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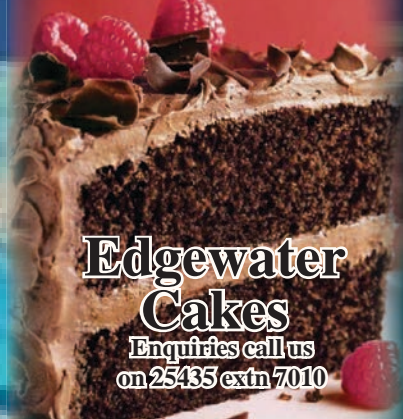
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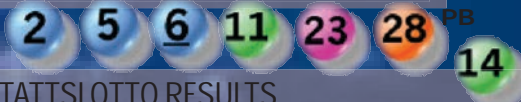
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# Independent Judge a must for Demo's Judicial review

## *Chief Justice Tom Weston's impartiality in question*

With the likely hood of the Democratic Party filing one or more Judicial Reviews there are reservations the judgement will be unfavourable if CJ Weston is presiding. A year down the track the Petition nerves are still raw and tender among elements of the Demo Party. Weston, in some quarters is still being blamed for the Demos aimlessly lingering in opposition.

12 months ago the Democratic Party leadership group were disgruntled with Chief Justice Tom Weston's handling of their Election Petitions in that he favoured the Cook Islands Party with his judgments. So much so the Demos filed a record five appeals against their seven Petition results in favour of the CIP.

The only Petition result overturned was that against the Vaipae/Tautu winner Mona loane which led to a bye Election won again by loane who is now under investigation for bribery involved in the General Election.

At a meeting of Demo officials and candidates at the Opposition office on Friday 11 September 2014 CJ Weston was the scapegoat for their Petition failures. Rather than concede their Petitions were emotionally charged and overly ambitious not to mention sloppy in execution, CJ Weston bore the brunt of their frustration and was angrily roasted for the perception he was favouring the CIP arguments and defence.

A basis for the Demo argument the CJ is soft on the



CJ Weston, soft on the CIP?

*Has CJ Weston's tenure longevity led to familiarity? Has this led to the compromising of the High Court's integrity?*

CIP government that is the acceptance by Tom Weston of an honorary permanent residency by the Puna administration. Orchestrated prior to an election date being set, the Chief Justice would

not have known but at the very least should have sought advice as to whether the acceptance of Honorary Cook Islander when his position as Chief Justice when called upon in electoral petition cases could cause some discontent

and question as to whether or not these decisions were made with impartiality.

The judiciary needs to have a clear separation from Parliament and that it would have been prudent for the Chief Justice to recognise that there is at least the appearance of a conflict of interest by accepting the honorary Cook Island residency from the present government that he should excuse himself from presiding over any of these petitions.

CJ Weston has immersed himself into Rarotonga's social environment over the last ten years he has been engaged in Cook Islands justice leaving little wriggle room in the separation gulf. A God parent to Justice of the Peace Gina Williams' son Aporo is seen as improper for a Chief Justice in such a small community where it seems everyone has conflicts of interests more by default than design. It's not known to many Sonny Williams and Weston have a history, they have been friends since their school days.

Has CJ Weston's tenure longevity led to familiarity? Has this led to the compromising of the High Court's integrity? In our hospitable and friendly Polynesian society it is Weston's responsibility to maintain sufficient degrees of separation to avoid any appearances or perceptions of being partial. Maybe it's time there was a fresh face as Chief Justice?

In July 2014 before the Petitions were heard CJ Weston spelt out the ground rules

*Continued bottom page 3*

# PM's media conference covers wide range of issues

By Noeline Browne

**Polynesian Leaders to discuss fishing, climate change, Nauru, West Papua**

Joined by Finance Minister Brown at his media conference on Tuesday at 2pm, the Prime Minister announced he is set to attend the annual Polynesian Leaders Group meeting being held in Auckland, to discuss issues relating to climate change, fisheries, the West Papua situation and the situation in Nauru. The PM will be accompanied by the head of MFIA, head of Pacific Affairs, and Secretary of MMR.

Climate change will be an important subject especially in preparation for the COP 21 meeting in December 2015. The Cook Islands intends to align our

position on climate change with that of New Zealand.

Fisheries is another important subject and the PLG intend to take a regional approach to ensure fair returns, while ensuring that there is sustainable development. This is particularly in regard to purse-seine fishing with Minister Brown making the surprise statement that the US-Pacific Tuna treaty is in danger of disintegrating. If so, then the USA may have to negotiate individually with nations. They would look at matters as licensing, monitoring, applying a quota system as a bloc – similar to the approach taken by the Parties to Nauru agreement [PNA], which agreement, the Cook Islands is considering joining.

Brown said the quota system

and the guidelines, one of his comments before he had heard any arguments gave concern to a few Demos when he stated, "I have read these petitions and I have to say with respect some of them are just rubbish. There are silly things that have been raised."

Was this comment an unguarded slip of the tongue indication the Demos were facing a CIP sympathizer?

The comment that had most people scratching their heads made by CJ Weston in the Manihiki petition was clumsy at best but at worst it gave the appearance that the Prime Minister shared some personal relationship with him and suggested to some degree some discoloration in this case.

In his deliberations Weston CJ commented that "Mr. Puna was an experienced politician and knew where to draw the line on corruption", that comment has led many to wonder whether the CJ Weston actually knows whether a seasoned politician would know, because many seasoned politicians just get

very good at blurring that line to evade scrutiny.

During the Manihiki petition Puna was given the full liberty to electronically converse with and instruct witnesses from the Rarotonga Court room but this privilege was not permitted when it was the Demo's turn to assist and guide their witnesses. According to Demo supporters observing this gave the CIP a clear advantage especially when Skype technology was being used for the first time.

CJ Weston for better or worse must recognise his comments raise doubts as to his impartiality, the slightest perception he is soft on the Prime Minister Henry Puna is sufficient for him to be excused from any future presiding over matters filed by the Democratic Party against the CIP government.

CJ Weston is not above reproach and scrutiny, the fact an Appeal over turned his decision on the petition filed against Mona Ioane is evident the CJ isn't omniscient but a human being like the rest of us.

- George Pitt

would be similar to the lwi quota system in NZ where the lwi deal with large companies. When asked how it was similar when in fact it is the Government that deals with large companies, Minister Brown remained unfazed and said it was similar concept except that Government deals with the matter not lwi.

On the Nauru issue, do the leaders intend to discuss the situation with the MPs [Opposition MPs having been arrested] or the refugee/asylum seeker issue? Minister Brown said both would be on the agenda as would the West Papua situation [referring to their campaign for a free and

independent status]. Minister Brown said the leaders will try to find common ground on all these issues. This was announced at the joint media conference held by the PM Henry Puna and Finance Minister, Mark Brown on Tuesday afternoon.

**Naval exercises in Northern Waters**

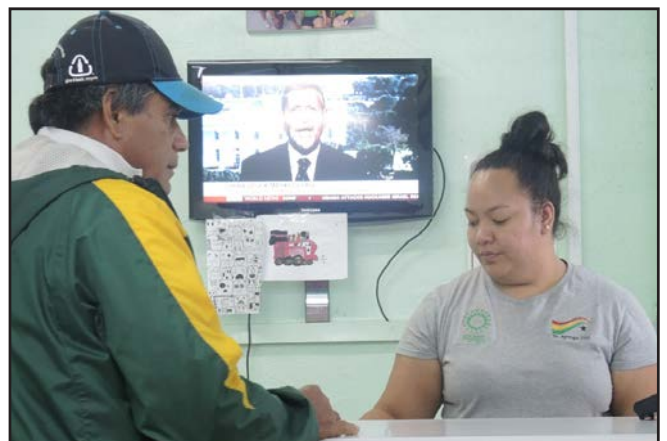
On questioning from Greg from CITV, the PM confirmed that there were naval exercises being carried out in Palmerston and also Manihiki. The Palmerston exercise is named Operation Tropicana and the Manihiki one is called Operation Highlight, jokingly adding that Cook Islands was invading Kiribas.

*continued page 6*



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# Neves' Schoonergate contract flawed, one sided and unenforceable

The charter contract between the Crown and Mike Henry's Pacific Schooners Limited (PSL) which has been placed on the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) website is incomprehensible. Regardless of who ever is the architect of this unwitnessed shambolic contract, the Financial Secretary Richard Neves is on a podium of his own as the signatory is the sole culprit of the unfolding consequences that are inflicting irreparable political damage to the Henry Puna Cook Islands Party Government. Schoonergate is just another contentious development added to the Richard Neves catalogue of unnatural disasters engineered at the expense of the Cook Islands taxpayers.

