

COOK ISLANDS HERALD

16 December 2015 \$2 (incl VAT)

*Goldmine model,
Tehere, featured
here wearing this
beautiful amber
necklace and
bracelet from
Goldmine*

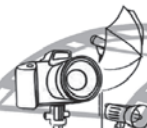


www.facebook.com/RaroPubCrawl
**THE BIGGEST & BEST
PUBCRAWL
ON RAROTONGA**

WED & SAT \$25, FRI \$35
**CALL NOW
on 29700**
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

CIPS
IMAGE & COPY CENTRE

DIGITAL PHOTO PRINTS STANDARD TO SUPER BIG
Printed on Photopaper or Canvas



ONLY
35¢
100 Plus Prints

Well also sell digital cameras, printers, cellphones,
car audio and much much more..

FUJIFILM OKI Canon

Come in and see the photo specialists today
Located Opposite Cooks Corner

PH: 26 238 FX: 21 238 Email: fuji@cookprint.com

*Cakes for
all occasions!*



**Edgewater
Cakes**

Enquiries call us
on 25435 extn 7010

**Sunset BarBQs
at the Shipwreck Hut**

Saturday Seafood menu
with Jake Numanga on
the Ukulele 6pm

Tuesday Sunset BBQ with
Garth Young on Piano 6pm

Thursday Sunset Cocktails
with Rudy Aquino
5.30pm-7.30pm

Reservations required
22 166

Aroa Beachside Inn, Betela
Great Food, Great Entertainment

*Always the best
selection, best
price & best
service at
Goldmine!*



Cook Islands
Top Jewellery & Gift Store

POWERBALL RESULTS

Drawn: 10/12/15 Draw num: 1021

10 14 17 18 28 35 PB

9

TATTSLOTTO RESULTS

Drawn: 12/12/15 Draw num: 3589

6 7 8 11 31 40 SUPP: **22 30**

OZLOTTO RESULTS

Drawn: 15/12/15 Draw num: 1139 Next draw:

4 6 8 20 33 37 44 SUPP: **1 2**



COMPUTER MAN
Sales Parts & Service

**10% OFF
EVERYTHING
IN STORE**
XMAS SALE

Terms and Conditions Apply
Sales apply to Cash and Cheque sales only

PH 24979 Located in Tutakimoa Next to CITY



Frame compromises integrity

- political interference corrupts Crown Law

Revered Cook Islands Constitution (CIC) expert Alex Frame has lost the plot over his controversial legal opinion Crown Law's Cheryl King sought for the Financial Intelligent Unit's (FIU) head Bob Williams. When Frame buckled to pressure from the former Financial Secretary Richard Neves and King and diluted his so called draft opinion he compromised his integrity and professional credibility.

Frame is no longer fit to provide legal opinions on matters related to the CIC, his initial opinion on matters relating to the financial massaging of the scandalous Schoonergate and the unlawful expenditure of inappropriate funds was spot on but incriminated the Cook Islands Party government.

What had been shrouded in secrecy and lied about by those who had mastermind the manipulation of public funds under the cover of a flawed interpretation of the provisions of expenditure in the CIC was now confirmed by Frame's legal opinion.

For many months media practitioners had without reservation put their reputations on the line in their relentless exposure of the sleight of hand fiscal trickery being performed by the wizards in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM).

Crown Law's inexperienced fill in Solicitor General King ignored colleague counsel and unwisely waded into the fray of covering up the corrupt shenanigans being courageously served up

for public consumption. King's panic charged attempt to gag this writer by way of a High Court interim injunction fell on deaf ears as well as her desperate attempt to have Police arrest and charge Pitt with contempt of court.

Pitt received an apology from the Police and Minister of Finance Mark Brown retracted his spin doctoring media comments accusing Pitt of breaking the law.

King admitted to forwarding a full version of the so called draft Frame advice to Williams and an unauthorised redacted version to Neves then she continued in her ignorance to claim client privilege to mask her serious indiscretion of the legal process of client privilege. King seriously erred and committed a breach of mistrust and confidentiality and must be suspended for malpractice by whoever has the power to so.

In forwarding the incomplete unauthorised version of Frame's advice to Neves who is one of the subjects of the FIU investigation, then unbeknown to FIU to have a telephone conference with Frame at Neves' insistence, King's tenureship and suitability as the Solicitor General is in jeopardy and for any continuation she must be yellow carded and sent to purgatory for rehabilitation.

Pressure was put on Frame by Neves to engage in creative editing and reword the incriminating comments in his opinion, King supported Neves' big picture context of the content. Neves literally begged Frame to make the changes pleading he acted in good faith



Alex Frame - backflips his opinion

and claimed circumstantial innocence. Neves has openly admitted part of his job is to protect government, this he has without shame, blatantly done to the point of slanting the law with regularity. The law has been crow barred to fit and suit the fiscal occasion and purpose of government.

Frame was coerced to produce an amended opinion tailor made to dilute the premeditated indiscretions of Neves and Brown to the point of almost granting them absolution.

The incriminating references in his draft opinion which initially was his opinion full stop have been dramatically changed as rightly commented by John Scott's article in this issue. This shocking back flip by Frame must without reservation put him on the blacklist for any further legal consultations.

His changes are unexplained but a noticeable shift sees Frame making judgement on

the motives of the perpetrators who he inexplicitly excuses. Frame was not asked for an opinion on the cognitive state of individuals that motivated their actions, he was engaged to give a legal opinion on a matter of law concerning the CIC.

Whatever possessed Frame to be manipulated by the protection peddlers of government must be examined by whoever is in a position to discipline him for his own good. To colabrate with the political monkeys of the corrupt CIP government is a red card offence.

To widely distribute Frame's watered down fabricated final opinion before Williams has concluded his investigation is another inexcusable political attempt to pervert the course justice. It is no secret Cabinet are reeling and upset at Williams' unwillingness to abandon his investigation.

King, Neves and Brown have a

continued next page

lot to answer for and it is likely Williams will unearth more evidence of the shocking extent and depth of corruption in the CIP government, as persistently commented by this publication it is a lot deeper than meets the eye. It is little wonder so much political force was committed to preserving the secrecy of Frame's initial opinion.

Despite Williams declining to answer questions related to his ongoing investigation, it is on good authority Williams has dumped the Frame opinion after expressing his disappointment to Frame for collaboration with Neves and King to excuse the persons of his interest. The Herald understands FIU has engaged another independent legal source for a fresh opinion without the assistance of Crown Law.

Williams has every right to blow a fuse over the political interference of his investigation on the Pacific Schooners Ltd (PSL) debacle and the authority and circumstances surrounding the advance of \$200,000 to PSL.

The Neves instigated PERC investigation into Schoonergate got contaminated when chair person Geoff Stoddart choked and collaborated with his friend Neves to release a toothless report that erased and bypassed the issues which angered the public and praised Neves who had set the focus of the investigation. Accusations of

papaa protecting papaa were publically aired.

It is alleged Stoddart's loyalty and reciprocity obligation to

FIU's interest in the Schoonergate scandal therefore was welcomed news that the compromised Stoddart PERC

FIU's interest in the Schoonergate scandal therefore was welcomed news that the compromised Stoddart PERC report was not the end of the matter. Sadly Alex Frame has gullibly fallen prey to the politicking drum beat peddled by the control freak Neves and his side kicks.

Neves stems from the Colagate allegations when Neves excused any commission of inquiry that would have scrutinised Stoddart's prominent role as the Tax/Revenue Manager who facilitated the CITC tax relief. At Neves' recommendation he covers another base when the retired Stoddart is accommodated with the \$35,000 a year Chairmanship of PERC.

A secondary complaint from a member of the public did not receive consideration concerning the alleged elements of corruption imbedded in the special treatment afforded to political favourite Mike Henry.

report was not the end of the matter. Sadly Alex Frame has gullibly fallen prey to the politicking drum beat peddled

by the control freak Neves and his side kicks.

Frame's shameless reworked opinion is not worth the paper it is written on and despite the political meddling Williams must be congratulated for telling Frame where he could shove his opinion. It is understood Williams vented his displeasure to King for her bungling Faulty Tower handling of his investigation.

Brown's persistent public inference FIU's investigation is politically driven has thankfully failed to distract Williams who is determined to complete an impartial investigation without fear or favour.

No doubt Frame will retaliate with verbal threats of legal action decorated with defamation insinuations but he can be advised they will fall on deaf ears. It is as plain as day Frame stuffed up and he is morally obliged to apologise to Bob Williams.


- George Pitt

FOR SALE - 2016 DIARIES


Rarotonga's biggest selection at the best prices for Pocket, Desk, Home and Business. Appointment Books, Desk Calenders, Wall Planners, and Organisers

BOUNTY BOOK SHOP

BOUNTY BOOKSHOP SPECIALS IN STATIONERY

 **SWITCH ON WITH TE APONGA UIRA**

Be Prepared



When a cyclone alert is sounded you should ensure your mobile phone batteries are fully charged.

Turn off and unplug electrical appliances and TV or DVD aerial cables.

