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Police bungle sinks Bounty - Corruption investigation costs to skyrocket



The fishing vessel at the centre of the Police investigation into allegations of corruption against former Minister Teina Bishop has hit the headlines once again and most likely not for the last time.

This time the Police are on the wrong side of the stick, after their two year investigation the Police lost their High Court application for leave to bring a charge against Bishop involving the Bounty. Their loss in the High Court is now likely to be a further loss in the public arena.

The Bounty based in Aitutaki took its last voyage; on Monday 30 November 2015 it was towed to sea and sunk in deep water off

Aitutaki.

This double blow is envisioned to cost the government a substantial compensation settlement for the loss of the sunken vessel.

On Monday 3 February 2014 two New Zealand Serious Fraud Officers (NZSFO) and two Rarotonga Police Officers arrived unannounced in Aitutaki with warrants to search the former Marine Resources Bishop's residence and businesses. Among the items seized where the engine keys to the Bounty and after NZAFO interviewed representing office bearers of the Arenikau Fishing Association, the keys for fishing vessel Orongo

were also seized.

To this date the Orongo has been on shore unused and keys have yet to be returned. The Bounty had remained berthed at the Aitutaki harbour also unused. Despite requests their keys were never returned to Bishop after the Police application in relation to the Bounty charge being refused as per Chief Justice Weston's High Court ruling delivered on 10 November 2015.

Legal Counsel for Bishop will allege once the Police under warrant took possession of the keys for both vessels it was their responsibility to maintain and protect those assets. The Police Act 2012 does not include Police

responsibilities for assets seized by warrant. Police Commissioner Maara Tetava said this is an internal matter covered in the Police Procedure rules.

The Police were in possession of the \$30,000 Bounty for nearly 22 months, therefore responsible for its care and maintenance ague Bishop's litigators.

At the end of November, Cyclone Tuni was battering Samoa and headed to the Southern Cook Islands, the threat was sufficient to prompt the Ports Authority (PA) Harbour Master Saungaki Rasmussen to issue by email to all vessel owners the advice to vacate the

continued next page

Avatiu and Aitutaki Harbours. This is done said PA CEO Bim Tou to protect the PA's infrastructure.

Mindful of a possible evacuation order due to Cyclone Tuni Bishop had the Bounty inspected on Friday 27 November and discovered it was in a deteriorated condition, the batteries had not been maintained and the engine was in water, items including the steering wheel were missing. The missing items were reported to the Police.

Without the facility to lift the Bounty onto dry land there was no option but to tow the Bounty out to deep water and sink it. A marine engineer visiting Aitutaki on an unrelated reason said there wasn't sufficient time or available parts to attempt servicing the Bounty but under supervision of an Environment Officer about 3,000 litres of oil and sludge was removed from the engine compartment.

The engineer said it looked like rust had got the better of the Bounty. That's not surprising as no maintenance or servicing was carried out by the Police for nearly two years, these kinds of vessels are high maintenance and the Police are accountable.

With a draft of six feet the Bounty had to leave at the 1.00pm high tide because one part of the channel being five feet deep due to sand build up. The Bounty was towed by the Aitutaki Port's barge to the open

sea without incident apart from the tow rope breaking twice.

Keith Christian owner of the vessel Vision said he was on his

could not leave the port under its own steam due to the failure of the Police to take the appropriate care and

Bounty to be removed, if the seas were too rough it would be unsafe and too dangerous to do so.

Legal Counsel for Bishop said the family had been traumatised for over two years while the Police conducted their investigation, the saga with the Bounty has only added to the burdens being carried by the Bishop family. With the loss of the vessel and the loss of potential earnings the Police are morally and legally liable for compensation.

An amount is now being calibrated according to a source who says the Bishop family have been treated in the most inhuman way. "No amount of money or compensation will erase the embarrassment and harassment they have had to endure."

Solicited legal opinions all put the onus on the Police to protect seized assets. Police Commissioner Tetava said he would follow up the issues raised about the Bounty. - George Pitt

Legal Counsel for Bishop said the family had been traumatised for over two years while the Police conducted their investigation, the saga with the Bounty has only added to the burdens being carried by the Bishop family. With the loss of the vessel and the loss of potential earnings the Police are morally and legally liable for compensation...

way back from Palmerston Island and stopped for protection in Aitutaki. He said he witnessed the sinking of the Bounty and was on standby if needed.

The location of the sinking at 4.10pm was determined by the Environment Office who was one of the 12 people involved in the exercise, it is estimated the depth was more than 3000 metres. Unbeknown to those involved a permit approval for sinking vessels at sea must be obtained from the Secretary of Transport.

A source said the Bounty

maintenance of the vessel; it could not be steered without the steering wheel. Decisive action had to be taken while the weather permitted the



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All is not well

By Charles Pitt

Something is terribly wrong with our small economy. Do you get the feeling government is not telling us the whole truth?

Government's preoccupation with keeping its own performance and books in order so as to keep the international money men smiling, is unfortunately at the expense of the rest of society which is stumbling and fumbling to adjust to ever more difficult circumstances.

So far no significant benefit has been derived from the cost of new infrastructure. Where are the new industries, businesses? Jobs? What existing businesses are expanding and creating more jobs? How have costs come down? Have bank interest rates fallen? Has there been a significant drop in fuel costs?

Society is struggling with high bank interest rates, the minimum wage is set too low at just over \$6 an hour. Salary levels for some senior public servants

are ludicrously high and out of touch with local reality.

Over the next ten years, government plans to outlay some \$238 million on infrastructure developments. Where is the cost/benefit analysis which justifies such expenditure? Sure the nation may become more resilient to climatic effects but is that all our society can look forward to? Repayment of the overseas loans must be balanced by benefits derived from a more vibrant private sector.

It must be remembered that before public servants and MPs can be paid, someone in the private sector has to earn money which is then taxed and those taxes then help pay public servant's salaries. As revenue from income tax drops, pressure goes on government to meet its wages bill. Government expects to collect about \$19million in income tax this year, a big drop from what it used to be, \$27 million. Company tax and VAT are also expected to be down on

estimates.

If our economy was performing so well and the greatly lauded tax reforms assisting those in most need, how is it some 1,000 Christmas parcels are being distributed to needy households this year? 1,000 parcels were also distributed last year.

Staffing levels in the public service have crept up to 1,900 and this means more of the revenue collected from tax has to go on their wages. As more locals leave to try their luck elsewhere, they are replaced by foreign labour on low pay meaning an overall decrease in tax revenue.

Government will soon reach a point where it will become desperate for extra revenue. It is already taxing pensioners.

Despite several years of warnings by MFEM that new revenue streams would need to be found if operational spending was not curtailed, government chose instead to put its faith in a private sector revival when in fact the private sector had no

faith in government.

Society is bearing the brunt of government inaction and inattention to the economy. Society is facing changes. As less cash circulates in society, people are forced to look for cash elsewhere. Unfortunately some of those who are unable to find extra employment or start a business, pack up and leave or resort to the option of petty crime or illegal activities.

Government must give priority to easing the pressure on society brought about by the high cost of living.

More fine tuning of government operations and expenditure is required. There should be a review of the Financial Responsibility Ratios recommended some years ago by the ADB, are they still appropriate? The tax framework should be reviewed with a view to radical reform of personal income tax and VAT.

Wichman to receive Young Leaders Award

I feel honoured, privileged, humbled to have been announced as a recipient of the Queens Young Leaders award.

The program discovers, celebrates and supports exceptional young people from across the Commonwealth, leaving a lasting legacy for her majesty The Queen.

The award consists of a tailored package of training, mentoring and networking, and also a residential programme in the UK where I will receive my award from her majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace

A large component of why I was selected was because of the work that we have been doing around the campaign to decriminalize homosexuality in the Cook Islands and supporting LGBTI in giving us a voice.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work put in by various individuals and organisations in supporting our goal of decriminalisation. I am excited at the potential of the award to transform the lives of the people around me. I thought to myself

wow the queen recognizes me and is championing the work that I have been doing. For society to be progressive we need to embrace everybody as one and not categorise

I would like to leave you with the 4 ambits of the decriminalisation campaign:

a)love and acceptance:- Freedom of religion is compatible with LGBTI equality: All of the major religions emphasize the importance of love and acceptance.

b)Human rights are universal. Everyone is entitled to the same rights. Discrimination against LGBTI people is unacceptable and illegal under international human rights law.

c)There are no new rights for LGBTI people: We are simply stating that we should enjoy the same rights as everyone else.

d)It's About decriminalisation not marriage equality at the moment.

I guess when it comes down to its about love and acceptance – we are all human and we all deserve to be treated equally.



Valentino Wichman

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A snapshot response to the Family Law Bill

By Norman Goerge

I do not expect this important Bill to be put before Parliament for the two-day maximum priority Christmas Party sitting of Parliament from the 15th to the 17th of December. There is so much more to do yet. It is a well-drafted bill, but I wish to add some uniquely unusual features based on my court and community experiences here and present.

This bill opens the way for a new and historic opportunity to take care of our family problems and needs. I will make headings to highlight the point.

Family Court

A new civil division of the High Court should now be established. A new Judge of the Family Court should be appointed from Cook Islands based barristers and solicitors. Our family and domestic problems can no longer wait for a New Zealand based Judge to arrive. Many domestic issues can best be handled by those who live the experience everyday.

This should open the way for the appointments of local barristers and solicitors as Judges in the Cook Islands. There are clearly areas of specialty such as those specialized in Land Law, Criminal Law and Civil Law. A Family Law Judge can specialize in Family Law and other Civil and Land Law areas. Another can share the Family Law Court and at the same time run criminal trials.

There is room now for at least one or two appointments to Judgeship from local barristers and solicitors. Look at the appointment of Kim Saunders, our last and recent Solicitor General to the New Zealand District Courts as a

Judge. Kim's performance was average; there are better barristers and solicitors around who could take Judgeships like her. I dream of a day when a local lawyer is appointed to the High Court as a Judge of the High Court, and eventually our Court of Appeal. The ability, quality and professional standing for the selection to Judgeship of local lawyers as Judges have long arrived. I could name up to six practitioners around who meet the standards.

The age-old question of familiarity, likely favoritism, or bias, or conflict of interest can easily be addressed nowadays with the Judge declining to hear such a case. There are still enough Judges around to hear conflict cases. A defendant or plaintiff can oppose their cases being heard by a local Judge if there is a conflict. The reasons will have to be well justified.

Protection Orders or Restraining Orders or Non Molestation Orders.

A variety of situations can arise and should be addressed in this bill such as:

a) To stop harassment at home, at the workplace, in public, anywhere by one of the parties in a broken marriage or non-married relationship, which includes annoying phone calls – this is in the bill, but it must cover other areas.

Peace and Good Order Provisions

b) To stop an interfering, harassing or troublemaking neighbour from interfering or threatening behavior, or to stop neighbours from lighting fires to smoke your house out – purposely, or tie pigs or cattle or goats on your hedge to irritate and annoy you.

c) To stop anyone banned from a club house, sports ground, work place, church, and other places for a certain period of time or permanently.

d) To stop frequent drunken noisy parties where violence is common, but only with the recommendation of the Police, after their noise control efforts have failed.

e) A domestic violence order could be imposed on the violent partner of a relationship for violence, drinking alcohol and creating a disturbance in the home. Automatic arrest follows for any breach. I observe that "stalking" is covered in the bill, it should be grounds for a restraining order and accompanied by severe penalties.