Unless corrected it is assumed Neves was acting under instructions from the Office of the Prime Minister and the CEO Liz Koteka, her and Neves were the joint authors of the charter contract. It is also assumed by the sheer shoddy content of the contract it was not subjected to Crown Law comment or advice. Once again the self proclaimed expert on everything Neves has demonstrated elevated incompetence. Rather than hang his head in shame Neves puffs out his chest and recently on Radio Cook Islands said he was comfortable with how he has and is handling Schoonergate.

The media report alleging Neves paid Mike Henry the inexcusable substantial deposit before the contract was signed has never been denied or confirmed only adds further layers of suspicion to the corruption allegations levelled at the CIP government.

Careful reading of the contract posted on the MFEM website, one soon becomes alarmed at the number of red flags that jump out at you.

The agreement says that Mike Henry's vessel Tiare Taporo is chartered to the Crown to undertake the itinerary. In fact



Richard Neves-Big trouble looming for the little Aussie?

there is no itinerary. There are simply the dates, "9 August to 30 September".

In essence the wording means the vessel will be at the direction of the Government to travel anywhere in the Cook Islands between those dates.

Between these two dates it is warranted under clause 1 the vessel will be able to transport 130 passengers to destinations within the Cook Islands nominated by the Government but under clause 3 it appears Pacific Schooners warrants it can accommodate 130 passengers at any one time.

The agreement provides that if the charter is completed more quickly than the itinerary then the Government will only pay for days used at the rate of \$7500 per day.

If through no fault of the Government the vessel breaks down during the term of the charter the Government can cancel the contract. However, if the Government does so it still loses its deposit because of clause 10.

Clause 9 says if the Pacific Charters is unable to fulfil the

obligations of the Charter then on five days written demand from the Government, PSL must refund the deposit paid.

But clause 10 says that the charter may be cancelled by the Government on or before 9 July, 2015 and "Cancellation after the above-specified date shall result in forfeiture of any amount paid by the Government prior to the cancellation".

The only sensible way to read this is that the Government can cancel at any time without giving a reason but if it does so after 9 July, 2015 then it will forfeit the deposit unless Pacific Schooners is itself in breach in which case the Government will get its money back. However, if the ship breaks down on the first day of the charter too bad for the Government. Its deposit is lost.

The 9 August date has passed and the Government clearly cannot direct the movements of Tiare Taporo within the Cook Islands because the vessel isn't even here. Consequently, Pacific Schooners is in breach and the Crown is entitled to exercise its rights under the agreement to cancel it and demand the deposit

be returned.

If the Government asks for the deposit back it will rank as an unsecured creditor. Its ability to obtain a refund is only as good as the solvency of the company which must be in doubt given the Tiare Taporo was unable to leave port in Canada and now is inexplicably stationary off the coast of Panama.

It is clear the company had existing creditors at the time the Crown entered into the contract and was likely insolvent.

Furthermore, it appears the company was reinstated on the register of companies on 24 June, 2015 but the agreement with the Crown was dated 8 May, 2015. If the company was struck off at that time the agreement was entered into then assets of the company belonged to the Crown and, in effect, the Crown contracted with itself.

As of Tuesday 1st September 2015 Mike Henry's Tiare Taporo was still berthed in Panama.

Extracting the \$200,000 advanced deposit from PSL is unattainable because the charter contract is seriously flawed and legally unenforceable; it's not worth the two cents of paper it is inscribed on. Without reservation Neves must be held personally responsible to repay the deposit from his own personal funds.

Without hesitation the weak self preserving dithering Public Service Commissioner Russell Thomas who has exhausted all his non compliant excuses must now earn his mega salary and suspend the \$330,000 a year Richard Neves and undertake a comprehensive investigation. To continue condoning Neves blatant misconduct in defiance of the evidence everyone can see Thomas is turning a blind eye to what is overwhelmingly one hundred percent abhorrent and an insult of the public's intelligence.

The failure to do his public duty must result in Thomas' dismissal once the government changes.

- George Pitt



# Other issues covered at PM's media conference

## Financial Secretary asks PERCA to investigate Pacific Schooner contract

Minister Brown made the surprise announcement that the Financial Secretary has laid a formal complaint to PERCA in relation to the Pacific Schooner contract with the view to cancelling the contract. If the contract is found to be null and void owing to non-performance of the contract, the intention is to seek reimbursement of the funds. The PERCA report, when ready, will be tabled in Parliament by Finance Minister Brown.

Brown defended the decision to award the contract to Pacific Schooners saying Government wanted to include as many local contractors as possible, including for instance, Taio

Shipping, General Transport and so on. All were given an opportunity.

## New Zealand promise of \$11.7 million to upgrade Tereora College

Minister Brown said Government is very keen to push the project along but wants to ensure that 'we have our systems, our people, and our design' in place first. Part of the funds are earmarked for a science and technology block and the space for the building would have to be found, possibly replacing some of the houses dotted around the school to make room for the block.

Minister Brown said CIIC had its own graduate architects and we want to build up their experience and that we want to put our people contribute to the

project – in terms of design and architecture.

For instance, solar power, take into account that we are in a tropical climate, air conditioning and so on. A design team has already visited Australia with a view to seeing their designs.

## Anti purse-seine petition

The PM confirmed it is still there to be considered by Parliament. He acknowledged some of the procedural problems such as in Aitutaki where the Council removed the petition from certain outlets, but added that the 'petition is locked in – it won't go away'.

## Nikao School and \$10million China grant

The construction date not yet finalized but the funding is ready with Government anticipating that construction will start during the Christmas holidays 2015 when the school is closed. Again, the Government wants to have local involvement.

Minister Brown explained that when the new President of China came into power, he brought in sweeping changes. These included the public tender process and due diligence. That meant that the company that Government deals with – CCECC – is now on a level playing field with other companies in China.

## Manihiki land issue

The PM said that the delay in determining the landowners of the atolls earmarked for the solar farm was that other people not resident on the island, had claimed ownership. According to the PM, it is the Island Council accords priority to those who live on land but he does not want to 'compromise' the authority of the Land Court.

The PM confirmed that threats were made by owners to enter land and vandalize the solar farm – after they had lost patience with the delays [two years]. The PM said he was told of situation at 6pm on Wed, day before due to fly to NZ next day and 'had to scramble to find way to defuse the situation'. He said that the Government took action as 'we saw fit' and had

acted 'responsibly' and 'legally' chimed in Minister Brown.

Why not send in the Police? And what would that achieve? It would not solve the issue but only make it worse said the PM. The PM denied that the payout was politically motivated saying that \$600,000 had already been allocated to the Northern Group [out of \$1.4million] with the balance to the Southern Group. Minister Brown added that – in their view – it was a legal and moral issue and it was 'far simpler to settle matter'.

## New Zealand visit fantastic opportunity to connect with our people

The PM said the New Zealand visit was a 'fantastic' opportunity to connect with our people in Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington. It was also an opportunity to meet with NZ Prime Minister John Key and take part in the wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial. PM Puna said he was joined by MPs Rose Brown and Toka Hagai and later the two Prime Ministers met at Government House for bi-lateral talks – and no, the subject of UN membership was not raised at all.

## Helmets issue

The PM said 'personally' he is in favour of compulsory helmets – but targeted to the younger age group. This is backed up by statistics. However, he stressed that he did not want to pre-empt the discussions at the Summit on the matter and would wait for their recommendations before further comment.

## Hiccup on bid for extension of Continental shelf

Minister Brown said that the application for the extension of the continental shelf had run into barriers at the sub-committee stage. They had expressed some doubt as to whether the area that Cook Islands was claiming was actually part of the Manihiki plateau or whether it was in international waters. Cook Islands will continue to try and make its case.

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# My week in Auckland

By Norman George

It is often said that a week off the rock makes a difference. I needed to travel to Auckland to visit my seriously ill eldest sister and to attend to some legal business. I left on Saturday the 22nd August, and returned back on Sunday the 30th August.

I struck Auckland in the first week of spring. The daffodils were out in the parks and reserves, in their green and gold splendour. The lambing season had begun. My 3 sons and I went for a drive around the countryside, from Maraetai, Kawakawa Bay, Orere and Pukekohe.

