?

Why?

And what was discussed?

Find answers to these questions at the New Hope Church in Parekura on Sunday at 10.30am.

Preacher: Brian Chitty B.Theol

All Welcome

Letters to the Editor

Congratulations PM & his team!

Dear Editor,
Congratulations to our Prime Minister, Hon. Henry Puna, his Cabinet Ministers, the Government Ministries involved with Te Maeva Nui 2015, Nick Henry and his Team for the 50th Celebrations, our wonderful Sponsors – CITC, BCI, Blue Sky and many other Sponsors, the Media, and last but not least, Our People of the Cook Islands. It is with pride that I witnessed a magnificent Float Parade event on Friday 24th July 2015, showcasing our people from young to old, and the effort they put in preparing their Floats. The Time, the Energy, the Effort – and what reflected reminded me of what I had seen in the 1970's and '80's. It was beautiful to see our People wave our national flag with pride and joy. Well done Sir to you and your Team of Ministers for finding a way in getting our Pa Enuā to this year's commemorative celebrations. Well done to the many Sponsors. Keep up the great work! Ka taokotai tatou e ka tere teia vaka o to tatou Basileia ki mua!

Na, Taina White

Stop whining!

Dear Editor,
May I respond to James Thompson's letter in last week's Herald headed "Can government part the sea?"

Of course it can part the sea and lead us to the promised outer islands and prosperity. One only need to look at its achievement in renewable energy stimulus developments and heavy machinery headed to the outer islands to realise this government has purpose, and that purpose is to breathe life into dying economies of abandoned outer islands.

As for the Te Mato Vai project, it was no mean task for Government to assemble the Governments of New Zealand, China and the Cook Islands to undertake Te Mato Vai as a tripartite aid project to deliver us potable water to drink instead of dirty water.

As for James and his Committee whining about Government not providing Te Mato Vai work for them, I would have thought they would know by now that aid donors dictate who gets the jobs and not our Government, so stop whining!

On my fishing proposal, I don't have to pitch our Government as it doesn't have the money. In any case it is a private sector activity I am proposing, with government to share in its bounty.

It is the Government of the People's Republic of China I must pitch my proposal to, as it has set aside US\$2 billion concessional finance for the private sectors of SIDS who signed the One China Policy to grow their economies on the back of US\$2 billion concessional finance set aside for Governments to stimulate their economies. So why not prepare their own business plan and ask China for private sector funding so they can have a job, instead of feeding off aid projects like Te Mato Vai? How embarrassing!

Tim Tepaki

Repeated mistakes

By *Lucianne Vainerere*

So we all have those friends who go through a rough or maybe really rough breakup. And because we're only teens in happens quite often. I know I'm a teen but what I don't understand is why they get back with their exes after so much pain and damage caused by that one person. Why would you let yourself go through that pain again? Because you love them or you make yourself believe that you love them?

Phase one: the sucker punch. The unexpected blow during the relationship when you find out or they tell you that they cheated. Now I'm a believer in second chances so that I don't mind. But if you give them a third and a fourth AND a fifth chance then NO that's not a good idea. Build a bridge and get over it.

Phase two: lousy self-pity. Because you're the dumpee you end up feeling sorry for yourself, it's ok to have a little cry. But if you're going to cry and then do it all over again, I'll still be your friend and I'll still listen but I just won't give any advice if it's not going to be considered.

Phase three: fake belief. You make yourself believe that you're over him and you act fine and happy, but deep down you're lying to yourself. Don't fake it just be honest to yourself and your friends. They may get sick of it but they still love you and will still be there for you.

Phase four: at it again. So because you love him so much you secretly get back with him without telling your friends which causes quite a few problems between all of you.

Phase five: denial. After all those problems you deny it all until you eventually make up your mind and tell your friends the truth.

Phase six: we're still here. So even though we go through all this poop we still find a way to get through it because our friendship is more important. However we don't appreciate lies even though WHEN we overcome it, it slowly brings us closer IF it was a reasonable lie.

So be cool to your friends, don't lie, don't hate, listen and appreciate.

After all those phases it brings us to the one question: "Why couldn't you let us know sooner, we wouldn't be this angry and frustrated not knowing what's going on with you?"

And even though it's really none of our business, we care for you and we want to be there for you but we can't if the feelings aren't mutual. We still have your back and always will.

Choose your ride or die carefully. If you can go through these phases and still remain friends.