Other specific areas to be addressed must include the very serious criminal offense of incest! I recommend the Act to cover the provision of a register of pedophiles and sex offenders for rape, indecencies, and any sex offense where a person is convicted of an offence punishable by 7 years imprisonment and over. Such a register should be kept at every Police Station throughout the country.

Special provisions should be made for tourist pedophiles to be deported immediately if they start approaching or showing an unusually unnatural interest in young children. This type of offender can be referred to the Family Court first for his day in court before any other action is taken.

Abuse of the elderly should be an offence. Some abuses can include spending their pension funds and ill treatment.

One particular abuse I have come across are parents or grandparents drawing child benefits while someone else is actually caring, clothing and feeding the child. I am so glad to see that the bill covers non-family or relatives having the right to apply for parental rights. I have actual evidence of natural parents drawing the benefits without a care in the world for their welfare, as someone else is looking after the child. Some poor families act like children farmers to produce as many children as possible to draw child benefits. Such homes are usually surrounded by heavy drinking, poor hygiene and home discipline, with mum having different partners and several relationships during the years.

The State must accept full responsibility to assume custody and control of children and elderly people who are neglected or abused in emergencies.

Let Parliament enact the new Family Law Bill with durable wisdom to last us decades. Let's face new levels of realism with care and passionate intensity. This is a just cause for both political parties to get together and pass this Bill. Let them have constructive engagement - think and not emote. Play the role of problem solvers, not problem creators.

From Good Neighbours to Friends

Remember to have a friend you have to be a good friend first. A friend must lookout for each other; you must demonstrate you are worth looking out for. The alternative is to be a high plains drifter, alone and lonely.

Ka Kite.



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TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, WED 2 DEC 2015

Judicial review Govt decision

William Framhein, Radio Matariki FM owner and announcer, was the quest speaker on Te Kave Kōrero on Wednesday 2nd December 2015.

Framhein was interviewed in relation to his application for Judicial Review before the High Court of the Cook Islands, on behalf of Te Ipukarea Society and the people of the Cook Islands.

The application seeks to review Government's decision in respect to entering into a draft agreement with the European Union particularly with regards to issuing a purse seine fishing licence to a Spanish company.

I roto oki i to matou reo Ingariti preliminary application koia oki i te akatanotano i tetai au tuanga.

"Tei roto i te rima o te Akavaanga tetai patoianga no ko mai i te Crown Law, te tua o te Kavamani, tetai patoianga, e tetai patiangā kia tiriaia te patiangā a te iti tangata ki vao, auraka kia raveia teia oroanga".

"Kia tiriaia te patiangā a te iti tangata ki vao, ko te tumu oki te reira kua tukunaia teia patiangā a te Crown Law, me kare, a te Kavamani, ki mua i te Akavaanga".

"So kua tae mai te patoianga a te Crown e te Kavamani i te po Varaire so i roto i teia nga ra kua kimi au i tetai ravenga kia ora oki te patiangā a te iti tangata so te nuti mataora i teia ra i reira kua ora, kua akakotingaia tetai porōkarāmu no teia oroanga".

"Kua tiriaia i reira te patiangā a te Crown Law ki te pae. Kare i dismiss ia no te mea te vai ra rai ta ratou e anoano nei kia tiriaia teia patiangā ki vao, so ka vaoia te reira no teia mataiti e tu mai nei ki mua. Kua inangaro te Kavamani kia tupu teia i teia ra but no te ravakore i te tuātau e te ora i te rave i te reira tuanga so kua adjourn ia e kua akanoonooia tetai porokaramu".

When is it coming back before the Court?

"I mua ake i te ra 29 o Tianuare i teia mataiti e tu mai nei kia mua, kia tukunaia te au tuanga te ka anoanoia kia akatanotanoia i

roto i te patiangā a te iti tangata e, me tae te reira ki te rima o te Akavaanga ka raveia i reira tetai phone conference ki te Judge Porter i te kimi me ka rauka rai kia tukunaia ki roto i te tuātau o te Akavā`anga i roto i a Māti i tēia mata`iti e tū mai nei".

"I mua ake i akaoti te Akavaanga i teia ra, kua pati te Crown Law kia tipouia te tuanga o te, te karanga nei oki teia te remedy ea, me kare, tetai patiangā a te iti tangata koia oki kia tākore`ia teia koreromotu tamanako tei initialise ia e Ben Ponia e te European Union. Kua tiriaia te reira patiangā ki vao, kua vao rai te Judge kia tū tēia ki mua i te Akavā`anga a tēia mata`iti e tu mai nei ki mua".

"So, ko te mea mua no runga i te aruanga i te ture. E, ko te rua i reira, ko te rapakauanga o te angaanga taravake tei raveia, so ko te nga tuanga teia ta te iti tangata e oro nei no te mea i roto oki i te koreromotu tamanako a te Kavamani ta te MMR i initialise. Ko te aiteanga o teia nga tuanga no teia draft koreromotu tei initialise ia e nga tua, ko te akapapuanga te reira o te au tuatua ki roto oki i te reira draft kia o atu ki roto i te koreromotu tikai, te final, koreromotu openga, so kua ariki nga tua i teia au tuanga kia taruia ki roto i te koreromotu tinamou ta te Kavamani ka akatika. E, me tatau koe i teia tamanakoanga a te Kavamani, tena kua akarongo tatou i te Minita Mark Brown i te Monite ra, te karanga ra oki e, kare e angaanga i raveia ake, te tano ua ra tetai tua but kare ko te reira te katoanga tana i oronga mai ki te katoatoa o teia tuanga, so ko te akateretereanga o teia koreromotu tamanako, karanga taua e draft ea, ko te au irava tuatua, te au akaueanga a nga tua te ka aru, kua oti te reira i te akanoonoo. E tai angaanga toe, kia raveia te angaanga openga, me kare, anganga tinamou, kia tupu, so ko te reira te ngai i roto oki i te draft, kua kiteia te tuanga tei akatinamouia

nga tua, kua apa i tetai au irava ture o te Marine Resources Act, so ko te Resources Act, ko te regulations e te vai ra tetai au ture tapiri ki te pae, tei akamanaia ki roto i te Executive Council, kare te katoatoa i kite, so e au angaanga muna teia e tupu nei kia rauka i te Marine Resources i te rave i ta ratou angaanga. So ko te tuanga mua i reira o te oroanga a te iti tangata ko te akarianga i te au ngai kua taravake te Kavamani i te aru i te ture so ko te nga tuanga i reira, ko te ture e teia koreromotu tamanako.

"Ko te patiangā i reira kia oronga mai te Akavaanga i tetai tukuanga tika no runga i te reira. Ko te rua o te patiangā i reira, eaa ta te Akavaanga ka rave i te akatano i teia, so ko te patiangā i reira a te iti tangata kia takoreia te reira koreromotu tamanako".

Can Government confirm the agreement while we wait for the court case?

"Ka rauka rai i a ratou i te akatinamou i ta ratou ka inangaro i te akatupu, inara, kua tuatua te Prime Minister, ko ia oki te Minita o te Marine Resources, e, i mua ake ka orongaia ai tetai tikaanga i te akatinamou i teia koreromotu, ka inangaro a ia i te uriuri i te manako ki te katoatoa, tikitiki manako e pera katoa te akari manako, so ka tiaki ua tatou me ka tupu teia i mua ake ka finalise ia ai teia koreromotu".

"Kare naku teia, na te katoatoa".

"Te turu nei te au taeake tei tae mai i teia ra, i te patiangā a te iti tangata kia raveia tetai akavaanga, kia kimiia tetai tukuanga tika manea na te iti tangata, no te mea i roto oki i ta ratou akarakaraanga i teia ta te Kavamani e inangaro nei i te akatupu, kare teia i te angaanga manea i a ratou".

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Akaterere'anga o te tamariki

Te korero no runga i te "Cook Islands Family Act"

By Pai Toko

Pai Toko, is a Cook Islands mother living temporarily overseas. She offers a personal comment on motherhood and the Cook Islands Family Law Bill

Mei tetai vaine kūki airani rae e noo nei ki vao ake ite kūki airani. Te noo nei au I teia taime ki vao ake ite kūki airani. Kare au ti nūtireni me kore I aūtireiria. Tei Asia nei au te ngai e noo nei. Tetai ngai o Asia nei. Te ingoa o te ngai e noo nei au ko Borneo. Te ingoa tikae o teia pae o Asia nei ko Brunei Darussalam. Ite reo arabi te aite anga o teia ingoa Brunei te enua 'au.

Mea pāpu meitaki ei takamanako mai ara kotou I akapea ake au I tae mai ei ki Asia nei. E tara roa teia. Inara ka maani ua au kia poto. Toku tere ki konei I Asia nei no te pae o te ture ou kite kuki airani kavamani.

Koia oki te: "Family Law Bill – 'the interests of the child'". Akamata rua mataiti I topa ki muri. Kua ringi mei tetai tangata iaku mei tetai ta'I ngauru taoatini e ta'I anere maire te mamao mei Brunei, Autireiria, Nutireni e tae mai kite kuki airani nei ki konei kiaku. Kia akarongo au te reo kare I papu iaku koai teia e autara mai nei kiaku e noai teia reo. Kia autara mai tei tangata kiaku e 'akapāpū mai kiaku e koai aia.

Ko te papa, "father in-law", ote o te tane mua āku. Kare au I matou meitaki ki teia tangata. Akakite mai aia kiaku kua mate tana vaine. Kua autara mai katoa mai kiaku no runga I taku tamaine. Te papa ote tane mua āku te rare nei aia ki korei ite Miniteri note Foreign Affairs. Kua pakari aia kare e roa atuna

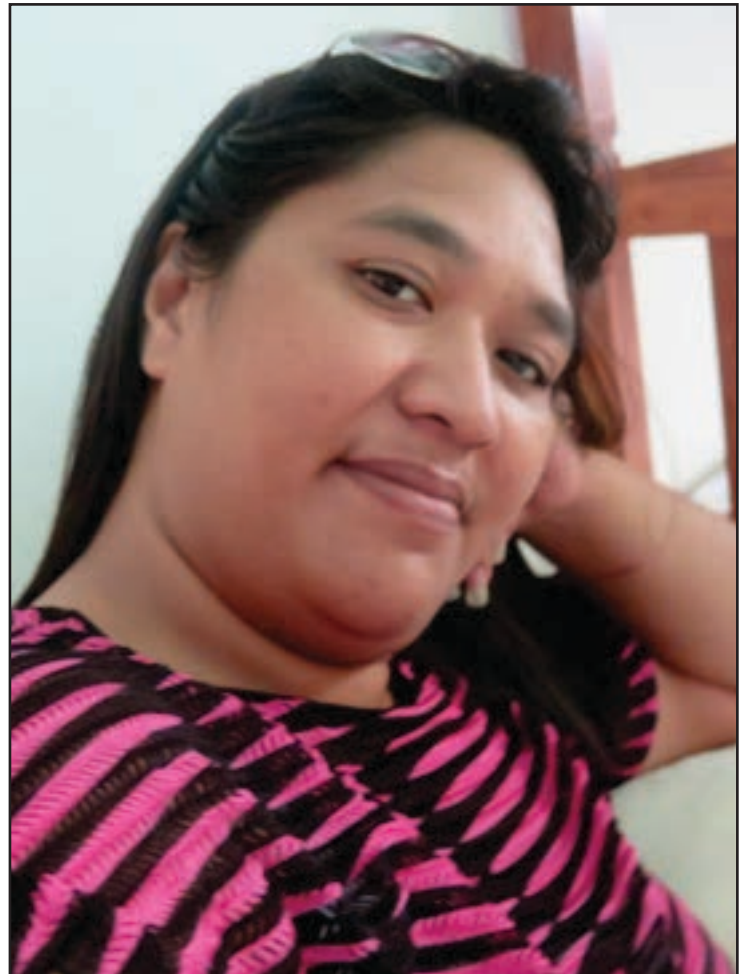
kua ritire aia I Asia nei no tana contract. Teia taku kiaia kare au e marama ana. Kua akamea manamanata mai au. Eaa tei tupu ki taku pepe tamaine. Kare oki au I kite ana taku pepe mei tetai īva mataiti kare au I kite ana taku pepe. I roto iaku kare au e kite akaou I taku pepe.

