

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

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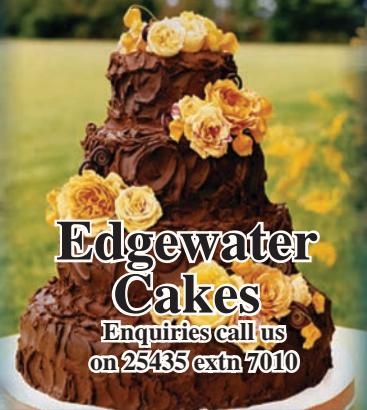
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Puna appeases voters with money for shopping

Prime Minister and Manihiki Mayor override the Land Court Judicial process



Mayor Ngamata Napara (centre) and PM Henry Puna (right)

Last Friday morning 14 June 2015 the Land Court heard an application by government, presented by Crown law, requesting the court to allow government to pay certain people in Manihiki part of the money already given the Land Court by government for compensation of land acquired by government for the solar power projects of Manihiki. Government made this submission pointing out that landowners have been waiting too long for compensation.

Legal representatives for some of the people with claims for ownership of lands acquired for these projects rightly pointed out to the Court that this application was highly irregular since the Court has yet to decide who the landowners of these lands are, boundaries for each piece of land and the right level of compensation for these lands. The Judge did not take long to agree and turn down the application.

The no shame hand out culture

cultivated by Puna to buy votes is so prevalent in Manihiki it has become a rod for his own back, under pressure from members of the Manihiki contingent for shopping money Puna caved

The no shame hand out culture cultivated by Puna to buy votes is so prevalent in Manihiki...

into their persistent pestering. The problem is the cash strapped Puna failed through the Land Court to legitimise advancing his follower's tax payer's cash. But when it comes to the bludgers

from his constituency Puna does it anyway for they are the fruit of his scheming labour. Desperate to stay in the Manihiki good books in case he's forced to go back to the polls early Puna doesn't just

structures and systems. For the self preserving Puna the law is there to be transgressed and corrupted so much so he is unrivalled and in a master class of his own. In the afternoon before the end of work, the Office of the Prime Minister paid 10 people from Manihiki certain amounts of money as part compensation for the Manihiki solar project lands. These people's names were given to the office of the Prime Minister by Ngamata Napara the Mayor of Manihiki and the money paid out came from of all places the government's contingency fund at the instruction of the Minister of Finance Mark Brown. As one lawyer in Court stated, she will dearly want to see the list of people government is proposing to pay since the Land Court has not finalised such a list. Another lawyer suggested that this application smacks of political interference.

bend over backwards but he has become a contortionist. While Puna preaches the law the good old fashion Adventist way he is void of any morality to respect and work within its

Continued next page

Crown Law circulates Occupation Right thinking of Land Court Judges

Crown Law has circulated a draft Practice Note prepared by the two Land Division Judges. According to the circulation the Chief Justice is seeking views of the members of the legal fraternity.

PRACTICE NOTE REGARDING OCCUPATION RIGHT ORDERS PURSUANT TO S.50 COOK ISLANDS ACT 1915 FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES

17 June 2015

[1] This practice note is issued to address concerns relating to Occupational Right Orders in terms of s50 of the Cook Islands Act 1915 and has been endorsed by the Chief Justice of the Cook Islands.

[2] This practice note replaces that issued by Hingston J, however, it retains some of its content. It applies only to Occupation Right Orders for residential purposes.

[3] Before an application

In reality this move by the Cook Islands Party government is reminiscent of the foul odour that is permeating from the Schoonergate saga. Government's contention that the Manihiki landowners have been waiting too long is just more spin doctoring that must come as a surprise to the Rakahanga landowners who gave their land for the solar project well before the Manihiki landowners.

Furthermore the biggest recipient of money out of the 10 people nominated by Mayor Napara is a woman who received \$5000. This woman's son is the PM's driver and is married to the Napara's daughter. This woman hasn't even submitted a claim of ownership for her family's land to the Land Court which anyone must do in order to be part of the investigation of title for any land.

Furthermore, both the Mayor and the Office of the Prime Minister knew that this woman is claiming to be the sole owner of the land under consideration when she had brothers and sisters plus 9 other uncles and aunts and this family only makes up 50% of the owners of this land. With the Manihiki Island Council election coming up in early 2016 this corrupt exercise dreamed up by Mayor Napara and the Prime Minister has very serious implications.

for an Occupation Right Order for residential purposes is placed before the Court for consideration it must be accompanied by the following:

i. A plan of the proposed Occupation Right area certified by the Chief Surveyor or his delegate. The plan is to show the general topography of the area and to show existing structures or improvements if any.

ii. A certificate signed by the Deputy Registrar:

(a) Certifying the number of owners in the land, including deceased owners, and the number of owners who have signified that they wish the Occupation Right Order to be

There are very serious questions here for government and particularly for the Prime Minister Henry Puna to answer.

1. How can a Mayor usurp the authority of the court in the investigation of landownership?

2. How can the PM, a lawyer, give government money, beyond what is appropriated for land compensation when the court deemed such compensation unwise when it turned down government's application on Friday?

3. What will government do if the court determines that some or others who have received payment from government are not landowners or are not entitled to the amount of money they have received?

4. Mayor Napara and the Prime Minister already know that the largest recipient of money on Friday was claiming to be the sole landowner when she had a large family of uncles, aunts and cousins and none of these family members agreed to her claim?

5. Is government so naive to think that this illegal and corrupt payout to a select few will make the many hundreds of landowners supportive of this solar project? Already some landowners are looking at taking out an injunction against government's illegal taking of their land.

- George Pitt

granted;

(b) Whether or not the applicant has disclosed that other Occupation Rights on the particular island concerned are held;

(c) Whether or not the area sought is more than a quarter acre.

iii. A declaration by the applicant as to what other Occupation Right Orders are held or may reasonably be expected to be held on the death of the present holder of an Occupation Right Order.

[4] Without intending to fetter the discretion of any Court when determining the terms and conditions of such an Order, the applicant should be aware that

Court Orders are usually made in the following terms:

i. The term of the Order will not in any event exceed 60 years.

ii. The Occupation Right is to enable the use or construction and use of a dwelling. If there is no dwelling on the land the holder is to commence construction of the dwelling within five (5) years and complete construction within seven (7) years. If these terms are not met the Order will automatically lapse and be of no effect.

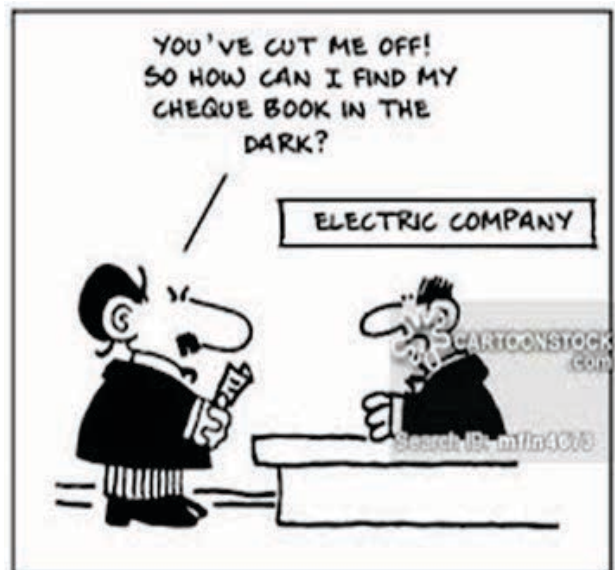
iii. The right of occupation hereby granted may be used by the owner of the right of occupation as

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PM on State visit

Prime Minister Henry Puna is visiting New Zealand as an Official Guest of the New Zealand Government from 17 – 24 August to celebrate in New Zealand the 50th Anniversary of Self Government in Free Association.

The timing of the visit coincides with the conclusion of the official program for the 50th celebrations that took place in Rarotonga from 27 July to 6 August 2015. The visit to New Zealand will be a blend of official, community and business engagements and an invaluable opportunity for the two Governments to explore further cooperation in the years ahead, building on talks held in Rarotonga on the 4th August.

Arrangements for the visit are being coordinated by the Cook Islands High Commission in Wellington together with the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

Official engagements will include a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Key, following an official welcome.

An engagement with the New Zealand Pacific Parliamentary Friendship Group is also planned, the cross-Party group co-chaired by Hon Su'a William Sio and Hon Alfred Ngaro.

The visit will also afford Cook Islands communities an opportunity to share in the celebrations of the 50th Anniversary.

Puna will attend as part of the visit a Panel Discussion of Cook Islands Tertiary Students facilitated by the Cook Islands Tertiary Advisory Group (CITAG) chaired by Dr Aumea Herman-Tepai on the topic of Opportunities and Challenges for Cook Islanders globally.

Engagement with business is also envisaged as part of the visit and a business networking opportunity is planned in Auckland towards the latter part of the visit.

"This visit by Prime Minister Puna is an important platform upon which we can strengthen our relationship with the New Zealand Government, New Zealand business and society, Tangata Whenua and equally important, our Cook Islands people," said High Commissioner Tiki Matapo.



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Norman George on Political Reform

By Norman George

Most of the commentaries I hear on this subject should correctly be called “political deform”. Every viewpoint seems centred on seat reductions from an 8 MP Parliament, to maybe 12 MPs. The thrust of this thinking disregards democracy and the safety net representation it provides. This structure is based on a business model which turns Parliament and Cabinet into a board of directors.

We all know how boards of directors can be dictatorial. Parliament might get noisy sometimes. That is an indication that checks and balances are alive and well, however fleeting. We cannot reduce or shut down an effective Parliamentary system. I believe in safety by numbers.

Maybe the time has come to review the number of MPs in our Parliament. My position here is that Rarotonga keep their 10 seats, Aitutaki have 2 seats with the rest of the Outer islands restricted to one Parliamentary seat each. That will give us a total of 20 Parliamentary seats.

On top of this, I submit that the Prime Minister be elected by the whole country, separate from what we now have, every electorate will have a say who the Prime Minister should be.

Candidates can either be promoted by their political parties or stand as independents.

The Cabinet must be chosen from elected members of Parliament. It is up to the Prime Minister how he appoints his cabinet. They can come from either parties or exclusively from the PMs political party.