The New Zealand countryside with farms up and down undulating hills, with cattle and sheep dutifully attacking the grass before them is something unique and special.

Then there were the acres and acres of freshly ploughed market garden land, ready for the spring crops. The cold crisp fresh air of the countryside is so riveting to give that spring feeling of the good life at no cost. The temperatures averaged, 14 degrees Celsius and went down to 11 degrees at night. I did not experience any fog until we drove to the airport at 6:30am on the morning of my departure. It was fog everywhere but slowly rising as the sun came up.

The evening before, they announced the All Blacks World Cup team. There were delights and disappointments. First on my list of shock was the omission of our Cook Islands boy "Lima Sopoaga." The one comforting side to it is, his youth. Give Daniel Carter and Collin Slade a final go, with Carter most likely ending his All Black career after the world cup.

Lima Sopoaga was a star at Ellis Park South Africa. It is clear that he is on reserve for a call-up if injuries force one of the backlines out. The future is still good for Lima, we expect him in the All Black Team for the next 10 years, barring injuries.

Another disappointment was the leaving out of Israel Dagg, Corey Jane, together with Charles Piutau. All are stars in their own

right. Replacing Dagg with Ben Smith at fullback may be a smart move. Ben Smith and Bauden Barrett are two naturals who make moves look easy. Add Aaron Smith, Maa Nonu and Nehe Milner-Skudder to the mix and we are justified to have high hopes for the All Blacks.

The kiwis are so keen to watch the Rugby World Cup that they amended the licensing laws to allow the late opening of pubs, to the early hours of the morning. Some enterprising entrepreneurs should take the lead and do the same here.

As N.Z. citizens the AB's are also our national team, we all pray for their success at the World Cup.

I spent a good part of Saturday morning watching my 8 year old grandson play football. All his team-mates are of Indian/Asian descent and my grandson was the biggest boy in the team. There were 10 teams playing against each other.

It was a bit chilly walking around the open fields. The parents and supporters were there yelling out instructions and cheering. It really was remarkable seeing people go out to support their children. The morning was divided up for matches involving different age groups, with the youngest ones starting off first.

By some good fortune, my grandson's team won after playing 5 games against 5 different teams. At the end of the tournament, reward was at hand, we all went to the Mac Donald's at Botany Bay, Howick for brunch.

One of the most amazing things I discovered during this visit, are the high value of real estate in Auckland. Many Cook Islanders in Auckland are property millionaires. There must be hundreds of these Cook Islands millionaires around. I am quite proud of this.

The only downside to this is that once you sell, unless you chose to come home or shift out of Auckland, it will cost you at least half a million dollars to purchase another Auckland based property.

Thanks to the Chinese,

they've inflated the Auckland property market completely out of proportions. I did not realise that a lot of Chinese finance used to purchase private homes, farms, and businesses come from the Chinese government. Their hunger for expansion is unbelievable and well disguised.

Now the Chinese investment market is on a meltdown. The Chinese government has been pouring billions of dollars to sustain their stock market. It is so serious that people are arrested for spreading rumours about the falling value of the Chinese investment market. On the last count 200 people have been arrested.

I will focus on the subject of Chinese expansionist policies in the near future. What is frightening is that it will only take one Chinese billionaire to buy up everything in the Cook Islands. Companies like the CITC will be petty cash. Last week the richest man in China lost 13 billion dollars in 1 day! Apparently he still has billions left.

We have to be vigilant who we sell our assets to in the future.

Overall I found, Auckland city heavily peopled with traffic jams on the motorway a common sight. There are forever new motorway on/off ramps. I did some back tracking of my old patrol grounds on our trusted Holden cars sometimes alone on a one man patrol in Glen Innes, Panmure, Howick East Auckland area. Other-times 2 cop patrols in Auckland city. Sometimes on a nightshift, on our one man patrols, a favourite stop was the local bakery, which served hot buns and coffee on cold wet winter nights.

The trick was not to wear our great coats or we will be too comfortable and fall asleep in the patrol-car while driving. The solution was to keep half cold and half warm. Sometimes when the comforts of the bakery went overtime, we would get on the motorway and speed to Pukekohe and back to clock up the mileage as the boss always checks the next day (L.O.L). Too little mileage means that you

have not been patrolling your area properly. There were no GPS on our Holdens in those early days.

I have the pleasure of picking up a book by the late Sir Peter Williams QC, from Whitcoulls. I was a cop in Auckland when Sir Peter was at the peak of his profession as a defence counsel. As a cop we operate on a collective basis, we hated successful Lawyers like Sir Peter Williams QC and Kevin Ryan QC, in fact we as the Police detested them and feared them at the same time.

Now that I am wearing a defence counsel hat, I am completely converted by Sir Peter by his brilliance and humanity. I notice in his book that without knowing about each other, in some instances, we share the same moves and manoeuvres, I won't say tricks..... Sadly he passed away about 2 months ago.

I will read his book over and over again. He is a role model for combining passion, dedication, smartness, swift fearless approaches and over-all caring and looking after the poor underprivileged and unwanted that no one wanted to help. He also displayed cold professionalism when attending to his legal duties. We also shared other things in common, we never got paid a lot, especially after successfully defending those who could have easily gone to jail. I will see you and meet you in the next court Sir Peter, while my future is on sine die adjournment.

Before I conclude, I met up with my 82 year old sister. She is the mother of Doctor Edward (Ted) Hughes who has been visiting the Rarotonga Hospital for the last 10 years. Both my sister and her husband are much better than I expected. My sister has discovered God and belongs to the Lutheran faith. Before we left her I said a quiet prayer for us, thanks for the practices as assistant deacon in the Vaimaanga Church many years ago, and the occasional closing prayer during 31 years in Parliament.

Ka Kite.



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# Cook's win against Samoa

The Cook Islands National Men's Soccer squad have defeated hot favourites Samoa by one goal to nil in their second match played in Nukualofa on Wednesday. The match started with high intensity from both teams knowing a win will put their team in a better position to qualify for the second stage.

Although the Samoans had the favourite tag it was the Cooks Islands who had the first opportunity to score when Paavo Mustonen took a curly free kick. Samoa had their opportunity a few minutes later but Striker Desmond Faaiusua was unable to put the final touch onto the cross from the midfield area.

With six minutes remaining in the first half a foul was committed on a Cook Island player and the Cooks were awarded a free kick some twenty eight metres away from the goal and next to the touch line. Taylor Saghabi who scored a hatrick of goals in the first day against Tonga stepped up and took the free kick with some power, precision and curve which left the Samoan defenders and Goal keeper no chance



Cook's Taylor Saghabi takes a shot at goal

of clearing the shot and the first and only goal of the match was scored. Half score Cook 1 Samoa 0.

During the second half both teams played with more intensity but it was the Cooks who were unfortunate to extend their lead when Legend Pareta latch onto a lay off pass and couldn't find the net with only the Goal Keeper to beat. The match in general was played at high intensity, but was a much deserved win for the Cooks who had more shots at goal.

In the second match

between host Tonga and American Samoa, this encounter started with a lot of physicality and aggressive play. The Tonga's scored first midway through the first half. However in the second half the US based American Samoan players in the team showed their class and went on to score two goals to win the match

by 2 goals to 1.

The Cook Islands will play their third and final match against American Samoa today at 4:00pm. This is a must win match, if the Cook Islands lose to American Samoa and Samoa defeat Tonga all three teams will be on six points and the winner of the tournament will be decided on goal difference.

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## We visited Manuia Beach Resort

by Xray

**CHEF'S:** SUMMIT KUMA, TERIO MANUELI

**FRONT OF HOUSE:** LAIZA AGOJO, CAROLINE ANDERSON

Strolling along traditional Kikau Hut Villa's towards a beautiful Sunset reflecting in the calm ocean waters we arrive at the deck and infinity pool of the Restaurant and Bar Area. The setting is perfect, ambience lit natural Kikau, sandy floor and natural wooden furniture. The faint smell of candles, frangipani, tiare and delicious kitchen aromas are inviting and Laiza our host greets us with KIA ORANA and a big smile and seats us at our table.

We were briefed on the

special Island Style Menu and given our menus. A knowledgeable Laiza makes wine recommendations and to our surprise, there were wines we had not heard of before and she advised that their chef consulted the bond store with their menu.