I te taime te noo ara rae au ki taku tane mua koia oki te papa o taku tamaine. Kare to maua oraanga e mareko anga ite pae ote moni. Ko taku tane mua ua te rare I te reira taime. Kare e ravarava ana ta maua moni. Kare a maua ravenga atu inangaro maua ko maua ravai te ka rare. Ma to maua maemae ngakau oake maua ta maua tamaine kite papa ete mami o taku tane mua kia akakono. I mua ake maua ka oake ei ta maua pepe tamaine. Kua inangaro te nga metua ite akaono ia pepe kia rare maua rava rae no ta maua pepe.

Kare I pou te mataiti to maua noo kapipiti anga takake maua. Evaru marama ta maua pepe I takake ei mei konei ia maua. Mei te reira taime mai kare au I kite ete rongo akaou ana I tetai nuti no maua pepe. Te oake anga au maua pepe kia apai te nga metua o taku tane mua ki Asia. Tona rīpoti no runga mai ite aremaki o rarotonga meitaki ua kare e ngai kino I ta maua pepe.

Inara kia tae taku pepe ki Asia nei. Kia akatau te mami o taku tane mua I taku pepe akatau anga maki iara ta maua pepe. Apai atu aia ki runga ite are maki I konei Asia BUNEI DARUSSALAM kitenā mai e kua tu ta maua pepe ite maki e ava ana ratou "cerebral palsy". Inara e taeke tote papa I konei note tauturu anga ite papa te akono anga taku pepe.

Kua pou e īva mataiti. I



Pai Toko

roto I teia iva mataiti to maua takake anga ko taku tane mua. Kua noo mai au kite rua o taku tane anau mai ta maua e pepe tamaroa. Pera katoa taku tane mua kua akaipoipo vaine akaou aia e rua a raua tamariki I teia taime. I mua ake au ka rere mai ki nonei no taku pepe kua autartara maua ko te rua o taku tane kua marama aia e teia tere noku no taku pepe tamaine. Kua akatika mai aia kia aere mai au kia aravei I taku pepe. Kua kite te rua o taku tane e maarara ana au I taku pepe tamaine. Kua akaruke atu au I te rua o taku tane kite kuki airani. Toku tere e rere mai nei au kua manamanata mai au ko taku taime mua rae teia ki tetai enua tūke uake rae te peū kite peū kuki airani. Inara toku noo anga ki Asia nei kua mou mai iaku te peu

o konei. Kua matou mai au ite kite tikae eaa tikae te aite anga ote autara tei "THE INTEREST OF THE CHILD IS PARAMOUNT" tei roto ite ture ote "Family Law Bill".

I Brunei nei 'au tikae teia iti tangata kare e manamanata ete kino I konei. Tā'aka'aka tikae ratou I to ratou ariki kare ko to ratou ariki ete iti tangata atu mei te pakari e tae uatu kite tamariki atu. Inara ko ta ratou peu rae kia tā'aka'aka atu koe I tetai uatu. Toku tere teia I tae mai ei au ki asia nei. Kua kite mai au tetai apianga kiaku rae..

"MY DAUGHTER DOES NOT BELONG TO ME. I BELONG TO MY DAUGHTER!"

Kare taku tamaine e naku....

Ko au raa na taku tamaine au!

Waste dumped by fishing vessels a serious threat

By Helen Greig

A clean oceans policy is needed to address plastic and other waste dumped by fishing vessels in the Pacific says the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

Why is dumping of waste materials from fishing vessels a problem?

"It has impacts on protected species – it has impacts on fish – it has more wide-spread impacts and it's a navigation hazard," says Mike Donoghue, Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser for SPREP.

Marine pollutants from more than 3000 fishing vessels in the waters of 25 Pacific nations is causing serious harm to turtles, sharks and other marine life. And the vast majority of it is plastic.

Ingestion of plastic debris can block intestines of marine life, kill them or severely compromise their growth, says Donoghue.

At the population level, plastic often acts as a catalyst for other chemicals in the ocean.

"Plastic debris can actively increase bio-concentration of various toxins that then can be ingested by various animals and end up being a human health hazard."

Donoghue presented on illegal marine pollution at this week's 12th annual session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) in Bali, Indonesia.

"The effect of all this waste dump on marine mammals and marine reptiles is of high concern. It's [Pacific Ocean] the world's largest tuna fishery. It contains a plethora of threatened endangered marine species, and it's actually an area larger than the moon," he told journalists.

SPREP's report says pollution from fishing vessels highlights the need for increased monitoring, reporting and enforcement of pollution violations.

"The dumping of this waste is a violation of international law. I think it's the responsibility of all of us to develop and promote a clean oceans policy in which the fishing industry can be a leader," says Donoghue.

The area covered by SPREP is more than 30 million square kilometres of ocean with 16 Pacific Island countries and territories and five metropolitan powers making up SPREP. Collectively these nations control around 10 per cent of the planet's oceans.

In 2000 SPREP requested that fisheries observers collect information on marine pollution, which resulted in the creation of the SPC/FFA Regional Observer Pollution Report form GEN-6.

SPREP has now compiled and used this data to produce a report it presented to the Commission's Technical and Compliance Committee meeting in September.

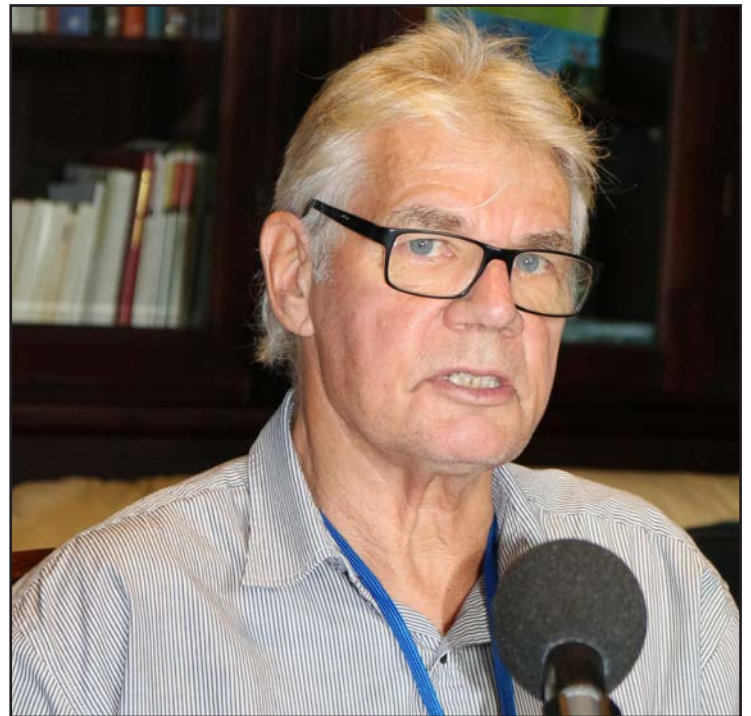
SPREP intern Kelsey Richardson examined more than ten years of collected data on more than 10,000 longline and more than 200 purse seine vessel pollution incidents within the EEZ's of 25 Pacific countries to develop the report.

"Because 100 per cent of purse seine vessels now carry observers all these data are naturally biased heavily towards purse seine vessels. This isn't picking on purse seiners, it's just that that's where nearly all the data sits," says Donoghue.

He says there are about 330 active purse seiners in the region.

By contrast, observer coverage of the estimated 3,000 longline vessels operating in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean was only 5 per cent for the entire fishery as of 2012. Donoghue says actual coverage is more likely 2-3 percent.

Donoghue said if not for the observers' efforts, pollution events would go unmonitored



Mike Donoghue

and unrecorded.

"I'd like to acknowledge the hundreds of dedicated observers aboard these fishing vessels, who recorded with precision, detail and diligence the information that we are able to be aware of today."

From 2003-2015, nearly three quarters of pollution incidents related to the dumping waste by purse seiners, the majority of which is plastics. Abandoned, lost or dumped fishing gear made up 13 per cent.

"[That] does not include the deployment and failure to retrieve fish aggregation devices (FADs)."

Drifting FADs can entangle and kill marine life and other fishing gear can become navigation hazards.

"Fishers in particular need to be made aware of the problems that are associated with dumping gear overboard. It's really easy to chuck it over the side."

According to the report, PNG has the great majority of purse seining and observers they have far more reported incidents than other nations – 44 per cent of the total 10613 incidents. This

was followed by Kiribati with 1,393 incidents, or 13 per cent of the total, and the Federated States of Micronesia, with 1,237 incidents or 12 per cent of the total. Other countries with high numbers of pollution incidents in their EEZs include the Solomon Islands, the Marshall Islands and Nauru.

On the high seas, the most unregulated area of the Pacific, observers recorded 454 pollution incidents over the ten year period.

SPREP warns that given the likelihood that such pollution incidents may represent only a fraction of at sea pollution activities by fishing vessels, there is cause for concern.

Donoghue says SPREP has suggested a working group be tasked with developing further recommendations or a draft conservation management measure (CMM) to be tabled at WCPFC 13. SPREP is recognized as the lead agency for biodiversity, climate change, waste management and environmental monitoring and governance in region.

Unravelling of US Tuna treaty a wake-up call aggravating the spat between NZ and the PNA

By Helen Greig

The unravelling of the US Treaty in the Pacific tuna purse seine fishery is a wake-up call says New Zealand Pacific Economic Ambassador Shane Jones.

Speaking on the fringes of the Western and Central Pacific Tuna Commission's (WCPFC) 12th annual session this week, Jones told Pacific media that the latest news on the Treaty has no doubt come as a shock to Pacific Island governments that have a growing reliance on the VDS (vessel day scheme).

Under an interim agreement the US agreed to a \$US89.2 million deal for 5765 days of fishing in the region. Now it says low fish prices driven by record catch-sizes are driving its industry into bankruptcy. It wants to return 2000 days for 2016, representing a significant loss in revenue to Pacific Island governments including the eight member nations of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) and the Cook Islands. The US fleet currently has 37 purse seiners fishing under the agreement.

Jones believes the new Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Roadmap, endorsed by Pacific leaders in September, has the answers to the impending crisis, but he is also using it a stick to beat what he says are consultants talking 'gibberish' to the PNA.

Under the Roadmap, Forum leaders have agreed to replace controls based on the sale of fishing days with catch-based quota systems within the next 10 years.

"At the heart of the roadmap is sustainability. It's also a trade off on how you foster industry in the Pacific Island environment and economic benefits as well as continue to receive very high rental through the vessel day scheme (VDS)," Jones told journalists.

Jones says New Zealand is pushing for sustainability through a catch-based management approach rather than effort-based systems like the VDS.

"The scientists in Noumea are continually telling us that the

growth in catch is not biologically sustainable. I am beggared if I can see how annual increase in catch equals sustainability," he said.

Parties to Nauru Agreement (PNA) Chief Executive Officer Dr Transform Aqorau has called statements made by Jones as misinformed and embarrassing for NZ.

In the past five years economic returns to the PNA countries from the VDS have increased by more than 500%.

