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# Unconvincing Preliminary Outcome just another attempt to mask CIP Government's corruption

Financial reporting falls well short of the Financial Secretary Richard Neves' professional skill base, once again his inability to provide an accurate factual account of sovereign finances is exaggerated bringing into question why is he being paid a \$1,000 a day every day of the year? What skills does he have to justify \$330,000 a year plus the many extras?

Whenever Neves produces any resemblance of a statement of the nation's finances they are fertiliser for seeds of doubt he and his Minister Mark Brown has any fiscal competencies. The invention of their brand of financial gibberish is rightly and best labelled Nenevanomics.

Neves' latest attempt to hood wink the public that the state of our sovereign funds is in a good space with the further outlook sunshine and roses continues to reflect he is drowning in a cesspool of incompetence's. Even after employing an off shore advisor at an unnecessary premium fee the latest Preliminary Outcome 2014/15 (PO) is a document of self incriminating creative accounting.

Time is the proof of all that is questionable and try as he might with all hands on deck in his biggest salvaging task to date Neves simply fails to line up the fiscal planets, he has over cooked the books one too many times, every one of his wizardry sleight of hand magic tricks is now questioned for proof and evidence of fact, blanket comments to umbrella a multitude of unlawful expenditure no longer is accepted for his unashamed lies after lies he has blatantly told the whole country on national radio has rendered the words of his mouth impotent.

A control freak in the Eddie Drollet mould, Neves thrives because he was quick to realise he was among economic ignoramus and intellectually retarded fiscal dependents. He has relished the extent of his default bestowed power to manipulate the lazy Prime Minister Henry Puna and his scatter brain Minister Mark Brown who were impressed with Neves willingness to accept all their too hard issues they could not comprehend or materialise by solution applications.

There have been no boundaries or lines in the sand to demark the extent of Neves free reign to operate beyond the constraints and perimeters of his authority. Unhindered and



Premature smiles for Minister Mark Brown and Fin Secretary Richard Neves

oblivious by social and cultural sensitivities Neves has run amuck leaving a trail of political fractions for Puna/Brown to mop up with dismissive arrogance and disgracefully unchallenged by a pathetically weak and compliant Demo opposition led by William Heather.

Not having as much of the facts the superficial PO is founded on, the 43 page document will take time to digest and interpret but an initial reading red flags don't have to be waved to attract one's discerning attention.

Let's examine one noticeable red flag of concern, on page 20 under the title Capital Expenditure it states *Increases in the increased authority for capital spending in 2014/15 included:* Before we look at any of those 16 listed items, there is the question of what increased authority for capital spending in 2014/15? I am unconvinced any authority exists, if it does then when was it appropriated? A detailed examination of the Budget Documents for 2014/15 fails to provide any evidence of appropriation. What on earth does *increased authority* mean? There is no explanatory evidence in any legislation that defines that term. Because it is on the basis of these two words money is being spent with no legal mandate to do so.

The second listed item where unlawful money was spent states: *New improvements to the National Auditorium coinciding with the 50th anniversary celebration - \$0.796 million.*

Is it not within the public's interest to know what that amount of money in itemised form was spent on and who was engaged to carry out the work or supply the goods? Minister Brown for the sake of good governance and transparency have the decency to provide an audited account of the expenditure of the \$796,000 available for public consumption.

Put it all on the table Minister, demonstrate no one is lying, rumour has it the Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) Minister Tearki Heather's company T&M Heather Ltd were sizeable recipients of these funds and there why were no tenders advertised for any of the expenditure of this amount.

Was this an oversight or another blatant hidden agenda exercise? Is this another breach of the MFEM Act in relation to its procurement policy?

"Increased authority," what a load of inventive nonsense, terminology designed to mask the unlawful expenditure of public funds, all to avoid the CIP government going to Parliament for Puna's fear of facing the motion of no confidence that was tabled in the last sitting.

- George Pitt

# Puna's out of court settlement - a bribe?

## *Demos wake up after dithering for one year*

After dithering or hibernating for the last 12 months the Democratic Party leader Smiley Heather has come out barking about an incident filed away in the political archives. All of a sudden he his ranting about the Police's failure to charge the Prime Minister for his involvement in an accident that the media highlighted at the time then in typical fashion it got filed in the too hard draw. The fact that Puna is widely unpopular on Rarotonga doesn't help his cause.

One year ago, on a Saturday morning about 9 am, the 11 October 2014 to be exact the Prime Minister Henry Puna had a laps of concentration and unfortunately for Tupapa resident Taripo Tokorangi the car Puna was driving collided with the bike Tokorangi was driving.

This accident occurred at the Main Road and St Joseph's road intersection, Tokorangi was driving in the direction towards Avatiu. He was dislodged from his bike and appeared to only suffer very minor physical injuries. Nor was there any noticeable damage to the bike. Fortunately for Puna the first police Officer on the accident scene was a relative. Despite the victim, the ambulance driver and medical staff, including some who assisted Tokorangi before the arrival of the ambulance all saying the Prime Minister's breath smelt strongly of alcohol, that was not surprising as Puna had attended a 50th birthday party the night before at the Islander Hotel where he was consuming wine and he continued to do so at an afterhours gathering close by.

Colleagues of Police Officer Sergeant Avele Naku were surprised Puna returned a breathalyser reading of 300 well below the limit of 400 when one considers the alcohol remains in one's blood for 15 hours after consumption. Police denied Naku gave a false reading.

Tokorangi was not given a breathalyser test at the scene of the accident but was given a

blood test when he was taken to the hospital. Naku prevented medical staff from giving Puna a blood test. The net result Puna was never charged for the minor offence because the official Police response was the two parties settled the matter between them.

What had transpired was the victim was asked by a Police Officer, "Do you want the Police to lay charges against our Prime Minister?" A bewildered Tokorangi without legal representation replied, "What do you mean?" the question was repeated then the victim said "No." This was conveyed to Puna.

While the Demos are making an issue about no Police charges being laid against Puna as it is not up to the victim to decide if an offence has been committed, they have missed the critical point and that is the question: What was the settlement?

What happened to make everything go away? For all their pot shots they are taking at the Police the deluded Demos may as well be firing blanks. Then again it may take another year for Smiley Heather to wake up from another slumber drought to ask that question. If Puna has nothing to hide let him come clean and put an end to all the speculation, there is no point in denying what has transpired because it's been in the public domain for nearly a year.

The worst Puna would be penalised if charged for careless driving causing an accident is to be discharged without conviction with Court costs of \$30.

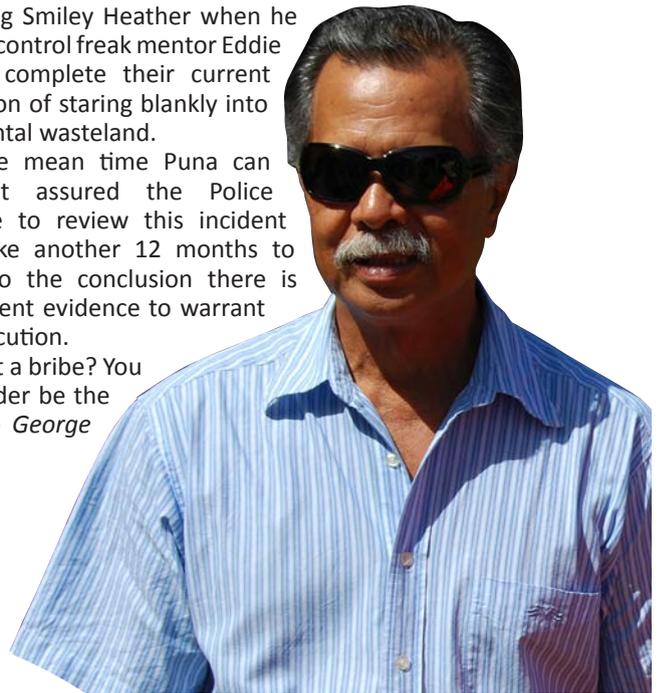
The settlement was Mr and Mrs Puna visited Tokorangi and gave him some food and money. They apologised and there was no discussion of Police charges. The compensation and apology was accepted with appreciation by Tokorangi. Culturally the Punas did the right thing, throughout Polynesia this is widely practised and accepted by authorities as a means to settle issues.

What was the food and how much money was given? We'll leave that question to the

dithering Smiley Heather when he and his control freak mentor Eddie Drollet complete their current obsession of staring blankly into the mental wasteland.

In the mean time Puna can be rest assured the Police promise to review this incident may take another 12 months to come to the conclusion there is insufficient evidence to warrant a prosecution.

Was it a bribe? You the reader be the judge. - George Pitt



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## Letter to the Editor

# Beer - Claims the law has been broken

**D**ear Editor  
In Saturday's CI News story headlined 'Brown Got It Wrong, says Beer' it would appear that I too have got it wrong!

I referred to three publicly-known decisions using the authority of Executive Council and 70(3)b to expend money outside of an Appropriation Act. Two of these were detailed by Minister Brown and Financial Secretary Neves on the 2nd of October press conference releasing the 'Final Preliminary Outcome for 2014/15' - Referred in this letter as FPO. They were, in round numbers, \$1 million for new coins, \$1.3 million for TMN transportation, and \$320K in the CIVIL List top up. All this added up to about \$2.6 million and was ALL that was spent using Article 70(3) b according to Brown and Neves.

There was a decision made in Executive Council back in March for the 2014/15 financial year. The CI News covered that expenditure where Minister Brown claimed he used 70(3)b to expend \$1.7 million. Included in this expenditure was part of the Civil List top up mentioned by Brown and Neves on October 2nd. How much of the Civil List was included in the \$1.7 million was not shown at the time. Taking these values, the \$2.6 million claimed by Brown/Neves should actually be \$3.2 million and not \$3.32 million as I had originally noted.

Because of the serious nature of what is beginning to unfold, all details — no matter how minor — must be correct. We need to be as precise as we can, and if we obtain new information we must not be too proud to correct ourselves.

Since the FPO - 2014/15 was released, and having had time to review this and see all those expenditures I have concluded that the \$3.36 million for 'Unauthorised Expenditure' has been exceeded what is permissible under the provision of 70(3)b. The total amount expended without an Appropriation Act by my calculations is in round numbers: \$8 million. The total amount that

has exceeded the authority of 70(3)b is \$4.6 million.

In other words, Minister Brown and Mr. Neves have quite simply broken the law.

The Executive has exceeded its authority and spent \$4.6 million beyond the Constitutional limits.

What is exceedingly of concern is the attempt to cover these expenditures by inserting items that have no relevance to the 'Unauthorised Expenditure' schedule in 'Table 5: Changes to the Budget Authority Approved by Order in Executive Council'. Even the title of this is incorrect in this context but not a serious breach. It's not as serious as inserting 2 items that cannot and should not be there.