The entrée was Yellow Fin Tuna and paired with a Yaldarra Sauvignon Blanc, this well balanced south eastern Australian wine showed unobtrusive citrus and passion fruit scents on the nose and finely balanced elegant winey notes with some capsicum and minerality on the palate and a pleasant lingering finish. An excellent match for this elegant, beautifully

presented entrée which had very finely balanced light chili notes, lemon, peppers creamy avocado at its core

The main was Oven roasted Pork with Coconut & fried leeks, kuru orange and coriander which complemented the tasty, crusty pork, with its finely balanced garlic infused wine just. We were offered a Lake Chalice Rose and alternatively a Santa Carolina Cabernet Sauvignon. Even though the Rose was a perfect match and a un-oaked NZ Chardonnay would have worked, Laiza recommend a light and elegant American Cabernet, a wine that underpinned the flavorsome pork and lend some welcome

tannins and light acidity to combine perfectly with this dish and break the sweet fat to a pleasant round finish.

The dessert consistent of banana fritters with almond & coconut ice cream was an excellent finish to a delicious dinner and we were referred back to the Sauvignon Blanc from the entrée or a local banana Wine. We opted for the Sauvignon which concluded a nice dinner in island style fashion. The price tag was very good value at \$ 65.00 including 3 glasses of wine per person and we can highly recommend this venue.

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The Registrar may waive the three day requirement in special circumstances, but your wedding coordinator must apply in advance and a small fee is applicable. Application for this license cannot be made outside the Cook Islands.

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<http://www.tourismcookislands.com/weddings/>



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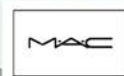
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# Weddings in Paradise



## Island Wedding experience

**R**u Tauta married his wife, Matakeu 17 years ago, following the traditional process of marriage, known in Aitutaki. The Radio Cook Islands announcer shares with us what he knows about the traditional way of marriage in Aitutaki.

Well before the wedding, Ru says in the early hours of the morning, at about 5am, a truck loaded with food; pigs, loaves of bread, cartons of meat, you name it, gets sent to the girl's house, from her partner and his family, they call it 'puaka tiki vaine'. This practice is a sign of welcoming the to-be daughter into their family and a way showing their love for their son and his partner. The food is then distributed for her

side of the family, "it may be a big piece of pork, with some tin meat and a loaf of bread; that will be given to her uncle and the same to other members of her family, it is distributed to the girl's family only", explains Ru.

The actual wedding ceremony is like any other, and usually takes place in the church. During the reception and kaikai however, Ru says each guest will have food placed in front of them, with a basket nearby, they then eat and any food leftover is put into the basket and taken home. This old way of serving and eating is called 'tapotu', a more pleasing way to 'tari kai'. "Nowadays, people do it the easy way and dish their food out on plates to eat

first then dish food afterwards to take home". During the speeches, it is tradition for the parents of both sides of the family to get up and explain their family tree, and sometimes, dare I say it, there can be a little 'connection'. After the wedding, the newly-weds are known to share their gifts of food to the workers who helped with the wedding preparations.

Upon the accomplishment of the wedding ceremony and reception, the happy couple and their families partake in the well-known 'oro toroka', the round island ride on a truck, followed by the families and friends. The oro-toroka is similar to a parade; there are drummers who drum their

way around the island, the newly-weds sit on the truck, and family members stand in front and behind the truck on each side of the road, holding a pareu. "This occasion is as if to show other girls and guys that he's mine and she's mine".

At the end of the trip, they undergo the 'oora', the two-some is showered with gifts, usually from the husbands side of the family, but both families are known to give as well.

Apart from having very fond memories of his wedding, he also has a lot of knowledge from attending and witnessing a number of traditional weddings in Aitutaki. He also believes many of the practices are still carried out today, by the people of Aitutaki.

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# Wind in the trees

By Tiana Haxton

Lately, there has been some strong winds in the Cook Islands. On Rarotonga many driving through Arorangi on their way to school or work were surprised as they drove past Friendly Mart.

The large ancient Ficus Tree that had proudly stood in front of the shop providing shade as well as being a wind breaker for Friendly Mart had been uprooted by freak blasts of wind and was lying on its side. Road Workers were called in to move some of the tree limbs off the road and bright orange cones were placed, surrounding the entrance to Friendly Mart, fencing in the giant tree.

Electricians were also asked in to help with the power lines which were a public hazard as the lines had been caught by the toppling tree and pulled to the ground.

The damage was assessed. Luckily the tree didn't topple onto the store, nor

did it hurt anyone passing on the road as the tree fell, lying on its side like a soldier wounded in battle.

A rental car was also crushed by the tree when it collapsed, around 3 or 4 am. Concrete seating's that had once invited walking passer-by's to sit in the shade of the Ficus Tree lay shattered in front of the store.

This tragedy gives us some warning. If this tree had fallen on top of the shop, there could have been hundreds of dollars in damage. If someone was passing while the tree was uprooted and toppled onto their vehicle, there would have been some serious damage and it could have crushed someone, a terrible fatality.

Fortunately, none of these occurred. No one was hurt and the shop didn't get destroyed. Friendly Mart owner Doreen Kavana Boggs says, "The old tree provided great shade for the store, a lot of people are very sad about it." She notes that she will try to replace

the tree but Boggs is keeping in mind that she shall keep it smaller and not allow it to grow too large as she would like to avoid a further toppling.

Cook Islands Meteorological Service director Arona Ngari issues a warning "People need to take precautions, given the strength of the wind. They should try to keep themselves indoors most of the time and they should also try to secure their houses, tie the roofs down or put something heavy on the roofs and trim the branches on trees near their homes to keep them safe from these windy conditions."

Already the wind has ruined a few properties on Rarotonga. Arona says the roof of a car shed blew off and significantly damaged his neighbour's property.

We are heading into the cyclone season and with the weather conditions, Ngari says we should be extra careful, take necessary precautions as we may have something coming this cyclone season.



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# Restorative Justice in the Cook Islands – the case for ‘akanoa – Part 1 of 2

by Te Tuhi Kelly

The rule of law is the very foundation on which the modern Cook Islands nation is built. As a developing nation in Oceania we pride ourselves on our democratic processes and our adherence to Westminster or English law.

By this very approach, we are able to sit at the table with all brother and sister countries that adhere to the rule of English law and democratic processes. There is no getting away from the fact that in our interactions on the global front we would be hard pressed to form beneficial international relationships without the rule of law. It wasn't always so.

Ever wondered how we ended up with English law? By that I mean the whole shooting box of that particular approach to law, legal statutes, doctrines etc. Notwithstanding that the missionaries introduced us to English law. Many countries do not adhere to English law; examples are Muslim countries such as Indonesia, European countries such as France, Asian countries such as China. They all have their own unique legal systems which can be baffling to those brought up on a diet of English law. Muslim countries that are fairly strict in their interpretation of the teachings of the prophet Mohammed have Sharia law. France has an innocent till guilty proven approach to law.

So where did English law come from? Here we go folks back into the past. English law or common law as we know it originally had its roots in customary lore, the lore of the people, the cement that held families and communities together. Each family would have their own ways of doing things on a day to day basis and this family lore dictated how they related to each other as well as how they reacted to outsiders. We went from our reliance on being hunter gatherers to an agrarian society i.e. we settled down, built more permanent dwellings and became agriculture workers of the land. We established towns, villages, cities, infrastructure, political processes and processes of government and we began to deal with issues in a different manner as we became more sophisticated and educated. No longer would we rely on a yes or no approach to settling breaches of customary law. Nor could we rely on the at times despotic actions of those who thought they were the right hand of god and could make or break the rules as they saw fit. Increasingly we also had grey areas for those who broke our societal laws. Customary law could no longer offer us protection of our rights and justice and so over a period of centuries we developed and ushered in jurisprudence, the rule of law, judges, juries and all manner of legal processes to enable us to fairly govern and administer justice to and for the people.

So down to modern times, English law

places a reliance on legal constructs and has developed a unified and systematic system for making determinations using the language and symbols of classical Roman and modern civil and common law concepts. These concepts are non-existent in 'legal' systems such as traditional lore. Traditional lore therefore embodies values and spiritual or religious beliefs and is distinguished from western law by the need to restore and maintain relationships. These beliefs are then used to resolve or facilitate conflict and disputes which are independent of precedent or legal doctrine. Using traditional lore therein lays the means to diffuse or manage conflict in day to day situations. The means are many and varied as are the outcomes or processes that lead to conflict resolution. Many of these situations can and are resolved outside of English law and the formal processes that English law requires.