During a cyclone listen to a battery-operated radio for weather updates and don't venture outside until you know it's safe to do so. Use a torch to find your way around.

Government aims to improve performance, small operating surplus expected

Minister for Finance, the Honourable Mark Brown released the 2016/17 Budget Policy Statement (BPS) outlining the intended focus for the development of the 2016/17 budget for 2016/17 and the 2015/16 Half Year Economic Update (HYEFU).

In releasing the statement Minister Brown pointed out the focus on the first of Government in the first six months of 2016 would be aimed at improving public financial management, economic governance and the public sector, these include:

- * undertaking an independent economic review of the underwrite of Los Angeles and Sydney flights;

- * further upgrading the Revenue Management System;

- * scoping changes required to centralise the Cook Islands Government Financial Management Information Systems (FMIS);

- * development and finalisation of the Cook Islands tourism strategy;

- * reviewing the medium term infrastructure needs of the education sector and reviewing expenditure levels in the health sector;

- * implementing a corrective action plan to meet ICAO universal safety oversight audit programme (USOAP) findings; and

- * finalising a set of standard immigration operating procedures.

The 2016/17 BPS outlines base funding for core service delivery and economic growth activities will be maintained across the period of the budget and forward estimates (2016/17 to 2019/20). Any new initiatives will be focused on strengthening the public sector through ongoing centralisation of corporate services functions and improving overall performance in infrastructure management.

Changes to Income Tax

As of 1 January 2016 the Government will reduce the income tax rate from 18.5 per cent to 17.5 per cent for earnings between \$11,000 and \$30,000. This rate will be further reduced from 17.5 per cent to 17 per cent from 1 January 2017. These initiatives have already been factored into revenue forecasts. The changes are expected to bring tax revenues as

a proportion of GDP come down to around 26 per cent in 2017/18. (See table in shaded area)

Pension Increases

In the 2015/16 budget the Government announced that pensions for those aged 70 and over will be increased by \$10 from 1 July 2016 to \$660 a month, these changes have already been factored into expenditure forecasts.

Changes to Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure

Tax revenue for 2015/16 has been revised upward by \$0.3 million due to an increase in withholding tax being offset by lower collections of other taxes. Estimates of expenditure have increased by around \$1.7 million in 2015/16, to accommodate costs incurred in 2015/16 for Te Maeva Nui transportation and the 50th celebrations.

The underlying net operating surplus 2015/16 is anticipated to be of \$0.79 million. An underlying net operating deficit of \$0.179 million is estimated for 2016/17 moving to a \$2.698 million surplus in 2017/18 and \$4.674 million surplus in 2018/19. Revenues from Maritime resources have not been updated at this stage but are expected to be higher than the budget estimate.

Seeding of the Sovereign Wealth Fund

The Government is drafting policy and legislation, in consultation with the community, to establish the Cook Islands Sovereign Wealth Fund (CISWF). The CISWF will invest any short-term gains from the natural capital endowments of the Cook Islands for the benefit of all future Cook Islanders. One of these sources of short-term revenue is from fishing penalties. In December 2015, the Cook Islands received \$0.5 million in fishing fines. As the CISWF is not yet in operation, these revenues will be held in reserve, and transferred to the Fund as seed funding upon the passage of enacting legislation.

Updated economic and revenue forecasts

Nominal economic growth (which the majority of tax income is derived from) is estimated to be as follows:

- * 1.8 per cent growth in 2014/15 (previously 0.5 per cent) due to the increase in public consumption and a fall in imports.

- * 0.3 per cent decline in 2015/16 (previously 2.6 per cent growth) due to an increased proportion of government consumption of imported goods and services and a slippage in some capital projects, partially offset by a rebound in tourist arrivals which was evident in the first few months of 2015/16.

- * 4.3 per cent growth in 2016/17 (previously 0.7 per cent) due to continued growth in tourism, and capital investments planned for 2015/16 that are likely to slip into 2016/17.

Re-evaluation of debt stocks based on updated exchange rate movements

Total Crown debt is denominated in a number of currencies. The NZD depreciated against all major exchange rates between the 2015/16 Budget at the time of this write up. It is worth noting that the NZD/RMB exchange rate depreciated the most (by 20 percent) followed by the NZD/USD exchange rate (with a 16.3 per cent depreciation), leading to a large unrealised foreign exchange loss on the overall loan portfolio.

Despite this, the net debt position of the Cook Islands remains healthy with net debt (gross debt less loan reserve monies) at 26.4 per cent in

2016/17.

Tourism forecasts

New Zealand is still expected to remain as the largest market with 67 per cent of total arrivals in 2014/15, with Australia having a smaller, but significant share (17 per cent).

Tourist arrivals are forecast to return to solid growth of 1.6 per cent in 2015/16, continuing on at this rate in 2016/17. Growth over the later forecast years is anticipated to remain close to one per cent in each year.

Current calendar year-to-date arrivals (Jan-Oct) are 2.7 per cent higher than the similar period in 2014, and the first four months of 2015/16 (Jul-Oct) are 4.8 per cent higher than the same period last year. In large part, this reflects increased numbers of arrivals due to the 50th anniversary celebrations (which appears to have also increased arrivals in June).

The full statement can be found at this <http://www.mfem.gov.ck/mfemdocs/treasury/half-year-updates/1221-20151215-half-year-economic-update-document-final>.

In next week's issue the Herald will take a closer look at and will comment on the above two reports.

CHANGES TO INCOME TAX

\$11,000	current exempt
1-Jan-16	0.0%
1-Jan-17	0.0%
\$11,001 - \$30,000	current 18.5%
1-Jan-16	17.5%
1-Jan-17	17.0%
\$30,001 - \$80,000	current 27.5%
1-Jan-16	27.5%
1-Jan-17	27.5%
\$80,001 & above	current 30.0%
1-Jan-16	30.0%
1-Jan-17	30.0%



Chantal's
Rarotonga
Living

Made in the
COOK ISLANDS

Located at FRUITS OF RAROTONGA,

Available from

Tarani Authentic Crafts & Pearls

Downtown Avarua next to **Empire Cinema**

LOCALLY MADE GIFTS — PH: 77 058

• APRONS • TABLE RUNNERS • PLACE MATS • TABLE CLOTHS • NAPKINS • CUSHIONS

Punanga Nui Market, HUT 41 Saturdays 8am - 12pm

www.chantalsconcierge.com

Boogies Sports Bar & Grill

Banana Court Avarua

3 Standard Stubbie
Drink Deal

\$10

* Must purchase a burger and chips to qualify



Open from 11am
Monday to Saturday

Live music Friday Night

Call 25 640

Danny Maitoe's Massage

Relaxing Local Polynesian
Therapeutic Massage

Deep Tissue full body releasing Muscular tension

\$45 Massage Special Available till end January 2016

60mins, Available at Pa Ariki Palace,
Turangi, Takitumu

Call Now 28691 or 73314 or 77058

PA ARIKI'S TAKITUMU PALACE MUSEUM

*The Takitumu Palace Museum
of Pa Tapaeru Teariki
Upokotini Ariki is the only
chiefly Museum open to
the public. You can view
and touch the history of
Pa Ariki's Chiefly Artifacts.*

*The reigning Queen Pa
celebrates 25 years in 2015.
She is the 48th title holder
which began in the 1350's
with the first Pa Ariki.*

7 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD VISIT US:

- 1—Historical Background of PA ARIKI.
- 2—Utilization and role of PA ARIKI.
- 3—Social organisation structure of
a Rarotongan Tribe.
- 4—Historical info of the 7 canoe
voyage from Avana Harbour,
dating back to the 1300's
- 5—Land Tenure structural
information explained.
- 6—Surround yourself with
our beautiful gardens.
Our Family friendly
environment is safe and happy.
- 7—Gift shop souvenirs and
Refreshments are available.



**OPEN MONDAY – FRIDAY
from 10AM – 2PM
ADMISSION FEE APPLIES**

For further enquiries call Chantal Napa on 77058

 www.chantalsconcierge.com



THE ISLANDER HOTEL

HULA BAR
ALL DAY
HAPPY HOUR

Happy Hour Drinks
\$3.50ea
From 11am
Hula Bar Only

Opposite Rarotonga International Airport
Main Road, Panama Beachfront
Phone: (+682) 21003

CICC Avana gets an upgrade for 80th Anniversary



By Norma Ngatamariki

New changes for the Avana branch of the Cook Islands Christian Church (CICC) are now underway, as the Church will celebrate its 80th anniversary this week Wednesday. Secretary, Mauri Toa, says that the Church has been looking forward to celebrating this event, and that it was only appropriate to 'get some new gear'.

Brand new church pews were constructed and

replaced the old pews, which had given way to age and rot. "The previous church pews were made in New Zealand, so I'm quite proud to say that these pews were made locally," says Toa. He expresses his utmost gratitude to John Short for the construction of the pews.

Other touch ups will also be set up, such as the laying out of new carpet, revealing the Honours Board of the previous pastors in continuation from

the year 1986 to 2015 as well as the setting of a plaque engraved with the history of the Church. Toa appreciates the efforts of the work team for their assistance in upgrading the Church.