The \$1.6 million in "savings" (an unexpended balance) for the Air NZ underwrite and the \$272K for 'Reduced Authority on Travel Expenditure with Te Maeva Nui travel' is a problem. Even if it was permitted (and it isn't) to use the \$1.6 million in unexpended balances for the underwrite in this way, how could Mr. Brown/Neves have known that this amount from March would not be required by Air NZ in April May or June of the 2014/15 financial year? In other words, logic tells us that the total amount Parliament has appropriated could NOT be regarded as savings. They are unexpended balances because the financial year had NOT been completed. But the point is moot: the law states quite obviously that you can't do this. I would be very interested to hear why Brown/Neves think they can.

The \$272K will have those who know where the money has come from shaking their heads in disbelief at how this found its way onto this schedule in the first place. Well, we know why, Brown/Neves are trying to reduce their 'Unauthorised Expenditure' ceiling by fallaciously inserting amounts that have no relevance at all to 'Orders In Executive Council' relating to 70(30)b of the Constitution. If the \$272K was an Order in Executive Council and an expense related to 70(3) b then it would have been a duplication because this amount has ALREADY been appropriated

by Parliament in October last year for the 2014/15 financial year for the Ministry of Culture! As in the Air NZ example it cannot be used as an unexpended balance or therefore savings to offset expenditure pursuant to 70(3)b. If you were to be critical, you would be forgiven for thinking that all the expenditure during the TMN 50th Celebrations was lower than originally budgeted so therefore the \$272K was not required. Well, that would be a first!

But let's be clear, because the law is clear. You cannot use unexpended balances in this way, they can only be used in the following financial years and in line with an Appropriation Act.

As there are concerns about the schedule of 'Unauthorised Expenditure' in the FPO there are equal or greater concerns about Capital Expenditure and the lack of discernible authority to spend. The \$600K for the 'flash' cars as one example and there are many others. Although the country knows we have spent this money on these cars, but there is nothing in either the Appropriation Act 2014 or 2015 or the FPO 2014/15 schedule of Capital Expenditure that notes this budget item. Brown/Neves say they have all been sold, but have they? But even if they had that's no reason not to include them in the FPO Capital Schedule, so why has \$600K been left off, some of these went to Government departments? On the 2nd October the Financial Secretary stated in a press conference recording that some cars had recently received deposits awaiting balances, doesn't this then contradict the following notation in the FPO:

"Purchase of cars for the Constitutional celebrations which have been subsequently sold - \$0.6 million".

Not only don't they exist on the FPO - Capital Expenditure schedule it doesn't exist on the 'Unauthorised Expenditure' schedule either. Goodness! That would then mean that there was neither an Appropriation Act to support the purchase nor a decision using 70(3)b.

Perhaps it was Brown/Neves

own money and they bought the cars themselves.

Further, Brown/Neves persist with the fiction that 'Unauthorised Expenditure' can be funded from savings. Nothing can be further from the truth. Consider this, they claim that the annual appropriation for 2014/15 was under spent by (round numbers) \$40 million, therefore by extension of that bogus logic that would then allow Brown/Neves to spend that difference on whatever they liked, that's simply unlawful!

If expenses were "mainly attributable to lower levels of spending by agencies" as the 2nd October Brown/Neves press release suggests, has it occurred to them that our tiny net operating surplus would end up as a major deficit? That would be the type of disclosure one would expect from the Financial Secretary. But no, we are fed the political guff avoiding the hard realities until it's all too late.

If anything this hi-lights the urgent need for political reform and that includes parliamentary reform. The guillotining of the budget debate over the last 3 years has slowly but surely brought us to this sorry state of affairs for the country. The 10 days in the Committee of Supply would have given the chance for MP's to ask questions, debate positions and like most of these things the troubles, the concerns and the obvious would have been exposed. That's democracy! The other form of not holding Parliament and making decisions unilaterally is a dictatorship.

As I said on Radio and I'll say it again, I hope Brown and Neves are listening — or in this case reading. Just as importantly, I expect both the Public Service Commissioner and Auditor Director to be making appointments with the Opposition as a matter of urgency this week to go through our concerns and for these bodies to do what they are required to do under the law.

*James Beer.  
MP Muri Enua  
Opposition Spokesperson for  
Finance.*



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# Information wanted on burglary



**A**n Atupa resident is seeking the public's help in finding the intruder who broke into his home on the back road about 2am on Sunday 27 September. The incident has also been reported to Police. If anyone has any information that may be helpful they can contact the resident on ph 51695.

The resident told the Herald he awoke and disturbed the intruder who ran off through the back door of his home. The intruder was a man who apparently entered through the back door of the house and took a sum of cash money. He ran off through the rear of the property.

The intruder left behind a pair of size XXL grey shorts hanging on a back wall and also a pair of red jandals in the grass about size 10. He may be a local as it is not imagined he would run any great distance without his pants and footwear.

Why the intruder entered the house without his pants on is unknown.

# Teuira Napa to crown next Miss Pacific Islands



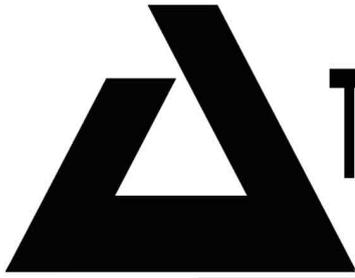
*By Charles Pitt*

**F**ormer Miss Cook Islands and Miss South Pacific Teuira Napa, is to stand in as replacement for the current Miss Pacific Islands, Samoan Miss Latafale Auva'a when the next Miss Pacific Islands is crowned in Rarotonga in December.

Miss Latafale Auva'a is to represent Samoa at the upcoming Miss World event which clashes with the Miss Pacific Islands contest to be held from 5-12 December. Teuira has been chosen to crown the new Miss Pacific Islands. 10 countries have confirmed their attendance so far and some have yet to hold their pageants. Registrations close on November 6th.

This announcement was made on Tuesday at Club Raro Resort by Kristian Scanlon, who is Miss Auva'a's official chaperone and Secretary to the Miss Pacific Islands Pageant Board. He and Miss Auva'a have been in the Cook Islands for the past week as guests of the Miss Cook Islands Pageant Association. While here, the two have also visited Aitutaki and Mangaia.

Scanlon is also Events Coordinator for the Samoa Tourism Authority. This is his first visit to the Cook Islands.



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# \$6.1 million operating surplus to showcase government performance ahead of meeting of regional Finance Ministers

*Finance Minister Mark Brown is pleased that government's performance in achieving an operating surplus came prior to his attending the World Bank/IMF conference of the world's Finance Ministers and the meeting of regional Finance Ministers to be held later this month*

*By Charles Pitt*

**O**ur government's achievement of a \$6.1 million operating surplus provided a timely boost for Finance Minister Mark Brown's confidence in government's fiscal performance when he attended the World Bank/IMF conference for the world's Finance Ministers in Lima, Peru last week and the side meeting of Commonwealth Finance Ministers.

An upbeat Brown reported from Lima on 7 October that our government is seen as a leader when it comes to good fiscal management.

It's a remarkable performance for a country with a very small population, small Budget, no significant industrial production, practically no exports, no significant economic development, no central bank, subject to a foreign currency, reliant on imports which capture 60 cents in each dollar and only one major industry (tourism).

The surplus also puts the government in the right frame ahead of the meeting of regional Finance Ministers to be held in Rarotonga later this month. Brown will certainly want to showcase government's fiscal performance. It's really all he has to crow about at the moment.

It was at a media conference at his office back on Friday 2 October that Minister Brown released the preliminary outcome report for the 2014/2015 June quarter which rounds off the year. The highlight of the report was the estimated net operating balance of the general government sector showing a surplus of \$6.1 million.

Financial Secretary Richard Neves also attended that media conference.

At that time, Minister Brown said he was pleased with this achievement as initially there was a slim operating surplus of just \$9,000.

Brown said operating revenue was \$128.2 million while expenditure was \$122.1 million.

He said government had performed conservatively within a constrained budget. However he had been confident of a stronger surplus especially with savings in the Air NZ underwrite. Increased revenue from the extra fishing days also helped said Brown.

The estimated overall fiscal deficit balance for 2014/2015 had decreased from around \$15 million to \$5.077 million. Brown said he was confident this figure would move into surplus over the next two years.

Brown said the latest report had more indepth information than previous reports, in respect of each Ministry for operations and capital. Government is not legally required to provide such a wealth of data but releasing the information helps to avoid future requests under the Official Information Act.

Brown said in relation to expenditure approved by Executive Council under S70 of the Constitution, he was happy actual expenditure was below the appropriated amount. He said total expenditure, inclusive of reported development partner assistance was estimated to be \$181.587 million compared to the approved appropriation of \$224.383 million. This spending incorporates spending provided under additional authorities made through Orders in Executive Council.

The Democratic Party opposition has since challenged the claim government has stayed within the 1.5 percent cap for expenditure.

Commenting on financial performance, Brown said the weaknesses raised by the recent Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability- PEFA- report in 2011 have been addressed. PEFA had confirmed 23 areas of

improvement during their 2014 assessment which confirmed the Cook Islands as one of the best performing nations in the Pacific in terms of finances.

Brown said debt was being managed well with net debt being \$85 million which was around 25 percent of GDP which was considered a modest level, well within the ceiling recommended by the FRR (Financial Responsibility Ratio) of 35 percent. This is up slightly on the ratio at the time of the Budget which was 22 percent.

As regards the review of the MFEM Act undertaken by Consultant Richard Emery, Secretary Neves said the recommendations from that review can be expected to be released for public/stakeholder comment in about 4-6 weeks time.

## Comments

A concern for the Minister should be that the surplus was achieved without any notable increase in productivity, exports, significant economic growth or increase in tax rates. Although the overall balance of payments figure is positive, it remains dependent on tourism figures increasing along with visitor expenditure. However this is now in jeopardy unless more quality accommodation comes on stream and visitors spend more. The trade imbalance remains in the negative and is increasing. Unless less is spent on imports and we begin to earn more from exports, the gap will become too wide to close. Also there was no reported increase in GDP. It clearly reveals a gap between fiscal management and management in the area of economic growth. This must be addressed as the private sector, despite two economic task force reports, has yet to see any announcement of a long term strategy for economic growth.

The surplus was attained

largely through savings rather than growth. However, some question hangs over the original estimates and whether they were too ambitious as revenue from the main taxation categories (VAT, Company, Income) are all 4-5 percent below forecast. MFEM's explanations appear to be of events not originally factored into forecasts but benefit of hindsight. We are lead to believe human behavior on the part of cigarette importers is difficult to predict. (The PEFA - report while applying to last year's performance, considers a variation below 10 percent of budget as acceptable-page 9, item 12- however this seems to be in relation to overspending).