Those are friends for life till you become mama and papa kerenis. Be tough, kick back, smile, look flossy, stay healthy, eat, sleep, pray and live your teenage life. Learn from your mistakes, don't repeat them.

New Hope Church
Parekura Conference Centre
Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you
Sunday at 10.30am

eat less
move more

The dithering Demos tag team of Dumb Smelly and Dumber Drolley just got a whole lot more dithered, last week offered the prime opportunity by Elvis to be a part of a media briefing where Demo leader Smelly could ask Elvis any question in front of the media his \$1200 a week CEO Dumber Drolley said no it was too quick. Both are inept when it comes to the media and with a long arm of issues Elvis could have been challenged with, they both pikered out in panic big time once again just another evidential case of why the Demos have the wrong people in leadership. What a poor excuse for an Opposition, can anyone tell us what Drolley does to earn his pay other than using the tax funded Opposition premises and equipment for his personal use? The Demos need to wake up and urgently have another conference and elect people who can stand up and robustly challenge the unpopular 74 vote Prime Minister and his corrupt CIP government.

Minita for the Money Markie deputised for Elvis to travel half way around the world to put his seal on some seabed mining documents, word is it was all funded with encouragement to attend by NZ Minita Murrah Cully. While Markie can find the time to travel to South Korea, Papua NG and now Jamaica in the last couple of months he has been noticeably absent without leave from Takuvaine, not sighted for sometime around the local traps in his constituency the local roosters and hens are crowing foul. Let's not forget Markie's \$100,000 a year go to man sponger Mickey Enry accompanied him on the two day five star stay in Jamaica, what for?

With the CIP conference just around the corner there are so far three clear Presidential hopefuls putting their names in the hat, Nga Jessie, Temu Okotai and

Robert Graham. Current secretary Soko is uncertain and will most likely stay as the secretary seeing no one wants the thankless job.

The daily dribble's Fiji Indian reporter seems to have found his niche, instead of mounting stupid malicious defamatory attacks on respected Cook Islanders that will end up damaging the owners back pockets he should stick to attending the movies and writing film reviews.

While the CIP machinery has all but paid off their legal debts and is gearing to have a monster raffle to be cashed up ready for the unexpected, the dithering Demos are bogged down with \$200,000 of debt and hello Drolley is doing nothing about getting it out of the way. The current fundraising is to cover new expenses. Already the CIP has identified six new possible candidates who will be prepared for the expected challenge ahead, in the meantime urgency hasn't registered with the clueless Dumb and Dumber team as they aimlessly stumble and bungle in the dark from one week to the next.

Elvis talks about not announcing the HOMs appoints until after the celebrations because some of those unsuccessful will be disappointed, what

a wheel barrow of chook poop. Those that were advised they didn't get rolled over appointments or get on the short list have been complaining to the respective Ministers so names have had to be added to the short lists regardless of the interview panel's choices on merit. Let's see what the weak Public Service Commissioner Doubting Thomas is going to do as it is he who has to make the appointments. It's about time we all accept the fact the interviews are only window dressing, the Ministers already have their appointments decided before the interviews take place. The CIP have corrupted the selection process, it's not what you know but it's who you know or who you are related to that counts in the end or what Church you belong to.

And our poor suffering police have had to put up with air conditioning units which have broken down! Shades of the courthouse! The Commissar wants to turf the lot out!

Next week Johnny Kee will be in town to celebrate our 50 year dependence on NZ and as a side track he will meet with the Opposition's excuse for a leader Smelly Heter. May be his control freak side kick