"I think our ancestors would be proud of what we have accomplished so far," says Toa.

Ebenezera, which is the name of the Ngatangia Church, is currently the fourth building which was erected on 16th December, 1935. The

three previous buildings had been destroyed by natural disasters. The Church was one of the first churches that was established upon the arrival of the missionaries in the year 1824. It served as a place of worship for not only the village of Ngatangia, but other surrounding villages as well, such as Matavera and Titikaveka.

Toa would like to invite the general public to this event, which starts at 8am on this Wednesday morning.





TRIAD

TUTAKIMOA PETROL STATION AND MINIMARKET

Rainbows Sweetened
Multi Grain Cereal



Apple Rolls Cereal



Rainbow Mallows



Supa Filled Berries



Tang Drink Sachets



Muncher Green Peas



Hatari Peanut Biscuits



Cheez Zum snacks
Large



Cheez Zum snacks
Small



Koby Gum



Hatari Cream
Crackers



Budget Dog Food



Cheez Zum snacks
Small



Protex Soap



Suisu Biscuits



Diamond
Aluminium Foil



Ocean Fresh
Laundry Powder



Libra Sanitary Pads



Colgate Toothpaste



Looney Tunes
Baby Wipes



Santa Claus from hell

By Norman Goerge

We Cook Islanders like to be renowned for our kindness, God-fearing Christian saintliness and for being civil to one another. Amongst us are people who bring in cheap low-cost guest workers. The reasons for bringing in guest workers include locals unwilling to do the work or for being unreliable or simply the unavailability of locals to employ.

Out of those who genuinely have need to bring in guest workers are those who exploit them because they are cheap at very low hourly rates, they are locked into employment contracts where every breach is punishable with immediate deportation and where the guest workers do not have access to a trade union.

These workers usually come from the Philippines, China and other Pacific countries such as Fiji, Tonga and Samoa. We have heard about Filipino housemaids being beaten up and raped in Saudi Arabia and Hong Kong. Some women are jailed in Saudi Arabia for adultery even though raped by their male employers.

We do not have the same level of violence an atrocity here in the Cook Islands. Our versions are much more subtle, those employers who harbour cruelty deliver them carefully with an abundance of caution.

Workers are herded into leaking houses, houses full of rats, housed in poor rental homes and required to do hard labour from early morning to sunset. I have been shown letters of complaint where a guest workers complained of being treated like a work horse or animal.

A husband and wife couple have a bad reputation of abuse and threatening their workers. One worker complained of being berated and abused for poor daily sales. The workers complained they are forced to stand on their feet all day as shop assistants and are not allowed to sit down. Toilet and lunch breaks are very restricted.

When the workers get wet while serving at the Punaga Nui they are forced to continue

working. When the boss issues orders or makes a complaint, they are not allowed to answer and ask questions. He probably eats gunpowder for breakfast.

A heavily pregnant woman was required to weed the employers driveway and wash his car. The same woman experienced the last stages of pregnancy and nearly lost her baby because she was not released from her work soon enough. The employer is an emotional cripple without care or compassion.

As this particular employer is very religious. I refer to him as the Santa Claus from hell.

The same employer accused a worker of sorcery and witchcraft.

The level of abuse and interference into the workers private lives is unbelievable.

The most potent weapon used is the threat of deportation and the banning of a chance to return to the Cook Islands.

A procession of guest workers come from impoverished backgrounds.

They are weak and vulnerable. Employers like Santa from hell knows it and exploits it to the hilt.

I have helped these poor workers gather evidence for a modus operandi and dossier on Bad Santa. He will soon not be allowed to bring in guest workers. This is the best way to control bad employers Ban them from brining in guest workers.

I am very grateful with the humane and professional manner in which immigration guest workers matters are handled by the Principal immigration Officer Kairangi Samuela and her staff. Without their timely, fair and just intervention we will easily be like Saudi Arabia.

People like Bad Santa intimidate the Department of Immigration with threats. Remember the old story the chicken that crows the most have rotten eggs to hide.

I conclude this portion by saying that 99% of employers who bring in guest workers are excellent, responsible people. Thank Heavens for that.

**A TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE
OF ENUAMANU- ATIU NUI
MARUARUA**

This coming Friday 18th December marks the crowning event of unflinching determination, commitment and daring, to open what could be the largest building in the Cook Islands, Te Patupaepae o Enuamanu, Enuamanu III. The large three storey monolith is built in steel and concrete intended to last one hundred plus years ahead.

Te Papa O Enuamanu symbolises the solidarity, defiance and declaration by the people of Atiu that failure to complete the building is not an option. The Atiu people everywhere in New Zealand, Australia, Tahiti and the Cook Islands dug into their pockets to fundraise. Every possible means to raise money was applied. Raffles, food sales, even claiming the leftover funds of the pineapple incorporation from the ministry of Justice.

There were resistance from within the Atiu community, a few sulked and played no role in the project. Now eat your hearts out but welcome home! The project began in 2008 it soon ran out of funds and the contractors abandoned the project. Then in comes the warrior from Kurukavainui Tangata Kae to form a team of about 14 volunteers to devote free labour and lead all activities from fund raising and engineering construction and umu preparations for community needs. On his side was senior sergeant Leighton Boaza the logistics man. Next to them Aunty Nga Teao the subject of so much commentaries, good and bad, she rode many storms and survived. Aunty Nga and Paiki you did it we owe it all to you both. There is no room to mention all major contributions in the wee space available to me but Enuamanu, the warriors who volunteered all have delivered! The mama's who provided food every Saturday for seven years did it.

Save the final accolades for Friday! Atiu's legendary achievements as fierce warriors abound! Our ancestor Tangapatoro Taura Ariki came to the rescue of Tinomana Enuarurutini when he was about

to be overcome by equally fierce Takitumu warriors, in one of the last battles in Rarotonga just before the missionaries arrived. The people of Puaikura have always been close to the people of Atiu.

Our ancestor Taratoa saved Araura enua from from an invasion by a foreign force –The Aito's from Samoa. Atiu as head of Ngaputuru under Ngamaru Povaru Ariki merged with Tumutevarovaro (Rarotonga) to create the "Cook Islands" with his wife Makea Takau Ariki, Ngaputuru and Rarotonga are the founders of this rainbow nation called the Cook Islands.

After a successful war Atiu warriors always proclaim – Ka oki rai te ota ki Mokoero (translated the skies above Mokoero will always light up to signify our victory!) Those lights in the sky are now shining brightly over Mokoero in Aiu.

This is my final article for the year! Good luck and Merry Xmas to management and staff at the CI Herald.

All our five boys and their spouses are spending Christmas with us, together with the grandchildren. I will organise a petition signed by the grannies that papa does not have to do the dishes.

To all our readers enjoy your Christmas and new year from my wife and I, our sincere Christmas and New Years greetings to the wonderful people of the Cook Islands, their excellencies Tom and Tuaine, PM Henry Puna, Akaiti and his cabinet and caucus to William Heather Junior and members of the opposition caucus, members of the churches and all of gods people lets celebrate the arrival of Christ the baby. To the house of Ariki and Koutunui, to our guest workers and visitors, enjoy your Christmas holidays. To the people of Enuamanu, I have never been so proud to be one of you, maururu and kia manuia.

This is what Napoleon Bonaparte had to say about drinking champagne- "in victory you deserve it, and in defeat you need it!

Ka Kite

Te Pae o te akono'anga

By Pai Toko

Pai Toko, is a Cook Islands mother living temporarily overseas. She offers a personal comment Te pae o te akonoanga.

E vaine au no te kuki airani mai e noo nei ki vao ake I teia enua koia oki ki South East Asia Brunei. Taku I kite I tetai vaine kuki airani e noo ana aia kite kainga. Tāna rare e tāma te 'are. Ākono I tana tamariki me kore te tamariki e akarongo ite autara kua āruru te pa'paki kia 'Ākarongo. Apai te tamariki kite apii. Aravei tona taeake vaine e're. oki kite kainga 'akā'papa no te tamariki te oki mai anga kit e kainga no te apii mai. E te 'akā'papa no tana tane te oki mai anga kit e kainga I tona ora uatu.

Tama are pure ana aia I te mānama'a e te akamanea I te are pure kite tiare. Tā'pati kua akapapa aia no te pure. Inara tana ra're puapinga tāma no te tū'taka ite āu marama kā'toa'toa. Kua aia I tona are e kua akatau ia tona are e tetai nga tane tei ere mai note tutaka anga. Kua mareka teia nga tane te tutaka anga ite kainga. Kare o te vaine peapa kite. Inara te kite o te vaine kare te tane I kite.

Koia oki tei matou ia e tatou te kōrero o te oraanga kopu tangata me kore te 'Ākono'anga. I roto I tetai pae enua kua pāti te reira tuatau. kia kitea mai I teia vaine I teia ra e kua ngaro te kōrero. Rere atu aia ki Nutireni. Tona noo anga ki Nutireni tutaki 'āre aia.