Thus we have a justice system in the Cook Islands based on a centuries old mechanism we have inherited from the British that allows us to arrive at decisions based on Cook Islands law and precedence regarding the breaking of laws by our citizens. If you have been to court in the Cook Islands as a visitor or because you have broken the law, you can soon see the process of law being performed at this level. Prosecution and defence lawyers on each side performing in front of the judge or JP. Each of the parties manoeuvring and wheedling, wheeling and dealing for their clients. Pretty soon you find out that it is a form of gamesmanship that drives the Court process, disguised as justice, there is no right or wrong. It is more a case of which lawyer is the more persuasive in their arguments for their client in front of the judge or JP. Did you also notice that there appears to be very little respect for the rule of law or for the Court, judging by those who appear and it shows in their lack of a proper dress code? Really, the Court should be insisting that those brought up on charges be dressed appropriately, this sets the scene for the accused being on their best behaviour and off-guard. I don't think the Court realises the psychology of keeping the accused in a state of perpetual anxiety, because from what I have seen it's more like a scene of relaxed indifference to the Court proceedings. The occasion is formal and serious so the scene needs to be set so that those accused understand that they have been brought up on serious charges.

So there they are standing in the box, chewing gum, tee shirt and shorts askew and seeming to portray the behaviour and attitude, "hurry up, and get on with it, so I can get back to the boys". When they do get back with the boys, it's a huge joke and soon as they leave the court, they just file it away as a non-event or use it as bragging rights till the next time. How many times does this play out in our Courts of

law, what does that say for those who expect justice to prevail, when the process of justice seems a hollow thing and does not address their personal hurt, loss and feelings of hopelessness.

So imagine if you will the recent bike accidents that have been occurring with some frequency or the number of people up before the court on burglary charges or domestic violence. Those charged with offences under various Acts are charged under Cook Islands law and everyone says "good job" and well done to the Police. Yes they've been charged under law and have been fined or sent to prison. Then like the game of Monopoly they serve their sentence then have a get out of jail card, to continue on with their lives. The problem is that if it was one of your loved ones that were killed in a bike crash through no fault of their own; you essentially have been sentenced to a life of mental and emotional imprisonment. This is one of the fundamental flaws of English law, because it does not and cannot deal with human emotional trauma brought about by those who break the law. Emotions just are, they are what makes us human and therefore law only deals with known quantities with quantifiable outcomes and cannot deal with the unknown range of human emotions. Law tries to be fair and just and human emotion is consistently inconsistent and we don't or find it difficult to deal with this at the best of times.

In this article I propose that Cook Islands law needs another mechanism that will help set up the process of healing for those who commit a crime and for those affected by the commitment of a crime. I propose that the use of traditional knowledge or customary lore can provide a parallel mechanism for restorative justice through a process of 'akanoa' (aka – to make and noa – normalise) literally to return that which is out of balance back to some semblance of normality. This constitutes an important contrast to the adversarial nature of Cook Islands law and in the context of this article; I contend that akanoa is a process of restorative justice that can place an emphasis on a non-adversarial and a consensus approach in dealing with those who commit crime and those who are affected by crime. We all know that the adversarial nature of law and its interpretation and subsequent application can leave all parties feeling powerless, frustrated and ill at ease, before, during and after settlement of the Court proceedings. It is because law tends not to address the underlying tensions that occur when someone breaks the law and as a result someone's loved one is dead or they have suffered domestic violence or burglary. Cook Islands law does not have the ability to provide a mechanism for non-adversarial restorative justice, either at the beginning, during or ending of the court case, because, there will always be a winner and there will always be a loser.



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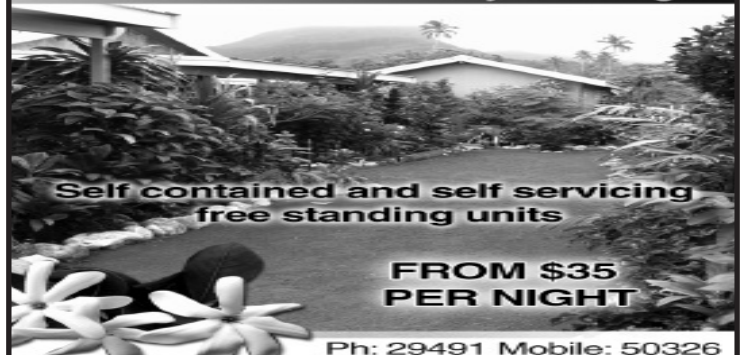
**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The family of the Late Ngakura Guinea Turaki, would like to express their sincere gratitude to everyone who showed them sympathy on their recent sad bereavement. To our Catholic Family in Nikao, to Pastors Akava and Pouao, to Rev Panu Rouru and Father John of Mauke and many others who helped with the service, to make it truly memorable. Our thanks to Air Rarotonga, Aunty Mau & family, John & Anne Tierney and family, to all our extended families, relations, neighbours and friends, who showed, helped and supported us in so many different ways. Thank you to the medical staff, Doctors and Nurses who attended and treated Kura with dignity. As it would be currently, impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our appreciation.

*Meitaki Ranuinui and Faafetai tele lava. God Bless.  
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# Hey brother

*By Lucianne Vainerere*

**Y**ou came into this world in 2002. So small and pure and true. Your big round cheeks and pink stained face brought joy to our family; you're not a disgrace. Even though we don't share the same blood, we took you in as our own. Our bundle of joy with teeny, tiny eyes full of hope and innocence.

You became the apple of my eye. As you grew, innocence faded. You were exposed to the world so cruel yet so vibrant. We share many memories, good, bad and ugly. Through our fights, misunderstanding, arguments, our pain and heartache and grudges, I thank you.

Thank you for being who are, for being a little rascal, for asking so many questions, for eating so much food, for touching my heart and for being a sweet and annoying little brother. At times I feel that you're an extension of who I am. Through the things you do, the things you say and how you laugh; I sort of see myself. I'm not sure if that's a good thing but being the cool sister that I hear your friends say I am I'm quite confident it is. Just remember you can talk to me about anything, about school, friends, girlfriends, family – you name it.

I know sometimes you may feel like you don't belong or the thought of being accepted clouds your eyes – don't ever forget that you were accepted as soon as you came into our lives. Even though most times you don't exactly do anything and I always boss you around. It's hard to show love when we're siblings but like they say you need to be cruel to be kind in the right measures. Just understand that I do care for you and I will look after you, and as much as I love my food I still end up sharing it with you. You can akamea tough and whatever but you're still my LITTLE brother.

So here's to you, to celebrate your life, to celebrate your entrance into teenage hood and to thank God that you're here with us. From the bottom of our hearts, we love you. Happy Birthday Ice Man.

When you grow older I wish you happiness so that you may thrive to do good and to follow your dreams. You might become a leader or an engineer or a musician. Go on to do great things and never stop believing in yourself. Ask Our Father in Heaven for guidance and never, ever, ever stop living. To live is to be happy and to be happy is to follow your heart.

May your actions reflect your words and may it be humble and kind and full of goodness. "Wear love everywhere you go." Colossians 3:14

# The VMA'S

*Teherenui Koteka*

**L**ast Sunday I along with no doubt many of you watched the video music awards hosted by MTV and WOW was it a great show. The VMA'S are always filled with great music and a fair share of drama but this year's definitely came out on top as one of the most memorable.

Once the nominees had been released it became quite clear that Taylor Swift has begun a new trip to stardom and is now ranked as one of the elites. Taylor had been nominated for 10 of the 16 awards being presented that night. Sadly she walked away with only 2 of the awards she was nominated for. Swift now holds the 2015 titles for best hip hop video for her number one hit 'Blank Space' and video of the year for her star packed music video 'Bad Blood'.

Speaking of Taylor Swift, it was great to see her and Nicki Minaj put aside their feud with their awesome opening performance. Taylor also made it a point to put aside her differences with Kanye West when she presented him with the Video Vanguard award.

On another note, with Miley Cyrus hosting the VMA'S we as the audience should have been prepared for a bit of drama but nothing could have possibly prepared us for the blow out between Nicki Minaj and the newest VMA host. Ever since then the media has eaten up the juicy beef between Miley and Nicki.

As Nicki stood on stage giving her acceptance speech for winning best female video of the year for her chart topping 'Anaconda' video she turned to Miley and said "now back to the b\*\*\*\*h who had a lot to say about me in the press the other day. Miley what's good?!"