Revenue from personal income tax (now under \$20 million) may drop further when the lower rate for income tax is reduced in January. To government's credit the rate needed to be lowered as for some time government was collecting more than the recommended FRR for income tax - 27 percent as opposed to 26 percent. While government was happy to mention in previous Budget documents its performance was within the FRRs for other categories such as borrowing, loan repayments, debt and expenditure, it consistently failed to mention it was collecting more income tax than it should.

We will have to wait for the December half yearly fiscal update to get a better picture of the economy and government's performance compared to inflation and GDP figures.

The full report is available on the MFEM website <http://www.mfem.gov.ck/mfemdocs/treasury/financials-1/quarterly-financials/1114-june-2015-quarter-financial-report>

The Herald will analyze the Report more thoroughly in upcoming issues.

## *Congratulations to Teokotai Rahui Jim*

*By Courtney Matai*

**C**ongratulations to Teokotai Rahui Jim (also known as Honey or Tai) who is woman of the month for October.

Tai is an outstanding sportswoman with significant achievements in the sport of lawn bowls. She has also made a major contribution to the Child Welfare Association. She is one of the longest serving members. She has been president of the Tutakimoa Child Welfare branch since 2000. She is responsible in every clinic/pounu days preparing the clinic and ensuring a clean environment. She provides baby records to CICWA and works closely with the Ministry of Health and the Public Health Nurses.

She has been the Pa Enuua Tokerau representative since 2011.

### **Family**

Tai was born on 15 October 1965 on Rarotonga to a family of 8, four boys and four girls. She's the seventh child of the late Papa Tuakana Taia Puroko (Katuina) and mama Arakino Puroko (Mama Sino) of Tutakimoa, from the Northern Group and Niue.

She will be 50 yrs old on Thursday 15 October.

She married Phillip Teokotai William Tangi Jim on 26 January 1996 and they have 11 children, Joseph Taia, Frank, Victoria Ngatupuna, John Jim Nicholls (adopted), Abraham, Louisa Marekino, Repaio Junior, Philli Henry Ellis, Emily, Tiare Tapita and the last born Phillip Andrew Teokotai William Junior.

At present they have 12 grandchildren.

### **Education**

Tai attended Tutakimoa Kindergarten next to the Rarotonga Bowling Club in 1970 and her teacher was Mrs Dorothy Paniani.

From there she moved on to

Avarua school where her teachers through the grades and lower forms were; Tau Enoka, Maria Tupou, Mrs Tokataina Tuteru, Louisa Tomatona, Metua Jacob, Tapita Areai, Mr Ngauru and Ngatoko Rongo.

She attended Tereora College from 1979 to 1981. Her teachers from form 3 to form 5 were; Ani Kave, David Moeroa and Maara Vaiimene.

### **Employment**

Tai worked for Scott and Watson for two years before going to Rakahanga in 1984 for the opening of their community hall and then to Manihiki to be with Phillip. In 1986 they had their second child Frank Tangi Jim Junior then moved back to Rarotonga at the end of the year.

In 1988 they went to Suwarrow with Papa Tangi Jim and sister in law Frances Jim for two years before moving back to Rarotonga in 1990. In 1993 she was Vice President and Caretaker of Tutakimoa Clinic and was elected President in 2000.

### **Her favourites**

Top of the list is lawn bowls followed by food, Polynesian music and her children and grandchildren.

### **Hobbies and interests**

Tai is a strong supporter of the Catholic Church, Tutakimoa Clinic and Rakahanga Housie. She also used to make ei orders for people or groups to help with domestic financial support before joining the lawn bowls club.

### **Beliefs/spirituality**

Tai and her family grew up in a religious environment and she is very passionate in her Catholic Church and she supports and religious programmes in the community.

### **Involvement in organizations**

Tai supports any organizations, groups, workshops and programmes which will benefit the community. She also supported the Rakahanga Dance Group for



Woman of the Month Teokotai Rahui Jim

the Constitution celebrations during the time when Piritau Nga was leader of the group. Cook islands Child Welfare, Catholic Womens Organisation, Tutakimoa/Takuvaime community groups, Rarotonga Lawn Bowls Club.

### **Memorable experiences**

Winning the gold medal for the ladies singles in Lawn Bowls at the games in PNG in July this year, standing on the podium and proudly singing the Cook Islands National Anthem. It was an unbelievable and emotional experience.

### **Goals**

1. To support Child Welfare programmes for children to help them make wise and healthy choices and decisions in their lives.
2. To do her best in lawn bowls and be a proud representative for the Cook Islands.

### **What is important**

1. Praising and thanking Lord God for all the goodness and mercy he has given her and her

family throughout their lives.

2. A good education for her children and for them to live a good and peaceful life looking after one another.

### **Sporting achievements**

Began playing lawn bowls in 1999 as a casual or substitute bowler then in 2000 registered as a full time playing member. Since 2003, Tai's achievements at Club, National and International levels are legendary and too many to detail here. She has won numerous titles and medals.

She has represented the Cook Islands with distinction at the 2007 and 2009 Arafura Games in Australia, 2010 Commonwealth Games in India, 2014 Commonwealth Games in Scotland, the World Bowls in NZ in 2014, the Pacific Games in PNG in 2015.

In November she and her husband will represent the Cook Islands at the Asia/Pacific Games in Christchurch, NZ.

## **Woman of the Month Sponsors:**

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15. Martha Makimare

Cook Islands Herald Issue 788

# TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, WED 7th Oct 2015

## Penrhyn new fuel depot opened

*Te Kave Kōrero apologises to listeners for not having a programme on Wednesday 7th October.*

*Te Kave Kōrero presenter, Tony Hakaoro, was in Penrhyn on that day as a member of the Media Team accompanying the Deputy Prime Minister, Teariki Heather and his wife, and the New Zealand High Commissioner, Nick Hurley and Mrs Hurley. The Deputy Prime Minister and the New Zealand High Commissioner's party travelled to Penrhyn by a French Air Force aircraft to attend the opening and handover of the fuel depot and to mark the end of the Tropic Twilight Exercise.*

Having accompanied His Excellency, Tom Marsters, to Penrhyn in mid September, which was my first trip back to my birth place, in over 40 years, I consider myself very fortunate to accompany the Deputy Prime Minister and the New Zealand High Commissioner to Penrhyn on 7th October. It was my second trip to Penrhyn in as many months.

On this occasion I was a member of the Media Team accompanying the New Zealand High Commissioner.

Members of the Media Team was myself and Sean Isamaela for Cook Islands Television, Phillipa Webb for Cook Islands News and Mary from Radio New Zealand. Other members in our party travelling to Penrhyn were senior officers and engineers of the New Zealand Army, Mac Mokoroa of Infrastructure Cook Islands, Steve Barret of the NZ High Commissioner's Office, Rei Jack Jnr from the Department of Internal Affairs, Police Assistant Commissioner Aka Matapo as well as army personnels from the NZ, Australian, Chinese, UK and American Defence Force.

There were 22 of us on the trip.

The trip to Penrhyn was to mark the opening and handover of the newly relocated fuel depot in the village of Omoka in Penrhyn.

The fuel depot was relocated from its previous position on the wharf to a better location further inland to minimise any damage to the depot in the event of rough seas or hurricanes in Penrhyn.



**Aka Matapo representing Police, Minister of Police and Infrastructure Hon. Teariki Heather and NZ High Commissioner to the Cook Islands, HE Nick Hurley**

The move was also an environmental initiative to minimise or prevent diesel leaking into the lagoon in the case of an accident or damage from the elements.

The trip was also to mark the end of the Tropic Twilight Exercise between the American, Chinese, French, New Zealand and the United Kingdom Armies.

Upon arrival in Omoka we were taken to the site of the relocated fuel depot.

Just about everyone in the village were present at the site anticipating the official opening and handover ceremony.

Vaine Wichman, economist and the local Executive Officer on Penrhyn was in charge of the opening ceremony.

Penrhyn's Member of Parliament, the Honourable Willie John, was also present in Omoka and had been on the island for about month.

Speeches from the Deputy Prime Minister, the New Zealand High Commissioner, the local MP and Deputy Mayor preceeded the cutting of the ribbon to the depot.

Local Cook Islands Christian Church Minister, Rev. Posini Tekena, blessed the depot prior to the cutting of the ribbon.

The honour cutting the ribbons was accorded to the Deputy Prime Minister and the New Zealand High Commissioner.

Morning tea was served after the opening

Following morning tea the official party travelled to the other village, Te Tautua, also known as Motutapu, by barge and an aluminium boat.

The welcome in Te Tautua was extraordinary. Everyone in the village were present on the wharf and were dressed very well for the occasion.

The formalities were held in the local Sunday School Hall. There were welcome and official speeches followed by lunch.

On the menu was crayfish, coconut crabs, fish, turtle meat, taro, maniota, pancakes, poke mangaro, poke ara, chilled coconut drinks and others.

It was a beautiful lunch complimented by a 'live' band playing mostly Penrhyn songs. It was magnificent.

After lunch some of us went on a tour of the village inspecting all the infrustructres repaired by the soldiers during the Tropic Twilight exercise.

And just as everything was going very well, it was time for us to leave before it got too dark.

Like my previous trip, saying goodbye to everyone in Te Tautua was very emotional. We had just met them and in two hours we were leaving them to go back to Omoka.

But this time, there were no tears and I'm not sure why *continued next page*

# TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, FRI 9 OCT 2015

*Te Kave Kōrero apologises to listeners for not having a programme on Friday 9th October.*

*....continued from previous page*

The return trip across the lagoon from Te Tautua to Omoka took about 35 minutes. It was indeed a more smoother journey compared to the one from Omoka to Te Tautua. It was smoother this time round because the wind had eased and the waves were not as rough as they were previously. When we reached Omoka we were briefed and advised to go to our accomodations, take a short rest, as we were expected to be at Omoka's Island Council Administration building for the official farewell ceremony and dinner.

At our accommodation myself and Harris were engaged in an interesting conversation with our hosts, the Honourable Willie John, and his lovely wife.

Just after 6pm we took early showers and dressed up for the dinner. We got there in time and there were already a lot of people at the venue.

All army personnel, dressed in their army uniforms were all seated and waiting for the function to start.

As usual, the local Minister, Rev Posini Tekena conducted the prayer service starting with a traditional hymn, a short sermon, prayer and followed by grace.

The food was beautiful. There were fish, rice, paua with curry, greyfish and others. I have never seen so much sea food in my life. I am not a sea food fan but I know a lot of people who are. They would have loved to be there I'm sure.

After dinner the locals conducted a gift-giving ceremony.