I Asia nei. Teiea te



pū'iki o te vaine e tiēni ei. E Āka rare te reira kite vaine. Inara e mea pāpū meitaki te reira i Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia e tae uatu ki Indonesia. Kare te vaine o konei e rēka āna te tutaka. Kare e Ākono'anga o konei kua ngaro te reira. Te āu rā kātoa'toa. Kia ratou āku - 'responsibilities' e Āitei'te ua te vaine kite tūranga o te tane.

Mei roto mai ite tūranga o te Āpii e tae uatu kite tūranga tei'tei. Āitei'te ua kite tūranga kite vaine. Kē ki tetai vaine no vao mai ake I teia pae o te enua mei iaku rae ite kite anga tetai ākono'anga mei teia rae. Inara e ture 'ou teia e tū mai nei I konei na te vaine teia ture I kiriti.

E āno'ano ana au e kua 'akapāti I teia turanga. Inara te 'akapāpū atu nei au ko taku nga tamariki te ka 'akapāti te reira...

Christmas & New Year Opening Hours



Christmas Eve Set Menu

December 24th, 2015

Closed on Dec 25th 2015-Jan 4th 2016



Asian Tapas in the Tuk Tuk bar
Or Asian Dinner Menu

Closed on Dec 25th, 26th & 27th 2015



**AT LA CASITA FOR DELICIOUS
MEXICAN MENU & PIZZAS**

Closed Dec 25th 2015, Closed Dec 31st 2015
& Closed Jan 1st 2016

Call us for bookings on **26487** or email: tamarind@oyster.net.ck

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir
I trust Dr Frame can accept criticism of his opinions with the same equanimity that we expect from our Judges when their decisions are challenged in the appeals process.

I have never met Dr Frame but have been involved in issues previously where I had questions about his opinion but it was pointless pursuing them however on this occasion his opinion has more far reaching consequences and cannot pass without comment.

Focus

Readers may recall Florence Syme-Buchanan's piece in the Cook Islands News 12 November in which I commented on the edited version of the draft opinion and surmised what the focus of that opinion was in view of large tracts of it having been removed.

Well, I have now a copy of the final opinion and it confirms, that contrary to popular opinion that the focus was unauthorised expenditure per se it was in fact the Pacific Schooners Ltd (PSL) debacle and the authority and circumstances surrounding the advance of \$200,000 to PSL and while unauthorised expenditure and Article 70(3)(b) did feature it was only to the extent that they were relevant to this issue.

It is now common knowledge that the Financial Secretary was handed an edited version of the original draft in which several paragraphs which would have identified the thrust and focus of the opinion were omitted. It still remains unclear what the purpose of that exercise was but it could only have whetted the appetite of the Financial Secretary, and his Minister, to determine what was kept from them. They were-

The missing paragraphs

Missing paragraph 1, which, as suspected, spells out the facts upon which the opinion was based and this was solely the PSL advance.

Missing para 3.3 deals with whether S.39 of the MFEM Act, which restricted spending authority to HODs, had been breached.

Missing para 3.4 deals principally with whether the Chief of Staff of OPM had

informally authorised the Financial Secretary to act as her agent.

Missing para 3.9 revisits that in the context of the Acts Interpretation Act and one public officer acting for another.

Missing para 3.10 continues this examination and opines that while the mandatory/directory approach Courts adopt might save the validity of the spending this could well be negated if a breach of Article 70(3)(b) were established.

Missing para 3.11 deals with the consequences if the transfer from Culture to OPM

were unlawful and whether the subsequent spending by the Financial Secretary would constitute an offence under s.64 of the MFEM Act. Whether what we now read in the final opinion paragraphs is what was contained in the draft is not known so the reader should make an allowance for that.

Alarm and influence

Irrespective, it can be seen that the Financial Secretary would have every reason to be alarmed if he became aware of the direction being taken by these missing paragraphs. What is interesting is without allegedly possessed of that knowledge he sought to set up a conference call between himself, Crown Law and Dr Frame. Noticeable in the final opinion, and presumably, as a result of his representations, we can only conclude that he had become aware of the content of those paragraphs because we now see in the final a considerable moderating of, and restraint,

in the language used which blunts the earlier conclusions and could be interpreted as diminishing any sense of, and degree, of culpability that may have been drawn from the draft.

This view gains weight by reference to the addition of this paragraph to the introduction viz:

On 27 October (NZ) we (Acting Solicitor-General and Dr Frame) had a tele-conference with the Financial Secretary, Mr Neves, in which he helpfully, explained to us the basis on which he had, in good faith, reached a different interpretation as to the meaning of the proviso to Article

70(3)(b) from that reached here. (The underlining is mine)

Wilful and reasonable excuse

This conciliatory treatment continues further into the opinion where Dr Frame remarks in his conclusions-

at para 4.1

Originally the redacted draft said-*That the method apparently used by MFEM to apply the spending limits imposed by Article 70(3)(b)(i) is not in accordance with the terms of the Constitution*

This now changed in the final opinion to- *That the method apparently used by the MFEM to apply the spending limits imposed by Article 70(3)(b)(i) involves a mis-interpretation, albeit in good faith, of the terms of the Constitution* (The underlining again, is mine)

and again

at para 4.4

Originally removed in the redacted version-

The final opinion says-*There is probably no offence committed under section 64 (e) of the MFEM Act because any miscalculation appears to have been under a mistaken but honest view of the law, for which there was an arguable basis, and was not 'wilful' (see para. 3.11) (Underlining mine)*

Para. 3.11 which was removed in the redacted version deals with the consequences of non-compliance and Dr Frame referred there to section 64 (e) which contains the words 'without reasonable excuse' and 'wilfully' failing and he summarises the PSL advance payment position as he saw it with this-

It seems unlikely that the 'wilful' element could be found in the mix-up as to the proper authorisation for the expenditure in question. Alternatively and additionally, the confusion may constitute 'reasonable excuse'

I do not accept for one minute Dr Frame's accommodation of any argument that the Financial Secretary, and by extension his Minister of Finance had 'reasonable excuse' and that the absence of 'wilful' intent absolves them from any wrongdoing. Mr Neves is the principal financial officer of the Government. He is, it is

understood, the most highly paid Government servant. He was appointed to this job because his experience in public financial management presumably exceeded that of other contenders. The Minister for his part is responsible for taking these matters to Cabinet and carries the ultimate responsibility.

I similarly reject that the way the legislation is written allows for different interpretations and the removal of words from the 1964 Article 70(3)(b) in some way provides support to that notion. In that earlier article of Florence's I commented that should the Financial Secretary, his Minister or the Cabinet find themselves confronted by an interpretative conundrum that it was their responsibility to the taxpayers of this country to seek competent advice. Although there were people on this island that could have straightened them out but if pride would not permit consultation there then recourse to the NZ Treasury and the NZ public finance legislation, past and present and upon which ours is largely based, was the other option. It is clear, however, that the interpretation being used suited the government's purpose and there was no inclination to seek any opinion that would deter them from the path they preferred. It is noteworthy in this connection that in the last four years during which Mr Neves' and the CIP had stewardship of the public revenue there have been no audited accounts presented to Parliament likewise no reports of excess unauthorised expenditure yet the latter has occurred. Both omissions reflect the level of contempt this government has for Parliament and both are a disobedience to the Constitution. Had Government being less secretive, and more protective of the role and integrity of Parliament, their ignorance, or deception, in this crucial area would have been exposed much earlier and the present nonsense might have been avoided. Now when they are caught up in their own misdeeds they prevail upon Dr Frame to alter his opinion

continued next page

in a way which is designed to at worst present them in a less sinister light or at best, exonerate them but what is disappointing here is that Dr Frame has allowed himself to be used in this way.

POBOC

Another example of this is Dr Frame's novel interpretation of the management of POBOCs. In para.3.10 and again at para.4.3 he contradicts his own reference to section 39 of the MFEM Act which unequivocally pronounces the constraints on an HOD's authority to expend his department's appropriation. There is no latitude given to accommodate the delegation of this spending authority beyond his department and there is definitely no support for Dr Frame's cavalier observation that *'The Cabinet probably has the power to transfer POBOC across ministries but must use the Article 70(3)(b) mechanism to do so'* (The underlining is mine)

Suggesting that there may have been some informal arrangement between the HOD of the OPM and the Financial Secretary to permit the Financial Secretary to pay the PSL advance begs two vital questions. Firstly, that the transfer from Culture to OPM was illegal therefore was not available to either person to expend and secondly the Public Service Act 2009 at section 19 makes it quite clear that the powers of delegation of an HOD are limited to intra departmental activity and must be in writing so even if the funds were the OPM's to spend (which they were not) there was no authority for the Financial Secretary to be spending them under delegation either informally or otherwise.