"I don't understand why people should have so much criticism for an instrument that has given so much power to the countries [of PNA] and has created self-reliance and increased revenue to our members, Dr Aqorau said.

The PNA CEO says it is ironic that while NZ's Ambassador appears to be bent on attacking the VDS, other New Zealand fisheries experts are providing the intellectual horsepower behind the PNA approach he criticizes.

Dr Aqorau said the Ambassador should be supporting those efforts.

"[Overall, NZ] is supporting the island countries to become self-reliant and independent – and we have an instrument that has delivered to the peoples of the PNA in ways that actually assert our self-reliance. And that's the way this fishery should be run.

"To me it's a sad indictment. I really wonder whether there's any value to the region from these countries, or particular country, in having a representative go around these countries and rubbish the VDS in the way they have, it is embarrassing."

Dr Aqorau sees no real conflict between the VDS and a catch-based management system and he stresses the growth in catch has been outside PNA waters.

"If you have a catch-based system you can equate that in terms of the number of days – which is what we do."

An average of 25-30 tonnes of skipjack tuna are caught for each day of fishing in PNA waters, he says.

Mr Aqorau says catches from PNA waters have been

stable while increases that have contributed to successive record-breaking catches have come from other areas. The catch of skipjack tuna topped 1.96 million tonnes in 2014.

"When people talk about increases we are seeing it in the high seas, Cook Islands, Philippines and Indonesia.

Dr Aqorau said that is why the PNA has put proposals into this week's WCPFC session to deal with uncontrolled catches, particularly in the high seas.

"To take clear facts and figures and to say it is the VDS (that is the problem) is a clear misunderstanding," he said.

"I would call on the (NZ) government to really think about the role of an Ambassador that goes around rubbishing the PNA.

The roadmap also sets long-term targets to double economic returns from fisheries, add 18,000 jobs by bringing processing onshore and improve food security by 2024.

Jones says he is concerned that in the immediate race for revenue, sustainability is getting lost, industry is being pressed to hard and government budgets risk being destabilised.

"At the end of the day unless industry is profitable it is impossible to see where jobs and revenue can continually come from," he said

Jones believes the voice of industry is being drowned out as NGOs, government officials and other large forces argue with each other.

"PNA advisors promote the notion that by continually increasing the costs to lease a day to go fishing – whilst that is generating income for the Pacific Island governments -- there's a danger in that. If budgets are being set around the current rentals, then the lesson coming out of the unravelling of the US tuna treaty situation shows that you cannot rely on continually increasing the cost of days as a primary source of income, if the cost of the day is disconnected from the market reality."

Jones warns that VDS prices will not continue to rise, especially when there is an

excess of product in the market.

"I am apprehensive that any sudden or abrupt change in VDS price will have a negative impact on Pacific Island government budgeting."

Fisheries experts believe the purse seine fleet could drop by 40 per cent and there would still be enough boats to meet the demand for tuna.

"It's possible that the PNA advisors want to see that kind of fleet change, but my concerns are that as we've seen with the US treaty unravelling, that could spread to other distant fleet participants. If that is the case, the stellar financial numbers that governments have relied upon over the past few years could very well decrease."

"When the price is low enterprises struggle to make a profit. They are better off tying their boats up onshore. An industry which is not profitable tend to join the dinosaurs in short order."

American Tunaboat Association Executive Director Brian Hallman has also stated that the treaty is in crisis because of the economics of the fishery.

"What is happening right now in the tuna industry is that everybody's going broke. There's too much fish and the price of that fish is very, very low. And so boats are simply not able to pay their bills. They're losing millions every year with the situation now," said Hallman.

Jones believes catch-based management will stabilize revenue flows, the amount of fish caught, and create a rationing effect on the fleets.

"As we found out in NZ fishing, it's essential that economics as well as sustainability are at the forefront of our plans to build wealth and to rebuild the resource. Industry voices must be heard. But even they must play second fiddle to sustainability. Long term profitability requires the ethic of wise use."

Meanwhile, Dr Aqorau is adamant that there is a future for the US Treaty, saying it needs reshaping for greater flexibility to reflect the needs of the industry and the PNA

Working together to find a relocation solution for the Esther Honey Foundation Animal Clinic

Representatives of the Esther Honey Foundation and the Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC) Board met last week with Minister for the Corporation, Han Mark Brown, to jointly develop a solution for relocating the Foundation clinic. The meeting focused on acknowledging and addressing the respective needs of the Foundation and government, and finding a pragmatic solution. The Corporation reiterated previous statements that the issue was not about the Foundation's excellent service to the Cook Islands; the key aim was to work with the Foundation to find a more appropriate location for its veterinary service.

Visiting veterinarian and long-standing EHF Board member, Dr. Byron Maas, along with Foundation volunteer Ms Trish Barton, discussed the Foundations's specific needs with

the Minister and the Corporation Board, emphasising that their preference was to continue to deliver the veterinary services to the Cook Islands. However, over time, they had become a default short-term (and sometimes long-term) accommodation facility for animals, which was not the original mission and intention.

Corporation Board members noted that after further investigation and research by Corporation staff, they had identified two possible solutions for relocating the Foundation clinic and its associated services. The Minister, Board members and the Foundation representatives then visited both sites as well as the existing site, to enable Mr Maas and Ms Barton to view and determine the feasibility of each site offered.

While both sites would require some work to make them fit for purpose, Foundation representatives

encouraged to have options to consider. "We recognize the challenges at our current site, and we appreciate the work that has been carried out by the Corporation to find other options for us. We also remain grateful for the Corporation's assistance in locating our current site".

Minister Brown noted that a major factor in the work of the Foundation is their efforts to educate our community members about their responsibilities as owners and guardians of animals. He acknowledged that the Foundation had provided a great service to the Cook Islands over a number of years; however, he also noted that the work of the Foundation would be made much easier if animal owners played their part in caring for and accommodating their animals. Foundation representatives agreed with this, and are keen

to find solutions to helping the community better play its role in animal welfare in the Cook Islands.

The Foundation representatives will go back to the EHF Board to discuss the options presented, so that relocation may commence early in the New Year. In the meantime, the Foundation will remain in its current location while the Minister, the CIIC and EHF continue to work together to create a solution that will benefit our communities and companion animals.

All parties agreed that the meeting was extremely useful, helped greatly by a strong and positive collaborative spirit exhibited by all concerned.

For enquiries, please contact Mike Henry: Chairperson, CIIC Board (email: michael.henry@cookislands.gov.ck) and Dr Byron Maas (email: byronmaas@yahoo.com)

Apii Nikao celebrate its first birthday



Cook Islands Herald Issue 796

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, FRI 4th Dec 2015

Parliament sitting to convey festive greetings

The Honourable Mark Brown, Minister of Finance, was the quest speaker on Te Kave Kōrero on Friday 4th December 2015.

The subject of discussion was Parliament being called to sit on Monday 14th December 2015.

When asked what was the reason behind Parliament's sitting Brown said that Government wanted to communicate to all constituents prior to Christmas and New Year and is also appropriate to subpoena Parliament to carry out some work.

"Ae, no te aa kua komakoma na te Prime Minister ki to matou mema aere o te caucus, te inangaro nei te Prime Minister e kia aere oki te Kavamani i mua ake i to tatou iti tangata na roto i te Paramani i te komakoma ki to tatou iti tangata i runga i to tatou ngai ikianga tatakaitai especially i teia tuatau i mua ake ka ka tomo ai tatou ki roto i te Christmas e te New Year, e tau ai kia aere matou ki roto i te Paramani e rave i tetai manga angaanga".

Brown said the first objective is to select the Public Accounts Sub-Committee as it was not done in the last sitting of Parliament in June. One of this Committees task is to look at the budget prior to being brought before Parliament. This Committee is able to summon MFEM officers to answer their enquiries.

"E ko te mea mua ka inangaroia kia akanoonooia tera Public Accounts Sub-Committee o tatou. Kare oki teia Paramani i topa ake nei, te marama ko Tiunu, kare i akanoonooia te Public Accounts Committee". Na teia Komiti oki, tetai a ratou angaanga, kia akarakara i te tukuanga mai i te budget i mua ake i to tatou Paramani, e Komiti rai oki tetai na ratou teia angaanga kia akarakara matatio ratou, ka rauka i a ratou i te summon mai i tetai au aronga angaanga i roto mai i te MFEM i te pau i tetai a ratou uianga ua ta ratou ka tuku".

He said Parliament's task is to appoint five Members (of Parliament) onto this Sub-Committee and it should not take long to do.

"Ko te angaanga a te Paramani ko te akamana ua i teia toko rima o te au Mema aere, ko ratou te Sub-Committee, kare e roaia te tuatau i te rave i teia"

Secondly, Brown said he has two Bills to put through Parliament and they relate to

international banking as discussed and agreed to in the recent Pacific Financial Ministers Conference where the Ministers agreed to the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Programme being set up here in the Cook Islands and that there are changes in the law that need to be made before implementing the programme.

"Ko te rua, ko taku, e nga pīra taku inangaro nei au kia aere ki mua i te Paramani. Ko teia pīra no runga i te turanga o te international banking no te mea kua oti oki teia uipaanga maata i topa ake nei o te au Minita aere o te Pacific e kua ariki te au Minita aere i roto i teia uipaanga maata e ko teia, kare au e manako ana me te maara nei koe i teia insurance program no te Pacific katoatoa, te Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Programme e ka akanooia teia Insurance programme nei ki roto i to tatou Basileia, ki roto i te Kuki Airani e, me ka, e au ngai i roto i ta tatou ture i teia taime, ka inangaroia kia akamanaia tetai au ngai aere kia kore oki e tamanamanata i teia Insurance programme ta tatou ka akono ki roto i to tatou Basileia e no te katoaanga o te Pacific. Tetai ngai i roto i ta tatou ture i teia taime nei ka inangaroia kia akatauiia, e nga amendment taku".

When asked if there is a supplementary budget to be put before Parliament Brown said no but there may be one in February or March, that we have to wait after the six months period in December and should a supplementary budget is needed it will be done then but for the time being there will be no supplementary budget to be put before Parliament.

"Kare, ei aa i teia tuatau, kare au tamanakoana i tetai supplementary budget no tatou, penei paa a teia mataiti ki mua, i te marama ko Peperuare, me kare, ko Māti, ka tiaki oki tatou kia oti oki te apa mataiti i teia marama nei o December, e,

me ngai tetai i kitenia mai e, a ka inangaroia kia paruruia to tatou budget ka rauka i reira i te maani i tetai supplementary budget but i teia taime kare tatou e tuku i tetai supplementary budget i mua ake i te Paramani".

And when asked further if Government coffers are okay at the moment Brown said yes and also indicated the first quarter financial report for July, August and September would be released next month.

"A ae, ae e Tony, a teia epetoma ki mua ka release atu matou i te first quarter financial report no te tuatau, o te July, August, September. I roto i teia first quarter taku i akarakara poto au, e au turanga meitaki tetai no to tatou Basileia no runga i te turanga o te moni".

And when asked about the purse seine and the mato vai petitions Brown said they will be brought before Parliament and then Parliament would appoint some Members to examine the petitions and they would have the power to summon anyone to answer enquiries relating to the petitions.

Ae, I think, i raro ake i te akatereanga o te Paramani, ko teia au petition aere, ka tukuna mai teia ki mua ake i te Paramani, e oti i reira, ka iki mai te Paramani i tetai au Mema, mei tetai Select Committee rai, na ratou e akarakara i teia au petition aere. So te patiangā o teia petition, ko teia au Mema o te Committee ka rauka i a ratou i te summon mai i tetai au aronga aere kia aere mai ratou mei te Public Accounts Committee rai i te pau i tetai au o ratou uiuanga no runga i teia petitions".