Those MPs opposed to the Prime Minister and his

government become the opposition.

A nationally elected Prime Minister will stop party hopping dead. It will stop political mischief, corruption and musical chair concerts.

The new nationally elected PM system will no doubt introduce its own version of short falls, warts and evils. That should not hold us back. We live in a world of imperfections and cruel accidents. Our deep commitment to freedom and democracy will cure any future moral degradation that each system will introduce.

That then gives us a 21 seat Parliament. A Candidate for PM should be allowed to put his name forward as an MP for an electorate. If he misses out on the nationally elected M.P.s’ seat, then he can still be utilised as a lawmaker in Parliament.

I do not expect a Presidential style government to emerge from this change neither should portfolios and cabinet responsibilities change. The cost of Governance should not increase.

The Deputy Prime Minister will step in to cover if something happens to the nationally elected Pm. He can hold the position until a by election (national) is held.

One thing that I denounce is the way some MPs in Rarotonga belittle the size of some outer islands electorates. Their references to PM Henry Puna’s small electorate is a “small brains” syndrome. It is an accident of life to be born or be connected to a place not of your choosing. Surely if one has the brains and intelligence, it does not matter how large or small your constituency is – when you have natural talent, it is fair game! My eldest brother used to tease me as I am much bigger than him,

by saying – remember Norm, the bigger you are, the harder you fall!! (L.O.L) It was never tested!

Of course in order to make the changes some constitutional amendments need to be put in place. This is something for those in Parliament to consider with urgency.

There are vast areas of reform needed with our political system. The electoral Act 2007 needs a comprehensive review ,a select committee should be appointed to study changes.

Some of the changes I want to see include:

- Redefining your usual place of residency
 - Absences from the constituency, a clear definition of medical absences, educational and need to travel absences.
 - A more precise definition of electoral offences.
 - Disqualifications of corrupt candidates from standing for Parliament for a set number of years.
 - Controlling the powers of petition Judges.
 - Removing the right of a petition Judges to participate in appeal applications.
 - Case stated procedures to either be removed, or made to accept questions of fact and law to be grounds of appeal
 - Agency in corrupt practices to be defined so Judges will apply the laws instead of picking and choosing whether to apply it or not.
 - Recall procedures to be reintroduced when constituents are dissatisfied with the conduct of their MP, which gives them a chance to force a by election.
- Hey I can’t think of it all, there are bound to be huge areas needing changes. So,

political reform is not about reducing seats, but redrafting the Electoral Act and the Constitution.

OUR RELATIONS WITH AOTEAROA

In this respect, I adopt the British historic position on foreign policy. Our alliances may vary, but our interests, constant: Our relationship with New Zealand is constant and permanent full stop, May God have mercy on any mentally challenged Prime Minister who threatens our New Zealand Citizenship. He will be torn to threads from head to toe.

I see our relationship with Aotearoa as safe for the next 100 years. Not only have we bonded with our traditional Maori Cousins, we have also deeply bonded with pakeha New Zealand: We barely bother with differentiating the two, we are brothers at war, peace and social tolerance. We share the same sentiments in our growing closeness to Australia.

Fiji has done a lot of damage to the Pacific Forum by insisting that New Zealand and Australia not be part of it. This is an uneducated backward step. I would rather be without Fiji and any sympathetic supporters of Fiji than go without New Zealand and Australia in the Forum.

The Forum HQ should be shifted to Samoa or Rarotonga asap. Fiji has become shaky and unpredictable under Banimarama. Oh to have world class statesman Ratu Kamasese Mara around with us now! Papa Tom Davis and I were very close to him. Bula vinaka to our Fiji friends.

My next column will be on the Fourth Estate and living alongside our expatriate brothers and sisters.

Ka kite.

from page 3

a security for any loans or monies advanced to him by any person or lending institution approved by the Minister of Finance for the purpose of the construction of a dwelling house and to carry out such renovations repairs and extensions or such other purposes as may be necessary on the land described in the schedule hereto.

iv. In the event of any default by the person in whose favour the right of occupation has been granted in the repayment of any monies lent or advanced, the lender may occupy and use the right of occupation for a period not exceeding 15 years or such shorter period as may be necessary for the purpose of securing the repayment of any monies due and owing by the holder of the right of occupation.

v. Where this Order grants an Occupation Right to a person or persons, they only may occupy the land. This Occupation Right cannot be assigned and if that person or those persons fail to occupy the land for a continuous period of three (3) years this Order shall lapse and be of no effect.

The person or persons holding the Occupation Right may apply to the Court for relief from this provision and a variation of this Order for this purpose. Any such application must be made before or during the period of three (3) years referred to previously and may also apply for relief from the terms of paragraph 4(vii) of this Order and this application will remain before the Court to that extent.

vi. Where an Order refers to the right to occupy being held by a group, such as children of a person or direct descendants of a person, then that group may decide who should occupy, but not to the effect that a person outside that group occupies.

vii. No holder of an occupation right may use the land as a rental property or for commercial purposes except by Order of this Court pursuant to paragraph 4(v). Any application in that regard must be made before the land or fixtures upon the land are used for rental or commercial purposes. Any breach of this term has the result that this Order shall lapse and be of no effect.

[5] If other or different

Orders are sought, the applicant is to be prepared to address this in evidence and submissions.

P J Savage J

W W Isaac J

One lawyer made the following comments which were supported by another lawyer;

1. S50 of the 1946 amendment was initially intended to grant natives sections for planting of citrus. The normal terms and conditions of the orders (created by the Court) granted at the time provided for succession so long as the section continued to be used for the stated purpose.

2. Whilst it was not intended for residential or commercial purposes the wording of the section was wide enough such that the Courts extended application of the section to include residential and commercial use. The early standard form orders (created by the Justice Department) also provided for succession unless the Court was satisfied that the section had not been occupied for a specified period of time. The landowners (probably incorrectly) generally understood the section

to mean that once granted to the applicant it was for him/her and thereafter to successors.

3. In the early 1980s the Court amended the terms and conditions of an O/R by including an "automatic lapsing clause". This was to prevent sections being granted to persons not residing on the island and thus depriving the use by those on the island. However once a house was built then generally succession would follow.

4. The draft Practice Note introduces further terms and conditions. It not only perpetuates an incorrect application of s50 from what the Legislature initially intended but the terms are now so strict that it makes no sense to obtain an O/R when you can acquire a lease instead.

5. Vesting orders, introduced in 1960, was intended to accommodate house sites but was/ is rarely used for a number of reasons which I will leave for another day.

6. I do not believe that the answer lies in Practice Notes. It is a matter for the Legislature to address.

Letter to the Editor

Grey Power to retaliate if government seizes assets to cover tax due

Dear Editor,
The ongoing memorable flashbacks on CITV of former Cook Islands Leaders from the charismatic Premier Papa Arapati in 1965 to the very quiet but calculating Prime Minister Jim Marurai in 2010, all eight of these prominent Cook Islands men had one thing in common, they never taxed the pensioners. But Henry Puna on becoming the ninth leader in 2010, chose to be different from his predecessors and broke a long standing fundamental tradition of the Cook Islands government, not to tax the pensioners.

Grey Power came into existence in July 2013 and strongly resisted the new

government's draconian plan to tax us NZ paid pensioners who are well over 70, 80, 90 even 103 years of age! The money in our bank accounts are to pay our own funeral expenses! After a one year long stalemate of patience at our resilience and raided six members bank accounts of a total of \$30,000 without and prior notice or warning. That incident backfired in the faces of the perpetrators when Grey Power upped their protests demanding including two marches to parliament demanding restitution which resulted in parliament directing the CIP government to reimburse all stolen

\$30,000 including \$370,000 to over 100 Grey Power members were coerced into paying the back tax. The CIP government made an embarrassing \$400,000 pay out and the controversial planned back tax was thrown out of the House, leaving the ordinary annual tax for us to pay from 2013 onwards.

About 70 members still refuse to pay this, hence the hand delivery of letters by MFEM to members in their homes. I was informed by two tax officers on my verandah on Wednesday 12 August that the deadline for non-compliance is 26 August. After that date MFEM will raid our bank accounts. If there are not enough funds there

they will proceed to seize that person's assets to the value of what's owing. I promptly rang the Office of the Prime Minister about this news.

Hard on the heels of our magnificent celebrations, what a cruel 50th anniversary celebratory message to deliver by a government department who had no feelings for the elderly. Why are we being treated as criminals? Shame on this CIP government. We are prepared to go to court en masse, then on to jail but are helpless at being robbed by the government!

Grey Power buckled this government once before.

Dennis Tunui
President
Grey Power



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Schoonergate cronyism and lies exposed as public demand truth

No amount of blatant lies by the unpopular Prime Minister Henry Puna, Finance Minister Mark Brown or the Finance Secretary Richard Neves will convince anyone the service contract between the Cook Islands Party government and Mike Henry's company Pacific Schooners Ltd (PSL) is anything but rotten to the core corruption. An orchestrated plan to bail out the desperate and insistent Mike Henry's collapsed shipping business was hatched when he met with Puna and Brown earlier this year.

The resulting massaged contract between the Government and PSL is a nauseating scam and crony theatre of the worst kind. The awarding of a major government contract over established shipping companies to an unproven unregistered shipping company that has no runs on the board which is owned by a business failure who is a convicted major tax dodger is an absolute disgrace.

But when the truth emerges that the appropriation was approved before the Contract was signed this will leave no doubt that the contract tendering process was a sham and the whole process just further exemplifying the public's fears.

This eruption of exposed corruption is going to leave deep scars in the Cook Islands Party rank and file when it sinks deep into the minds of all those hard working loyal members that will lose their jobs because of the greed of just one of their own who had contributed nothing

to their cause to become government. This is the legacy of three ethical mutants who have hammered the last nail in the political coffin of the Cook Islands Party.

Henry's sailing vessel Tiare Taporo was held up in Canada after being refitted due to the lack of funds to have it released.

Brown had already bent over backwards to help his long time friend Henry by replacing Julian Dashwood from the lucrative Cook Islands Investment Corporation Chairmanship for him. Henry was also on three other Boards and despite collecting \$37,000 in Board director fees Brown employed Henry on a \$75,000 salary that included numerous overseas travel to pick up extra money. Not only is Henry on established boards he's also on the Infrastructure Committee earning a nice little pay packet and simultaneously getting to view infrastructure projects that he can broker or tender for. It's like being Police, Judge and Jury an insider trader.