Each member of our party, the soldiers as well as police personnel on Te Kukupa, received a rito hat, woven from local rito (a type of fibre made from coconut leaves) and a coconut broom. Not one member missed out, everyone had one of each.

It was a very kind gesture on the part of the Island Council and the local people. Where in the world would you get this type of treatment?

No where else I would suggest except in the Cook Islands. It was a wonderful and beautiful occassion.

As a Penrhyn myself, having been borned in Te Tautua, I was so proud of what I saw and experienced. It made be proud to be a Tongarevan, a native of Penrhyn. I felt special. I'm sure everybody did.

Not only the gifting, the people and the



Defence personel from New Zealand, UK, US, China and France



Rei Jack Enoka, HS Inspector & GHD project manager Bob McKelvey



NZHC HE Nick Hurley, wife Christine with Penrhyn EO Vaine Wichman

food that were excellent, the music was faboulous too. We were priviliged to have two 'live' bands playing and entertaining us. There was the local Boys Brigade Brass Band and the local three piece string band from Te Tautua who had entertained us earlier in the afternoon during lunch in Te Tautua.

Although most of the songs and music were in Māori, it was nevertheless beautiful music.

And of course, not to be left out of the entertainment, the New Zealand Army soldiers took the stage and performed a very powerful and emotional haka.

It was fantastic. The chanting, the actions, movements or choreography were superb. It was simply magic to watch. It was almost like watching the All Blacks do the haka in a test match.

At the end of the night everybody said their goodbyes and went to their respective accomodations.

Sean and I followed the local MP to his house and we chatted until late in the night.

In the morning we were all invited to a

light lunch at the same venue where we were the night before.

Again the food was delicious.

When it was time to go, everybody said their goodbyes and there we were, off to the airport.

And as everyone boarded the French Air Force aircraft I could sense that some were very emotional but did not say much.

I stayed behind in Omoka because I had swapped seat with Mac Mokoroa. He was scheduled to come back to Rarotonga the next day but due to his meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister and a Chinese visiting group, I agreed to Mac taking my seat on that flight so he could return with the DPM.

Although there was a bit of a drama with my return flight, it was eventually sorted out and I did return to Rarotonga the next day, Friday 9th October.

Once again, I say thank you to the New Zealand High Commissioner, His Excellency Nick Hurley, for inviting us, the media, on this trip.

Meitaki maata e kia manuia.

# Nautilus Resort has top restaurant



The Winning team from the Nautilus (R-L) Viviane Fosbender, Maria Poila, Head Chef Mike Fosbender, Owner Paul Pearson, Varanise Sorby, David Sorby, Unique Chandra.

In a prize giving ceremony held at the islander Hotel on Saturday evening, the Nautilus Resort took out the inaugural Supreme Award for Restaurant of the Year topping five other Restaurants who competed with hundreds of diners voting on menus served. In a close competition, all restaurants scored over 90 points out of 100 indicating a high standard indeed.

The placings were;

1. Nautilus was the Gold Medal winner picking up \$1,000 from Prime Foods and a bottle of Bollinger Champagne from the Bond Store, the two major sponsors. The Nautilus won with 94.6 points out of 100 with 245 diners who chose the competition menu.

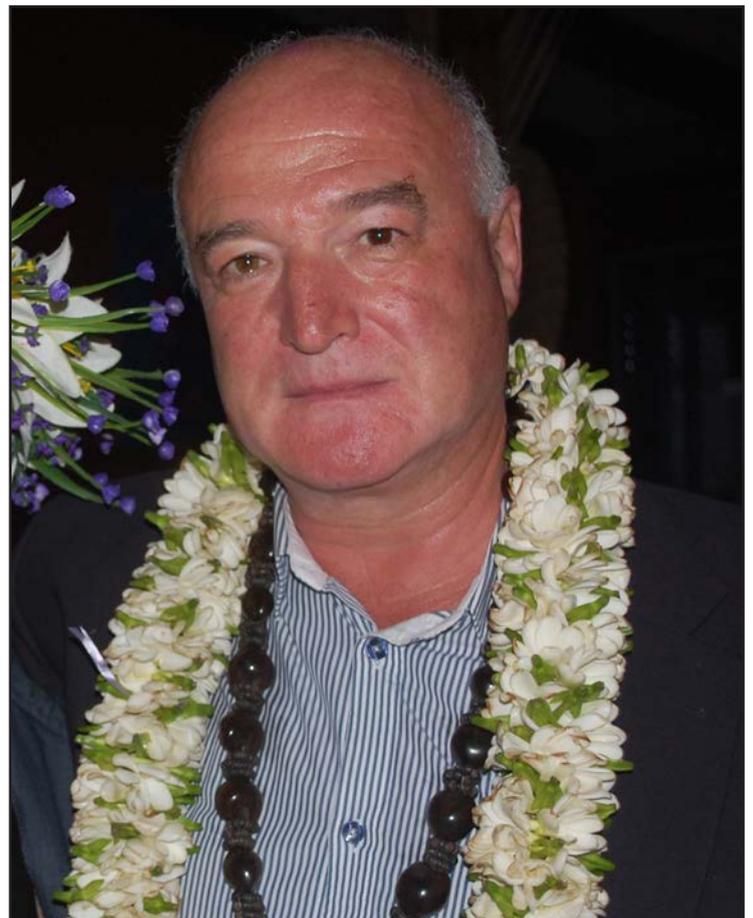
2. Pacific Resort Muri was second with Silver Medal and Best Service Award

Pacific Resort Aitutaki - Silver Medal - Best Food & Wine  
Sails Restaurant, Muri - Silver Medal - Most Innovative and Original

Manuia Beach Resort - Silver Medal – Best Atmosphere

Little Polynesian Resort – Silver Medal – Best Menu

Right: Philip Nordte President Chaine des Rotisseurs

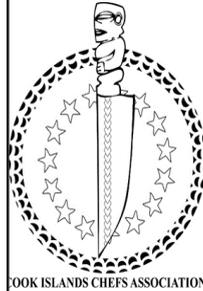




Sam Timoko President Cook Islands Chef Association



Daniel Forsyth General Manager Prime Foods



# Competition Menu

## Entrée

Braised lemongrass pork belly on crispy sumac crumbed aubergine, organic herb salsa and coated in a smooth carambola sauce

*Jules Taylor 2014 Marlborough Pinot Gris*

## Main

Steamed outer island parrotfish wrapped in rukau, stuffed with smoked pumpkin puree and red capsicum, laid over a kumara röesti, snake beans and a decadent vanilla curry sauce

*Palliser Estate 2014 Martinborough Chardonnay*

## Dessert

Coconut custard with pawpaw poke, banana & walnut semi-fredo with a tangy dragon fruit coulis and pawpaw seed tuille

*Frangelico hazelnut liqueur with fresh lime*



*Mike Fosbender - Executive Head Chef | David Sorby - Sous Chef  
Unique Chandra - Restaurant Operations Manager | Maria Poila - Restaurant Supervisor*

# One step closer to direct access to climate change financing

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) is pleased to announce that it has formally responded to feedback given from the Adaptation Fund panel on its original National Implementing Entity (NIE) submission.

This latest submission shows growing evidence of MFEM's strides to implement internationally recognised systems in key areas like financial management, procurement and activity management, taking the journey to accreditation one step

closer to a reality. Minister of Finance the Honourable Mark Brown noted that "in the context of no Pacific Island countries having yet gained NIE status, the Cook Islands Government can be very proud of its achievements to date".



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# Hearing to determine the value of Manihiki land taken by warrant

By Noeline Browne

When Government decided in its wisdom to take customary land in Manihiki by warrant for the purpose of installing a solar farm to produce renewable energy to the island, little did Government realize what a tangled web they had weaved. Or so it would seem after observing the proceedings in Court this week and last.

The Land Court was presided over by Justice Savage with Government represented by senior Crown Law counsel Catherine Evans and all the landowners represented by their counsel, Tina Browne. There were three sessions: the first day was a brief hearing relating to discovery of certain documents in the possession of Crown Law and requested by counsel for the landowners. Last Friday, at the second session, Tina Browne made the surprise announcement to the Court that up until that day, she thought she represented all landowners, but now she represented only some of the owners.

This was confirmed by Wilkie Rasmussen who represented a certain branch of the owners from Manihiki site and owners of the Penrhyn sites. Martha Henry also confirmed she represented certain other owners. She said her clients were prepared to accept the valuation to be fixed by the Court but wanted to ensure their names are included in the title and relative interest of the land they belong to. Two owners based in New Zealand had flown to Rarotonga to take part in the hearing. However, after some discussion with all counsel, Justice Savage said the case would be heard in two parts: the first would be to determine the value of the lands; and then to determine the title of the land, and relative interest on the land.

Repeta Puna from OPM gave evidence to explain how the \$20,000 per quarter acre valuation had been arrived at by the Government. Apparently, it was based on \$15,000 per

quarter plus a payment per coconut tree on the land and the figure of \$20,000 was arrived at. Repeta also said that the Government offer would be the same for all islands.

Second witness for the Crown was valuer Sam Brown who provided a more technical explanation of how he had arrived at the \$20,000 per quarter acre value where he considered economic, social, physical and market value factors. Most of his work was to value lease lands for lending purposes for the bank, and had never before valued land for warrant purposes. Complicating issues are that the land was taken by warrant, not by lease; and no private market exists for sale and purchase of leases occur on Manihiki, and that any land transactions that have occurred were for public purposes.

That valuation was challenged as too low by Tenga Mana, who valued the land at \$30,000 per quarter acre. He had a different method of valuing the land, which in addition to all the factors that Brown used, also factored in 'sentimental value' for loss of the land. His evidence was that a lease has a definite date on which to end, whereas a warrant can potentially go

on forever. Nor had Brown's valuation factored in the lack of yearly rental that a commercial lease would generate. Crown Law objected that sentimental value is a subjective factor, whereas professional valuations ought to be based on objective factors.

However, Tina Browne and Wilkie Rasmussen both defended the inclusion of 'sentimental value' [while conceding it may be the wrong term]. Under that heading, they would include the loss of the use of the land to themselves and to future generations; loss of yearly rental had the land been taken as a 60 year lease instead of being taken under warrant and so on. Justice Savage also put his own questions to both valuers: one at \$20,000 and the other at \$30,000 valuation, and suggested the valuers discuss their methodology for valuations between themselves and see if they could come up with a compromise between the two approaches and reach a compromise as to value.

Then on Monday 12 October, Tina Browne and Wilkie Rasmussen announced that the two valuers had met on Saturday and Sunday, and had agreed on a figure of \$26,500 using a compromise methodology they

had both agreed on and had signed a memorandum to that effect. Evans from Crown Law said that her instructions were to oppose any increase in the valuation, while Browne and Rasmussen seemed intent in trying for a minimum of \$30,000 plus. In short, all counsel seemed unhappy with the new figure. However, all counsel agreed that whatever valuation is determined for Manihiki, would apply equally to Rakahanga and to Penryhn sites.