Executive Council procedure

I am further surprised that Dr Frame did not fully examine the misguided and quaint new variation Government has given the Executive Council process. While briefly explaining 'enactment' and making an oblique reference to 'subsidiary instruments such as orders in Executive Council' at para 2.10 he did not develop the analysis leaving the reader to conclude that the process Government has been increasingly abusing to circumvent Parliament, and of which I have been very critical, was perhaps an acceptable

procedure when it was not. Had he pursued this more diligently he would have been confronted by the contradiction inherent in it namely that if it were a valid procedure and afforded the spending legitimacy why the necessity for the creative accounting and search for savings to claw the excess back to within the 1.5%? Would this not suggest an element of 'wilful' on the part of the perpetrators?

Conclusions

To conclude.

1.Despite his often circumlocutory treatment of the issues and attempts to mitigate culpability and putting aside incorrect and irrelevant matter Dr Frame's opinion cannot be deemed to provide the Government with the relief it desperately wants however because of the general obfuscation this writer believes an application for judicial review should be proceeded with in

order to cut through the confusion to obtain clarity and a more definitive statement of the position than Dr Frame's opinion provides.

2.Dr Frame's conclusion that *'The Audit Office may have obligation to report to the Speaker under Article 70 (3A) of the Constitution'* is questioned because the operation of that provision has as its trigger a normal term general election and that is not the position here.

3.Dr Frame also concludes *'Any irregularities discovered in the approval and spending would need to be validated by Parliament'*.

Validation

Dr Frame then proposes the terms of such a validating clause without any reference to the sums being so validated. In this respect Dr Frame could have usefully continued his study of the NZ position. He quoted from a NZ Treasury Guide to the Public Finance Act 1989 which describes Parliament's sovereignty when it comes to the management of the public revenues and could have extended his enquiry to embrace a situation in 2005 which exposed unlawful spending of public money by several of the political parties in the lead up to the 2005 General Election. A report from the Comptroller and Auditor-General detailed

the unauthorised sums and this and the opinion of the Solicitor-General were required to be tabled in the House of Representatives and a validating bill introduced to correct the position but not before legal proceedings had begun against the Prime Minister, Helen Clark for misappropriation. The Bill which passed after much debate rendered those legal proceedings defunct.

The difference here though is that it is just the misdeeds of the government comprising one political party which are under scrutiny and it is refusing to release the information for proper examination. So what does it intend to do? Seek a validation of an unknown sum of excess unauthorised expenditure? ! That would be a first but not unlike the secretive way it operates. One

little problem however with this validation route which Dr Frame neglected to mention is that any validation of any expenditure which exceeds the 1.5% would run up against Article 41. The Constitution says you can spend so much. You have spent more than that. You want to make it okay. Well, being inconsistent with the Constitution requires any validation to be passed as a constitutional amendment and that means two thirds support at the penultimate and final vote and a 90 days gap between and as that might be a bit difficult given the respective numbers in the House I would suggest the Cabinet members should perhaps be consulting their Accountants and Bankers and start figuring out how they are going to repay the several millions involved!

John M Scott

Mount View Lodges

O'oa

Accommodation to suit your budget



Self contained and self servicing free standing units

**FROM \$35
PER NIGHT**

Ph: 29491 Mobile: 50326

Cook Islands Herald Issue 797

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, FRI 11th Dec 2015

Final interview with FinSec Richard Neves

Financial Secretary, Richard Neves, was interviewed for the last time on Te Kave Kōrero, on Friday 11th December 2015.

Neves's term as the Financial Secretary ends on Tuesday 15th December and he returns with his family to Australia on Friday 18th.

The following is a record of the interview.

"Richard I understand you're coming to the end of your term as the Financial Secretary, when is your last day at work?"

"My last day at work will be Tuesday. I keep signing cheques until Tuesday afternoon and then I have a few days off to rest and relax and enjoy the little time I have left in Rarotonga before I get on the flight back to Sydney on Friday afternoon".

"Anything planned in Australia, have you secured yourself a new post?"

"Oh no, I'll go back to Canberra and have a well deserved break because I'm from Canberra so we'll get back to Canberra on the Sunday, we'll move back into my mother's house for a little while until our house is ready".

"We'll enjoy Christmas and the New Year and then start looking for a job. I've got a couple of consultancy businesses so that will be good, that will keep the money coming in and we'll see what eventuates from there".

"Well, one would have thought, one would have expected Richard that you've been here what three, four, five years now, that you might have considered setting up a consultancy business here and continue even after FinSec?".

"Someone will have to give me PR Tony and I think Australians have to wait 10 years to get permanent residency. I'm not sure if George Pitt can handle 10 years of Richard Neves hanging around in Rarotonga, and many others either as well".

"I'm sure he'll be glad to have you here to keep the sales of the Cook Islands Herald up".

"Yeah, George tells me he's expecting the sales of the Cook Islands Herald to drop so I'll go out to your listeners, don't forget to buy your copy of the Herald, George needs to keep the income flowing in".

"You've mentioned you've got a couple of consultancy businesses that you've got lined up, I take it they're still in relation to your expert field in finance?"

"They'll be related to public finance, yes, they are around public financial management, my strength".

"Now that you're going back what are the good memories you're taking with you?"

"I wake up every day happy Tony. I wake up and I enjoy going to work. I don't have many bad memories, in fact I can't think of any bad memories, I mean I've got a fairly thick skin and I get on well with lots of people and I try to smile everyday and that's what gets me through so no bad memories just may be the bad weather every now and then".

"This is my opportunity to say this to you Richard. I always say to my close friends that of all the people I have interviewed on this programme, you're the one with a very organised mind and that's an honest assessment of yourself".

"I'm flattered Tony. My wife probably wouldn't agree with you on that one but, well, I think when you're in a role like the Financial Secretary, there's a lot of things happening and the only way you can deal with them is to have that sort of organised structure in your mind and it just all comes from having an overall picture of what's happening so that you can put the jigsaw together".

"I hear Parliament is sitting on Monday, may be for two or three days. What do you know of this sitting, are we looking at a supplementary budget?"

"Oh no, we haven't prepared any supplementary budgets, I think what we have prepared is, the Government would probably would put forward its budget policy statement and its half year economic fiscal updates. The MFEM Act requires a half year economic update to be provided by the 31st of December and the staff have worked very hard and very diligently and we've got something ready for next week which the Minister will present".

"Now that we're coming to the end of the year. Do you have any suggestion or advice for Government before you leave?"

"Oh no, I think, as I have explained to William, we've had an economic review done a few months ago. There are structural issues that face the Cook Islands around how you manage land, how you manage immigration, now these are key issues that need to be discussed and sorted out within the next two to five years I think so that the Cooks can move forward and progress on these particular issues".

"Richard, you're going back home with the knowledge that you're not popular with Grey Power. Do you have any message for them, perhaps a Christmas message for them?"

"Look, I'd like to wish, not just Grey Power people but everyone in the Cook Islands. The elderly are special but so are the young people and so are the people working, we're all very special people and I'd like to wish everyone a fairly peaceful and a happy Christmas and I wish everyone a prosperous and happy New Year".

"I interviewed Pāpā Dennis Tūnui the other day and he is adamant that pensioners should not be taxed. Your views on exempting Grey Power members from paying taxes on their retirement incomes?"

"Dennis seems to chop and change every few weeks on what his views are but you know ultimately in the end, what we need to understand is that tax is around, everyone in society contributing towards the Government so that they can achieve things that society wants them to do. Whether you're 15 or

whether you're 60 we all have to contribute and I think what needs to be understood here is that if everyone pays their fair share, whether you're a small little person or whether you're a big businessman, you pay your fair share then we'll collect it and we should be able to bring rates down".

"Now on the 1st of January 2016 income tax rates come down by one per cent and the following January 2017 Government also announced so it just demonstrates that these things can be done if we all pull together and do it. Now in terms of exemption, when you exempt one group of people from paying tax you have to collect it from someone else so that's just the simple equation. I know there'll be people who say that Government should spend less and they shouldn't spend this much money, well, the demands on Government are never ending".

"You save money in one area and another area will need it, health, education, you can never stop, it's an endless bucket of expenditure in health and education and so it's really about saying to people, we'll all need to chip in, and if you don't pay or if you don't want to pay, it has to come from another bucket from someone else so Dennis can suggest to people where we should raise the tax from that he doesn't want to pay, I'm sure that the Ministry of Finance will listen to him and take his view into account".

A caller rang and criticised Neves in relation to taxing Grey Power members' retirement incomes.

"We'll Richard what's your response to that?"

"Well I accept that there are people out there that aren't happy with the actions we took, I understand that the timing wasn't right and I acknowledge that. Ultimately in the end as I tried to point out a while ago, we can't divulge people's personal circumstances and unfortunately people can only see one side of the story. We take great steps before we start garnishing people's bank accounts towards tax. We go to great steps towards telling people what their obligations are, we endeavour to great steps to try getting to arrangements where people can pay their tax".

"I apologise if people feel offended but I don't apologise for applying the law and I don't apologise for trying to get a more equitable society. The law requires that people pay tax and if you begin to exempt one group of people that aren't exempted in the law then what about other people? It's just about consistency"

"In relation to the Tiare Taporo would you expect Pacific Schooners Ltd to win some or all of the shipping subsidy given its failure?"