As Puna and Brown's advisor and go to man with his foot well entrenched in the door the no shame greedy self serving Henry a convicted tax dodger has set about creaming opportunities from the public trough.

The truth is the contract for shipping services was tailor made to bail out Mike Henry who was facing disgruntled investors and threats of liquidation. Despite the government having no right to invest public monies in private companies it was with the assistance (At the instruction

of Puna and Brown) of the compliant Richard Neves a way was created to pander to Henry's persistent requests.

Henry was secretly advanced a grossly unjustifiable blind payment of \$272,000 as a deposit for the shipping service as per the contract. How bizarre, such a huge payment would be advanced for a mirage shimmering far away across the horizon. With these funds Henry could pay his Canadian creditors and have the Tiare Taporo released. Henry guaranteed his vessel will be in Rarotonga by 1 August 2015.

After going to great pains to tell the nation live on a Radio Cook Islands his government had no secrets, the PM Henry Puna has as normal reneged with cover ups and more lies. His public stand against corruption and claims of being pro transparency are a disgrace.

The CIP as a Government has turned a blind eye and condoned unprecedented new levels of conflicts of interests so in defense of their denials and in the interest of transparency all the investors in PSL should be published and let the public gauge and test the anti corruption practices this government claims it embraces.

No amount of claiming the details of this scam shipping contract with Mike Henry is commercially sensitive will appease the public, the fact is the manner in which the contract has been processed is political dynamite that exposes the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance as being corrupt and politically rotten to the core.



Neves the CIP conduit for political abuse

With the impending Regional Ministers meeting in October the image that the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance like to portray may not be the one that will be acceptable to all the international visitors.

Where is the no secret government now Mr. Puna? Where is the transparency now? The dismissive Mark Brown now suffers from amnesia whenever he is asked a question about the Mike Henry contract; Henry Puna gets angry and lies through his teeth expecting the public to digest his palate of verbal faeces. Puna's contempt of the public is evident he considers himself above reproach and accountability.

All three corrupt correspondents give different answers to the same questions when asked by different media representatives. This is the

continued next page

catalyst for the growing public intolerance that is raising the temperature of discontent with the Puna administration. The only information the trio's facilitator of the schooner scam Neneva Neves would disclose was that the charter rate was \$7,500 a day. But ask yourself why hide the rest? The contract period is known and the daily rate is also known then why should the amount advanced be so secretive? Is there more to it that meets the eye?

The contract stipulates the service was to return 130 people to the Northern group but now Puna says it is to return those in the southern group. The 9th August the start date has come and gone. But on the 14 August the Tiare Taporo is still in dock in Panama awaiting further funds. Is the government going to cancel the contract and demand a refund within five days as stipulated in the contract?

Puna now says Mike Henry can work off the secret advance payment by shipping freight and that the Avatiu storage sheds are bulging with store cargo. Firstly there isn't a mountain of cargo in the sheds, that's a lie, the sheds were visited on 13 August after Puna made this claim and he lied knowing whatever was there will have long gone by the time the Tiare Taporo arrives Rarotonga.

Secondly the contract specifies the service is for 130 passengers, there is no reference to freight cargo. We must not forget that cargo and passengers are two different costs to carry. Cargo can quite easily be carried by the current providers but of course they were never given the opportunity to offer a charge out rate for just cargo. The contract was for passengers that also included in the government contract meal specifications of 3 per day for each of the 130 passengers and safety and insurance cover. It's a sweet deal for Pacific Schooners, but it may end up being too sweet and chronic corruption may well overwhelm them.

Henry's service contract is specifically to return 130 people to the Northern Group during the stated period of 50 days from the 9 August to 30 September 2015. It is illegal to carry deck passengers which mean the Tiare Taporo is licensed to carry 30 cabin passengers. In favourable conditions travelling at 8 knots per hour it will take 35 days from



PM Henry Puna, Mark Brown and Mike Henry a tripartite of lies and corruption Panama to Rarotonga.

Puna, Brown and Neves must stop insulting the people's intelligence by continuing the fabrication Mike Henry can fulfill his contractual obligations. Brown's obliging fix it man the obnoxious Neves once again turns everything he touches into a political disaster. The only person questioned about the contract that has not compromised their integrity and can hold their head up high for telling the truth is Elizabeth Koteka-Wright, the Office of the Prime Minister Chief of Staff. She has since been instructed not to say anything more to the media.

Questions now asked of Neves, has Mike Henry requested a variation to the contract seeing he is already in breach of it? Will a new contract be tendered to freight the overwhelming cargo in the Ports Authority storage sheds? Will the government be seeking a refund of the \$272,000 public monies advanced to Henry seeing he is unable to meet his contractual obligations? Will the government be advancing Henry more money in cash or through the Bank Cook Islands to help the Tiare Taporo leave Panama? Is this government willing to bail out and help other private businesses?

Why didn't the PM advance \$272,000 to Taio Shipping to bring their purchased boat from Norway? The replacement for the ship wrecked on the reef at Mauke remains in Europe while Taio Shipping does its best to accumulate the funds to pay for the passage to Rarotonga. The specifications clearly show their acquisition is far superior to the Tiare Taporo for interisland shipping. Although the new addition to his fleet has been paid for Tapi Taio has made no secret for some time that he



was struggling to fund its trip to Rarotonga. The PM must have known this, but has consistently had his ears tuned only to the sounds of the 'boarding call now' coming through the speaker system at the VIP lounge at Rarotonga International Airport.

After serving the Cook Islands through the thick and thin times often enduring financial hardships Taio Shipping misses out on the cream, showing no appreciation for carrying the burden in many of the last 50 years Tapi gets kicked in both nuts instead.

The fact Henry got stuck with a lemon investment that was poorly researched, pursued by greed and the use of other people's money is and should never have become the problem of the Cook Islands government to solve. Once realising his PSL venture was losing the confidence of his investors and heading for commercial disaster Henry has sought to attract government funded assistance to help the business succeed.

From the start Henry had made the mistake of purchasing a vessel that wasn't compatible with Cook Islands conditions with a major constraint it had a draught which prevented it from being berthed at Aitutaki wharf.

Once the CIP became the government Henry's long time friend the Minister of the Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC) Mark Brown appointed him to being the Chairman of the Ports Authority (PA). This gave Henry influence over the PA operations which included jurisdiction over the Aitutaki Port. Henry could now initiate and drive a road map that would lead to the widening and dredging of the Aitutaki harbour to accommodate his private boat the Tiare Taporo.



As the Chairman of PA Henry sought funding through NZAid for the development of the Aitutaki harbour when John Carter was the NZ Commissioner but he rejected the proposal and in the presence of others in the meeting sternly told Henry NZ would not fund a personalised project whose main beneficiary was obviously the self serving Mike Henry.

An Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed development was tendered and carried out, costly on shore designs were also done with a project cost estimate of \$15 million. After learning the project's development would not advance unless approved by the CIIC, Henry then began pestering Brown until he was appointed as one of the three Board Directors. Henry did not relinquish his PA chairmanship after his CIIC appoint, now Henry was on five government Boards.

Under pressure Brown eventually relieved Henry as the PA Chairmanship, but appointed his friend as CIIC Chairman. Despite his obvious conflict of interest Henry has strengthened his resolve to develop the Aitutaki harbour to suit the berthing requirements of the Tiare Taporo.

Investors from Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) have been approached by Henry to fund the Aitutaki harbour development. The people of Aitutaki would be very concerned at this intrusion and self enriching at the expense of other businesses and the tax payers of the Cook Islands.

A gauntlet framed by public opinion isn't going to quietly give in to government; this matter will not rest even if it has to be remedied in the High Court.

- George Pitt

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, WEDS 12th AUG 2015

Maori language week

The Cook Islands Māori language was the subject of discussion on Te Kave Kōrero on Wednesday 12th August 2015.

A panel of advocates of the language was on the programme comprising of John Herman, former Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Tauraki Rongo, presenter of the Cook Islands community programme on Radio 531PI in Auckland and Jane Taurāri'i, Cook Islands Māori Language Advisor at the Ministry of Education.

Presenter Tony Hakaoro said that he is very concerned children in Rarotonga are not speaking Māori.

He said in Māori that since coming back home he has not yet heard a boy or girl under 13 years of age speak Māori.

“Mei tōku `oki`anga mai ki to tātou Bāsileia, e tae mai ki tēia rā, tae mai ki tēia `ati`anga nei, kāre rāi au i `akarongo ake i tēta`i tamā`ine mē kāre ra, i tēta`i tamāroa, i raro ake i te mata`iti e 13, kia tuatua i to tātou reo Māori Kūki Airani. Te akāro`a, te akāro`a i to tātou reo”.

When Hakaoro asked the panel members what the issues are concerning the language Herman said there are a few.

He said that if we don't speak our language we would lose it.

“Te mea mua, me kāre tātou e tuatua i to tātou reo, kua mārama tātou kātoatoa, ka ngaro”.

He added that the parents are contributing to the issue.

“Te rua, no te mea no tātou tēia reo, e tau tikāi tātou kātoatoa, tātou tikāi e te au metua, ka `oki au ka `ākara ki a tātou te au metua. Ko tātou te paruparu nei tātou i tēia tu`anga. Tu`anga pu`apinga tēia no tātou”.

Herman said that one of the issues is that we think English is a superior language.

“Tōku manako, ko tēta`i manamanatā ma`ata i a tātou, te vai nei rāi tērā vaerua ki roto i a tātou ē, ko te reo papa`ā, ko te reo nūmero ta`i ia i roto i tēia nei ao”.

Herman stated that English is important but so is Māori.

“E mea pu`apinga te reo papa`ā, kāre au e karanga ē, kāre i te mea pu`apinga. `E pu`apinga katoa rā to to tātou reo, ko to tātou tango ia. Kua `akamou tātou i tēia tango no tātou, to tātou `ai metua mei mua mai, e reo rāi tēia, mei te reo papa`ā rāi, kāre i tuke atu”.

He said he tells his children that the importance of English is the same as Māori.