Thus it was that both valuers were recalled for re-examination. During the re-examination, Crown Law and then Tina Browne, Justice Savage intervened to remind counsel, that they were re-examining their own respective witness. As such, they must not contradict their testimony, nor could they ask leading questions, neither could they mention issues that had not been raised under cross examination.

Before closing the Court for the day, Justice Savage in his role as Judge of the High Court then officially requisitioned the Land Court to determine title of the lands and the relative interest of the owners. The decision on the valuations is reserved, but will be provided by Justice Savage later this week.



Three volunteers at the recent Masters Games. Photo by Poko Utia

# Snippets from the Land Court

By *Noeline Browne*

The Land Court is a forum where family dramas in relation to land are played out in full view of everyone in the courtroom. The hearings for the Manihiki, Rakahanga and Penrhyn solar farm sites taken under warrant by the Government in late 2013 are no exception. The following snippets emerged in the course of the hearings this week and last:

- **\$26,500 per quarter acre** is the likely figure that the court will approve for compensation but neither side will be happy. It is more than the Government are prepared to offer, but is less than the owners are demanding for the loss of their land.

- **Willing or unwilling?** At one stage, the court noted that in a market, there is a 'willing but not anxious seller and a willing but not anxious buyer'. In this case, the sellers were not willing but the buyer [Government]

went ahead and took the land by warrant in 2013.

- **Payment for each coconut tree?** Justice Savage seemed surprised when the lawyers submitted that in the Cook Islands, each coconut tree is paid for, over and above the value of the land. He said trees are part of the land [by law]. However, he was persuaded that it is a local convention, and an instance was in the compensation for the Rarotonga international airport in the early 1970s. Apparently, the Island Council already has a count of the number of trees felled to make way for the solar farm. One lawyer suggested \$20 per tree, the other suggested \$50 a tree.

- **Government offer to pay for legal fees of owners ended 30 July 2015.** Crown law confirmed that payments to the lawyer who [originally] represented all landowners had been finalized as of 30 July 2015. That means that legal costs for

any legal representation for the landowners must be paid by the landowners themselves.

- **Land is not a commodity.** The judge assured everyone that he is well aware that land is not considered a commodity to the Polynesian community. The judge has urged the owners to consider the future generations and to use the compensation to perhaps set up scholarships rather than spend it on consumer goods.

- **Going up North and walking the land to determine title?** Not likely, if the comments of the judge are anything to go by. Two of the lawyers urged the court to go up North: one suggested that the Judge had to 'walk the land' in order to get the true picture, the other chimed in and said she was 'not a fan' of using Skye for court purposes. However, the court did not seem convinced by either argument as it would incur more legal costs to the landowners that would

come out of their compensation payout. The third lawyer said two of her clients had come to Rarotonga from overseas ready for the hearing to determine title and relative interest. If possible their evidence may be fitted in this week, other court fixtures permitting.

- **Outside the court** there were mutterings from landowners that there is very little land up North, but what little there is, the Government is taking for public purposes which they will never be able to use again. It was hard not to feel sorry for some of the elderly landowners who clearly had no idea what was going on.

- Nevertheless, it is clear from the evidence that Government are convinced that they were providing a public good by providing renewable energy to the Pa Enua. Perhaps Government ought to have negotiated this well before starting the project?

# Damsel in Distress

By *Lucianne Vainerere*

Everyone believes that being a teenager nowadays is easy, but some of us don't have it as good as others do. We've got our jobs, school, family, friends, church, and personal responsibilities to think about. At some point one of them needs to go and too often it's always the same one - church.

Now don't get me wrong, because church does play an important role in our lives as believers, but for me church isn't the building, it's the people. And if we have praying friends and family then we are well looked after and always have the option of repenting and asking for forgiveness.

Anyway, I'm a damsel in distress. Being head girl comes with massive chunks of steak on my plate, I have to try and organize my team members for business studies class to do production runs, write proposals, do projects, organize the leavers dinner and the jackets if it goes through - all with the help of my fellow student leaders, try finish off my art portfolio worth 14 credits and work at the same time because we all need a lil money on the side while trying to spend time with family and friends from overseas and go to church and it's activities - phew! It's a lot to do and some people (well most that I know) just don't understand how real the struggle is, I'm not complaining because I know for sure my situation isn't as bad as children half my age around the world. It's just the people who surround me don't allow their minds to wonder and think about the hardships other people face and 'assume' things - which ends up making an ass out of u and me.

Back to the point, we do so many things from the heart and

yet we end up being judged, we are demanded so much physical strength that we do help, but still we are called lazy, we spend hours at school and choose to do other things afterward while studying in our own time, however much it is, but still we are called stupid and irresponsible. So what is it exactly must we teenagers do to fulfill the image society, family and friends thrust upon us?

We say we don't care, and not to listen to what other people think or say about you, but it's human nature and we just can't help feeling the emotions that come with the negativity projected. So here's a little advice for you folk who feel the same way and are going through the same thing. Don't be afraid to be you, if you can't make your friends proud, your family proud, society proud, make yourself proud and be humble about it.

Rekindle your relationship with God if you're a believer, and if you're not, you are always welcome to be. "Today you are you, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is youer than you." Dr Suess

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# Avatiu MP supports local entrant in Miss Cook Islands



Left to right: Chaperone Frances Willis, Mariana's father Papa Moa, Mariana Ngaputa, Minister Albert Nicholas and June Putere

*By Charles Pitt*

On Tuesday morning, the Member of Parliament for Avatiu, Sports Minister Albert Nicholas, presented Miss Cook Islands entrant, 22 yr old Mariana Ngaputa of Avatiu, with a donation to assist her in her campaign for the Miss Cook Islands title.

The presentation was held at the Minister's office with Mariana's chaperone Frances Willis, supporter June Putere and Mariana's father Papa Moa in attendance.

Nicholas said he supported her because she was from the village of Avatiu, was involved in village activities and played netball

(wing defence, goal defence, goal keep) for the Avatiu senior team. Nicholas said he was not taking sides, a reference to the two competing organizations.

In reply Mariana thanked Nicholas on behalf of her team and her family, for his support. The assistance is much appreciated as she does not have a sponsor.

The finals will be held on Saturday at the National Auditorium with the prize giving on Sunday.

At the presentation, Mariana, who stands 1.80m tall, wore an ei katu made by Catherine Healey, a dress by Inagaro Designs and a black pearl ring and earrings by Manihiki Black Pearls.



Mariana Ngaputa receives donation from Minister Albert Nicholas.

# Grey Power committee elected

By Hayley McNabb and Courtney Matai

Last Wednesday, the Herald attended the Grey Power Meeting which took place at the Sinai Hall from 9am-11.30am. Nooke Caffery opened the meeting with a prayer then Dennis Tunui read out the Chairman's report, which was then followed by the annual report.

There was an election to appoint a Chair, Assistant Chair, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. Only current financial members of Grey Power were allowed to vote. There are currently 29 financial members.

Elected were'  
Chair-Dennis Tunui (re-elected)

Assistant Chair- Nooke Caffery(re-elected)

Secretary - Stu Maxwell  
Treasurer - Teoru Maxwell (re-elected)

Assistant Treasurer- Poko Heather (nominated by Mama Lingi Pitt).

Dennis Tunui mentioned some members needed to pay their fees, however they would always be welcomed back because they need the numbers to stand strong. Mama Poko Heather



Dennis Tunui addressing the meeting

collected money from the Grey Power members who arrived to the meeting and this amounted to \$126.57.

Members discussed producing another TV advertisement with the help of CITV Newsman Greg

Parker. The cost was \$150 for ten slots but \$350 overall as production costs would be \$200.

The idea was to have Dennis Tunui in front with Grey Power members standing behind him showing the support and unity

of them all fighting for what they want.

Nooke Caffery then closed the meeting with a prayer and this was followed by a blessing for the food that was gratefully catered by Rima's Bakery.

## How teenage girls are represented in the media

By Teherenui Koteka

Every day of our lives we see representations of teenage girls in the media. The said representations can be viewed as having both negative and positive effects on the way society and individuals view teenage girls.

These representations also play a big role in the way teenage girls view themselves. We can see these representations through the likes of films and television programs, magazines and music videos.

Today I'd like to provide insight into the consequences of the way the media portrays teenage girls. Every month my 14 year old sister and her immediate friends purchase

a copy of dolly magazine. Magazines that target teenage girls such as Dolly and Girlfriend are constantly projecting girls as these perfect beings that need painted engineered faces to look like what society perceives as beautiful. If we take a glance at this month's issue of Dolly we find its content is overwhelmingly focused on topics such as appearance, dating and fashion.

If we go back and view previous issues we see that they too possess the same shallow topics that teenage girls love to read about. But why do teenage girls love to read about these things? I'll tell you why; images and articles such as the ones found in Dolly every month influence

teenage girls into believing that if they dress like this or look like this they will be what society conceives as beautiful.

These images and articles can cause girls to view themselves as ugly, or undesirable due to the fact that they cannot uphold the impossible standards the media has set for teenage girls. Media texts such as this cause large numbers of girl to have self esteem issues that often result in dangerous consequences such as eating disorders.

Every day I along with thousands of teenage girls watch films. In films, both in the past and modern teenage girls have always been sexually stereotyped. For example teenage girls have always been motivated by love and romance

and are hardly ever motivated by jobs or accomplishments. This has serious effects on the way teenage girls prioritize their lives.

Nowadays I see girls aged at 13 with boyfriends. Living in a world where the media is mainstreamed in our everyday lives, it becomes hard for girls to distinguish between what will help you excel in life and what films say will help you excel in life. This leads to teenage girls becoming more reliant on males and leaves them with the belief that teenage relationships last a lifetime.

With the media becoming more mainstreamed in our lives it is important for us to remember that the media shouldn't dictate the way we look or the way we behave.