"Oh Tony, look I don't want to prejudice any sort of tender process that'll happen. The Government will get a group of senior public

continued on next page

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, MON 14 DEC 2015

Final Parliament sitting for the year

The Parliament sitting was the subject of discussion on Te Kave Kōrero on Monday 14th December 2015.

Presenter Tony Hakaoro stated that he had attended and observed Parliament's sitting during the day before going to air on Te Kave Kōrero.

He informed listeners that the petition against purse seine fishing was presented before Parliament. He advised however that Members of Parliament agreed that they will not debate the petition for reason that the matter (Application for Judicial Review against Government in relation to purse seine fishing) is before the High Court of the country.

"Te `akarongo atū ra au ē, kua tuku`ia te petiton o te tautai kupenga tā`iri poti, inārā, noā atu ē, kua tae te rēira ki mua i te aroaro o te Pāramani, kua tuku rā `oki te Pāramani i tēta`i `akano`ono`o`anga ē, kāre rātou, te au Mema, kāre rātou `e `uri`uri manako no runga i te kupenga tā`iri poti, no runga i te petition, i te mea `oki ē, ko tēia manamanatā, tei mua katoa i te aroaro o te `Akavā`anga Ngāteitei o te Kūki Airani nei".

"Ae, kua tuku te Pāramani i tēta`i `akano`ono`o`anga, ē, kāre rātou e `uri`uri i te petition no te kupenga tā`iri poti no te mea te vai nei tēta`i `oro`anga i mua i te `Akavā`anga, `oro`anga i te Kavamani, no runga tikāi i te rēira tumu manako, mē kāre ra, tumu tāpura".

Hakaoro stated also that a Bill to amend the water ordinances was also presented before Parliament.

"I roto katoa i te Pāramani i tēia rā, ae, kua tuku`ia ki mua i te aroaro o te Pāramani, te ture tāmānako`anga no runga i te mato vai, no runga i te vai o Tumutevarovaro nei.

He added that the Bill is not a new piece of legislation but rather a proposal to amend the main legislation passed in 1960.

"Te karanga nei au ē, e ture tāmānako`anga, `akakoromaki mai, kāre mei te mea ē, e ture `ōu tākiri tēia, māri rā, e ture tāmānako`anga tēia kia `akatūkē`ia te ture metua tei `akamana`ia i te mata`iti e ta`i tauatini e iva `ānere e ono nga`uru".

"Ko te ture tāmānako`anga tēia tei tae ki mua i te aroaro o te Pāramani i tēia avatea, i te tāmānako`anga i te tau`anga i te ture metua tei `akamana`ia i te mata`iti e ta`i tauatini e iva `ānere e ono nga`uru".

Hakaoro informed listeners also that Parliament elected a Committee whose task is to look at the budget before its presented before Parliament. "Kua tae katoa ki mua i te Pāramani i tēia rā te tāmānako`anga ē, kia `iki`ia tēta`i Kōmiti no te `akarakara`anga i te tu`anga o te moni, koia te budget, i mua ake ka tuku`ia ai ki roto i te Pāramani. Kua `akamana`ia te rēira Kōmiti i tēia rā.

He stated that the Committee comprises of the Honourable Mona Ioane, MP for Tautu/Vaipae, as Chairperson, Tekii Lazaro MP for Pukapuka, Temu Hagai MP for Rakahanga, Tangata Vavia MP for Mitiaro, James Beer MP for Murienua and Tama Tuavera MP for Ngatangia.

Hakaoro stated that Government's presentation of papers before Parliament was well organised. "Tāku `ākarakara atu`anga, `akarongorongo atu`anga, meitaki `iā rā te `akano`ono`o`anga ā te Kavamani no te mea, i mua ake `oki ka `akamata ai i tēia rā, te ui nei tēta`i pāpāke ē, ea`a rā te `akakoro`anga o te Kavamani? Inā, i tēia rā, te au pēpa ta rātou i tuku ki mua i te Pāramani, te au ture tāmānako, ae, mako iā ra,

karanga te papa`ā i tēia ē, well organised na te reo Marike ei".

One caller to the programme stated that the Government was well prepared when they went to Parliament today. He added that Government said exactly what they wanted or intended to say.

"I āku kua papa te Kavamani te `aere`anga rātou ki mua i te Pāramani i tēia rā, kua papa rātou. Vaitata ē, ta rātou tuatua i tuatua i tēia rā, kua tano meitaki ki ta rātou i `akakoro".

"Me `akarongo `ua atu au i to rātou manako kua papa `ua rātou i te `aere`anga ki roto i te Pāramani i tēia rā".

The caller said that the opposition needs to lift its game.

"Tērā `ua `akamāro`iro`i mai te tua pāto`i".

Parliament resumed and also concluded its business for the year on Tuesday 15th December. It now stands adjourned sine die.

Te Kave Kōrero would like to wish the Speaker of the House, the Clerk and Assistant Clerk of the House, interpreters and audio technicians, stenographers, typists and all the staff of our Parliament, their wives, husbands, partners, and families, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Te Kave Kōrero would also like to wish the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Leader of One Cook Islands and all Members of Parliament, their wives, husbands, partners, and their families, a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

May you all have a wonderful festive season and a happy time together with all your families and loved ones. See you all again in 2016. Kia orana e kia manuia.

NEVES continued

servants together to work through exactly what they want and what sorts of options may be available and go out to market. I always felt that it was probably better to put out an expression of interest to allow people either to bid on their own or bid as a consortia to come forward and put forward the ideas and then you can fine tune it around that but we shouldn't prejudice around whether I can think they can do it or not or whether someone else thinks they can do it. The Government will put together a group of people, there's some money there and they'll go out and probably seek expressions of interest around some service, they may stipulate timing or something like that, that's up to them to do and then we'll go from there".

"Is the Government or is the country in a sound financial position at the moment?"

"It always has been, it has been for a long time and probably would continue to be so for quite

a while unless something dramatic happens in the world that you know really affects our economy but the Minister will release his half year economic update on Tuesday I think. I don't want to steal his thunder, I'm certain he's got some good news to put out there".

"Well it would seem to me that this would be our last time to talk on radio Richard. I'd like to say thank you, just about everytime I ask you to come on radio, you've always been obliging. That's something I'm really grateful, really appreciate during the year that your contribution to the program, your willingness to come onto the program, and your firmness in answering questions, and your position in relation to some of the questions, e.g. Tiare Tāporo, I'm very grateful for all that my friend and as you leave to go back to Australia, I wish you all the best, you and your family, your wife and children, and all the best for Christmas and New Year and all the best for the future".

"Tony, meitaki maata to you and all the staff

here at the radio station and television station and to all your listeners. Our family have really been privileged to have been here, I feel privileged to have done what I've done. I'd like to thank all my staff out there for the fantastic efforts that you've gone to. I've always enjoyed coming onto your show, I don't mind answering questions, I recognise there are tough ones and I'd like to thank Government for their support and my colleagues and peers around the place. Kia manuia, Merry Christmas everyone, have a great New Year and may you live for a long and prosperous lives. Thank you very much, meitaki maata".

Te Kave Kōrero would like to say goodbye to and wish Neves and his family all the best for Christmas and New Year and the best of luck for the future. Have a safe trip back to Australia. Kia manuia and God bless.

Papua New Guinea wins Miss Pacific Islands



Miss Samoa - Sarong



Traditional Wear



Miss Tonga - Sarong



Traditional Wear

"FROM THE OCEAN TO YOUR TABLE"

OCEAN FRESH

RAROTONGA COOK ISLANDS

OPEN

- Xmas Day: 6am - 10:30am
- Boxing Day: 7am - 1:30pm
- Sun 27 Dec: 6am - 10:30am

Merry Fishmas!

TO ALL OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS!
PHONE: 23 407

Snowbird LAUNDRY

Let us do your washing!

• WASH • DRY • FOLD • IRON SHEETS
• WHOLESALE DETERGENTS

ARORANGI	TUTAKIMOA
Monday to Friday 8AM - 5PM	Mon, Tue, Fri & Sat 8AM to 3PM
Saturday 8AM - 4PM PH 20952	Wed & Thur 8AM - 2PM PH 23 952

MURI

Mon, Tue, Fri & Sat
8AM to 3PM
Wed & Thur
8AM - 2PM
PH 21 952

The Team at Snowbird Laundry would like to thank all of our customers and clients for their business over 2015 and we wish everyone a Safe & Happy Festive Season and look forward to seeing you again in the new year

Email us at laundry@snowbird.co.ck • Domestic and Commercial

Find us on: [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/snowbirdlaundry)

Christmas Bouquets available from Victoria's Garden



We also provide flowers for:

- Corporate Events • Birthdays • Valentines Day
- Gifts • Funerals • All Occasions

Pre Order now:

Call me on 57606 or stop in...