Te Kave Kōrero thanks Minister Brown for coming onto the programme and for answering questions in relation to Parliament's sitting on Monday 14th December 2015.



New RE connectors need to register

The Aponga Uira has opened a facility on its website teaponga.com to enable residents and customers who have yet to install a renewable energy facility but wish to do so, to register their interest.

At present, electricity generation is totally reliant on the current Rarotonga grid capacity which limits the amount of renewable energy that can be safely channeled to households and businesses. Because we will soon reach the limitations of

the current grid, TAU has closed applications for new gross metering and independent power producer facilities until we upgrade our grid to be able to handle higher levels of solar installations.

To avoid using stacks of paper unnecessarily, we have set up a site online at teaponga.com where people can register their interest in installing a renewable energy generator. Registration is free and the number and types received will guide

Te Aponga in developing the capacity and capability of the existing grid. People who want assistance can come into our offices at Tutakimoa and one of our customer service teams can help them through the online registration.

People will need to have registered their interest to be able to apply for generation when renewable energy connections are reopened. This is likely to be in the latter half of 2016.



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Miss Cook Islands
Felicia George
Miss Cook Islands
19 years old
Working full time on her
role as Miss Cook Islands



Miss Tonga
Brittne Mahealani
Tupouvakatapule Fuimaono
21 years old
She is the co-owner of
KeMaHani Fashion in
Honolulu, Hawai'i and
has been a professional
entertainer for the past 10
years



Miss Samoa
Ariana Phillipa Taufao
24 years old
She is studying towards
a bachelor of business
degree majoring in
Accounting and a bachelor
of information technology
at the Queensland
University of Technology in
Brisbane, Australia.



Miss Solomon Islands
Deanne Ngina Enoch
23 years old
Miss Enoch is a final
year law student at the
University of Papua New
Guinea (UPNG).



Miss American Samoa
Suluga Talofaalii Taliu
19 years old
She enjoys playing
volleyball, volunteering her
free time, reading, hanging
out with family and friends
and photo journalism.



Miss Fiji
Miss Zaira Sera Begg
21 years old
In the three years since
leaving my home town for
the capital, I have worked
as a sales girl, secretary,
and bar tender just to
finance my dreams of
becoming a professional
dancer.



Miss Niue
Darlene Memory Tuango
Elaine Karena
22 years old
Prior to the Miss Niue
Pageant Elaine worked for
housing New Zealand.



Miss Papua New Guinea
Abigail Havora
24 years old
Miss Havora is a biology
and chemistry graduate
from the University of PNG

Domestic violence – the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff



I notice domestic violence has been rearing its ugly head again of late. I chose the heading for this article because I believe that

domestic violence is the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. It's a case of the barn door is now closed, but the horse has already bolted. I don't in any way want to appear to denigrate all the good work that many people in the community are striving to achieve in stamping out domestic violence. But I think that they are looking at domestic violence as one piece of a jigsaw puzzle of issues we need to address holistically. In this approach I believe that people working with domestic violence issues, are struggling to make any long lasting and sustainable progress as long as they follow this model in exclusion or isolation of the other issues that are at the root of domestic violence. If you look at all the headlines relating to domestic violence, child and sexual abuse, common assault and educational under achievement in the Cook Islands, I believe there is a common thread. This common thread starts in the cradle and I contend that we are not raising our children in a nurturing home environment adequately enough. We are not preparing proper childhood skill sets for the challenges of future adulthood. I believe that domestic violence is directly attributable to childhood and child abuse or exposure to child abuse. This is a noose around our neck and we must nip it in the bud. The mantra that: *"Our children are our greatest asset and our people are our greatest commodity"* is false. As children growing up, we thrive in an environment of stimuli both positive and negative, so as soon as we can talk, we ask questions. As soon as we can control our bodily functions we look, listen, feel, taste, smell and then explore, experience, and get hurt and that is how we learn and that is how we engage our burgeoning intellect. That is at odds with the way many children I believe growing up here in the Cook Islands are reared. Contrast that with what I have heard here, with adults, and you would be surprised at the so called paragons of our villages who treat their children shockingly. In the main our children are not encouraged to give an opinion or ask questions. Parents relationships are under close scrutiny from their children consciously or subconsciously and children are learning bad habits and poor behaviours off their parents. When negative parental stimuli becomes the norm the child soon learns what the parent deems as good or bad behaviour even if this so called good behaviour is not what society deems acceptable. Avoidance of parental displeasure and pain and suffering is the driving force. If I am good I won't suffer any consequences

even if I believe that what is being done to me doesn't seem right. Still the child quickly learns that it is alright to use this sort of response in their personal relationships with others. They take this attitude and behaviour into their adult lives and this becomes the norm or the standard by which they operate. They use these same responses to their own children and partners or spouse and this can escalate into domestic violence or child abuse when they don't get their way. Their parent was their role model so they must be right. Any negative response to a demand or order from the parent to their child or their partner can be met with abuse, physical assault and in some cases violence. Many Cook Islands adults do not have the necessary maturity or coping mechanisms that would enable them to make a reasoned response for what they see as disobedience. Instead they take a negative response from their child or partner as wilful disobedience or getting uppity. They can get very defensive which can quickly escalate into violence or abuse when alcohol or mood altering drugs have been consumed. I believe as a result of inadequate upbringing that child abuse is turning out a nation of kids with very poor social skills, unable to explain themselves properly, unable to make proper decisions, unable to engage in meaningful discussion with their partners and unable to stand on their own two feet without constant propping up. These are the next generation of parents we are bringing up. The only thing that they have learnt growing up as children is to react rather than act to cement their relationships and that violence and abuse is the accepted way of controlling their children and their partners. How as a so called developing nation are we going to stamp out domestic violence and all the other antisocial behaviours we have when the basic building blocks of our future, our children appear to come last? Our children have been subjected to being growled at for the most simple of things They are seen as a nuisance rather than the inquisitive and nosy little intellectual-sponges that they are and should be encouraged to ask questions no matter how inane or innocuous the question. Instead they are constantly being told to shut up or you'll get the bash, told to stop making a noise, don't climb on this or that. Told to go outside and play without an adequate explanation from the parent and this is seen by the child as a punishment. They quickly pick up the nations bad habit of punishment before praise, with punishment being the main criterion. It's no use taking guidance or helpful instruction from the older people or grandparents. Do you know why? Many of them are just like you, they learnt the same poor parenting skills that you are leaning now. It's come down through the generations. Don't get me wrong on this, okay, most parents here love their children, the problem is that unconsciously they put mental and physical impediments in the way of their

children's development, and are stifling their child's innovation and their ability to take calculated risks is stunted as they grow to adulthood. By stunting the mental and physical abilities of our children, what do you think happens when they grow to adulthood and start having babies themselves? They carry on in the same merry old way as they were taught and experienced growing up as a child and they perpetuate the same old same old. Our adults are at a distinct disadvantage at a time when the country needs innovation, enlightenment and initiative and people that can perform at the highest levels of the community. Lord help us if they become the future business and political leaders of this country. The survival instincts they developed avoiding punishment and abuse as a child and the skills they learned to become invisible and how to manipulate their domestic situations are quickly used in their dealings when they get to adulthood. Why do you think we have blue and white collar crime, politicians crossing the floor of the house, cronyism and public sector leaders who are incapable of performing at the highest levels required. It is so noticeable that when you ask college students here to use their initiative, they struggle because they have been brought up not to speak out of turn, not to contribute to meaningful discussions and not to get themselves noticed. By keeping under the radar they will not get noticed by adults and then growled or belittled for having an opinion. When you speak with employers in the Cook Islands many will tell of their frustration that their staff in the main lack initiative, drive, nous and common sense. Their employees don't perform at the highest levels expected, take no responsibility for any wrong doing, believe in a blame culture and do not volunteer if they can help it. When they get promoted to supervisory roles, they have time-spent experience on the job but precious little else. They moan, whine and complain when someone else gets the job on merit over them. Not realising that it is performance in the role rather than time spent that determines merit. So if we sort out proper child rearing and prepare our children for adulthood as best we can without abuse, we will have a nation of high achievers who have a number of social skills and interpersonal options to tackle any challenge going forward. Most importantly we will also have adults growing up with skill sets that enable them to make positive decisions in their relationships not based on giving their partners or children the bash. That's why I assert that domestic violence is the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. This is directly attributable to the inadequacy of the most basic of building blocks. We are not consistently creating a nurturing and learning environment for our children. As adults our poor skill sets and learned behaviours means we are resorting to abuse and violence to modify our partners or children's behaviours.

Pacific beauties begin their adventure for the Bluesky Miss Pacific Islands Pageant 2015 in the Cook Islands

The beauties of the Pacific have begun their adventure for the Bluesky Miss Pacific Islands Pageant 2015 in Undiscovered Cook Islands with a church service on Sunday the 7th of December 2015.

With this year's Pageant theme 'Our Spirit of Adventure', the eight beautiful contestants were traditionally welcomed in Rarotonga on Sunday morning by Paramount Chief Queen Tinomana Ariki at her palace grounds before attending the church service in the village of Arorangi in the district of Puaikura, the first district in all the 15 islands to accept Christianity. Also present was the Cook Islands Head of State, His Excellency Tom Marsters.

The contestants were joined by the Miss Pacific Islands Pageant Executive Director, Papalii Mrs. Sonja Hunter and the Miss Pacific Islands Pageant Host Committee President Mr. Cleo Marsters and Committee Members, the respective chaperones, parents and supporters of the contestants.

The contestants and all parties attended the Cook Islands Christian Church Service in Arorangi led by Reverend Tinirau Soatini. They were later treated to a delicious luncheon hosted by the Arorangi Church.

The first day of a weeklong celebration of this year's pageant concluded with the initial briefing of contestants at Club Raro Hotel, where they each had the opportunity to select their numbers in their order of appearance throughout the Pageant events and activities as well as their having selected their Topics for the Pre-Pageant Presentations and Interviews on Friday morning. Below are the contestants' names, the order of appearances and their Presentation & Interview topics.

Contestant Number 1: Miss American Samoa Miss Suluga Talofaalii Taliau

Topic: Environment

Contestant Number 2: Miss



Fiji Miss Zaira Begg

Topic: Climate Change

Contestant Number 3: Miss Cook Islands, Miss Felicia George

Topic: Tourism

Contestant Number 4: Miss Solomon Islands, Miss Deanne Enoch

Topic: Education

Contestant Number 5: Miss Samoa, Miss Arianna Taufou

Topic: Technology

Contestant Number 6: Miss

Tonga Miss Brittne Mahealani Tupouvakatapule

Topic: Health Fuimaono

Contestant Number 7: Miss Papua New Guinea, Miss Abigail Havora

Topic: Leadership

Contestant Number 8: Miss Niue, Miss Elaine Karena

Topic: Culture

The Miss Pacific Islands Pageant 2015 marks 29 years since the inception of the

pageant, formally known as Miss South Pacific, and will run from the 6th to the 12th December, with the actual competition to be held on the final two nights, on Friday 11th and Saturday the 12th of December with the winner to be crowned by Miss South Pacific 2014, Teuira Napa.