“E karanga ana au ki tāku `ānau tamariki ē, `āiteite te pu`apinga o te reo papa`ā ki te reo Māori, `āiteite te reo Māori ki te reo Varāni, `āiteite te reo Varāni ki te reo Tiāmani”.

Jane Taurāri'i said that a contributing factor concerning the language is that there are too few books written in Māori.

“Ta te au pū`āpi`i e auē nei, te iti nei te puka tatau i roto i to tātou reo Māori. No rēira te `akamāro`iro`i nei mātou i te tu`anga o te Māraurau o te `Āpi`i i te tātā i tēta`i au puka Māori tē kā riro ei tatau na ta tātou `ānau. Kāre rā `oki tēia e tere ki mua mē kāre ta tātou turu, tātou tikāi te aronga ē, ki a tātou te au kōrero”.

A caller to the programme disputed Herman's view saying that we will not lose the language because it's in the Bible.

However another caller rebutted the argument stating that if we do not speak the language who else will speak the language in the Bible?

“Te karanga nei tēta`i aronga e kāre e ngaro to tātou reo, e tika, kāre e ngaro to tātou reo, ti roto oki i te Puka Tapu, reo Rarotonga, pērā katoa te reo e `akakite`ia nei i va`o i te pā`enua, ko te manamanatā rā, me kāre tātou e tuatua i to tātou reo, nā`ai i rēira e tuatua i te reo i roto i te Puka Tapu?”

Presenter Tony Hakaoro agrees with Herman's view and said that we would lose the language if we don't speak it to our children.

“You see, in a Cook Islands family where both parents are fluent speakers of the language but have neglected to speak or teach the language to their children, and the children speak English only, it is very sad because the day the last of the parents die, that's the day the language is lost forever in so far as that immediate family is concerned, because the children are left behind unable to speak the language”.

“That's very sad in so far as our language is concerned. And that's the reality for those of us with children who do not speak the language or for us parents who have neglected to teach our language to our children. That's very sad”, says Hakaoro.

Te Kave Kōrero believes that the number of children speaking English is growing far too quickly than we realize.

At the current rate Te Kave Kōrero believes the language will be lost within 20 to 30 years.



Letter to the Audit Office

Date: 18th August 2015
Mr Allen Parker, Director of Audit
Rarotonga. Cook Islands.

Dear Allen.

D Re: Pacific Schooners:
The Tender for Repatriation
of Te Maeva Nui Participants the
Contract and alleged Contractual
Breach.

I draw your attention to the very public situation that has called into question due process regarding the tendering of the contract for the returning of our sister island participants in the TMN - Te Maeva Nui celebrations and the subsequent administration of the contract.

Lets first deal with the tendering of the contract.

It appears that a number of anomalies have arisen as a result of the exposure and finally admission by the Financial Secretary Mr Richard Neves that an advance payment had been made to Pacific Schooners despite earlier as reported in the Cook Islands News and on the radio program Hakaoro that none had been made at all, the dates are not important at this time and can be revisited at a later date.

Lets deal with some of the anomalies:

I. The 'Important Parameters' the paper that outlined the obligatory criteria by which a successful tenderer would operate under has very little to do with the 'Contract' that is now on the MFEM website in that it deals exclusively with the repatriation of 130 outer island Te Maeva Nui participants and nothing to do with a regular shipping service of which I encourage you to get a copy if you have not already.

II. That the other two potential bidders - Taio Shipping and Cook Islands General Transport - under the 'Important Parameters' document would have had no idea that the ensuring contract was purely and simply for the repatriation of the outer islanders and the rules had been changed and that in doing so gave Pacific Schooners an unfair advantage.

III. That the contract to carry 130 passengers and to provide 3 meals a day for each passenger and insurance and all the other associated extra costs for passenger service was one contract. The carriage of cargo should be a totally different contract and subject to a different cost.

IV. Was the sum paid to Lady Naomi and Tahiti Nui for the amount of \$1.3m to bring to Rarotonga TMN participants already included an amount for their repatriation to the Northern Group and the contract and the amount therefore advanced to Pacific Schooners an unnecessary double payment?

V. That the changing of the goal posts so to speak, is unfair when the Government announced in the 14th August Friday's Cook Islands News, that 'That's where we get our money back' referring to cargo carriage as opposed to the contracted intent of passenger carriage. To change that option to cargo when there is an obviously higher cost for passenger service, did not give bona fide current cargo carriage specialists - Taio Shipping and Cook Islands General Transport - the opportunity to make a bid.

VI. Prime Minister Puna in that same Cook Islands News edition appears to have confused the limited and time specific passenger contract for the "Northern Group" with a previously announced Parliament Appropriation brought to the House in June, the EOI - Expressions Of Interest is a 3 year outer island service for the amount of \$1.5m and that this muddling up has exposed the possibility that Government has unilaterally decided to merge the issue of the EOI with the passenger contract, thus avoiding the intended purpose of the EOI.

VII. That the advance payment to Pacific Schooners does not appear to have any parliamentary approval or other authorisation.

VIII. That as a result of the material breach of the contract by the contractor Pacific Schooners, public monies have been unnecessarily put at risk when it need not have been - the FINSEC advising the public that the monies would be paid only on the condition that a service has been provided, noting that in this order a service is provided then payment is made - and that the Government's reluctance to exercise that demand when it is an obvious part of the contract is seen ostensibly as an irregularity that the Government appears reluctant to deal with. The offering of cargo delivery (a lower cost service) in lieu of passenger service (a high cost service) would appear confirmation of that.

IX. The absence of witnesses to the signing of the Contract

between both the FINSEC representing the Crown and Mr M. Henry representing Pacific Schooners where one would expect to be requisite for any contractual signing is another matter of concern - Otherwise how else could the public be assured that the signing was in fact done correctly. Adherence to generally accepted international standards of legal contract documentation appears to be absent from this agreement.

X. The contract because of the many anomalies, raises the question as to who drafted the contract and whether Crown Law was involved and if it was how the refund demand clause was to be executed which now seems in the circumstances to bear requirement.

The non performance of the 'Contractor' Pacific Schooners and the non action from the other 'Party' the Cook Islands Government, gives the impression that there is significant collusion between the

'parties' to the detriment of both the tax payers of the Cook Islands where public monies have been involved and those stakeholders unsuccessful in this bid to deliver the service contract. And not least of all the oft repeated mantra about accountability and transparency.

It is my view and shared by many others that the contracts administration and the subsequent material breach by the contractor Pacific Schooners has caused this contract to no longer bind the Crown. That the Crown should now exercise its demand and have all advanced monies returned within 5 days as the contract stipulates and that a full independent inquiry should be carried out to determine answers to the above questions and more that will surely follow.

Sincerely,

James Beer.

Member of Parliament

Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

Email: james@jimco.co.ck



PACIFIC RESORT HOTEL GROUP A GREAT PLACE TO WORK...

Pacific Resort Aitutaki needs experienced staff in the following areas:

- Restaurant Staff
- Bar person
- Massage Therapist
- Housekeeper

We are offering 4 month contracts including accommodation and airfares, based on successful completion of contract.

Please contact Shelley White – Resort General Manager:

Email: resortmanager.aitutaki@pacificresort.com Phone: 31720 ext. 3905



PACIFIC RESORT HOTEL GROUP A GREAT PLACE TO WORK...

We are currently seeking the following for our properties in Rarotonga & Aitutaki:

- Housekeeping staff (Rarotonga)
- Wait staff (Rarotonga)
- Barman (Rarotonga)
- Porter Security (Rarotonga)
- Overnight Security – part time (Aitutaki)

We are always on the lookout for talented individuals interested in a career in the tourism industry. If you want to be part of a high performing team then feel free to visit one of our resorts in person to complete an employment application form.

To apply : email – work@pacificresort.com

MCIPA proudly presents Miss Cook Islands 2015 Contestant



Name: Tapaeru Helen Toka

Age: 20

Current Occupation:

Hostess on The Vaka Cruise - Aitutaki

Hobbies and Interests:

I am a keen sportswoman, having recently represented the Cook Islands in the last South Pacific Games in soccer. Don't be fooled by my delicate appearance, on the field I am fierce.

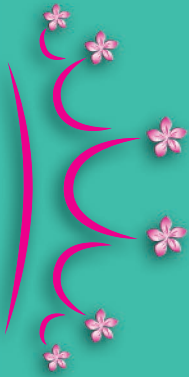
Ambition:

I am passionate about the growth and sustainability of our tourism industry. My ambition is to become an air hostess, this way I will be in the best position to travel the world whilst promoting my beautiful Cook Islands but especially my Araura enua.

Representing:

The Vaka Cruise
Aitutaki

Miss Cook Islands
2015



Miss Cook Islands 2015
contestants first official
public appearance

Thursday 27th August 2015

7:30pm National Auditorium

STANDARD TICKETS \$10

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FASHION & ART
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 IS YOUR CHANCE TO
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 TOWARDS A
 COMMUNITY 
PROJECT
 IN YOUR VAKA!

VAKA PRIDE COMPETITION PROVIDES YOU WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A PART OF A REWARDING PROJECT THAT WILL BENEFIT YOU, YOUR VAKA AND YOUR COMMUNITY

PRIZES



- Most clean beaches
- Most clean streams and free of animals
- Least amount of mosquito breeding sites
- Best reuse of rubbish and recycle centres



- Least reported dog nuisance complaints & wandering dogs
- Least reported crime



- Best voted flower and/or vegetable gardens
- Best voted bus shelters
- Best voted public toilets

HOW TO ENTER

1. Get your Oire, Puna and community leaders together to select your community project
2. Contact Cook Islands Tourism to register your Vakas interest by Friday 21 August 2015.
3. Interested group applicants must complete an application form

For more information and competition details contact Noeline Matariki on 29435 or visit www.kiaorana.cookislands.travel



Akamou ia te Pakari o te Ui Tupuna - Koutu Nui AGM 2015

By Noeline Browne

The main theme for the Koutu Nui Uipaanga Mataiti 2015 was that of holding fast to the knowledge of our ancestors, our Akonoanga Maori, customs and traditional usages. However, there were several other sub-themes over the three day conference, with speakers from various Government Ministries invited to address the Koutu Nui on issues related to the welfare of the people of the Cook Islands. Principal immigration officer, Kairangi Samael answered queries by the traditional leaders who want law reform to include them in the selection process in which non Cook Islanders qualify to become permanent residents.