Christmas Day at the Anchorage Restaurant and Bar

Traditional Christmas lunch from 11:30am, Happy Hour Specials all day or Christmas Evening Buffet from 5:30pm with Live Entertainment from Local Duo Triggerfish

Phone: 23 004

anchorageinraro@gmail.com

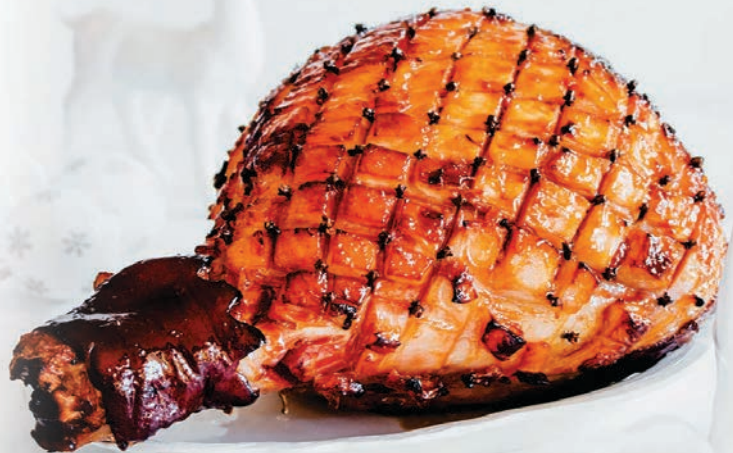
TRY OUR CHRISTMAS COCKTAILS

The **Anchorage**
Restaurant & Bar

The only thing better than a succulent glazed ham is a FREE succulent glazed ham.

Primefoods

Order your Christmas ham before Dec 21 and go into the draw to WIN your ham for FREE! 10 lucky winners. Details and order form in-store or call 22259.



Wilson's
Beach Bar

At the ...
**CASTAWAY
RESORT**

Phone: +682 21 546

Email: relax@castawayvillas.com

www.castawayvillas.com

CHRISTMAS FUNCTIONS

- Buffet BBQ
- Yakitori Skewers
- Deep Fried Finger Food
- Beach Bar / Sunset
- Various Options
- 10 - 40 Catered to
- Ask About Possible Live Music



TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, WED 9th Dec 2015

Warning about Internet scams

Internet scams was the subject of warning and awareness on Te Kave Kōrero on Wednesday 9th December 2015.

Presenter Tony Hakaoro said the most common form of scam occurs through the internet and is usually sent via an email from the scammer to vulnerable internet users.

He said it is around this time of the year, around Christmas and New Year, that these types of emails become more frequent, that one may find them in their emails or inboxes unexpectedly.

Hakaoro said everyone should be very careful not to be sucked into these scam emails and not to reply to them.

Hakaoro read out to listeners an example of a scam email as follows:

"Hello. Compliments of the day to you. I am Mrs Fatima Kabore. I am sending this brief letter to you to solicit your partnership to transfer 19.5 million US dollars. I shall send you more information and procedures when I receive positive response from you. Please send me a message in my email. Thanks. Best regards. Mrs Fatima Kabore".

Hakaoro said this is a classic example of one of several scam emails being sent by internet scammers to innocent internet users.

In another example Hakaoro read the email for listeners to hear and be aware of.

"I am Mr Fedex Sanouva, the Manager of foreign remittance department, bank of Africa in Burgina Faso. I will like you to indicate your interest to receive the transfer of US 19.3 million, 60 per cent for me and 40 per cent for you. You will stand as next of kin to my late customer who had died in a plane crash leaving nobody behind. I will like you to forward the information below to me if you are interested. Please, for more information, copy my email to notify the sender, okay. Waiting to hear from you soon. Mr Fedex Sanouva".

Hakaoro said these types of scam emails refer to someone who had passed away without a next of kin and states that there are millions of dollars to be inherited by someone who can claim to be the next of kin.

He said this type of scam emails also asks for one's personal and contact details. He warns that listeners or internet users should never reply to this type of emails and never to provide or give them those details.

Hakaoro added that often the information the scammers want includes one's full names, age, marital status, contact phone number, fax number, country, occupation and sex.

Hakaoro reinforced the importance of not giving out one's personal and contact details.

He warns that if one gives or provides those details the scammers can easily access one's bank account by fraudulently using one's personal details for identification purposes to access the account and once they achieve that there's no stopping them from stealing the money in the account.

Hakaoro stated that this is a common form of scam and is occurring quite regularly all over the world and that internet users should be very careful not to be scammed this way.

The best advice, according to Hakaoro, is to delete these types of emails and never to open or read them.

Hakaoro stated some scam emails have attachments and he advises everyone not to open or read the attachment as the content may be a malware or a virus.

He said this type of scam emails almost always come from unidentified sources, that is, they come from people whose names one does not recognise or from people one has never come across or known before.

After the programme and off-air Hakaoro

continues to encourage families and friends not to get involved with any form of internet scam.

"The best advice I suggest is just ignore those emails and delete them. Don't even get tempted to read them", said Hakaoro.

"If it looks too good to believe, it is usually the case, that it is too good to believe, so the best thing is, ignore and delete it and don't get sucked into the scam. Just stay away from it".

Hakaoro said he is aware of a number of Cook Islanders being sucked into one or two scams and their money stolen or taken fraudulently.

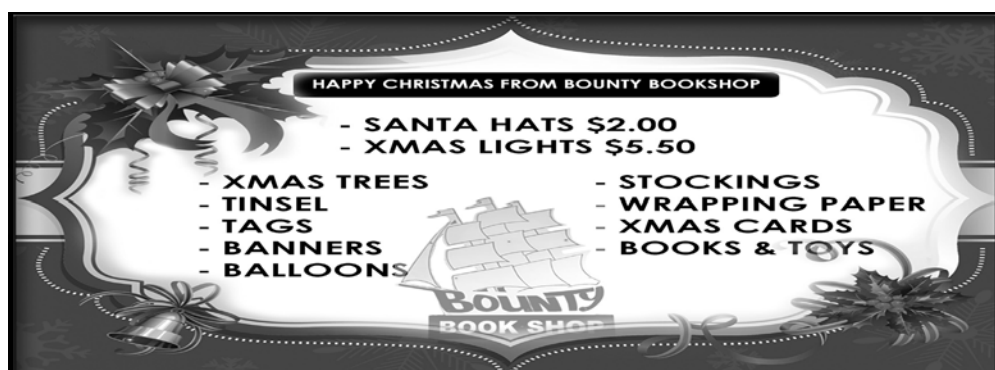
"In one case involving a community organisation there was more than \$300,000.00 scammed out of the organisation", Hakaoro said.

"In another case an individual suffered a loss of more than \$30,000.00 having been sucked into paying a certain amount of money by instalment. The scammers were contacting him by email and promising him that he would be paid a million dollars as soon as he sent them a certain sum of money via Western Union".

According to Hakaoro the individual ran out of money and could not borrow from families and friends anymore and gave up sending the scammers further money.

"Sadly by the time he realised his mistake he had paid the scammers over \$30,000.00", Hakaoro said.

At this time of the year Te Kave Kōrero would like to reinforce the message to vulnerable Cook Islanders, keep away from scam emails, ignore and delete them and never provide or give away personal and contact details to anyone asking for them.



Within arm's reach

After this current mango season, Atupa Heights will see a transformation. Currently, this one acre property has 6 large mango trees and 4 large lychee trees. They will all be topped to 8 meters which is a manageable height.

According to Mario Caffery, the trees won't be lopped in one go but in stages. So half the tree will be allowed to fruit into the next season, while the topped part sprouts new branches.

Height is always an issue with orchards. Beyond 8 meters and Mario will have to look at investing into a cherry picker. Mind you, he would love to have one. But economically speaking, it won't make sense.

But you only have to look at the lychee trees which are probably close to 3 storeys high. Well, you can use the 2 storey Atupa Orchid Units as a measuring guide. The trees are loaded with half ripe fruit. It is a truly amazing sight. Mario's mum Ingrid said that this is a good year for lychee and it's because there has been rain. Apparently, lychees need water and feed especially during the fruiting stages. Ingrid explains that a fruit with a water source is rounder, whilst one that has only a little water is long and skinny.

But it makes you wonder how in the world they will be able to pick all those lychees when they do get ripe in a few weeks. It will probably be left to Mario's son to climb the tree.

Mario says that FAO Chamber of Commerce agribusiness consultant Brian Paxton has already been around to have a look at the existing orchard, and they have already set up a plot plan which will utilise all the existing spaces. About 50-60 commercial mango plants will be planted into the spaces. For now, Mario is only looking at mangoes and lychees on this site.

He does have a problem with flying chickens. They fly up onto the trees and pick at the fruit. In addition, they scratch away at the roots of the trees. However, once his fence goes up, they won't be a problem anymore.

He has fruit fly traps and over the last month he hasn't had very many which is a good sign. But on his existing trees there is a caterpillar that eats the flowers of the mango and this prevents them from developing fruit. This he says is not a long-term problem as it can be controlled with a spray. But they will deal with that when the tree gets lopped.

Despite his 80 years of age, Mario's dad Joe keeps the grounds well-maintained. Mario has offered to buy him a ride-on mower but Joe has refused saying he needs the exercise with the push kind. When Ingrid first planted the trees in this current orchard, she did it so that the grandchildren would always have something to eat, in the event that she was not able to provide for them. Mario is continuing on the orchard as a family project where he, his parents and his children will all be in it together.