# Photo round up from last week

*Photos by Poko Utia and Courtney Matai*



Graduates entering the National Auditorium for the USP Graduation Ceremony



Papaaroa School fundraiser at Te Atukura Park

**The banning of commercial whale watching in the Cook Islands – Part I of II**

There have been a number of articles in the media recently regarding the proposed legislation that will ban commercial whale watching in the Cook Islands. This is a 'foreign foreign' concept

to coin a phrase. We need to look at this dispassionately from the point of view of who stands to lose and who stands to gain from this piece of legislation if it passes into law. Mankind has had an important relationship with the sea spanning 100's of thousands of years. The sea has been the highway in which humans have colonised the oceans, harvested marine life, defended their lands and developed land based economies through their interaction with the sea. The downside is that their modern fishing techniques through science and technology have enabled them to decimate marine fish stocks as never before. Something their ancestors could only dream about. It is also out of this continuing exploitation of the bounty of the seas has come some of the most infamous practices imaginable where commercial whaling has driven some whale species almost to extinction under the guise of 'Scientific study' and 'Indigenous Rights'. Whilst there is an ongoing challenge to protect whales from commercial whaling practices, there is now an industry based on commercial whale watching in many countries worldwide. There are many indigenous people whose livelihood was dependent on catching whales. Usually seasonal catching as their ancestors did for centuries, for religious purposes, to supplement their food stocks, rites of passage, oil for lighting, medicinal purposes, the bones for weapons and housing. Their impact on those whale populations was minimal because they used basic subsistence ocean farming. The techniques they used were very basic. No mechanised boats or harpoons with power heads. Only their vaka, wooden spear shafts with whalebone spear heads and fibre rope and muscle. There are now several indigenous communities who have chosen to forgo their traditional whale hunts for compelling reasons; commercial and conservation. NZ Maori, Tonga and Tahiti have whale watching as models of successful commercial enterprise allied with spreading the conservation of marine animal's mantra, they now hunt with eyes and cameras. The concern for indigenous people is that their traditional rights are being sidelined by overzealous scientists, bleeding heart liberals and government officials.

That's the intro so now we turn to those who have a vested interest in a ban on commercial whale watching. You will no doubt have read about information and evidence from the science fraternity regarding the impact that human whale watching activities will have on

whales in the news media. You will note that a lot of this rhetoric from the science community is just that rhetoric. Carefully constructed arguments and purported evidence to show that whales can and will be affected by the activities of whale watching. Well did you know that the basis of a scientific method relies on predicting a result from a theory or hypothesis such that the result or outcome is true or false 100% of the time. The rhetoric from the scientists would have you believe that their opposition to commercial whale watching is based 100% on scientific fact. It's not. The rhetoric is based on some science, some bias and wishful thinking. Essentially they have very little idea about whale interaction with their environment and habitat. I mean to say look at the size of the things, are they going to sit still while scientists poke and prod and try and interact with them, of course not. Scientists observe, take samples and then try and make an informed assessment as to what they are observing and then try and pass this off as fact. You will also note that they have difficulty separating their human view of the world from those of animals. The lines get blurred and so they ascribe humanlike reactions to animal behaviour and pass this off as wondrous knowledge. For centuries people have harboured the view that dogs are family pets and that they love us. The fact is that they adopt us as their pack and establish their pecking order according to a very rigid system of hierarchy. There can only be one alpha male in this pack and if they believe that they are the alpha male, look out family members. I had an episode with a Jack Russell dog who believed he was the alpha male in this family and the family aided and abetted his alpha status because they thought it so cute. Needless to say he and I did not see eye to eye.

Am I having a dig at scientists in general, the answer is no, you the public need to understand that there is science and then there is real science. Real science does not base irrefutable evidence on a language that is filled with half-truths or hopeful language such as: 'May be affected', 'It has been observed that some', 'It is believed', 'perhaps and maybe' and you have all read this language used by scientists in our news media in their discussions around whale behaviour. This is not science in the true sense of the word; this is opinion, just like mine in this article, not facts. What about he / she who is called an expert with 20 yrs interaction with whales, what about the 100s of thousands of years of human interaction before that? It's very much like the debate over climate change, with data collected over the last 150 years being passed off as definitive that we are being affected by climate change because of man's activities on the environment. What about the data from thousands of years before that. Oh that's right you don't have it. Statistically you don't have enough data over a long period of time to make an informed

assessment, it's just a guess at best but passed off as fact. In addition I know of no human who has been able to ask a whale what they think of all this fuss about them and their daily lives. Sounds paternalistic to me, very much like the missionaries turning us ignorant savages into god fearing people without asking us what we thought about the whole thing. In this case it is scientists making inferences about the behaviour of whales and posing what they believe is their behaviour and what is good for them (scientists I mean) based on little real science.

The other concerning thing is that indigenous rights or the science of lore seem to be taking a back seat to western science in this whole debate over the banning of commercial whale watching. Indigenous people do not have a science as it is understood, not for them the microscope, petri dish or forensic practices. Their science is based on observation, belief systems and faith. If a coconut falls out of the tree and hits someone, the gods are angry with you. Science would say, the coconut was ripe, the stem broke as a result of various forces and gravity did the rest. Another example, dolphins chase a school of fish into a bay, the fish in their panic and frenzy to get away, beach themselves, the indigenous people would say that the gods are smiling on them and have provided this bounty from the sea. The scientist would say, dolphins hunting in a pod panic a school of fish and drive them into the shallows where they lose their cohesion in the shallows and then it's every fish for itself. Who is right? Well both are from their view of the world. The problem is that science is being placed before the rights of indigenous peoples to manage sustainably their traditional rights and control of the ocean to which they have a close affinity and history going back thousands of years. It is the same with the Cook Islands. Cookies have a very close affinity with the ocean and their subsistence fishing has sustained them for thousands of years. The migration of whales through Cook Islands territory to their breeding grounds has been going on for aeons. During this time, Polynesian interaction with whales has been one of respect, spiritual awe and wonder at the size of these leviathans of the deep. Did they hunt them? Probably due to curiosity, hope and wishful thinking given the size of the creatures and the amount of muscular effort needed to try and catch one of them. Far better to wait for an opportunity to catch one that is weak, ill or old or try and separate a calf from its mother. The nurturing nature of whales as they succour an injured member would have meant that it was an opportunity to catch one. In fact it was a rare event that a whale would be caught and killed and even rarer for one to beach itself on the coral reef. In which case the traditional leaders and their taunga would carry out the rituals of giving thanks to the gods and thanks to the whale for this precious gift. Part II concludes with tradition, NZ Maori and Economics.

# TE KAVE KÖRERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, MON 12th OCT 2015

## Police decision not to prosecute PM

Police's decision not to prosecute the Prime Minister for allegedly causing a motor vehicle accident in October 2014 was the subject of talkback discussion on Te Kave Kōrero on Monday 12th October 2015.

It was recently reported that the Police did not prosecute the Prime Minister because he had made an agreement with the victim.

Exactly what that agreement was between the parties is unknown.

In his introduction, Te Kave Kōrero presenter, Tony Hakaoro said in Māori that he had invited Police Commissioner, Maara Tetava, onto the programme for an interview but Tetava had not responded to the invitation.

"Ae, kua tae te patiangā ki te Commissioner o te Akava, Maara Tetava, kia pukapuka maua i runga i Te Kave Kōrero, kare ra oki i tae mai tetai pauanga".

Hakaoro outlined three questions on the programme.

Speaking in Māori, the first question was, what is the reason the Police did not charge the Prime Minister?

"Uianga mua, eaa te tumu, kare te Akava i tiati i te Prime Minister?"

Secondly, is there a policy that if one causes an accident and comes to an agreement with the victim, and is accepted by the Police, the Police will not prosecute?

"Te rua, e akateretereanga ainei tetai i roto i te Akava, me akau koe i tetai taeake, e oti, komakoma korua ko teia taeake, akatikatika tuatua korua, e, me kua ariki korua, penei e, tau ki te Akava, kare te Akava e tiati i te tangata na na i akau? E akateretereanga ainei tetai mei teia te tu i to tatou Basileia?"

Thirdly, is the Prime Minister above the law in this country?

"Te toru, tei runga ake ainei te Prime Minister i te ture i roto i to tatou Basileia?"

Hakaoro said the Police did not prosecute the Prime Minister because of the agreement between the parties. However

if that was an ordinary person wouldn't the Police charge?

"Teia ra tei tupu, no te reira akatikatikaanga, kare te Akava i akaapa, me kare, i tiati i te Prime Minister. Kua tau ainei teia? Me ko koe tera, naau i akau i tetai tangata ke, kare ainei te Akava e tiati i a koe?"

Hakaoro said it was obvious that "the Police turned a blind eye" for reason that the driver was the Prime Minister.

It was so unfair for the Police not to charge the Prime Minister because, "no one is above the law", said Hakaoro.

A caller to the programme reiterated the point saying that no one is above the law and that everyone is the same.

The caller said Police is weak.

"Kare e tangata i runga ake i te ture, aiteite pouroa tatou. You know teia apinga, it only happens here. Paruparu to tatou au Akava, paruparu to tatou au Akava i te rave i ta ratou au tuanga. Kare e, no tera ra e, e Prime Minister a ia, he can get away with anything".

Another caller said it is wrong and that the Prime Minister should be prosecuted.

"This is wrong. This is really, really corrupt. You know, he's not above the law. What is he, is he God? This is really bad. He should be prosecuted. I mean, noa atu e, koai te tangata, if you break the law, that person, or whoever, should be prosecuted. Akapeea naringa i mate teia tangata, will he get away?"

Another caller re-emphasized the point.

"This is non-sense e Tony, it's very sad when you let this person get away. You know, if an ordinary person did that, he would be thrown into jail, so, it is wrong, e tangata below him".

One other caller also stressed the point that the law applies to everyone equally and questions why the Prime Minister was not prosecuted or charged with excess breath alcohol.

"I aku rai, kare e fair ana, because, tanoanga tikai, aiteite ua te ture ki te au tangata

pouroa. Naringa tena e tangata rikiriki, te reira taime rai, kua tiatia e te Akava, so how come i reira, kare a ia i tiatia on the spot. Supposed to be ka tiatia a ia because he's under the influence of alcohol, no reira a ia i akau ei i terei tamaiti, no reira i u ei i a ia tera tamaiti.

The caller said the agreement between the parties is irrelevant and that the Prime Minister should have been charged.

Tena tana e akatikatika ana, it's out of the question, that's not the issue, tanoanga tikai, ka akaapaia a ia, noa atu e, koia te Prime Minister, ka akaapaia rai a ia. Because kua kite au i tetai au mapu aere u ana i a ratou, kare te Akava i akara eaa, akaapaia ratou, no tera ua nei oki e Prime Minister, no reira ratou e tangarongaro ai i tena apinga".

One caller referred to former Prime Minister Jim Marurai when he was prosecuted for a similar incident some years ago.

According to the caller, to his credit, Marurai faced the music, appeared before the Court and was sentenced accordingly.

Hakaoro stated that Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, while in office, was prosecuted for signing a document claiming to be the creator of an art work when in fact she wasn't. She was dealt with by the Court accordingly.

In another case Helen Clark's driver was prosecuted and fined for speeding while driving Clark from Christchurch to a rural airport some years ago to catch a flight to Wellington.

Despite the driver carrying out his duties transporting Helen Clark the Court dealt with the matter appropriately irrespective of Clark being the Prime Minister at the time.