The Ministry of Justice sent a rep to discuss procedures for land issues and reps from BTIB [Business Trade and Investment Board] discussed accessing funding for niche industries and also to address concerns about foreign investment. Are these 'investments' genuine or are they borrowing from our banks? Waste management and the proper recycling of waste was also a topic de jour. A report on the proceedings will be presented to the House of Ariki and to the Minister of the House of Ariki and Koutu Nui by the new Parekura, Terea Mataiapo accompanied by the executive committee.

Akonoanga Maori was discussed using the 1970 document presented by the House of Ariki to the Legislative Assembly under then Premier, Arapati Henry. In 1971, there was a Select Committee report in relation to Maori custom regarding land, adopted children and of Tama Ua.

After the Koutu Nui was legally established in 1972 under the House of Ariki Amendment Act, which allowed for meetings of Mataiapo, Rangatira and Kavana of the country, the Koutu Nui made supplementary commentaries on the 1970 White Paper. The 1970 House of Ariki document covers the selection



of traditional titleholders, Maori custom regarding land, title land {enua ariki taoanga), the concept of Rangatira ki te Ara (daughters marrying into other tribes) and the rights of the adopted child to land and title (there is a difference between those with pirianga toto to the source of the land and title ie the adoptive parent and those with no such blood connection). Other matters include Are Korero and Ara Tiroa (community work for the benefit of the tribe and secondly to prepare a reception for distinguished parties that the Ariki is hosting).

In 1977, the Koutu Nui prepared their Report on Lands and Traditional Titles of the Indigenous People of the Cook Islands. The supplementary report was after careful consideration of the House of Ariki report and was written under the leadership of Takau Rangatira, Hon Apenera Short (Cabinet Minister in the Albert Henry administration) and of Raina Mataiapo, Hon Tuti Taringa (later to become Speaker of the House of Parliament). Copies of the documents were provided to all participants and during the debate the pioneer leaders were

lauded for their great knowledge of our Akonoanga Maori and Peu Tupuna.

Paul Allsworth the new Parekura of the Koutu Nui

The conference was officially by the Minister of the House of Ariki and Koutu Nui, DPM Teariki Heather and a keynote address by Tou Travel Ariki, the Kaumaiti of the Ui Ariki. The proceedings of the first day were also attended by Kainuku Kapiriterangi Ariki, Pa Marie Ariki and Tinomana Tokerau Ariki.

New office bearers for the Koutu Nui were selected this year. Terea Mataiapo Paul Allsworth is the new Parekura, Api Rangatira Tapu Enjoy is the national secretary and Teariki Tapurangi (Rio Taripo) is the treasurer. As per usual, there are three vice-presidents: Turi Mataiapo, Tairi-te-Rangi Rangatira and Tiori Rangatira. The other positions are the assistant secretary, Te Tika Rangatira and assistant treasurer, Tiikura Mataiapo and Itaata Rangatira as the media rep.

The new Parekura paid tribute to immediate past president, Turi Mataiapo, Mrs Maria Henderson for her tireless work for the Koutu Nui during her

term as the leader. During her term, the Marae Moana project came online and her cameo appearance in the promotional video of the marine park and the associated work with the review of customary Raui on Rarotonga and of Aitutaki, as well as the establishment of new sites in the Pa Enea in Atiu, Mauke, Mitiaro and Mangaia.

Owing to illness, long serving former secretary Paenui Rangatira was unable to attend the AGM, but is likely to be made a life member for her dedication to the Koutu Nui over many years.

In addition, several new titleholders were sworn into the Koutu Nui: Vaikai Mataiapo Tutara of Turangi-ma-nga-Mataiapo and some of her ui Rangatira. Family and well wishers were on hand to witness the occasion.

The passing away of Kaitara Nicholas aka Patoa Nicholas, was marked by the Koutu Nui by suspending the proceedings of Thursday 13 August, to allow members to join the funeral. Mr Nicholas acted as rep for Karika Ariki during the Are Ariki-Koutu Nui joint delegation to discuss Raui with the island of Atiu.

Cook Islands the place to work, stay and live, why would you? – Part 2a of 2

by Te Tuhi Kelly

Foreigners also quickly find out that politicians are a special breed of animal, self serving, self interested and tunnel visioned. They are always on their guard and they do not speak the language of the rikiriki once they are an MP. They laugh and smile with the rest of us but in all truth they are very careful what they say, how they say it and when and they adopt this persona in all their dealings whether it is in parliament, socially or in a business context. They have no choice other than to adopt this persona if they want to stay in politics. More importantly if they want to have the continued confidence of their leader, their party, officials and their communities they must develop this persona very quickly. As long as they are a politician they will keep that persona in all their dealings during their term in office.

So you can see that this whole focus on getting Cook Islanders to return to the motherland is a journey fraught with hidden traps, snares and impediments to developing and progressing as a nation, proud and strong. What can you do when our strategic think tanks are operating in isolation of each other and they all have a piece of the jigsaw but not the whole picture. They are all focussed on their bit to the exclusion of a coordinated plan of attack. We lack the leadership at the very top to take our vaka on a journey of change. We lack the bigger picture and the ability to draw inferences about where we want to go and how we are going to get there. We allow petty ideologies to bog us down when we need to be all paddling in the same direction on the same vaka. There has been talk about political change, I suggest that there is little political will to actually articulate what that means because of the effect that this will have on marginal electoral seats, read that as the outer islands. We continue to promote Cook Islanders to their own level of incompetence usually politically motivated or because they are loyal and long served. There is very little political will to ensure the best person for the job, or to ensure that these people are operating at their peak. This becomes the standard for the rest of the department to operate by. Really its mediocrity personified as no one is willing to own up to their inability to

effect beneficial change.

So they propose that we bring back overseas Cook Islanders who have been there done that and have the requisite skills, experience and knowledge to become an asset for the public service. Well sorry bout it, these are Cook islanders in name only. Wake up you guys this is self interest at work, remember, you get what you pay for. Really, what we need to do is build up the capability and the capacity of our people already living here, we go back to the basics and we look at what we already have in our country. We look inwards and we identify the roles that we need, the resources, the training needs and how we will finance this social engineering approach. We do a needs-analysis and we base all our employment needs on the best person for the job, not your mates, cousins, nieces or nephews, it's the best person for the job. Then we educate school and train them ongoing for life. We assign mentors for them and we expect them to take up academic studies to round out their street smarts. We then ensure that they are well remunerated and performance managed according to their role. We don't have to bring Cookies or others back, they are already here and are working in all sorts of industries, we only need to identify who they are and ensure that we utilise their experience and expertise in the development of our nation.

We also need to overhaul the public service so that it is more responsive to our needs, modern, dynamic and is a place that you want to visit rather than avoid at all costs. Overhauling the public service structure and integration and alignment of those ministries with a compliance nature would be a good start. Important criteria to be considered is to ensure that everything was transparent and the best people hired for the job this I believe would be a turning point for our nation. A model that represents a move away from the tried and true policies of the past which to date have not been very successful at all. An impediment to this approach will come from the politicians whose constituents who may be affected by changes in the public service overhaul and may influence the politician to vote against the change because at the next election they may well be out the door on their nono. Our village communities

are naive when it comes to selecting a candidate for political office. It is more of a popularity contest than a genuine endorsement of the best person for the role. You may be the taro patch king or the lawn mowing and organic waste remover but that certainly doesn't set you up for political office at all. This is one of the very reasons overseas Cookies won't come back and do you blame them.

More importantly the infrequency of parliament meetings is not a sound recipe for running a country properly. If you want to have confidence in your politicians and might I add to combat a lot of the party hopping and coup talk, the politicians need to meet more frequently. This way it doesn't matter whether you are in power or in opposition you need to hone your skills properly in the cabinet sessions and parliamentary sittings. More talk and do rather than more talk and poo.

My second approach is that the Immigration laws be extended to cover those who are NZ Maori or descendants of NZ Maori to be accorded the same status as a descendant of a Cook Islander. This is old ground I'm going over but it makes sense that what we lack in critical mass of Cook Islanders at home, can be further enhanced by over 600,000 New Zealanders who whakapapa as NZ Maori or descendants of NZ Maori and more importantly whakapapa back to the Cook Islands. Let's face it they are all not going to do the big hiko ki Kuki Airani are they, but the fact of the matter is that the government and its officials have very little or no idea about how to arrest the critical people mass exodus or for that matter induce them to come home. Look around you people, slowly but surely the number of Fijian, Samoan, Chinese, Indian, and Filipino and Indonesian workers is growing. In twenty years time it may be too late and the Cook Islands may well have a new heritage based on its burgeoning immigrants. As they grow and prosper, we may well have a China Town, Little India, Little Manila and languages to match and the Cook Islands language reduced to bill boards, Airport welcomes and TV commercials. Don't get me wrong I'm not against cultural diversity, but I contend that we must sort ourselves out first before looking overseas to sustain our work force needs. *continued next week*



Intrusive, unwelcome visits by MFEM Tax Officers to Grey Power members homes during our 50th Anniversary Celebrations insulted us when were told that;

(a) Our bank accounts will once again be raided if we do not pay our outstanding tax (the first raid was on 17 December 2013 of \$30,000-this raid is for over \$100,000).

(b) Lack of funds in the account will result in the seizure of assets. Under Section 206(1)(a) of the Income Tax Act 1997, it states "failure to file for outstanding tax returns may be prosecuted for at the High Court."

We failed to comply and must therefore stand before the High Court , and not suffer a vengeful, heinous act at your hands.

Dennis Tunui
President Grey Power

Tiare Tāporo 2 wks behind schedule

The Tiare Tāporo was back on the talkback menu on Te Kave Kōrero on Monday 17th August 2015.

Presenter, Tony Hakaoro, said that it was reported in the Cook Islands news recently that Government had paid \$200,000.00 to Pacific Schooners Ltd to get its boat, the Tiare Tāporo, from Canada.

He said that the payment confirms what he had always suspected that Government had 'bailed out' Pacific Schooners Ltd.

"Mei tāku i tāpepe ana, i tuatua ana i te au tuātau i topa ki muri, ko te Kavamani, kua bail out te Kavamani i tēia kamupani, te Pacific Schooners Ltd, ē to rātou pa'i ko te Tiare Tāporo".