For more information including photos, please visit the official Facebook page www.facebook.com/misspacificislands



Miss Pacific Islands visit Bluesky



On Tuesday 8th December, the eight contestants of the Miss Pacific Islands Pageant visited Bluesky Cook Islands in a show of appreciation for the company's sponsorship. The last of the contestants arrived on Saturday night, but no signs of jetlag were presents. They were warmly welcomed with a few words from Bluesky Head Manager, Phillip Henderson. The girls, who are the very picture of elegance and beauty, were given a short tour around the Bluesky premises and were very appreciative of the staff. This was followed through with a small kaikai and chit chat. -Norma Ngatamariki

Apii Nikao 2015 prize giving



Te Kai Maori Food Festival



The official judging panel of Te Kai Maori Food festival.

By *Norma Ngatamariki*

The search is on for our nation's new signature dish. Te Kai Maori Food Festival is the first of its kind in our country, where the initiative is to promote our local delicacies with fresh, 100% local ingredients as well as to identify a brand new dish which will be wholly recognised as a Cook Island delicacy. This event was held at the National Auditorium, where local chefs and cooks proudly presented their sumptuous dishes to a panel of three judges.

Piltz Napa, from the Trade and Marketing Division of BTIB (Business Trade and Investment Board), congratulates each and every person who participated in the event. "This event is meant to encourage our people to use local ingredients in their cooking," Napa says. "Our local dishes are more than capable of entering international high-end restaurants." The overall goal is to find the perfect dish that the

whole world can relate to the Cook Islands. Napa comments that ika mata (marinated raw fish) was previously our signature dish before other Pacific nations started adopting it as their own. Mayonnaise (Cook Island style potato salad) is currently our national dish, but it is not authentically from this country.

There were a total of nine registered competitors in the event, all of whom were eager to showcase their edible masterpieces to three well-known accomplished chefs: Our very own Josie Rattle, Sam Timoko and finalist of My Kitchen Rules 2014, Aaron Freeman. The judging criteria was mainly based on three elements, which were the methods used in the preparation of the food, flavour and texture as well as presentation. Suffice to say, the judges were not disappointed, as they discovered a new array of flavours and inventive techniques. "I always want

to learn something new and different when it comes to food," Rattle says. All three judges were impressed by the competitors' innovative approach to our traditional food.

Cooking secrets were exposed and inspirational stories were shared once the competitors were asked to explain their unique dishes. Ray Roumanu, a cook proudly representing the island of Pukapuka, prepared a main dish of parrotfish, served on a bed of salad with a side of "kurupapa" or smacked breadfruit. For his dessert, he served a traditional pawpaw pudding with a homemade coconut puree, which was a truly mouth watering sight. It was a dish that he originally inherited from his grandmother, but he added his own modern twist with a touch of lemongrass. "These two dishes bring back fond memories of my childhood," Roumanu says.

Another cook, young talent Tevai Napa, presented a dish

that was close to her heart: Pasua fritters accompanied by a pawpaw and chilli chutney. This is traditionally a Northern Group food from the island of Penrhyn. "This dish was inspired by my mother," Napa shares. "It's the sort of treat that everybody looks forward to back home."

Local cooks, Pastor Ngarima George and Wendy Tuara were also amongst the competitors. Each and every one had their innovative approach to food, much to the delight of the judges. "It's great to see so many people that are still passionate about our traditional food, as it's something you don't see too often these days," Timoko adds.

The Food Festival is divided into three parts: the competition, a market day as well as a gala dinner in which 150 people will be attending. Piltz Napa is impressed by the capabilities of our local talent and anticipates more exciting opportunities ahead.



Papa Ngarima George hard at work on his Maroro ika mata creation.



Ray Roumanu fully concentrating on plating his dish



Tevai Napa proudly showing off her homemade Pasua fritters.



Another talented young local chef looking to impress the judges with his skills

Apii Nikao 2015 prize giving



TE KAVE KÖRERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, MON 7th Dec 2015

Grey power on taxation of retirement income

Pāpā Dennis Tunui, Grey Power President, was the quest speaker on Te Kave Kōrero on Monday 7th December 2015.

Tunui was interviewed in relation to Parliament sitting on Monday 14th December 2015 but more particularly with respect to Government's taxation of retirement incomes.

Taxation of superannuitants' incomes has been a controversial issue for Grey Power members since about this time of the year in 2013 when Government raided some pensioners' bank accounts.

In Māori Pāpā Dennis said that they (the Government) has enacted legislation enabling them to deduct payments from pensioners' bank accounts and therefore avoiding criticisms. He added that these deductions still continue today.

"E, i tēia nei, kua `anga rātou i tēta`i ture kia rauka i a rātou i te kiriti i ta mātou moni ma te kore rātou e `aka`apa`ia. Te tupu nei te rēira i tēia taime, te kiriti rikiriki`ia nei ta mātou moni`."

Tunui said his members were threatened that if they did not pay their taxes within two weeks they would be sued or taken before the High Court of the Cook Islands. He said pensioners preferred to appear before the High Court.

"Kāre, no te mea, ta mātou tikāi i inangaro, ka pāto`i `uātu rāi mātou ē, ko tēia `oki ta te Kavamani i tātā mai ana i mua ana. Mei te rua `epetoma me kāre mātou e tūtaki ka apaina mātou ki te `Akavā`anga, tū kia mua i te `Akavā`anga teitei o te Kūki Airani. Ta mātou te rēira i `inangaro, kia tū mātou ki mua i te `Akavā`anga`."

He said had the Court summons arrived everyone was going to Court, 50 or more, would have appeared before the Court. He said that was the plan but Government might have known about it so instead of taking the matter before the Court, deductions of \$200.00 a month was introduced.

"Mē tae mai te tāmanu ko te kātoatoa te ka tū, te ka `aere ki mua i te `Akavā`anga, rima nga`uru tūmā ka `aere. To mātou manako te rēira, toku manako, kua kite pa`a te Kavamani ē, ka `akapērā mātou, tauī. Kāre mātou e `apaina ki te `Akavā, ka kiriti `ua`ia rā `oki ta mātou moni, kiriti rikiriki `ua, e rua `anere tārā i te marama`."

Tunui said some pensioners were angry, so much so, that they felt it was better for the New Zealand Government to tax them rather than the Government.

"I to mātou pāto`i`anga i te `akakoro`anga o te Kavamani kia tero i a mātou, ko tētai tumu manako te rēira i topa mai, e ngari ake rāi na te Kavamani Nū Tīreni e tero i a mātou, to mātou riri `oki, auraka kia riro na tēia Kavamani e rave i ta mātou moni, kia `oki rāi ki te Kavamani Nū Tīreni, e tuatua `ua te rēira i roto i ta mātou `uipā`anga."

Tunui said at first he agreed that they should be taxed because "we had it too good".

"Te mua e Tony, kāre au i riri kua karanga au ē, e tika rāi kia tero`ia mātou no te mea, we had it too good`."

However after some research into the matter Tunui discovered that there was a back tax which they (the Government) did not disclose.

"I tōku kimi`anga i rēira te `o`onu`anga, kite au i rēira ē, e back tax tēta`i. Kāre roa rātou i `akakite ana ē, e nira tētā`i`."

Tunui stated this was the reason for their frustration. They were treated like children, ordered around and were never given an opportunity.

"No rēira to mātou riri e Tony. Kua `akatamariki`ia mātou, kua `akauē`ia mātou, kāre i `ōronga`ia māi na tēta`i tika`anga no mātou`."

He stated that had there been no back tax everything would have been fine and they would have paid their taxes accordingly.

"Nāringa rātou, tōku kimi`anga ē, kāre e back tax, pāpū i āku ē, kua marū mai mātou, ka tūtaki mātou`."

Tunui added that it was the back tax that got them agitated. They asked for the back tax to be waived, they were not listened to, so they said they would not pay back tax and any other tax, and that is their position at the moment.

"Nā tēia back tax i `akariri i a mātou, ko ta mātou tamaki`anga te rēira, no back tax, no back tax. Pati atu mātou ki a rātou e, e titiri `oki i te back tax ki va`o, kāre mātou i `akarongo`ia māi na, karanga atū ra mātou i rēira ē, okay, kāre mātou e tūtaki back tax, kāre mātou e tūtaki tax, no rēira mātou i to mātou tūranga i tēia taime`."

However towards the end of the interview Tunui stated that the back tax has been cancelled but the remaining issue, as far as Grey Power is concerned, is the taxation imposed on their members' retirement incomes.

Te Kave Kōrero thanks Pāpā Dennis Tunui for coming onto the programme and for highlighting again the ongoing issue his Grey Power members have with Government particularly in respect to Government taxing their retirement incomes.

Te Kave Kōrero would like to wish Pāpā Dennis and Grey Power members a wonderful Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

See you all in the New Year.

Meitaki maata e kia manuia.



How God meet our needs his way *Part 1*

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

Many people including Christians have a lot of needs and some of these needs are not being met. We must understand that every promise of God has a condition. In Philippians 4v.19 it reads "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Many people including Christians want to take this promise of God in v.19 and apply it to their lives while avoiding the conditions in v.14-18. The "promise" is Gods part and the "conditions" are our part. In other words God want us to do certain things before the "promise" applies. In order to understand and appreciate these verses let us look at the "Conditions" in v.14-18.

First, we must be generous to others. Proverbs 11v.25 reads "A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." When we are generous to others, God will be generous with us. He will bless us! Luke 6v.38, "Give to others, and God will give to you...The measure you use for others is the one God will use for you." If we are mean (karapii) then we are blocking the flow of Gods blessings in our lives and our families. The Apostle Paul gives us three reasons why we should be generous:

1) Our Giving Encourages others.

Philippians 4v.14-16 reads "It was good of you to share in my troubles... as you Philippians know, in the early days not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only, for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need." The Philippian church was not a wealthy church. Yet they were a generous and a giving church. Paul said their gift encouraged him. Giving is an encouragement. Both the giver and the receiver, receives

a blessing, an encouragement. The Philippians had a reputation for Generosity. In II Corinthians 8v.24, Paul calls them an example for the rest of the world. They gave out of their poverty. The church had such a reputation for giving, that even more than 2,000 years later (now-a-days) we still talk about the Philippian Church.

2) Our Giving Is An Investment In The Future.

In Philippians 4v.17 Paul said "though I appreciate your gifts, what makes me happiest is the well-earned reward you will have because of your kindness." Giving benefits the giver as well as the receiver. Jesus said 100 fold will be returned to him who gives up for the gospel. (Matthew 19v.29; Mark 10v.29-30) In Philippians 4v.17 Paul says "I want you to receive the reward for your giving." GN Bible ". I want to see profit added to your account" We have an account in Heaven. God is recording everything we do. If you don't invest, don't expect a reward! Store up treasure in heaven by giving for the gospel and for those in need! I Timothy 6v.18-19 (LB) "...Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven -- it is the only safe investment for eternity!" God's bank never goes bankrupt.

3) Our Giving is a Sacrifice to God

Paul said in v.18 "I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God." Jesus Christ gave sacrificially! for you and !! When you give sacrificially, generously, or even sharing with others, you are becoming more and more like Christ! And it pleases God. Paul said the gift the Philippians sent him is equivalent to a gift to God. Jesus

said, "In as much as you have done unto the least of these, my brethren, you have done it unto Me." (Matthew 25v.40). An act of generosity in our life is seen as a sacrifice to God. That's why Paul said it is important to be a Giver. There are two kinds of people - the Givers! and the Takers! The happy people are the giving people. The condition comes before the promise. You can't claim v.19 unless you're doing v.18. Jesus said, be generous to others and God will be generous with you!

Next week we will look at the Promise of God in Philippians 4v.19. God bless, te Atua te aroa!



PARLIAMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS
PUBLIC NOTICE
FAMILY LAW BILL SELECT
COMMITTEE

SUBMISSIONS CLOSING DATE EXTENSION:

The Public is hereby advised that the closing date for receiving both written and oral submissions has now been extended to Friday 29 January 2016, at 4pm. This is due to the high interest shown by the public on Rarotonga and the need for the physical presence of the Family Law Bill Select Committee in the Pa Enuu. Please ensure to address your submissions to; Mr. John Tangi, Clerk of Parliament, Nikao Rarotonga.

AKATUKE-ANGA I TE TUATAU E TOPIRI IAI TE AU TATA'ANGA MANAKO:

Te akakite iatu nei ki te katoatoa e, kua akatere iatu te ra e topiri iai te arikianga i te au manako tata'anga e pera te au manako ka tuatua va'a ua ia, ki te Varaire ra 29 no Tianuare 2016, i te ora 4 i te avatea ai. Te tumu no teia akatukeanga, koia oki no te inangaro o te iti-tangata i Rarotonga nei kia marama ratou, e pera te anoano maata kia tae te Kumiti Takake no te Ture Tamanako no te Kopu'tangata ki te Pa Enuu. Tuku mai i ta kotou au tamanakoanga kia; Mr. John Tangi, Clerk of Parliament, Nikao, Rarotonga.

John Tangi
Clerk

Coming to Christmas

By Teherenui Koteka

Can you hear those sleigh bells jingling? I definitely can because it is that time of the year where Christmas trees are decorated and Santa comes to visit.

The first of December just seems to trigger everybody's Christmas spirit, all over my Facebook newsfeed I see reoccurring status's about the joy of Christmas and endless lists of Christmas wishes. I love Christmas but over the past couple of years I have found it quite difficult to get into the Christmas spirit that seems to have everyone so hyped up on, and I have to ask myself why this is? I could not find a reasonable answer, except for one; perhaps Christmas is just something that used to excite me as child and perhaps the mystery and magic of Christmas no longer has a grasp on me. I know this seems like a ugly thought, and to any

reasonable person [including myself] the idea of not enjoying Christmas is a sad one. I miss the days where I believed old St Nick climbed through chimneys, or more accurately for the Rarotongan life through the open door. I miss the times where Christmas morning was a joyous time where I raced my siblings to thee Christmas tree, I miss the Christmas spirit. Furthermore I have found that this is relatively common problem amongst young people my age.

This year I have taken it upon myself to engage in the Christmas spirit, I am determined to return to the point in my life where Christmas truly was the best time of the year. So if you are a slight Grinch and want your heart to grow three sizes bigger read my easy three step policy to enjoying your Christmas just like you did when you were a child.

Step 1: LITTLE STUFF

I have come to the realization

that lately all my little Christmas duties have been left to the very last minute and I end up rushing to put things together as opposed to my younger years where I had my presents under the tree the week before Christmas morning. So I advise you to get all your gifts, cards and other Christmas stuff together a good three days before the big day. This leaves you with lots of time to focus on the fun stuff that accompanies Christmas like spending time with your family. This brings me to step 2.

Step 2: FAMILY TIME

Christmas time is family time, and here in the Cook Islands it means family from overseas too. Take time to fully appreciate your family being her. Spend time with all your little annoying cousins and your old uncles and aunts because on Christmas day these are the people that are guaranteed to be the fun ones. Take this time to bond with your

siblings and cousins over baking Christmas cookies or picking out that perfect gift for grandma and grandpa.

Step 3: REMEMBER TO BE THANKFUL

Go to a Christmas service in the morning, they truly have a way of reminding you that you are incredibly lucky, plus everyone wishes you Merry Christmas and good vibes rub off. It is always important to remember the reason we celebrate Christmas and while we are celebrating remember that not everyone is as fortunate as you are. Remember that you are lucky to have received a gift, that you can sit down to a great Christmas dinner and to have lived to see another Christmas.

So there you go my three easy steps to having a great Christmas. It may strange but I think they're already working. Have a merry Christmas.

Avarua school prize giving



Whisper is chooks, the Tiare Taporo could follow the same fate as the Bounty and head for Davey Jones Locker off Aitutaki. But first, Captain Mike will seek compensation from government to stow all that asbestos aboard!



The race is on chooks! It's the "Desperately Seeking OCI Stakes" and the "OCI Hurdles" being run at Aitutaki Race Course on Wednesday and Thursday. On Wednesday, Jockeys from the Demo Stable will be seeking to hop on the OCI trained stallion Teina's Dream and on Thursday a Jockey from the CIP stable will be seeking the ride on OCI's other stallion Bishop's Wish. For those wishing to place bets on the outcome of the races, the TAB will open on One Foot Island at 9am Wednesday and 10am Thursday.



What on earth were Mikie Eneri and his deluded friends celebrating long it to the night when his 130 (more like 13) passenger rust bucket eye sore limped into the Avatiu Harbour? Since it's been here, it hasn't moved due to engine trouble. The last crew member who hasn't been paid for seven months packed his bags and left leaving Mikie's sons to look after the piece of junk while Dad does his rounds of the Christmas cocktails. It seems it can only go in reverse direction. When the Harbour Master issued an evacuation notice due to the Cyclone Tuni warning the Tiare Taporo, Mikie's prized trophy had to be tied down in the Port plus a twenty four hour watch, what an embarrassment.



Big Red's person of the year without hesitation goes to our super achiever the former Miss Cook Islands and regional beauty champion Teuira Napa. In the



mist of the double beauty pageants she maintained a dignified composure and never got ruffled or had a hair out of place. What a great ambassador she has been during her reign, not only beautiful in appearance but also in personality and character, well done Teuira.



Now here's a word of caution for HOMs and other government agency heads, who continue to scoff at or fail to read the political situation clearly. If OCI becomes part of government by way of a partnership, expect a review of all government agencies and Boards to take place. Any government agency/Board practicing or condoning nepotism, the favoring of relatives or the awarding of contracts to relatives will dealt to. This practice which has tainted our politics like a disease since 1965, will be stamped out and the head of the agency involved can look for employment elsewhere. Do not say the warning has not been given.



How sad the puffs of smoke from the vessel, SS Daily, about the Demo-OCI partnership are so way off the mark. If you don't know anything about local politics, don't show everyone how dumb you are by writing fairy tales. OCI holds the balance of power.

End of story.



Food Day opposite the Banana Court on Tuesday turned out to be something of a flop. BTIB was even asking regular stall holders to front up for free and not the fee of \$70 that was charged last time. A group of tourists told Big Red they did not even bother to stop because they thought the area was still being set up as so few were milling about!



Seen hooning through Tupapa at high speed, a couple of likely lads on the local MP's quad bike towing a trailer! Having a great time impersonating a formula 1 race car driver while the MP was away! It must be remembered quad bikes are ATVs-all terrain vehicles, and are not designed for use on roads but on uneven terrain like farms, hills, bush tracks. Riders should be properly trained in their safe use as these bikes require riders to transfer their weight when cornering and going up and down hill. Perhaps the Chinese manuals were not read but then again who can read mandarin?



Whisper chooks is the MP for Penrhyn was hoping to catch a lift up north when the boat went to deliver the Chinese machinery. However, he

was not quick enough and had to watch the boat sail out the harbour without him!



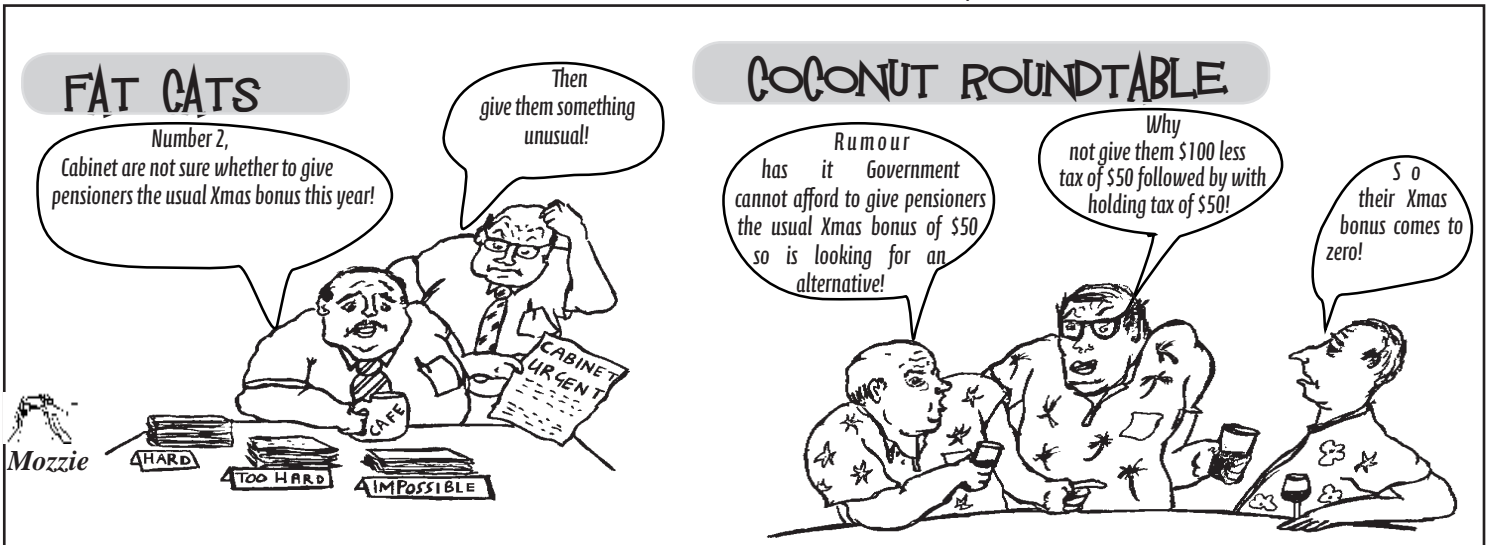
Seems entries in the Captain's log for the vessel SS Daily were designed to pump up the PM's deflated ego after international media at the COP in gay Paree ignored his 5 minute spiffle on Climate Change and did not bother to report it at all we hear! Why should the international media show any interest in a tiny Pacific upstart that masquerades as a small island developing state (in order to attract funding) when that is so far from reality (check out the number of flashy 4WDs and SUVs), and which is not in any danger of total annihilation from the rising sea like Tuvalu and Kiribas. The whole population of the endangered Northern group can be accommodated on Aitutaki, Mangaia and Rarotonga and they can also move onto NZ.



When is the Aitutaki MP Bona Yua-Nee going to front up to criminal charges brought by Police over election misdemeanors which landed him in noodle hot water before the trio of Appeal Court wigs? Why the hold up?



It's unlikely chooks that flushing Muri lagoon will demolish the rampant green algae. The reason being the growth is caused not by nutrients in the water but in the sediment (sand). This type of algae is known as "invasive" and is also causing problems in the Mediterranean. It thrives in shallow water with plenty of sunlight. Agricultural chemicals used 40 to 50 years ago are now reaching the lagoon through the soil and sand adding to the woes already caused by seeping sewerage.



PUBLIC NOTICE



PUBLIC NOTICE

TAU NEW POWER HOUSE PROJECT, AVATIU VALLEY, RAROTONGA

We are experiencing a problem with traffic travelling too fast at the entrance to the power station in Avatiu Valley where TAU civil works are in progress.

Visitors, residents and users of the Avatiu Valley road are asked to take extra care and slow down along the section of the road beside the power station during normal working hours. Watch out for heavy vehicles, plant and machinery that may be manoeuvring or parked on the roadside. Keep an eye out for loose gravel and debris on the road from time to time.