Te Kave Kōrero thanks all callers for their contributions to the programme.

Te Kave Kōrero is happy to advise that Police Commissioner, Maara Tetava, is happy to come onto the programme on Friday 16th October to discuss the matter further with presenter Tony Hakaoro.

# Showing fairness

part 2

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

In Part 1 of this article of encouragement King Solomon who wrote The Book of Ecclesiastes goes through life and looks at everything. Then he said, "Here's my conclusion. Life is UNFAIR." Then he gives five common occurrences of unfairness.

First, Solomon said that **CRIMINALS GO UNPUNISHED**. Eccl. 8v.11 (NLT) "When crime isn't punished, people feel it is safe to do wrong."

Secondly, Solomon says, **THE OPPRESSED ARE NOT BEING HELPED IN THE WORLD**.

Thirdly, Solomon says, **MANY RULERS OR PEOPLE IN AUTHORITY ARE UNETHICAL (CORRUPT)**. Ecclesiastes 5v.8 (LB) "If you see miscarriages of justice throughout the land, don't be surprised! For every official is under orders from higher up. So the matter is lost in red tape and bureaucracy."

Fourthly, Solomon says, **GOOD PEOPLE GO UNREWARDED** while evil people often prosper.

Fifthly, Solomon says, **CAPABLE PEOPLE ARE OFTEN UNSUCCESSFUL**. For example Solomon says, "Intelligent people don't always get rich." In some cultures Boxers are paid more than what the Accountants or Chief Administration Officers gets. Even rugby or soccer players are paid more than the teachers who train children. Solomon says the bottom line is life isn't fair!

Solomon gives us some examples of what to do because of the unfairness of the life we live in! But before we look at these examples, I want to pose a question to us "WHY DOES GOD ALLOW UNFAIRNESS?" The answers are;

1. **BECAUSE HE GIVES US THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE**. "I am giving you the choice between a blessing and a curse..." Deut. 11v.26 (NIV)

2. **BECAUSE GOD IS GOING TO SETTLE ACCOUNTS ONE DAY**. "In due season God will judge

everything man does." Ecc. 3v.17 (LB)

3. **BECAUSE IT SHOWS WE NEED A SAVIOR** The fact is, without God, people are very inhuman towards each other. People take advantage of each other. People become very selfish etc. So God says, "You need a Savior and I will show mercy for those who ask for it through my Son Jesus Christ."

4. **BECAUSE IT CAN BUILD CHARACTER** Character is built in the tough times of life. Tough times don't last, but tough people do! Romans 5v.4 says "Suffering produces character."

Now, I want us to look at the question of "HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO UNFAIRNESS?" God want you to do three things:

1. **ACCEPT UNFAIRNESS GRACEFULLY** The Bible tells us in I Peter 4v.13 (NCV), "Don't be surprised at the terrible trouble which comes to test you. Don't think that something strange is happening to you. But be happy that you are sharing in Christ's sufferings so that you will be full of joy when Christ comes again in glory." He's saying you cannot prevent people from hurting you. But you can choose your response. You are to accept it gracefully, rather than becoming bitter or complaining. Use it as an opportunity to develop character.

2. **RESPOND LOVINGLY** When somebody hurts you, they expect you to retaliate. They expect you to seek revenge. When somebody hurts you they expect you to fight back and try to hurt them. God says, "I want you to do the exact opposite what they expect." Jesus said in Matthew 5, "Love your enemies and pray for those who hurt you." Why do you do that? "Because God tells you to and because it keeps them from controlling you." When I say respond to an offender lovingly, that does not mean you continue to allow injustice. But instead, we are to lovingly seek justice without retaliating, without getting

## Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi



revenge, without seeking to hurt the people that have hurt us. We are going to overcome evil with good. That's what it means to be like Jesus Christ! As Christians we have to fight for justice. Jeremiah 22v.3 "Be fair minded. Do what is right. Help those in need of justice." (NLT) Proverbs 29v.7 "The righteous care about justice." Proverbs 16 "The Lord demands fairness in every business deal." He's saying even when everybody else around you is unfair, you be fair. Even when everybody else around you is ripping off each other you maintain your integrity. Be fair!

3. **WE SHOULD WAIT FOR GOD'S HELP EXPECTANTLY** I Peter 2v.19 (NCV) "A person might have to suffer even when it is unfair, but if he thinks of God and stands the pain, God is pleased." When you are going through an unjust period, God is on your side. All through the Bible, God says, "I cannot stand it when people are treated unjustly, unfairly. I will defend the oppressed. I will care for those who are treated unfairly." All through scripture, God has a

special heart for people who are treated unfairly. He is a God of justice. He hears your cry and He sees your pain and He knows you were hurt and put down. You didn't get what you thought you deserved. But He has a plan. God said, "...I know the plans I have for you...they are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29v.11)

So what does God want me to do while I'm waiting on Him to settle the score? I Peter 4v.19 "If you are suffering according to God's will, keep on doing what is right and trust yourself to the God who made you, for he will never fail you." (NLT) All you need to know is God loves you. God has a plan for you and me! If you trust Him and maintain a right attitude, He's going to reward you eventually. II Corinthians 5v.17 (Ph) These temporary troubles [the ones you have in this life] are winning for us a permanent reward [in eternity for millions of years] all out of proportion to our pain."

God is faithful! Be encouraged regardless! God bless.

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VACANCY



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Written applications including a Curriculum Vitae and references must be received no later than 16 Oct 2015.

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Minita Makie Brown in defence of his scandalous Schoonergate involvement finally admits they took a punt in backing a deregistered insolvent foreign company masquerading as a local one is pure chicken droppings. It was no punt he was obligingly helping his mate Mickie Enery get out of his self inflicted financial mess. Makie was fully aware of his friend's financial woes and stupidly compromised himself by manipulating the people's money. What he gambled on was the public would not find out and this is the man who said we the CIP government have got nothing to hide.



Try as hard as he can Radio Cook Islands tough talker Tony Hakaoro just can't get the dithering Demo leader of the opposition Smelly Heta to keep his promise to be interviewed. Even after prearranging dates and times the media dodger Heta won't answer his phone. Last Friday when the hot topic of discussion was about the unpopular 78 vote Elvis and his car accident, Tony rang Smelly as was prearranged but no one picked up the phone. Big Red says let him sleep Tony don't bother trying to wake him up.



What's going on with the mob at the Rugby League? After getting an embarrassing thrashing by a make shift Niue team we were spun the tale it was a game for management to see the emerging talent. Now before facing Tonga the management are making excuses for another embarrassing beating. We are being spun the excuse that the NRL clubs won't release the Cook Islands players, yet how come the Tongans aren't been restricted by their player's clubs. It's the



same NRL. Talk about excuses the NRL Cook Islands players have pulled out for reasons the management are keeping under wraps.



The Chamber of Commerce know which side of their bread their butter is spread. It doesn't matter how much corruption the CIP government get up to their silence is deafening. Once an objective voice of the Business community that government took notice of they have become play dough in Puna's hands.



As soon as our nomadic PM Henri Foonah gets back from his wanderings to the Land of the Rising Sun and Tahiti Nui, he goes straight into the chin wag of Regional Finance Ministers late October where he will surely direct his No2 Brown Marks to highlight the marvelous operating surplus. Following that Henri will be flitting off overseas again!



When will the main road in upper Tupapa get resealed to eliminate the hazardous strip which had been left after the Chinese dug up the road to lay the water pipes? Never! The "dough ray mee"

has run out! Minita o te Moni Brown Marks is yet to cough up the cash to pay for the job! Even the Prophet Neves can't help this time.



Heaps of tomatoes around at the moment chooks. Makes one wonder why someone does not process the excess into tomato sauce, tomato juice or tomato chutney or just preserve the tomatoes for when they are not in season. Better still, we could have a "Tomato Day" where everyone throws over ripe tomatoes at one another in a pitched battle.



Any idea chooks who has been mad enough to apply for the Solicitor General's job? Like in Kiwiland why not just appoint a local law firm to act for the Crown? It would probably be cheaper! Government may even start to win some cases!



Is a quarter acre on Manihiki really worth more than \$26,000? How does sentimental value manage to attract a premium over and above true market value on property? No such thing in Kiwiland. Exactly how many people are flocking to build and live in Manihiki that a quarter acre should cost

what the legal eagles are asking? Fair compensation for loss of earning potential is expected but how can any sensible "market value" established if there's no sales activity to set the values?



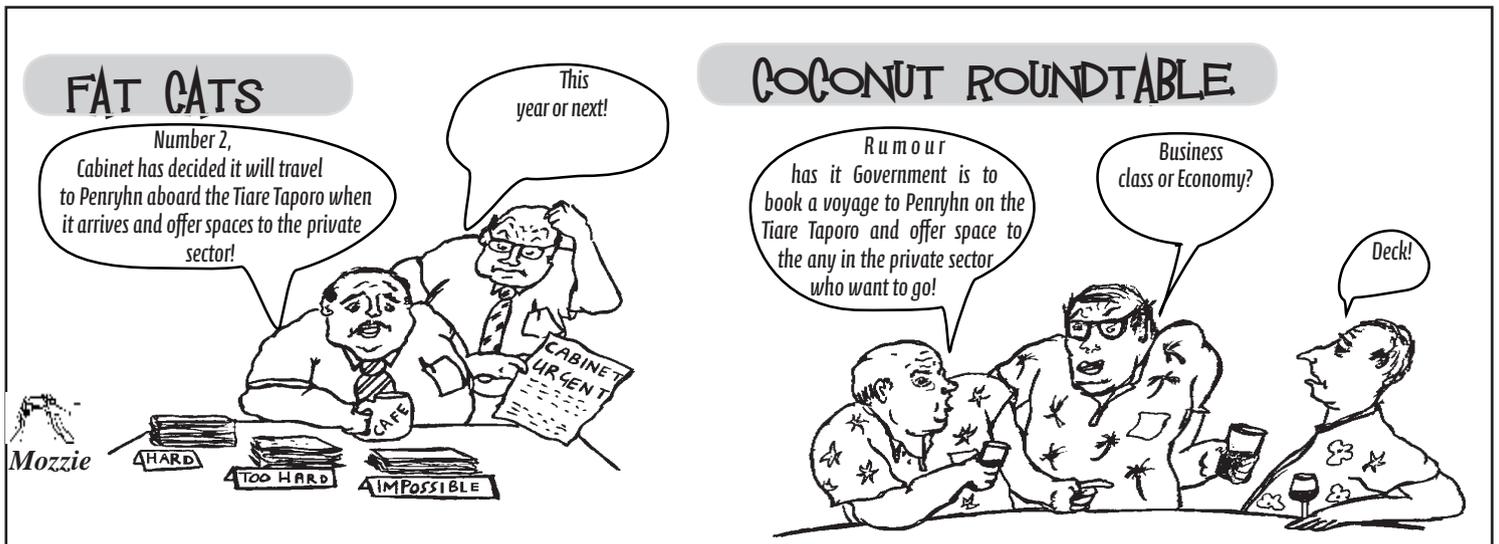
A local man from up north who is well versed with the behavior of northerners gives the Penrhyn fuel depot for the Patrol Boat, six months before things start to go wrong. He says past, long experience in the north tells him that after six months, someone will forget to turn the valve off, the pump will break down, people will start to help themselves to the diesel, there will be spillages and so on. How long before things start going rusty? Can regular maintenance be guaranteed? What if the repair man is off the island, on a month's leave?