According to Hakaoro the Tiare Tāporo is two weeks behind schedule and as a result of the delay Government now has to charter more boats to return the outer island groups to their islands.

"Tārau aka'ou te Kavamani i te au pa'i ei 'aka'oki i to tātou au tere"

Hakaoro said that Government is chartering Pāpā Tāpi's boat to take the Palmerston group.

"Te 'akarongorongo atū ra au, ka tārau aka'ou te Kavamani i te pa'i o Pāpā Tāpi, i te 'aka'oki i te tere o te Pāmāte", said Hakaoro.

He added that it is an irony that the very shipping company that Government mocked and didn't want to charter to bring the outer island groups to the Maeva Nui, is now being chartered by Government to take the Palmerston and the Penrhyn groups back home.

"Ko te pa'i tikāi ta rātou i 'akava'ava'a, kāre ainei? Ko te pa'i tikāi ta te Kavamani i 'akava'ava'a, kāre i inangaro i te tārau i te tiki i te au tere, inā, i tēia 'epetoma, te 'akarongo atū ra au, kua tārau te Kavamani i te pa'i o Pāpā Tāpi, i te 'aka'oki i te tere o te Pāmāte, ē te 'aka'oki katoa i te tere o te Tongareva. E mea katakata tēia, kāre āinei?"

"Ko te taeake tikāi ta rātou i 'akava'ava'a, i tōna au pa'i, kāre i inangaro i te tārau i te rēira taeake, i te 'apai mai i te au tere ki te Maeva Nui, e oti, tārau rātou i te Tiare Tāporo, e oti akē ra, kāre tēia pa'i i tae mai

ki to tātou Bāsileia, āe, tangi'anga tiōpu iā ra te mea a tātou kāre āinei? Tangi'anga tiōpu iā ra te mea a te Kavamani kāre āinei?"

A caller to Te Kave Kōrero said that she is hurt when she hears that taxpayers' money has been misused.

"E moni 'oki tēia na te aronga rare tūtaki tero. E mamae ana tōku ngākau me kite au i tēta'i rare e kua tāravake. Ka 'akapē'ea i rēira to tātou 'iti tangata? Ka tōpiri 'ua to rātou va'a, no te mea, tēta'i pae, kāre to rātou mārama i mamao atu i te tukutuku mai i te au manako ki va'o".

The caller said that she can't understand why people who are aware of the wrong doings are not speaking out.

"Ko te au aronga i mārama i tēia tu'anga, ē me te kite nei rātou i te tāravake o tēia, ea'a to rātou mata i piri 'ua ai? Ea'a i rauka ai i a rātou i te moe i te pō? Te 'autara nei au i to tātou au arataki ē te aronga rare o te Kavamani i kite i tēia tāravake, mē kua tāravake".

Te Kave Kōrero understands that when

Holidays, exams, family and birthdays

By Hayley McNabb

Last Wednesday our Manihiki dance group had a team wrap up that was held at Aunty Shine's home in Arorangi. We spent the night with plenty of food, laughs and acknowledgments to everyone who had helped us along the way. As the night ended we were all given bags of fish to take home out of a chilly bin full that was left over for us.

So I'm back at school now and the first week has already past but I'm still wishing that it was still the holidays where I was enjoying new experiences and making many unforgettable memories. But I guess all good things must come to an end. School has been quite relaxing though to be honest, we're just starting new topics in all my classes and preparing for the practice exams that are coming up at the end of this term getting us ready for the real ones next term. I'm really glad though that this term

the Tiare Tāporo arrives into the country it would be expected to transport the remaining cargoes of the Maeva Nui groups to the outer islands.

Presenter Tony Hakaoro said that Government must be held to account for the payment to Pacific Schooners Ltd for a service that has not yet started.

He said that in a previous radio interview Financial Secretary, Richard Neves, had indicated that Government would not pay out any money until the Tiare Tāporo had completed or carried out its obligations under the contract signed with Government.

"It's a farce isn't it? Here we have Government saying one thing but doing the opposite, paying Pacific Schooners Ltd \$200,000.00 up-front, and the Tiare Tāporo is still not here to perform its obligations under the contract" says Hakaoro.

Te Kave Kōrero believes it would be another four weeks before the Tiare Tāporo arrives into Rarotonga.

is only 8 weeks and then next term we only have 4 weeks because of the NCEA exams because it means I can finally go back and spend time with my family in New Zealand.

I can't wait to go shopping while I'm in New Zealand during the summer sales because I haven't got the chance to do that since I have been here in Raro. I also can't wait to eat some McDonalds and Pizza that I have been craving for ages and just miss everything from there. Another thing I'm really excited to do is to see all my friends and hang out with them, making more memories and have a good catch up since I haven't seen them for nearly a year. I'm not too sure if I will be returning back to Raro next year because even though I do love staying here I might change my mind while I am there. But I do want to come back because I will miss my family and friends here. I'll miss being able to just

continued bottom of next page

Overseas constituency seat

The overseas constituency seat was the subject of discussion on Te Kave Kōrero on Friday 14th August 2015.

Tauraki Rongo, presenter of the Cook Islands community program on Radio 531PI in Auckland, who was here recently for Te Maeva Nui, was the guest speaker on the programme.

Rongo said that during Te Maeva Nui there were a lot of people on the island.

"I te tuātau oki o te Maeva Nui, kī to tātou `enua i to tātou `iti tangata `oki".

He added that before he came down for Te Maeva Nui there was mention that 5,000 Cook Islanders were coming back.

"I mua ake ka `aere mai au, ko te `epetoma tērā i mua ake i te Maeva Nui, kua `akakite`ia mai e mei tēta`i 5,000 Kuki Airani i `oki mai".

Rongo stated that there are over 60,000 Cook Islanders living in New Zealand and over 20,000 in Australia.

"Ko te nūmero o to tātou `iti tangata i Nū Tīreni, tei runga te rēira i te ono nga`uru tūmā tauasini, e oti i rēira, mē `ākara atu tātou ki Australia, to rātou tārē, kāre e `ēkōkō e kua `akaruke mai, te `aere atū ra ki te 20,000 i Australia".

He added that there are more Cook Islanders living overseas than in the Cook Islands and that Cook Islanders overseas have no say in the affairs of the country.

"E ma`ata kino atu to tātou `iti tangata i kō i to konei. No rēira te manakonako `ua nei `oki au i rēira i tēia taime ē, me e au `anga`anga teta`i no te Bāsileia, kāre `oki e reo o tēia au taeake i tērā tua, kāre `oki o rātou reo no te au `anga`anga e rave`ia nei i roto i te Bāsileia".

Rongo enquires from listeners whether

it is time to bring back the overseas constituency seat.

He said that an overseas seat would allow a Cook Islander to represent all Cook Islanders in New Zealand and Australia and be responsible to bring their issues home.

"Ko te mea meitaki `oki i rēira me rauka mai tēta`i tangata no te overseas mai, no Nū Tīreni e Australia, ka nā roto mai `oki i rēira te reo o te `iti tangata e no`ō ra ki rēira, i te `apai mai ki roto i te `akateretere`anga i to taātou Bāsileia".

Finance Minister, the Hon Mark Brown, rang Te Kave Kōrero and suggested that the way to address the issue is to network with New Zealand and Australia.

"I think, kia `ākara tātou i te strengthen, mē kāre, i te `akamātūtū i to tātou network i te `enua nei ko Nū Tīreni, pērā katoa i Australia, no te mea kua ma`ata `oki to tātou `iti tangata, te au `iti tangata tei a rātou te mārāma, te karape, te au mānakonakoanga `ōu `aere, e no`o nei ki Nū Tīreni e Australia. So `inangaro tātou kia piri atu ki a rātou, mē kāre, kia piri mai rātou ki to tātou `Ipukarea na roto i ta rātou `anga`anga te rave nei rātou, i Nū Tīreni, i Australia".

Lee Harmon, President of the Cook Islands Football Association, rang and said that there is no need to bring back the overseas

constituency seat because the Cook Islands High Commissioner's office in New Zealand is sufficient to serve the interests of Cook Islanders overseas.

"Tōku manako te rava `uā ra pa`a ē, to tātou Consulate Embassy i Nū Tīreni, ei mata no tātou, no te Kavamani Kūki Airani eā? Again on top of that, te `aere nei te tuatua ē, kia tāmeangiti`ia mai te seat i te Kūki Airani nei, kia `aere mai `a Mangaia e ta`i, Ātiu e ta`i, mei te rēira `aere, so really, tōku manako, there are two answers to it".

Te Kave Kōrero believes that the subject needs more discussions or debate given the fact that about four times more the number of Cook Islanders live in Australia and New Zealand than here at home.

"It's an interesting subject basically because of that very fact, that more of our people live overseas than here", says presenter, Tony Hakaoro.

"On the other hand however, we live here and we should have complete control of our country and make the decisions ourselves. That's fair isn't it? We don't need to trouble and burden our people overseas as we can deal with our own affairs ourselves", says Hakaoro.

Te Kave Kōrero believes the subject matter would be up for debate again if Government agrees to look into electoral reforms.

from page 18

cruise around the island and just having a relaxing and quite environment around me because there are so much people in New Zealand.

Also I want to try and get a scholarship to go to university as it is much easier to get one over here than in New Zealand. In the weekend it was my Mama Lingi's birthday on Saturday. My Uncle Trevor, Uncle Charles, Nana Shona, Teriu, Charles-Trevor and I celebrated her birthday by going to Tamarind for lunch on Sunday after church.

Once we arrived there Uncle Trevor insisted we all take a group photo outside showing this rock in the background where they used to play when they were little kids. The lunch we had was nice though I had pancakes which are more of a breakfast. Mama Lingi was also surprised by the waiters bringing out her cake singing her happy birthday at the same time which was the second cake she had got for her birthday. I think she was just given money for her birthday since it's a bit harder for people to buy her presents as she has everything already.

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tanqi

The Cause Of Many Of Our Problems

By Senior Pastor John Tanqi

Many of the problems that we encounter in life as individuals, even in the family regarding parents and children relationship or even the relationship between husbands and wives, even between friends, including the situation in the workplaces, and so on, was a result of the words that comes out of our mouth. Our spoken words can either help to encourage and comfort others or create an atmosphere of hatred and anger or bitterness in the lives of others. This small organ on our body called the "tongue" or "mouth" can do a lot of damage to our lives and the lives of others if not controlled properly. If the "tongue" or the "mouth" is properly used and controlled it will bring blessings and positive things to our lives and the lives of others.