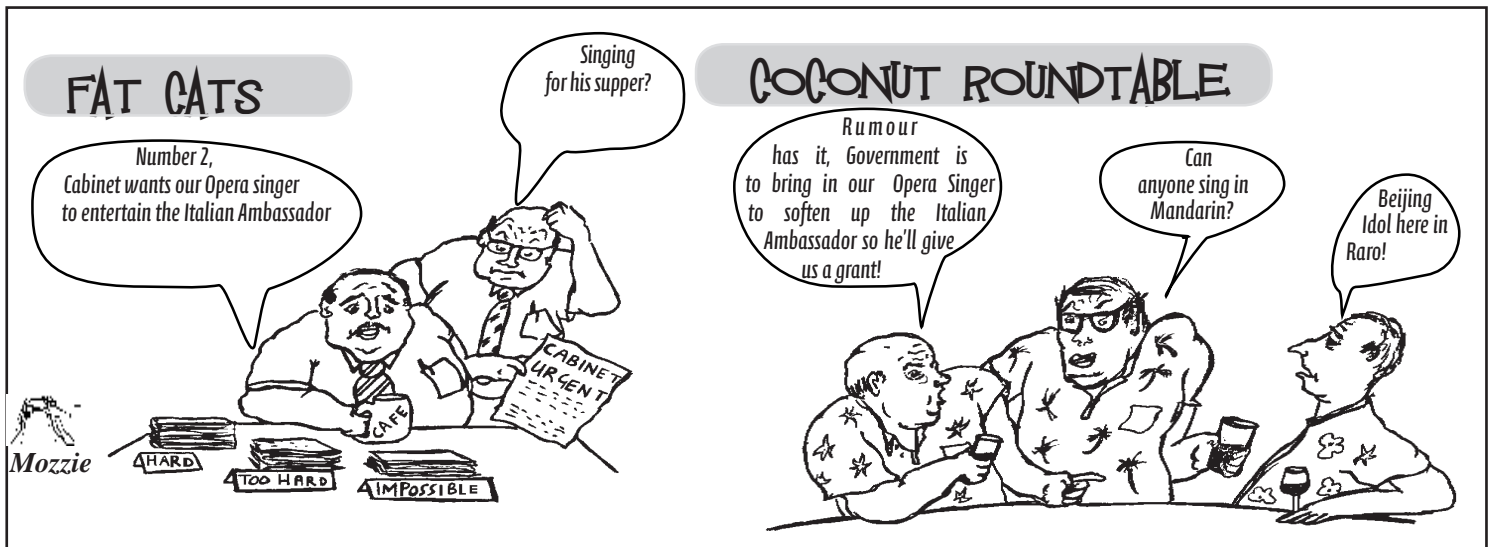
Drolley will cancel the meeting because it is too quick, if they couldn't talk to Elvis how on earth will Smelly last the 30 minutes with a real leader? Looks like Kiwi Kee will have to do all the talking and the blanked faced Opposition leader will just smile and laugh.

The Commissar of Police cracked his whip today and had all staff out cleaning up the HQ. Amazing to witness senior staff out with scrubbing brushes, mops and buckets cleaning up the chewing gum, the building and front ready it seems for the big visit of a very important Chinese diplomat!

With vehicle parking spaces in town hotly contested, bike riders need to be more considerate when parking in car spaces. Instead of one bike parking in the middle of a car space, it should be parked on the side so a car can get in. Cook Islanders have no clues when it comes to vehicle parking. Maybe it's because it's something they are not tested on when they go for their license. And where are the police patrols?

Interesting to see that the crowd outside the National Auditorium on Sunday evening watching the Choirs on the big screen for free was bigger than the crowd inside who paid big bucks for their seats! People were all bundled up outdoors in warm clothes against the cold and many were seen licking cold, ice cream!

How come there was no-one directing the flow of traffic at Takamo College road? This is a single lane road with a single lane bridge. Because of the length of this road, people at one end cannot see who's coming from the other end until it's too late and they meet on the single lane bridge! For God's sake, better planning next time! Eh? Eh?



Agriculture Day 2015 at Punanga Nui Market

Photos by Poko Utia and Courtney Matai



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Sapodilla



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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).



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FOR PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES FOR THE REVIEW OF
NATIONAL BUILDING CODE, BUILDING CONTROL AND
STANDARD REGULATION FOR THE COOK ISLANDS

RFP REF NO. 141544

Infrastructure Cook Islands, (hereinafter called the "Principal"), in collaboration with the office of the Prime Minister, Emergency Management Cook Islands intends to procure the consultancy services for the "REVIEW OF NATIONAL BUILDING CODE, BUILDING CONTROL AND STANDARD REGULATION FOR THE COOK ISLANDS."

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

Tenders close at 3pm on Friday, 21st August 2015, and must be submitted in hard copy format in two separate sealed envelopes and have the following information clearly exhibited in red on the outside:

Envelope 1: "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL"

Envelope 2: "FINANCIAL PROPOSAL"

"DO NOT OPEN WITH TECHNICAL PROPOSAL"

All Enquiries to be directed to: Solomona Solomona
Contact Officer

Email: solomona.solomona@ici.gov.ck

Phone: +682 20321

VACANCY

PUBLIC SALE OF SHARES IN TELECOM

Bluesky Iti Tangata Shares on Sale Opposite BCI bank, Aere Tapaeanga.

TENDER



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.