Breakdowns of machinery is nothing new up north. Minister Heather discovered on one trip up north a front end loader parked near the end of the air strip. When he asked what work was being done, he was informed the machine had broken down six months ago and there was no-one to repair it. The Minister brought up two mechanics on his next trip and they got the machine going and back to its shed. Whoop-dee-doo!



Any truth in the rumour a political party is planning to install TV cameras at certain notorious intersections to catch out offenders who drive through stop signs and who fail to give way? The camera masts will also be kitted out with powerful breath sensors to capture any scent of alcohol near the scene. If any smell of alcohol above the legal limit is detected, an automatic spray gun will spray the offending party with a red dye that cannot be washed off for 48 hours.



PUBLIC NOTICE



**PARLIAMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICE**

**FAMILY LAW BILL  
Invitation for Public Submissions**

The Public is hereby advised that a Parliamentary Special Select Committee for the Family Law Bill has been established to go over the Bill and invite public submissions.

Written submissions are to be addressed to the Clerk of Parliament, P.O.Box 13, Parliament Building, Nikao.

Those who wish to make oral submissions are invited to make known their intentions to the Clerk of Parliament on telephone 26500 or email [john.tangi@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:john.tangi@cookislands.gov.ck)

Closing dates for submissions is Friday 11th December 2015, 4.00 p.m.

Copy of the Bill with Explanatory Note are available on the following website <http://www.pmooffice.gov.ck/> Otherwise a hard copy can be obtained from Parliament at \$10."

**TUATUA AKAKITE**

Te akakite iatu nei ki te katoatoa e kua akatupuia e te Paramani tetai Kumiti Takake no te Ture Tamanako note Kopu'tangata.

Kua akaue ia teia Kumiti kia akara ki roto i te Ture Tamanako ma te kimi matatio i tetai au tuanga no te akameitaki atu i teia kia tau no te akateretere'anga e kia ripoti atu teia au kimikimi'anga ki te Paramani.

Ko tetai uatu tangata tei anoano i te tuku mai i to kotou manako no teia, kia tata mai ki te Karaka o te Paramani Clerk of Parliament, P.O.Box 13, Parliament Building, Nikao.

Me kua anoano koe i te aravei e te tuatua i toou manako kite Kumiti kia akakite katoa mai kite Karaka i runga i te tereponi 26500 me kore kote rorouira [john.tangi@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:john.tangi@cookislands.gov.ck) .

Ka topiri'ia te aka'ari'anga manako a te Varaire ra 11 o Titema 2015 i te ora 4 i te avatea aiai.

Ka rauka mai teia Ture Tamanako ki runga i te roro'uira a te katoatoa <http://www.pmooffice.gov.ck/> me kore kia tiki mai i teia no ko i te Paramani e \$10.

**John Tangi  
Clerk"**

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



COOK ISLANDS INVESTMENT CORPORATION  
Government of the Cook Islands

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

The Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC) is seeking expressions of interest from local businesses, contractors and individuals for the two work programmes outlined below.

**1. Security surveillance for government properties**

CIIC plans to improve its asset management and protection processes by implementing surveillance systems across government properties. CIIC is seeking interests from locally established businesses for one or both of the following components:

- a) Supply, install, commission and maintain IP surveillance systems
- b) Monitoring, response and patrol services

Interested businesses are asked to submit a capability statement outlining:

- Company background and capabilities
- Relevant experience
- Key personnel and management expertise
- Contact information

Only those who register their interest and pass the initial evaluation process will receive Request for Proposals, when they become available.

**2. Asbestos removal work**

CIIC is preparing for the staged removal of asbestos-containing building materials from government buildings commencing in 2016. It is intended that this work be carried out by contractors who are fully competent and conversant with best practise standards and procedures for handling asbestos materials. Through this expressions of interest process CIIC will identify contractors (businesses or individuals) who wish to undergo training and certification, and later tender for the removal work. Interested contractors are asked to supply the following information:

- Name and contact details
- Construction experience and qualifications
- Previous experience with asbestos removal work and certification (if any)

To confirm your interest in either one or both programmes, or for further details, please email [anne.taoro@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:anne.taoro@cookislands.gov.ck). Expressions of interest close at 4.00pm on Friday 16 October 2015.

PUBLIC NOTICE



**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.



**GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS TE  
TANGO TUTARA O TE TURE  
(MINISTRY OF JUSTICE)**

**PUBLIC NOTICE:**

The Public is advised that the following Fee Schedules will apply on and from the 1st November 2015 until replaced. It replaces the schedules passed under the Births and Deaths Registration (Fees) Regulations 1998, and the Marriage (Fees) Regulations 2001.

**Births and Deaths Registration Fees**

For every certified copy of an entry in a register book kept in a Registrar's office, and for every certified copy of an entry in the office of the Registrar General (when correct year given) \$25.00

For every certificate of date of birth or death when correct year given, including any certificate issued pursuant to section 44 of the Act \$15.00

For every certified copy of any document in the custody of the Registrar-General's office \$25.00

For search in any register book or index or records kept in the office of the Registrar-General or of a Registrar in respect of each name or entry searched in respect of any year \$10.00

For inspection of entry when correct year given \$10.00

For verification of items in excess of 3 in an entry of registration of birth or death, per item \$10.00

For registration of birth after 14 days -s.12 \$20.00

For registration of birth after 2 months - s.12. An additional \$10.00 for any subsequent month \$20.00

For registration of birth by the Registrar-General under section 14 of the Act, including issue of certificate of date of birth \$65.00

For registration, addition, or change of first or Christian name or surname in accordance with section 17 of the Act \$40.00

Any subsequent re-registration, addition or change of first or Christian name or surname in accordance with section 17 of the Act \$50.00

For registration of a change of name under section 18 of the Act in respect of every person whose name has been changed-

• Where the birth has been registered in the Cook Islands \$75.00

• Where the birth has not been registered in the Cook Islands \$75.00

**Marriage Registration Fees**

For every notice of a marriage intended to be solemnised by an officiating minister or marriage celebrant \$100.00

Additional fee for issuing a marriage license in less than three days after Notice of Intended Marriage was given \$75.00

For every marriage solemnised by the Registrar-General or a Registrar (including certified copy of the entry in the register book if that certificate is issued at the same time of solemnisation) \$100.00

Additional fee in respect of a marriage solemnised by the Registrar-General or a Registrar whose office is not at the time ordinarily open for transaction of public business under the Act \$75.00

For every amendment to a marriage licence issued \$50.00

For every caveat entered \$100.00

For every certified copy of an entry in a Registrar's marriage register book (other than for a certificate issued at the time of solemnisation) and for every copy of entry in the records of the office of the Registrar-General (when correct year given) \$25.00

Search or inspection of marriage notice books or Registrar's marriage register book, in respect of each name or entry searched or inspected (when correct year given) \$10.00

Search in any index or marriage records in the office of the Registrar-General, in respect of each name or entry searched. For every year of search requested \$10.00

Verification of items in a marriage entry, per item \$20.00

For every application for change of name in the marriage record book under section 47 of the Act \$100.00

For Registration as a Marriage Celebrant \$100.00

For registration of marriage by the Registrar-General under section 37(2) of the Act \$100.00

DATED this 9th of October 2015

  
**Tingika Elikana**

Tii::kana  
Secretary of Justice.

**FOOTBALL UPDATE**

# New President can only come from within the game

No candidates from outside football will be eligible under current regulations to become the next FIFA president despite growing calls, including from International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach, for an external contender to be put in place to herald a fresh start after the worst corruption crisis in sporting history.

Bach has called for a “credible external presidential candidate of high integrity, to accomplish the necessary reforms and bring back stability and credibility” while a raft other high-ranking sports officials and politicians, as well as a healthy bunch of commentators, have also called for a complete break with the past.

The deadline for nominations for February’s election is October 26 but those hoping for someone of high regard outside the game to take charge of FIFA permanently from that date will be disappointed.

Eligibility rules for president,



reflected in the statutes, state categorically that all candidates “shall have played an active role in association football ...for two of the last five years before being proposed as a candidate.”

Insideworldfootball has learned that statutes can only be changed by a full FIFA Congress. That means anyone lobbying for power based on an October 26 deadline and a February 26 election must do so under the current rules. Even if they are changed, they cannot apply retrospectively.

With Michel Platini suspended (though

technically he could be cleared by then) and South Korea’s Chung Mong-joon banned, few heavyweight candidates are left in the race – at this point anyway. This is one of many conundrums the FIFA executive committee will have to tackle next week when postponing the election will be high on the agenda.

Another is the fact that if the election is postponed until FIFA’s mid-May congress in Mexico to allow for the relevant statutes to be changed so that outside candidates can come forward, that would string things

out until September before Blatter’s successor could take charge since those nominated must be given a minimum of four months to campaign.

One high-ranking FIFA executive committee source told Insideworldfootball such a scenario would be a non-starter.

“By postponing, you are changing an electoral process in mid-stream. Just as importantly, you are prejudging the unsuitability of the internal field before the nominations have even closed. There may well be other as yet unannounced candidates.”

## Blatter says – They can’t destroy his work

Sepp Blatter may not be able to take part in any footballing matters while under suspension by FIFA’s ethics committee but he says he is proud of his achievements, according to a Swiss newspaper.

“I am a fighter,” the Schweiz am Sonntag paper quoted Blatter as saying. “They can destroy me, but they cannot destroy my life’s work.”

The 79-year-old FIFA president has denied any wrongdoing and has filed an appeal to try to reverse the ban.

Schweiz am Sonntag also said it had information that Blatter had received messages of

support from African and Asian football associations, asking him to rethink his decision to step down on February 26. By contrast, four of FIFA’s top-line sponsors recently requested him to stand down immediately in the wake of the ongoing corruption crisis which he has declined to do.

Blatter’s suspension technically ends just before the election to replace him and FIFA have scheduled an emergency meeting of its executive committee for October 20 in his absence, six days before the deadline for presidential nominations to succeed him.