RAFFLE RESULTS

PALMERSTON ISLAND HOSTEL GROCERY HAMPER RAFFLE RESULTS

On behalf of the Palmerston Island Hostel Charitable Trust Board Chairman QR H.E Tom J Marsters and Fundraising Committee they would like to extend a very big thank you to all the families, and friends who supported selling and buying the Palmerston Island Hostel Grocery Hamper Quick raffle.

Please check out our Palmerston Island facebook pg for photo report.

Our Winners are:

PRIZES TICKET NAME PHONE

| | | | |
|-----|------|--|-------|
| 1ST | 165 | Akaiti Daniels (Sonny Daniels –Aroko Bungalows 21625 | |
| 2nd | 1208 | JFKK-Apii Ben | 24333 |
| 3rd | 1413 | Anna Howard | 56526 |
| 4th | 1507 | A Pirangi –Highland Paradise | 50567 |
| 5th | 432 | Mcdonald family Kavera | 20297 |
| 6th | 326 | Savannah Nia | 55845 |

Consolation Prizes

| | | | |
|-----|------|----------------------|-------|
| 1st | 143 | Jimmy Barnes | CIFA |
| 2nd | 927 | Agnes Tauraa | 77201 |
| 3rd | 265 | Mara A | 21662 |
| 4th | 1583 | Alice Manuka | 52401 |
| 5th | 192 | Seth | 75496 |
| 6th | 871 | Duck | 75630 |
| 7th | 1774 | Lee – Police Station | 58226 |
| 8th | 1920 | Taupini Ama | 50786 |
| 9th | 1962 | Tupuna Jessie | 25527 |

Please contact Lydia on 77245 to collect your prize
Meitaki Maata

VACANCIES



Apata Group Ltd is a kiwifruit post harvest packhouse facility based in the sunny Bay of Plenty, New Zealand.

We are looking for staff for our kiwifruit packing season starting in mid March 2016 through to mid June 2016.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact Michaela on 0064 7 5520523 or email michaela.gallear@apata.co.nz stating you are in the Cook Islands.

Once we have received expressions of interest, an Apata representative will arrange a date to start the recruitment process.

We offer support with your travel flights, communal accommodation, transport and pastoral care. We look forward to hearing from you.



Pacific Resort
HOTEL GROUP

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

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

- Executive Chef (Aitutaki)
- Executive Sous Chef (Aitutaki)
- Sous Chef (Rarotonga)
- Chefs de Partie
- Demi Chefs
- Wait & Bar Staff
- Qualified Builder (Rarotonga)

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

To apply : email – work@pacificresort.com



COOK ISLANDS STEEL INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Looking for a Job in the New Year

FRONTLINE SALES POSITION

A fulltime counter position is available starting from Jan 11th 2016

Call now for details and uinterview.

Grant 23677

ADVERTISE WITH THE

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

EAT LESS

MOVE MORE

HEART FOUNDATION

TENDERS



**TENDER
PURCHASE AND SUPPLY OF BITUMEN TRUCK
AND MOBILE KETTLE
CONTRACT NO. C15-13**

Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) seeks tender proposals from Contractors for the Purchase and Supply of Bitumen Truck and Mobile Kettle, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

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

Tenders close at 3pm on Friday, 18th December 2015, and must be submitted in hard copy format in an envelope marked "CONFIDENTIAL" and have the following information clearly exhibited on the outside:

TO: The Principal
Infrastructure Cook Islands
Arorangi
Rarotonga
COOK ISLANDS

FROM: (Name of Tenderer)
(Tenderers address 1)
(Tenderers address 2)
(Tenderers address 3)

TENDER FOR: C15-13 PURCHASE AND SUPPLY OF BITUMEN TRUCK AND MOBILE KETTLE

TENDER CLOSURES: 3.00PM, FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER 2015

All Enquiries to be directed to: Solomona Solomona
Contact Officer
Email: solomona.solomona@ici.gov.ck
Phone: +682 20321



ATIU WATER UPGRADE PROJECT (PHASE 1)

**Tender OPM/REDD-03/2015
Supply and Delivery of Water Pipes and Fittings**

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) is seeking tender submissions from reputable manufacturers/suppliers for the supply and delivery CIF of PE water pipes and fittings for the Atiu Water Upgrade Project (Phase 1).

The full tender document is available on the website www.procurement.gov.ck.

All enquiries must be directed to the Project Engineer Ngateina Rani, Renewable Energy Development Division (REDD), OPM, Telephone +682 25494 Ext 7024 or Mobile +682 54433.

This tender closes at 1.00pm on Monday 11 January 2016 (local time). All tender submissions must be deposited in the tender box located at the REDD's office, OPM, Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands. Electronic tender submissions will not be accepted.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TUTAKA

MONDAY 7 – FRIDAY 17 DECEMBER

| | | |
|---|----------------|--|
| 1 | Mon. 07.12.15 | Tuarai, Matavera |
| 2 | Tue. 08.12.15 | Turangi, Avana, Muri |
| 3 | Wed. 09.12.15 | Tikioki, Titikaveka, Turoa, Vaimaanga |
| 4 | Thur. 10.12.15 | Rutaki, Aroa, Kavera, Betela |
| 5 | Fri. 11.12.15 | Akooa, Black Rock, Tokerau, Inave, Ruaau |
| 6 | Mon. 14.12.15 | Rangiura, Panama, Tereora, Tepuka, Pokoinu |
| 7 | Tue. 15.12.15 | Ruatonga, Avatiu, Atupa |
| 8 | Wed. 16.12.15 | Takuvaine, Parekura, Tutakimoa, Teotue. |
| 9 | Thur. 17.12.15 | Maraerenga, Tupapa, Pue, Kiikii, Ooa |



FINAL TUTAKA FOR 2015 AND PART OF THE VAKA PRIDE ACTIVITIES

TENDER



**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR GOVERNANCE AND
MANAGEMENT OF THE GENERATION AND SUPPLY OF
ELECTRICITY IN THE COOK ISLANDS**

Request for Tender

The Office of the Prime Minister is seeking tender submissions for the Governance and Management of the Generation and Supply of Electricity in the Cook Islands.

The contract will contribute to the sustainable and effective performance of the electricity sector in the Cook Islands. The outcome of the Contract will provide government key recommendations for decision making as a way forward for the Electricity sector.

Full tender documents and conditions, please refer to www.procurement.gov.ck. Reference number 151616

Queries can be directed to Tangi Tereapii, Renewable Energy Development Division, Office of the Prime Minister, ph 25494 ext 808.

Tendersubmissions close 4.00pm Monday 14th December 2015 (Cook Islands time). Tenders must be deposited in the Tender Box at the Renewable Energy Development Division (REDD), Office of the Prime Minister, Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

New Hope Church

Parekura Conference Centre

Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you

Sunday at 10.30am

The other side of Sepp

(Published in the Borneo Bulletin Weekend, on: November 21, 2015)

By Tavita

SEPP Blatter, otherwise known as Bepp Splatter, is well known for all sorts of things.

For years and years and years he 's been alleged to be the cunning head of an extremely cunning international network of all sorts of very cunning people called FIFA, otherwise known as the Fiendishly Infernal Force for All Sorts of Things.

It comprises all sorts of people known as International Chairmen of International Stuff.

It includes ex-centre forwards and groundsmen, and referees and very rich physio therapists and all sorts of others known as football authorities.

They come from South America. Central America and North America even the outer reaches of East America.

They also come all from everywhere else in the football world and are currently being arrested all over the place.

And for the past dozens of years they have been led, encouraged and apparently influenced by the aforesaid Sepp Blatter. So, no doubt about it.

Sepp Blatter's thoroughly evil and a menace to football.

At least that was my impression until I recently visited one of the places he's been menacing for the past few years.

COOK ISLANDS

This is a minute, hitherto unknown footballing country currently ranked somewhere up in the 160's in the FIFA rankings of unknown footballing countries in Oceania.

They were previously best known for losing 30-0 to neighbours Tahiti a few years ago.

In fact, football was a curiosity, known to very few people.

Come Saturday night, there was no way you could impress a passing target on the dance floor by recounting how you how you saved the game with a last minute hoof up field out of the six-yard box.

"What's a six-yard box?" was the likely response.

Football was a game played by as near as possible half a

dozen players plus three more who turned up late and another couple rounded up off the touchline if you could find a couple on the touchline.

The real game was rugby union or rugby league.

And it was quite understandable. There were rich rewards in rugby.

A league of six village teams, form F grade youngsters, through to A and B grade seniors.

Ranked second in Oceania in the early seventies, with the ultimate dream of a move to New Zealand and a shot at being an All Black.

And, of course, a guaranteed shot on the Saturday night dance floor.

It was all summed up one afternoon when I happened to pass a soccer field on the way to the rugby.

There was a game of football going on and I briefly paused.

"What are you doing?: said another passer-by>

"Just watching," I replied.

A look of astonishment greeted me.

"What! Nobody watches football!"

NOWADAYS

These days, however, all that

has totally changed.

Rugby is down to two teams per village. A pack of exiled Cook Islanders lost 108-6 against Fiji in the World Cup qualifiers. Women are far more impressive than men on the international scene.

But football?

Wow!

A national stadium with two immaculately mown and prepared grounds. Overseas coaches. A national team at every level. Semi-professionalism. And the vast majority of national reps born, bred and playing at home.

During my recent visit, I went to a midweek fixture. Lots of people watching!

It was between the National U15's and a local club side's U17's.

Gear? Immaculate. The pitch? Immaculate. The standards of refereeing? Immaculate. Coaching? Immaculate.

Everything immaculate except for the skills and talent on display, above all, by the National U15's.

They went far beyond immaculate. They were amazing. To use a modern youthful word. They were...

....AWESOME!

Cook Islands football is going 1!

places. The days of the 30-0 loss to Tahiti are long, long gone

WHY?

Sepp! And his policy in FIFA of developing a truly world game.

So, Europe and all you lily-white critics of Sepp, what was your contribution to developing the game in the hundred years or so you had control?

Since about 1999, about one million a year has been poured into the Cook Islands.

And contrary to the reports from Europe, it has been spent on three things that lie directly at the heart of development.

Facilities of the highest class; skills, talent and coaching from overseas and at home; and exposure of the game's administrators and officials to international standard of progress and development.

The result has had an enormous social impact, not only on the players and those who run the game. But also on the general public, in the appreciation of the game and their understanding of what it's about.

Nobody's saying nobody football. Everyone is saying: "Good on yer, Sepp".

Now for Tahiti 0 Cook Islands

Extension of Funeral Allowance to resident NZ Super Pensioners

The Minister for Internal Affairs, Hon.

Albert Nicholas, has announced that the Government has extended the eligibility for the Funeral Allowance to NZ Super Pensioners who have returned to live in the Cook Islands.

Currently, a funeral assistance grant is only paid on the death of Cook Islands Old Age Pensioners, however, NZ Super Pensioners that have returned to live in the Cook Islands do not receive any funeral allowance from the

NZ government or the Cook Islands Government.

"This is an issue that the Government can do something more for our people who receive the NZ Super Pension and choose to return to the Cook Islands for their retirement," said Minister Nicholas. "These pensioners are expected to pay tax on their retirement income and who also spend that income here in the Cook Islands."

The eligibility criteria will require a minimum of 12 months residence by NZ Super Pension recipients at

the time of passing in the Cook Islands. The rate of the funeral allowance to NZ Super Pensioners will be set at \$1,200, half the rate paid for Cook Islands Old Age Pensioners.

The Funeral Allowance is administered by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and is a non-cash payment (payments are made on presentation of invoices only). Lower rates of funeral assistance grants are also provided for deaths of recipients of the Destitute and Infirm Payments and the Child Benefit.