Let us look at what the Bible has to say about this small organ in our body. James 3v.8-9 (Good News Bible) reads "But no one has ever been able to tame the tongue. It is evil and uncontrollable, full of deadly poison. We use it to give thanks to our Lord and Father and also to curse other people, who are created in the likeness of God. Words of thanksgiving and cursing pour out from the same mouth. My friends, this should not happen!"

Who knows perhaps some of the fatal accidents causing death of some of our young people in recent times may have been caused by what was spoken to these individuals. May be some of the broken marriages or broken homes was initially caused by what was spoken negatively by others.

James is saying in the above reading that we use our tongue to speak positive things about God and also others, but out of the same mouth we say negative things to run people down or do damage to others. James is saying we should not be doing this.

Gossiping and creating rumors about negative issues has been a main cause of the problems amongst many people. James is saying stop doing this. We should not be doing this at all because of the implications and consequences this will bring to many people. This is one of the main challenges to everyone which is the manner we use our tongue or mouth. In fact the choice is ours.

In Matthew 7v.12 (NIV) Jesus said "...do to others what you would have them do to you..." this means that God is the giver of good things for us. If this is the case then why are some people saying bad things about other people to hurt them. That is why James is encouraging all of us to stop doing that. We must use our mouth or our tongue to encourage others and build up those who are down in life. To comfort those who are hurting.

In Galatians 6v.9-10 the Apostle Paul said "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." It is my prayer that you would be blessed by this article of encouragement and may you have a God blessed life, te Atua te aroa.

Family First

By Lucianne Vainerere

In the islands we have a lot of grandparents adopting their grand children because of unfortunate circumstances from the past. And in the Cook Islands, it's completely normal. That's my situation. Over the past week my Grandmas (Mums mum) side of the family went through yet another death, my Grand Uncle Pato. A lot of the families have come down from Australia and New Zealand and half of them I haven't even met yet. I'm 17 now, 18 next month. I love my Grand Uncle even though we never spoke much, or saw each other often, it's the subconscious love we feel toward family. The same feeling with my aunties and uncles and grand aunties and uncles I've just met. Over the past few days I've had a strange realization and love being around my mamas side of the family for a change. It's the first time we've actually spent with them properly. And it's a wonderful feeling, even more wonderful during our time of sorrow.

No matter where we go, what we do or how far we live away from each other. Family is family, regardless of your past or what you intend to do for your future. Family first, that's what Uncle Pato believed in, and that's what he left behind for us to follow in example. Nowadays, it's harder for us to show love toward family, harder for us to express it without feeling stupid. What we don't realize is that it's all a game of the mind, we're afraid of what others will think about us, or simply afraid that the feeling won't be mutual from our siblings or cousins or any relative. Sometimes there are certain things you can only discuss with family, the things you can't even tell your friends that you call family. It's the things that only a cousin could understand and that's the beauty of the word family.

Everyone says that friends come and go but family will always, and I mean always be there. That's true, you can have a massive argument with your brother for a day and then the next your having coffee at the most affordable takeaway. We need to appreciate the people we love more often, not when it's their birthday, not when you're in a good mood, not during a family reunion but everyday. We need to learn how to live and not waste time, and make sure that each breath we take is worth something because we'll never know when it will be our last. To my Nicholas family, we've come this far together and here we still stand, we comfort our brothers and in laws and children and here we still stand, we will continue to stand in the years to come and may we love unconditionally just like our Father Above loved us.

"So you may walk in the way of goodness and keep to the paths of righteousness." Proverbs 2:20

For Vetina and Uncle Pato.

New Hope Church

Parekura Conference Centre

Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you

Sunday at 10.30am

What's happening with our Rugby Union? Why only one resident girl picked for the sevens team to go to the Commonwealth Youth Games in Samoa and why not a boys team? Why not follow Soccer's lead and invest in the local talent? What are they doing with the money grants from the IRA? Pick local players, so what if they don't get a medal at least it helps grow the sport locally. Come on Ben and co, Go local! How many of the girl's team have ever been to the Cook Islands?



The soon to be dumped DPM, the unwanted bully boy Heta, had to call a meeting with the intake land owners for the \$60 million plus Te Mato Vai project and purposely held it on a Wednesday. After this no compromise publication was printed. If Heta doesn't suck up to the land owners the project will come to a grinding halt and the Chinese will not only lose face but a lot of money as well. The landowners need to put both feet down and demand the contracts go to local companies as a stimulus for our stuffed up economy no thanks to neneva Neves.



Meaningless press release about the PM's NZ holiday masquerading as a State visit says there are some 60,000 Cook Islanders residing in NZ. That's utter crap. Get the terminology right, there are 60,000 persons of Cook Islands "descent" living in NZ and some will not be full Cookies but half or a quarter or an eighth. Many will be second and third generation, born in NZ, unable to utter the reo, with no land back here and few relations. These people will say they are Cookies when it suits them.



Alfred Ngaro has learnt an important

lesson for a list MP in NZ and that is toe the line drawn in the sand by NZ PM John Key or else! Don't expect Alfred to get any chance to exercise a conscience vote on matters affecting the Homeland. Like voting on the amendment to drop the 5 year rule on NZ Super. Poor Alfred who chaired the select committee, had to brown nose up to Key so the amendment was lost by one vote-his.



Kiwi based Cookies tend to forget what life's priorities are in the outer islands when they have been away for some time. Kiwi based Cookie going to Atiu was overweight at the airport so left the food items behind and took her sleeping gear; sheets, towels, etc. On arrival in Atiu she was told many would have loaned her those items willingly but what they really wanted was the food! That's because food was so expensive in the shops there!



Seems those with a financial interest in the schooner Tiare Taporo do not know which end of the Panama Canal their vessel is; the Pacific end or the Atlantic end! It's actually at the Pacific end, meaning it has gone through the canal but for some



undisclosed reason is unable to proceed beyond that point!



Whisper is the sale of two renowned local resorts, (one in Aitutaki) is stalled somewhat due to negotiations with landowners at a sticky point. The new owners apparently want a completely new deal but that is being opposed as the existing deal is apparently a jolly good one.



A taxi bus fare of over \$100 for a family group to go from the airport to their resort in Arorangi? Apparently each member was charged over \$15. Some competition is needed to bring down fares like this. That was not the only shock these visitors got. At their resort, they paid exorbitant prices for their non-alcoholic drinks! \$7 for a can of coke?



Oh dear chooks! Seems Wee Willie, is in the Penrhyn tere party's bad books over how the Maeva Nui funds, intended for the tere party, was spent! For the MP it was like the Spanish Inquisition except for the torture rack and thumb screws! Wee Willie is singing a tune different to the one he sang in the imene tuki! Seems the MP and the Chair of

the Hostel Committee banked two cheques for \$5,000 each into the hostel's account. From there some of the hostel's bills were paid. There was also a \$3,000 payment for paint to paint the hostel which really only required touch ups in parts. Money was also apparently spent on food for the hostel but members of the tere party said no food was had! The sitting MP will have a great deal of brown nosing to do if he wants to retain his seat and his parliamentary salary including perks.



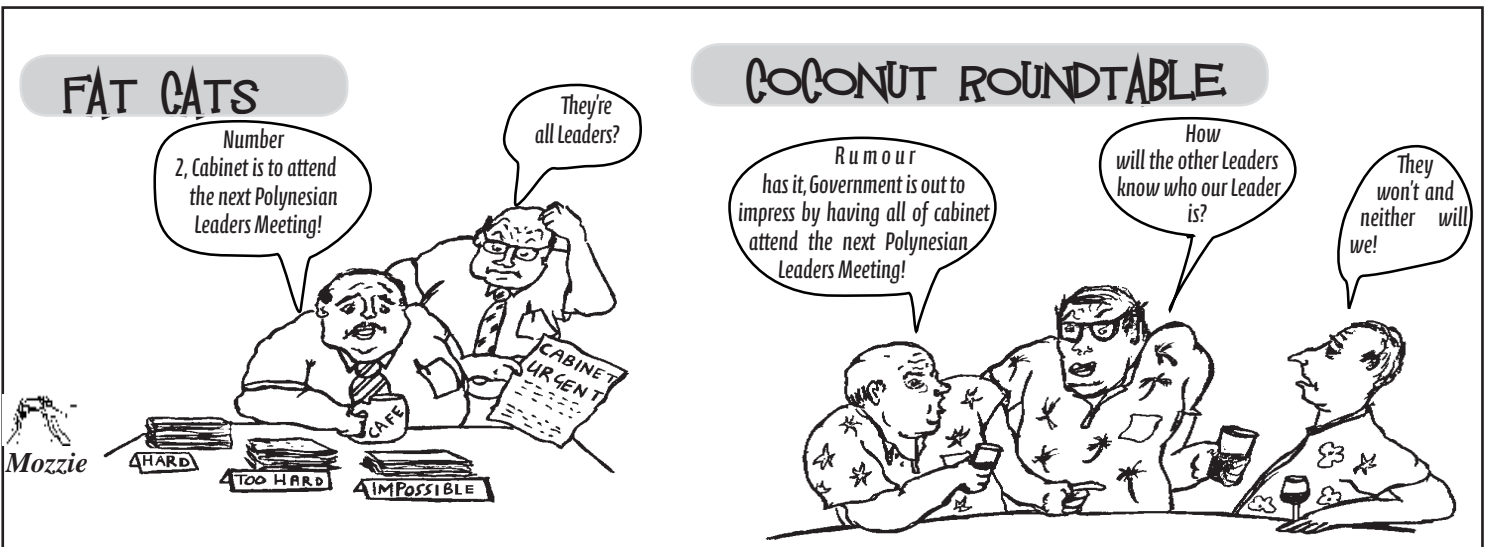
Isn't it marvelous chooks that when government is hard pressed to raise some folding bills to silence a bunch of squawking outer island chooks, it can conveniently dip its sticky digits into the contingency fund and hey presto! There's dosh to pacify the screaming hordes!