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.

MeitakiMaata

Director

Vaitoti Tupa

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FOOTBALL UPDATE

Road to Russia 2018 revealed at Preliminary Draw

The road to the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ has been laid out for 141 teams from across the globe as St Petersburg's Konstantin Palace hosted a dramatic and star-studded Preliminary Draw.

A global audience of approximately 94.8 million tuned in as the spectacular show, hosted by Dmitry Shepelev and supermodel Natalia Vodianova, blended football with some of the best in Russian music and culture. The draw itself - overseen by Jérôme Valcke, FIFA's Secretary General - also produced its fair share of fireworks, with Spain-Italy and Chile-Brazil on the first South American match day just a couple of the mouth-watering games left to tantalise the beautiful game's billions of fans.

Words of welcome

All of those enthusiasts had earlier been promised the warmest of welcomes by Russia's President, Vladimir Putin, who kicked off proceedings by addressing the 2,000 guests and viewers from across the world. "Our country has a long-standing football history and the World Cup will definitely enhance the game's reputation," said Putin. "This is a tournament that will be wonderful not only for Russia but for all our neighbouring countries. It is Russia's great pleasure to be hosting the World Cup, which will offer a great chance to show our country's many faces to the world."

FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter also expressed his excitement about the tournament, although he sought to shift the focus - for now at least - to the eagerly awaited preliminaries. "This is an important day in the long and winding road to the 2018 FIFA World Cup," said Blatter. "The tournament is very much on track and Russia will be fantastic hosts. But first a much longer competition must take place, lasting no less than 33 months,



with over 850 matches taking place. And when all's said and done, we will know the teams that will compete in Russia."

Big names and big challenges Rinat Dasayev, Soviet goalkeeping legend, and Cameroon icon Samuel Eto'o, then assisted FIFA's Secretary-General in setting out the route for Africa's 2018 contenders, with Somalia having the honour of being the first team picked out in this Preliminary Draw. And while the big guns will only meet later in the process, the first and second round ties look set to include some David and Goliath-style meetings, with Nigeria set to face the winner of a tie between Swaziland and Djibouti, the continent's lowest-ranked nation.

Next up, via a rendition of 'Podmoskovnye Vechera' by opera singers Hibla Gerzmava and Vasily Gerello, it was the turn of teams from North, Central America and the Caribbean to learn the first of their qualifying opponents. This part of the process, led by Italian World Cup winner Fabio Cannavaro and beach soccer icon Madjer, left USA and Mexico paired with Trinidad and Tobago and Honduras respectively in Round 4, while CONCACAF Gold Cup finalists Jamaica must first

negotiate a third-round tie with Nicaragua.

Oceania's teams would have been feeling nervous by this stage, although they were soothed before their section of the draw by the beauty and elegance of two dancers performing an excerpt of Boris Eifman's ballet Anna Karenina to music by Tchaikovsky. Alexey Smertin and Predrag Rajkovic, captain of Serbia's FIFA U-20 World Cup winners, then assisted Valcke in laying out the continent's groups, one of which pitted top-ranked New Zealand against Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu.

Heavyweight clashes in South America, Europe

The honour of conducting South America's draw fell thereafter to two of the continent's striking greats: Ronaldo and Diego Forlan. In this region the opening-day matches were the centre of attention, and O Fenômeno admitted to fearing for Brazil after they were handed a trip to Copa America champions Chile.

The main draw concluded with sights turned to Europe, although only after the guests had been treated to an up-tempo Football Medley by the World Jazz Stars. The musicians were then replaced on stage by

Aleksandr Kerzhakov and Oliver Bierhoff, who helped lay out the task facing the 52 teams in a continent with 13 slots up for grabs.

Gasps swiftly followed, with Spain and Italy - winners in 2010 and 2006 respectively - drawn together in Group G, with other pairings including France and the Netherlands and the oldest international rivalry of all: England-Scotland. Defending champions Germany, meanwhile, will face the first challenges to their crown against the likes of Czech Republic, Northern Ireland and Norway.

The Preliminary Draw results

Results from the Preliminary Draw for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™, which took place at the Konstantin Palace in St. Petersburg on Saturday 25 July.

Oceanian Zone Draw

Group A: Tahiti, New Caledonia, Winner (Round 1), Papua New Guinea

Group B: New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu

* Round 1 is a round-robin group consisting of: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga

*Asian member associations are not involved in the draw because their World Cup qualifiers have already commenced