Between the great guest performances by The Weeknd, Pharrell, Makelmore and Ryan Lewis as well as Demi Lovato we still managed to catch one last juicy piece of VMA drama. My favorite part of the night, Kanye West announcing that he is running for President in 2020!! What!!! Yes folks it is true 'He will be running for President in 2020'.

I was slightly disappointed at the fact Beyonce's video 7/11 was nominated for 5 awards and only walked away with Best Editing. I was also a tad upset that Kendrick Lamar's 'Alright' was nominated for 4 categories and won one, but if it was only to win one I am pleased it was Best Message.

However I will say that I am over the moon with Fall Out Boy's 2015 hit Uma Thurman, elected best Rock Video of the year. The male video of the year went to Mark Ronson for Bruno Mars 'Uptown Funk' and Fetty Wap walked away with Best Upcoming Artist for his number one hit 'Trap Queen'.

The night was to end with a final performance by A\$AP and 21 pilots but Miley Cyrus ended the night with a surprise release of her newest single 'Dooo it'.

Over all it was a great drama filled VMA.

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## Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

# How to heal your hidden hurts or wounds

Part 2

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

The hurts or wounds that affect a person most in their life are those that you do not see on the outside. They are concealed deep within a persons' life or in their heart. They may have been rejected by their parents or by the family, or they may have been abused during their childhood days, or being mistreated sometimes in their life, and so on.

In the Bible in 1 Peter 4v.1-11, the apostle Peter speaks about these hidden hurts or wounds in our lives. He gives us some lessons on How To Heal Those Hidden Hurts or Wounds.

Lesson 1 is Forgive The Offender. This is covered in Part 1 of last week's issue of the Cook Islands Herald.

Lesson 2 is Focus on God. 1 Peter 4v.2 read "From now on, live the rest of your lives controlled by God's will, not by human desires." Peter is saying get your attention off yourself, off your hurts and get it on God. Peter said, "from now on" meaning 'for the rest of my life, regardless of what happened to me, regardless of the hurt in my past' say to yourself, 'from now on I am going to Focus on God'. Focus on the Healer (who is God) and not on your hurt. Focus on God who wants to heal you. God can turn your pain into something positive.

In the Bible in the Old Testament is the story of Joseph the son of Jacob in the Book of Genesis who was sold into slavery by his brothers and later he was imprisoned because Potiphars wife confessed lies. Yet Joseph never holds any grudge over these people. He Focused on God! God enabled him to become Governor in Egypt.

Again in the Bible in the Books of 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel is the story of David the shepherd boy son of Jesse whom King Saul out of jealousy tried to kill on many occasions. Several times David had opportunities to kill King Saul yet he never did. Instead David told those following him "not to touch the Lord's anointed." Because David focused his attention on God he was later elevated by God to be King of Israel.

Trust God to heal your hidden hurts or wounds by first, Forgiving the Offender, and secondly, Focusing on God. Say to yourself "God I'm going to let You take care of things. I've got to get on with my life. So I'm going to trust You. Instead of me trying to get even."

1 Peter 2v.23 reads "When Jesus suffered, He did not threaten to get even. He left His case in the hands of God who always judges fairly." God sees everything. He knows all our hurts. Psalm 56v.8 reads "You God, know how troubled I am. You have kept a record of my tears." God keeps a record of every tear you've ever cried. Even the tears you couldn't cry because you were so painful inside, they were internal tears. Your pain matters to God. He feels it and wants to help.

Romans 15v.13 reads "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him so that you may overflow with the hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

There are three benefits of giving your hidden hurts or wounds to God. You have hope, and will experience joy and peace.

May you have a God blessed life! Te Atua te aroa!

# The cost of damage

By Hayley McNabb.

So after a fabulous week last week everything just happened to turn upside down. My friend fell off my bike and started limping because the bike had landed on her foot and it was bruised and swollen. It then turned out that she had broken it and now she's on crutches.

Next bad thing was when my cousin went to borrow the bike a few days later and found out that oil was leaking out of it because there was a hole in the engine that I had no clue about. The bike was then taken into Motor Center where they then said they can't fix it because they don't have the parts for that type of wreckage. And to top it all off my nana was quite disappointed in me for a few days because that bike was practically a brand new one that I had just bought off her and I hadn't even had it for that long. So from then I had to borrow my cousin's bike to get to school the next day and then figure out how I'm going to get transport for the rest of year.

The bus was pretty much my only option besides asking my friends on the odd occasion and that was something I was not looking forward to. Being the only senior to go on the bus with all the juniors while watching everyone else go to and from school in their car or on their bike was a scary and embarrassing thought but I guess I was just going to have to live with it. Well anyways, just to my luck my nana had received a phone call from Motor Center on Friday afternoon saying that they had fixed the bike as they found it was only external damage. But now I have to pay \$300 for the repairs and I suppose that's a lesson learnt.

From now on I won't be letting anyone drive the bike as I know the cost of which I'll have to pay if they damage it and because my nana said she'll take it off me if she finds out someone else has been driving it. And I really don't want to be going on that bus.

However the start of this week has been pretty good, we now have a new student teacher in our English class from New Zealand and our teacher told us to make three promises.

1. To make sure we like the new teacher but not better than him.
2. Don't make him cry and
3. Not to be sad when he goes.

This made our class just laugh but he knows that we love him and that he's our favorite teacher. Other than that, things have still been pretty much the same, I'm just waiting for the time to go by because I'm really excited about going back to New Zealand to see my family and go shopping!

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No one seems to want to explain why there is a second Miss Cook Island organisation, Big Red says it stems from the newly elected office bearers not wanting to be lumbered with a \$20,000 debt owed by sponsor TAVs who had some explaining to do at the Samoan border about clothes taken there as part of the Miss Cook Island teams luggage but intended for sale. CITC's Mrs Bates' team simply decided to move on with a new label without the personal debt of a sponsor being their responsibility. Efforts by Elvis to persuade the Samoa Prime Minister to work his magic and get the Samoan Miss South Pacific franchise holders to award this year's contest to the new lot fell on deaf ears. Long time Miss Cook Islands pageant organiser Cleo Marsters has the rights to the Miss South Pacific contest to be held in Rarotonga later this year end of story.



First Murray McCully visits Manihiki to set up the Island with solar generated electricity then within a matter of weeks announces the NZ Armed Forces will be conducting a military exercise there. Teams of army professionals will be engaged in all sorts of repair and maintenance of public buildings while on Rarotonga the Apii Nikao lays in ruins. No one is surprised Elvis' constituency is getting a free make over while everyone else waits in line while being lied to and offered slipper tongue excuses from neneva Neves.



What a load of chicken poop Elvis dished up in defence of his payments to his spoon fed Manihiki supporters so they could go shopping before getting their free tax funded trip back to Manihiki to enjoy their free electricity, well it's not really free because its being paid for by the hard working Rarotonga taxpayer. Any threats of social unrest should have been

reported to the Police immediately and left the threats to them to sort out. If one threatening person has the power to cut off the power supply then who cares? They can be the victims of their own stupidity, let the lot of them stew in the dark. Just acting like a bunch of spoilt children but Elvis panders to their tantrums.



Will the real Elvis please leave the building; this is your final boarding call. He may look the part, sing like Elvis, ride the Harley but Paul Lynch is not the real Elvis because he didn't leave the building. Once again Puna is the undisputed king of flight. Fantastic show Lynchy but you are up against a seasoned fiscally backed Elvis impersonator unlike any ever seen in this part of the universe.



Public reaction to how head ranger of the National Environment Service Toti Tupa was dumped by Minita Turepu also was expressed by the CIP Executive who are furious Turepu has reneged on a conference promise to look after their own. To read about your sacking in the news paper without prior notice from the Minister after 15 years service in the Environment and 38 years as a public servant is a shocking cruel abuse of power. Not only that, his CEO Julie Dashwood lied to the media to protect his own dumb arse that Toti had been advised he would not be on the short list. The CIP Executive know they can kiss the Matavera seat good bye, Toti who nominated Turepu to be the

CIP candidate for the last Elections can shift up to 24 voters connected to him and his wife's families but with the support of close friends and church connections up to 60 voters will not vote for Turepu again. It's little wonder the Demo's Smelly Heta is knocking on Toti's door. The way the CIP government are treating people they won't win a single seat on Rarotonga next time around. The only thing that could save a total demolition of the CIP is that two Dumbies are running the Demo Party, the Dumb Eddie Drolley and the Dumber Smelly Heta.