Word reaching Big Red from coded drum beats deep in the taro jungle, is that the numerous workers who sweated long hours through 10 nights of Te Maeva Nui cultural performances are unsure whether they will be paid. Word is that the bean counters at MFEM are screening claims for payment and are yet to release any dosh to anyone! Amazing the speed with which Pacific Schooners contract was approved and thousands of dollars paid out prior for the 2015 budget being debated in parliament. Onus is on Ritchie right?



Government will be hoping the 10 exploration blocks up for tender under the Sea Ded Minerals Regulations will all be snapped up and bring in a much needed \$4 million plus in fees. Minita o Te Moni Brown will then have some extra cash to dish out but PM Puna will need to risk his neck first by calling parliament together to pass a Supplementary Budget!



Out of the shadow, the Puna transition

By Charles Pitt

Introduction

At the Cook Islands Party (CIP) conference on Monday 10 August 2015, history of sorts was created when PM Henry Puna was returned as Leader of the Party by 40 votes to his Deputy Teariki Heather's 18.

What is notable about this event from a historical perspective is that unlike previous challenges, it is the first time Puna has retained the leadership without the help of former charismatic leader and PM Sir Geoffrey Henry.

It will be seen and regarded as quite an accomplishment for Puna. Puna has come out of the long shadow cast by his mentor and master Sir Geoffrey and shown he can truly stand on his own. Be his own man, make his own mark. One can say with this ballot outcome, the break from the past has finally been accomplished. Puna is free to take the country into the new world.

Puna has completed the transition from understudy to his master, Sir Geoffrey and faces his next challenge which is to achieve international recognition as a true Statesman.

Passing of the crown

It is now a matter of historical record that when Sir Geoffrey Henry stepped down as Leader of the Cook Islands Party (CIP) in 2006, he announced the passing of the crown to the then Party President Henry Puna. The Leadership run off and final ballot had taken place earlier and an announcement was made public at an evening function in front of the Aitutaki Hostel.

Sir Geoffrey did not offer any detailed explanation in his speech as to why he considered Puna to be his natural successor. In the years that followed, Sir Geoffrey was to work hard behind the scenes to ensure Puna maintained the role even in the face of subsequent strong challenges by others and newcomer Teariki Heather for the Leadership of the Party.

Did Sir Geoffrey back Puna because he considered Puna to

be the right person for the time? Some say it was to maintain the deep connections with the CIP inherent within the Henry and Puna families.

Now that Puna is Prime Minister was he indeed the correct choice of Leader or is his contribution limited with the CIP vision to be fulfilled by another or others?

Sir Geoffrey's memoirs are yet to be written and we do not know if he committed his thoughts to paper or confided in anyone so at this time we can only speculate what his thinking may have been.

The Herald has not sought comment from Henry Puna as yet. It is expected Puna may wish to retain such information for when he writes his memoirs. It is certain Puna will want to elaborate on his tenure in office as it is on his watch that the country in transitioning to greater membership of the international community, reached a turning point in its history.

In the shadow of Sir Geoffrey

It was plain to many that Sir Geoffrey put a lot of effort into ensuring Henry Puna, former Party President, be installed as Leader of the Party, Leader of the political wing and eventually Prime Minister.

When he passed the crown to Puna, Sir Geoffrey, MP for Takuvaine, was facing the 2006 election and a premonition he would not beat Mama Ngai Tupa of the Demo Party for the Takuvaine seat. Sir Geoffrey, knowing he was going to lose, decided to step down, some say it was to avoid embarrassment. It had been Sir Geoffrey's hope that his son Walter would run for the Takuvaine seat and continue a family tradition of parliamentary service.

This was not to eventuate and Mark Brown, another well immersed in the CIP tradition, stood for the CIP. Earlier, Brown had been groomed for public service by the likes of Sir Geoffrey and Pae Puna (PSC).

Henry Puna, who was guided through the ranks by Sir Geoffrey, would have been a person Sir Geoffrey considered he could

influence from behind the scenes. Puna was a former head of the Ministry of Transport and on becoming the MP for Manihiki, was appointed an Associate Minister of Finance by Sir Geoffrey.

The grand vision at the time of Puna's appointment was to get the CIP elected and Sir Geoffrey to be the next QR.

Sir Geoffrey would have seen Puna as the closest person to a mirror image of himself; a smooth talker, smart dresser, articulate, well groomed, professional and educated. Further he was accustomed to frequent flying having attended overseas meetings with Sir Geoffrey.

As it happened, Sir Geoffrey's influence was superseded when Puna on returning from Manihiki in 2009, announced at drinks held shortly afterward at the Office of the Opposition that he was going to stamp his own mark on the political landscape. Puna further distanced Sir Geoffrey by nominating him as Speaker after the 2010 election win in place of Norman George whom some considered would have been a better appointment.

As it happened, Mark Brown lost out to mama Ngai Tupa so Sir Geoffrey's premonition of losing his Takuvaine seat came true. The Demos went on to become the government.

The challenge for the CIP leadership by Teariki Heather is not something he announces publicly but which takes place behind the scenes.

Former founder of Cook Islands National (CIN) Party, Heather is the only MP with a consistent ambition and plan to be CIP leader. However, why does he lack support from the deep seated, staunch CIP supporters?

Many know that Teariki is not a traditional CIP supporter. He came to the CIP to get a seat in parliament. His party, CIN was not going to get him into parliament but being a CIP member would.

The move by Teariki to get into the CIP actually began in 2004 at the time of the CIP conference at

the Pukapuka Hostel. Sir Geoffrey arrived at the conference having just been sacked by Demo PM Jim Marurai from the Cabinet. At the Conference Rau Nga became president and a meeting took place to strengthen the CIP out west by bringing Heather on board. It was considered a good political move.

Heather's party CIN had started out small with weekly evening meetings held at T&M Heather Ltd premises. The Herald attended every meeting and it was noticed how crowd numbers built up slowly. Attending each meeting was George Maggie, later to become Tupapa MP for the CIP then One Cook Islands Movement.

While crowd numbers began to increase, it was never going to be enough to make CIN a political force at the ballot box. It was however, a useful "stepping" stone for Teariki to distance himself from the Demos who were strong out west.

Heather mounted a challenge for the leadership at the 2006 conference held at the Manihiki Hostel. Several others dropped out after the first round of voting, leaving Puna and Heather to contest the leadership. Just prior to lunch Sir Geoffrey asked Heather to withdraw his challenge but Heather refused.

After lunch the ballot was held and Puna won. It is thought the rank and file of the CIP would not accept a former Demo/CIN member being leader of the CIP.

The Demos won the 2006 election however Heather narrowly won his Akaoa seat in parliament.

The leadership did not change leading up to the 2010 election. Puna survived the AOG conference when it was decided not to put the leadership up for challenge again thanks to Sir Geoffrey.

The obvious differences in their personal attributes aside, on the "political landscape," the contrast between Puna and Heather is clear.

Puna and his family have impeccable CIP credentials while Heather's family were Demo and CIN and anti-CIP in the past.

- To be continued next week

PUBLIC NOTICE



MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
Social Impact Fund (SIF)
Project Funding

The Cook Islands Social Impact Fund (SIF) is a contestable fund administered by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and financed by the Cook Islands and New Zealand Governments until June 2016. Registered Cook Islands Civil Society Organisations can apply to SIF for funds to deliver services to vulnerable groups in 3 areas: Gender equality (including domestic violence), Children and Youth, and Disabilities (including mental health, physical health and care for the elderly). For further inquiries please contact the SIF Manager on Telephone: 29378 or email: angeline.tuara@cookislands.gov.ck, www.intaff.whupi.com, Ministry of Internal Affairs. Closing date for Project Funding Application is Friday 25 September 2015. No applications will be accepted after this date.



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Cook Islands

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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 Tuesday 1 September, 2015 (Cook Islands Time).



MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Social Impact Fund (SIF) Board Member

EOI's are now invited from CSO's, Private sector and Individuals who wish to be considered for the above. There are 3 positions available for one year.

For further inquiries please contact the SIF Manager on Telephone: 29378 or email: angeline.tuara@cookislands.gov.ck Ministry of Internal Affairs www.intaff.whupi.com.

Closing date for Expressions of Interest is Wednesday 9 September 2015.



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FOOTBALL UPDATE

Season kick-off close



Tupapa Maraerenga will contest the Cook Islands Charity Shield against Takuvaine.

The Cook Islands Charity Shield match is always a perfect indication that the Rarotonga football season is just around the corner.

This year's match will feature 2014 Premier Men's Round Cup champions Tupapa Maraerenga against the 2014 Premier Men's Knockout Cup champions Takuvaine at the CIFA Complex in Matavera.

Ahead of kick-off the odds favour Tupapa with a lineup full of skilful players, however Takuvaine earned their champions title after defeating Tupapa Maraerenga in a penalty shootout.

It's set to be an exciting opener to the 2015 season for Cook Islands

football fans with the day starting at 4.30pm with the U-8 Mixed Division and the Men's U-17 matches leading into the Charity Shield play-off.

Adding to the anticipation is the first full testing of the newly installed floodlights.

They got a brief workout a couple of weeks ago but the Charity Shield will be the first match they'll light up which makes it a special occasion for both sides, and the fans.

The lights were installed at the same time as the solar energy panels as part of the FIFA Member Association Less Privileged Programme.

The 2015 Charity Shield will take place at the CIFA Complex on Wednesday 19 August at 5.30pm (local time).

OFC Appeals Committee to meet

The Oceania Football Confederation Appeals Committee will convene on Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 August in Auckland, New Zealand to consider the appeal lodged by New Zealand Football against the decision made by the OFC Disciplinary Committee on 12 July.

The OFC Disciplinary Committee upheld a protest by the Vanuatu Football Federation in respect to the fielding of an ineligible player by New Zealand during the semi-final of the OFC Olympic Qualifiers in Papua New Guinea on 10 July.

New Zealand forfeited the match against Vanuatu with a result of 0-3, eliminating New Zealand from contesting the final against Fiji on 12 July at Sir Hubert Murray Stadium.

Under Article 96 of the OFC Disciplinary Code, the members of the judicial bodies must ensure that everything disclosed to them during the course of their duty remains confidential, including the facts of the case, contents of deliberations and decisions taken.

In light of this, the hearing will be in closed session.