Word from the Matavera CICC is their embarrassed MP Turepoo has been absent for over a month probably due to his harsh sacking of his Deacon Toti Tupa. At the opening of the new Sunday School and Hall it was stated Toti the main driver of the huge building project used his own land and property as the security to raise a \$250,000 loan for the project. All Mrs Tupa asked from their Minister and fellow Church member was two more years when her husband would retire at age 60 after 40 years service and by then the church loan would have been repaid and the burden of the loan no longer hang over their heads. Turepoo's reply was "Leave it to me." What pleasure did he get as he sadistically sunk the boots into loyal CIP supporters who campaigned for him? It was his CEO Julie who stuffed up big time; well that's what the Minister is

telling people who have confronted him.



It seems quite irregular the new President of the CIP Nga Jessie who is also the Matavera CIP boss, not only gets his 40 years service as the Fire Chief on retirement but is also retained as an advisor to the new Fire Chief, Jessie gets a vehicle and \$40,000 a year plus his local pension, sorry Toti you must be such a political threat to Turepoo you had to be eliminated well before the race, no 40 years for you Toti but a slap in the face for your wife and no highly paid advisors job plus vehicle for you, just a kick in your two testicles and through the media told to bugger off. One excuse offered by CEO Julie is Toti has been in the job too long.



It seems as if Turepoo wants to grab all the headlines, not noted for his public persona he took steel balls Cook Islands Radio host Tony Hakaoro to task at the Market for picking on Elvis but TH gave the Minta an ear full about how gutless the Cabinet Ministers are for not curbing Elvis' corruption.



Let's not overlook longevity as being a negative issue; Toti has developed a network of valuable contacts regionally and globally, he has built credibility and trust to the point since 2010 he has been instrumental in bringing in \$14 million for Cook Islands Environment projects. Can Turepoo or his side kick July match that? How much have they gained for the Cook Islands when July was the Chairman of CICC and Turepoo as the Minister of Agriculture, can't see Rider having the pull the well respected Toti has in the regional environment community. Toti has earned the trust of philanthropists and Donor funders sympathetic to environment projects in the Cook Islands that



takes a long time to achieve.



Elvis' pathetic excuse the Heads of Ministries announcement was to be deferred till after the Maeva Nui C50 was he wanted those who missed out to avoid being disappointed during the happy hour is just another one of his bull droppings. The delay in the announcement is because Cabinet were not happy with the PSC Thomas short list. Several long term CIP loyalists have been given the chop by the PSC. No Mac Mokoroa, no Tinker at Justice, no Sonny Willy at Culture, no Neddy Howie at transport and on top of all that they want a brown Cook Islander for Education namely Ants Turua so Sunny can stay at Culture instead of it going to first choice Turua. The only trouble for the Ministers is the PSC Tommy has been growing some testicle muscle and is refusing to back down from his list of recommendations, well that's a turn up for the books and we thought he was a eunuch. The PSC should suspend Neneva Neves and put Soko Roi there to sort out the nonsense at MFEM instead of appointing him to ICI over the first pick Bim Tou. Joe keeps his job at the Airport so maybe Bim can step up instead to the Transport job Joey was short listed for.



Report on TVNZ News that Air NZ made a huge profit last year

of nearly \$500m. So why is a tiny nation like the Cooks having to set aside to pay this NZ Government majority owned airline a potential \$12m a year for a weekly flight from LA and Syd? There is something quite queer about this whole set up.



PM Henri Foonah is jetting off to Auckland for another meeting of the secretive Polynesian Leader's Group. How is it, after each meeting, there is no media release about what they discussed? Does the nation get to have any input? What decisions are being made without our knowledge? Unable to get a pew in the UN, this is the closest PM Foonah gets to squat and chin wag with actual UN members at a table somewhere.



So what if a few agitated Manihikians threatened to close the airport and turn off the solar power if they did not get any pocket money from government to go shopping before their trip home? Ho hum. Who stands to suffer? Not the nation. Only the Manihikians themselves! So what if their frozen food thaws out? Close the airport! The only person flying up there is the PM anyway! Sure the PM had to pay out, with a snap election on the cards, he cannot afford to lose their votes! Remember when some Penrhyn types tried to flex their muscles? Government sent the Police up to

sort them out.



If it weren't for Tua Pitman's presence, you'd almost be forgiven for thinking only the great white hunters that lived on Raro in 1995 did all of the hard work for publicising the Cook Islands anti-nuclear stance back then. How about asking some of the indigenous Cook Islanders who did the hard yakka, to front up for the photo shoot too, hmm? So typical of Euro-centric hegemonistic attitudes to think that because they are not shy (hence why they do all the talking to the media) that they also did all of the work! Talking is easy. A chook recalls riding around on the back of trucks with several other Maori Cook Islanders and running through hotels and resorts, and also on to the beaches of Rarotonga, trying to sell t-shirts to tourists in an effort to raise funds as well as trying to rustle up support in other ways. Some of them also painted the large banners sacrificing some of their mums' white bed-sheets for the cause. This Maori cannot remember any white men running alongside them, Ngaoa Moore and the other Cook Islanders who actually sweated for the cause.



Word on the taro leaves is that taxpayers coughed up \$7,000 for T&M to cater for the Maeva Nui wrap up party for those that gave up their time during the celebrations. It was a feeding frenzy of free nosh

and booze. Is this why the DPM tried so hard to get certain HOMs reappointed?



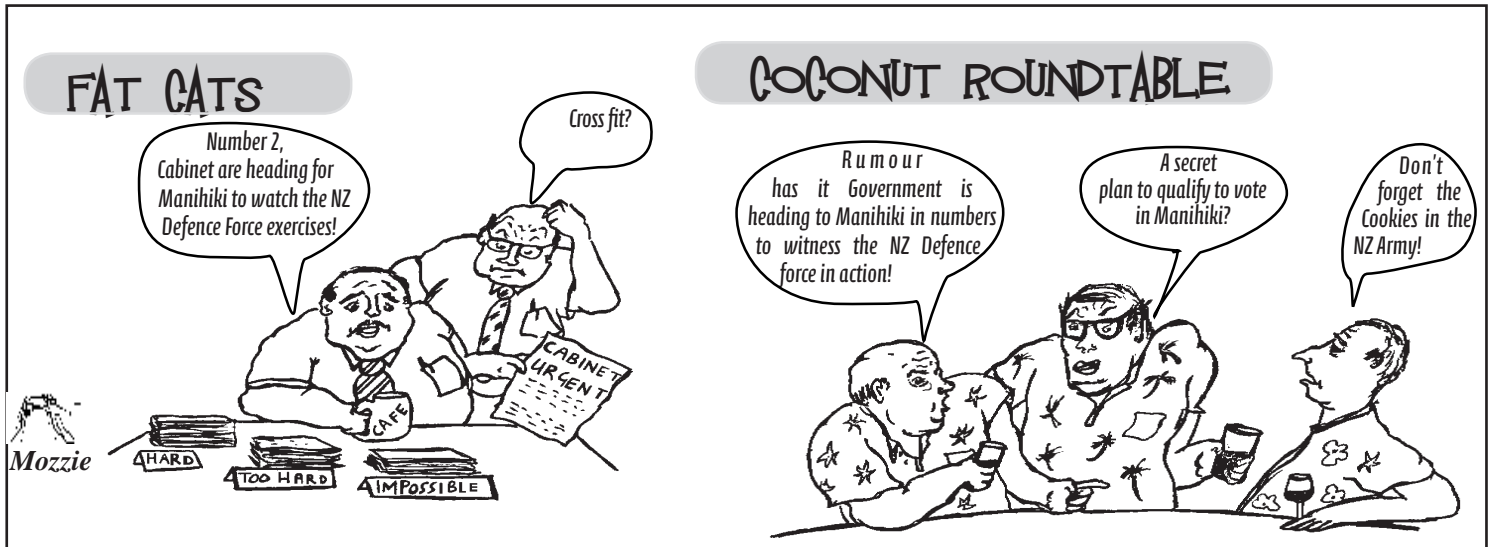
Spot the DPM bulldozer "Heta" lookalike operating a grader in Avatiu creek last week complete with his trade mark dark glasses? Yep, there was Alberto clearing the flood prone creek like a good "Maggie" type MP for his constituents. No more flooding thanks to Dark Glasses! But, what of the workplace safety laws requirements? Does Alberto hold an operator's certificate to operate the heavy machine?



The PM's travel bug has become elephantine. It is the bug that now rules his life, ordering him to visit exotic overseas sites. It has become a giant version of the dung beetle. It is believed the beetle has now penetrated his brain and is controlling his movements. It is feared the beetle, a native of Africa will order the PM to start visiting African States.



What was the four time loser Mr Akama Heta doing in Atiu personally operating the machinery, or was that just for the photo? Big Red hopes the Atiu landowners are not as greedy as Elvis' Manihiki bludgers. Maybe the landowners should threaten to wreck the new crusher unless they get \$200,000 to share among themselves for a shopping trip to Rarotonga. If it is good enough for Puna's greedy supporters in Manihiki then it's good enough for everyone else.



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](mailto:angeline.tuara@cookislands.gov.ck), [www.intaff.whupi.com](http://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.



**PUBLIC NOTICE – AVATIU VALLEY ROAD**

Residents and users of Avatiu valley road are advised of an impending project start for TAU civil works at the Power station that will affect road traffic between now and November 2015. In particular they are asked to show:

1. Carefulness in the area in question from the Power station to the intersection at Avatiu Ara metua.
2. Awareness of heavy vehicles, plant and machinery which may be parked on the Avatiu valley road
3. Adherence to speed limit, warning signs, traffic direction from time to time etc.

TENDER



**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](mailto:angeline.tuara@cookislands.gov.ck) Ministry of Internal Affairs [www.intaff.whupi.com](http://www.intaff.whupi.com).

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

TENDER



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
LAPTOP AND IPAD MINI TENDER NOTICE**

Tenders are invited for the bulk supply of Laptops and IPAD Minis for schools in the Cook Islands. Quality and specifications document can be uplifted from the Ministry of Education office or download from MOE website: [www.education.gov.ck](http://www.education.gov.ck) or contact Director of Information Technology and Communication Mr Robert Matheson on phone 29357, fax 28357 or email [itdirector@education.gov.ck](mailto:itdirector@education.gov.ck)

Tender submission will close @ 4.00pm Thursday 10th September, 2015

Tenders shall be in a sealed envelope  
MOE 2015 Laptop Tender 151608  
MOE 2015 IPAD Mini Tender 151609

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PUBLIC NOTICE



[www.cookislandschamber.org](http://www.cookislandschamber.org)

**PLANNING TO DEVELOP YOUR BUSINESS**

If you have recently commenced in business or would like to know more on how to start a business, the Business Mentors are here to assist you

**Date:** Thursday, 3rd September 2015

**Venue:** Cook Islands Tertiary Training Institute (CITTI), Ngatangia

**Time:** 4.30 – 6.00 p.m.

ALL WELCOME

For further information, please contact the Chamber of Commerce

Phone 20 925 or e-mail: [chamber@commerce.co.ck](mailto:chamber@commerce.co.ck)



[www.cookislandschamber.org](http://www.cookislandschamber.org)

**AGM NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Cook Islands Chamber of Commerce will be held on:

**Date:** Thursday 17th September 2015

**Time:** 4.30 p.m.

**Venue:** Trader Jack's Restaurant, Avarua, Rarotonga

**Agenda:**

1. Confirmation of Quorum
2. Proxy Votes
3. Welcome by the President
4. Confirmation of Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting 30 October 2014
5. Matters Arising from these Minutes
6. President's Report
7. Treasurer and Auditor Reports
8. Election of Officers
9. Nomination and approval of Auditor for 2015 – 16
10. General Business
11. Associate Membership
12. Other

The Chamber of Commerce is your Private Sector Organisation in the Cook Islands

For further information, please contact the Chamber office

**Phone:** 20 925 **E-mail:** [chamber@commerce.co.ck](mailto:chamber@commerce.co.ck)

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**COOK ISLANDS TOURISM  
MARKETING CORPORATION**

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
ACCREDITATION FOR PROVISION OF GOODS  
AND SERVICES  
(DESTINATION MARKETING)**

The Cook Islands Tourism Marketing Corporation (CITMC) is the tourism marketing arm and destination development agency of the Government of the Cook Islands.

As a government statutory body, the CITMC is required to follow the procurement policies and procedures as outlined by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, these are located on the procurement website [www.procurement.gov.ck](http://www.procurement.gov.ck).

Given the global nature of CITMC business and the need to meet government guidelines, it is necessary that all companies, organisations and individuals that intend to work with CITMC be vetted by a streamlined process using set criteria to ensure transparency, accountability and value for money.

CITMC have identified seven key marketing areas in which companies can apply for accreditation:

1. Branding and Creative Services (creative services agencies and similar);
2. Trade (wholesalers, airlines, online travel agencies);
3. E-marketing (website, online, social media);
4. Representation (sales and marketing, public relations);
5. Communications (content, collateral, imagery, moving footage);
6. Media (online/digital, TV, print); and
7. Other

This EOI process will assist in providing the Corporation with a list of accredited suppliers to choose from when considering Requests for Proposals (RFP's) for the provision of goods and/or services in the future.

CITMC is encouraging all new and existing partners to submit your expression of interest in order for CITMC to comply with the Cook Islands Government procurement processes.

Applications and all additional information must be submitted and received by the closing time and date of 4.00pm on Tuesday 15 September 2015.

Applicants should complete the Accreditation for Provision of Goods and Services (Destination Marketing) Application Form' online at [www.cookislands.travel/goods-and-services](http://www.cookislands.travel/goods-and-services) and submit/return it to the Cook Islands Tourism Corporation by the time and date shown above.

All queries regarding this process can be directed to Karla Eggelton Director – Sales & Marketing on email [karla.eggelton@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:karla.eggelton@cookislands.gov.ck) or phone 29-435.

**FOOTBALL UPDATE**

# Platini to keep his FIFA manifesto under wraps as big questions mount

FIFA presidential candidate Michael Platini will publish his manifesto in the next six to eight weeks and not, as had been anticipated, at the first session with the international media at the conclusion of Champions and Europa League business in Monaco last week Friday 28 August.

UEFA's president is expected to be grilled on a number of issues, not least exactly how he intends to improve FIFA's image and why his relationship with Prince Ali bin al-Hussein of Jordan, who UEFA backed so publically in the last election against Sepp Blatter in May, appears to have irrevocably broken down.

He can also expect to be questioned on what is being increasingly regarded in Greece football and law enforcement circles, as UEFA's support of Greek football's

criminal and match-fixing cartels.

According to Reuters source, Platini will cite the future makeup of the World Cup, the international calendar, changes to the laws of the game and the role of football's law-making body The International Football Association Board as key issues he feels need addressing.

One issue Platini will find himself having to tackle is goal-line technology which he has long proposed in favour of his preference for additional assistant referees. FIFA now embrace goal-line technology in its major tournaments and the Frenchman will have to acknowledge at some point that the majority of stakeholders globally are in favour of the system.

Platini's proposals on the World Cup could conclude



expansion of the finals from current 32 teams, though he has railed in the past about the financial burden events of this scale put on host countries.

He has already overseen an increase in the number of countries at the European championship finals from

16 to 24, starting from next year's tournament in France – and is also behind the revolutionary pan-European finals in 13 different European venues in 2020 though, if he takes over from Blatter, he will not be around at UEFA to see that through.

# Ronaldo tops world sport's social media ranking. Barca and Real beat Man Utd

A Barcelona-based study has found that Real Madrid and Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo has the strongest social media presence of all athletes in the world.

The report devised by Apple tree communications calculated that Ronaldo has 167.9 million followers on all of his social media accounts combined.

His rivalry with Lionel Messi is well documented and this is one battle where Ronaldo is certainly way ahead of his nemesis from Barcelona. In fact Messi only makes it third on to the list with 101.6 million followers with his Barcelona team mate Neymar pipping him into second place with just over 102 million followers.

The first non-footballer on the list is basketball player Lebron James who has a respectable 56

million followers on social media. This puts him the 5th most followed athlete in the World.

The report also suggests that the top two teams in Spain are way ahead of any other football club in the world. Manchester United are the third most followed team globally with just over 83 million followers combined on all their social media accounts.

Interestingly the third biggest Spanish side Atletico Madrid only has 14 million followers worldwide which is a big drop from their Madrid rivals who have nearly 133 million followers across all their channels.

Overall the Spanish clubs come out on top against the Premier League with La Liga teams having a combined total of 304.2 million followers compared to 285 million in the Premier League.



This is obviously heavily due to the influence of Barcelona and Real Madrid.

The report doesn't take in any of China's social media accounts

which could potentially sway things as international football becomes increasingly popular in the country. Facebook and Twitter are banned in China.