He does come from the generation of children who watered the plants by carrying buckets of water with a corned beef can that had holes in the bottom. And so the fact that agriculture is a lot easier now makes it just that more appealing to him.

But he did work in one of the travel agencies when he was younger and it was always a common complaint that the variety and amount of fruit available on the breakfast table was limited. 20 years on, the problem is still the same which has motivated him to be a part of the FAO Chamber of Commerce project which will address this problem in the long run.

Furthermore, he is excited about the pineapple plots that are being developed under this project as he believes that this will make the prices of pineapple on the market reasonable, which in turn will be welcomed by our visitors. Currently, pineapple can sell for \$10-\$12 per fruit. Getting it down to \$5 per fruit would make it a lot more attractive.



Ingrid Caffery in her lychee orchard. The fruit should be ready soon, so if you would like to buy some then just contact her at home, or her son Mario. Below: Mario with dad Joe & mum Ingrid



The Cook Islands Chamber of Commerce was invited by FAO to facilitate private sector agribusiness investments that will support the growth of the agricultural industry. This intervention has included a small grants programme assisting existing agribusinesses through technical training, mentoring and business planning. In less than one year the number of farmers has more than doubled with land cultivated four times greater than in 2011. FAO have confirmed ongoing support in 2016.



Papua New Guinea wins Miss Pacific Islands Pageant for the first time



WINNER: New Miss Pacific Islands, Abigail Havora during her victory lap as she acknowledges the audience after being crowned the winner of Miss Pacific Islands Pageant 2015 by Miss South Pacific 2014, Teuira Napa at the National Auditorium in Rorotonga, Cook Islands.

In the 29th year of the Miss Pacific Islands Pageant - 'the Pageant with a Difference', Miss Papua New Guinea (PNG) makes history and wins the region's beauty contest for the first time, as she was crowned by Miss South Pacific 2014, Teuira Napa on the Crowning Night at the National Auditorium in Rorotonga, Cook Islands tonight, Saturday 12th December 2015.

Miss Abigail Havora, will be a household name in the Pacific within the next 12 months of her reign and many more years to come, as she looks to explore her new adventure and make a difference.

"Pacific Islands, we have a voice," said Miss Havora in her victory speech on stage. "As Ms Sonja (Hunter) says, we own 50 million square kilometres of Pacific Ocean, we are a force to be reckoned with.

"I'm looking forward to the reign this year taking on from our previous queens and I know with God on our side, he will lead me well." She added.

Miss Havora also thanked her pageant committee "for the opportunity providing a

platform in Papua New Guinea and allowing us young women to stand up and speak up for what we believe in."

The new Miss Pacific Islands won Best Talent and Best Sarong Wear in which she attributed all to the this year's Pageant Theme - 'Our Spirit of Adventure'.

At 24 years of age, the new Miss Pacific Islands hails from the village of Gabagaba in the Central Province of Papua New Guinea. She is a graduate in biology and chemistry from the University of PNG and is employed by Papua New Guinea's largest oil and gas company Oil Search.

Below are the results of the Miss Pacific Islands Pageant 2015.

Miss Pacific Islands 2015 - Miss Papua New Guinea, Abigail Havora

1st Runner up - Miss Samoa, Ariana Taufao

2nd Runner up - Miss Tonga, Brittne Fuimaono

3rd Runner up - Miss Fiji, Zaira Begg

4th Runner up - Miss Solomon Islands

Judged Categories:

Best Presentation & Stage

Interview - Miss Samoa, Ariana Taufao

Best Talent - Miss Papua New Guinea, Abigail Havora

Best Sarong - Miss Papua New Guinea, Abigail Havora

Best traditionally inspired outfit - Miss Fiji, Zaira Begg

The Float Parade held Saturday morning was not judged.

Special Awards:

Miss Social Media - Miss Tonga, Brittne Fuimaono

Miss Photogenic - Miss Tonga, Brittne Fuimaono

Tourism Award - Miss American Samoa, Suluga Taliau

Miss Personality - Miss American Samoa, Suluga Taliau

The message from the Chairman of the Miss Pacific Islands, Honourable Tuilaepa Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi, was read in his absence by the Miss Pacific Islands Pageant Host Committee President Mr. Clee Marsters. This year's pageant coincided with the 50th anniversary of Cook Islands.

The Miss South Pacific Islands 2014, Teuira Napa delivered her farewell speech and performed her traditional Cook Islands

dance for one last time.

Performed also on the night was the Pageant Theme Song - 'Spirit of Adventure' sung and put together by Cook Islands female artist, Tara Kauvai. The Master of Ceremonies for the night was the talented Miss Pacific Islands Pageant Host Committee Director, Metua Vaiimene and his Co-host, Former Miss Cook Islands and Former Miss South Pacific 2001, Engara Gosselin.

The five Main Pageant Judges were led by Head Judge, Sarah Haoda Todd of Papua New Guinea, joined by Rachael Afiaki-Taumoepeau of Tonga, Claudia Montenegro, Teremoana Kenneth Mato of the Cook Islands and NZ Fresh TV Producer, Lisa Taouma of Samoa. There were also Special Awards Judges and Scrutineers.

The Miss Pacific Islands Pageant 2016 will be held in Apia, Samoa, celebrating 30 years since the inception of the Pageant.

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



Miss American Samoa - Sarong



Traditional Wear



Miss Fiji - Sarong



Traditional Wear



Miss Cook Islands - Sarong



Traditional Wear



Miss Solomon Islands - Sarong



Traditional Wear

The mollycoddling of our children



I was reading an article recently regarding how we are not bringing up our children to have 'resilience'. It reminded me of a number of

references I have made on how parents in the Cook Islands are raising their children. One of those articles dealt with child abuse and the risk that this poses for us going forward. In this article I want to expand on the concept of 'resilience' and how we are bringing up our children to fail at a time when we need them to be able to manage in an environment of adversity and challenge as adults. We all love our children and we want to protect them from danger and adversity. Danger represents harm, hurt, illness and death. Adversity represents facing challenges, risk taking and coping under pressure. The problem I see is that parents are trying to do both, i.e. protect their children from danger and adversity and thereby stunting their ability to cope in adverse situations. They do this in the mistaken belief that they are doing what is right or best for the child and muddying the child's coping mechanisms. I suspect that a lot of this mollycoddling is a reflection on how many of us current parents were brought up. Speaking as a baby boomer, I can recall vividly how poor my parents and their parents were after WW2 and the early 1950's and 1960's in Aotearoa (NZ). We had moved into a Maori Affairs home in the early 1950's into a Maori settlement or village which was out of sight and out of mind as far as the local City Council was concerned. We had a concrete water tank attached to a runoff pipe off the roof and this became our first fridge. Glass jars of butter, milk, jams and other perishables were suspended in the cool waters of this tank and brought out when we needed them. My first bed was the mattress on the wooden floor, chairs were beer crates, and Dad had removed the lounge door and mounted it on beer crates for our table and Ma had sewn up an old sheet as a table cloth. We couldn't afford shop bought nappies so Ma made do with old sheets and old flour sacks which were bleached, starched, washed and then ironed. No disposables in those days just back breaking work washing out pooey nappies, soaking them in bleach, boiling them in the old copper, rinsing and then hanging out to dry on the clothes line. No dryer, radio or tv in those days. We even made our own soap in that copper as it also took turns for boiling up old chooks, pack horse crayfish, pork bones, puha and watercress and fish heads and was especially versatile for massive family gatherings at home. I wasn't the only one of my generation brought up in similar surroundings and growing up in that environment shaped our lives in ways we could not have imagined. We learned to improvise, we learned to take risks, we learned what it was to go without and make

do, we wore hand me downs and designer wear, what was that? As children we had to learn to use our brains and our hands, to cook, sew, wash, clean, garden, fix, repair, modify and reuse. We looked after the little ones, changed their pooey and pissy nappies. We went hiking, camping, swimming, climbed trees and we thrived picking wild mushrooms, blackberries, puha, watercress, fishing for crawlies and trout. Going eeling and generally getting into all sorts of strife were some of the highlights of our lives. If we got hurt or injured, we sucked it up and got on with it, we had to. Who wanted to have the tag of 'baby cry' or 'cry baby' as we were called in those days, a 'mummy's boy', a 'sookie bubba' or a 'tangi weto', you had to be tough or you got singled out for teasing. There were stereotypes galore growing up in those days, we had 'golly wogs', 'niggahs', and 'black arses' and other derogatory names which we were proud of and those were just the nick names of cousins or mates. No PC brigade, no taking part in competitions just for the fun of it, we were encouraged to compete and win. We even went out and helped ourselves to the local neighbour's fruit trees, which is called stealing these days. If we wanted something we traded for it, saved up or persuaded our parents to give it to us for Xmas or birthday presents. Contrast that with a lot of children these days who cannot do half the things we took for granted. I had to teach my first wife how to do all the home stuff that I was taught by my mother and grandmother. In the kitchen, hopeless, sewing, forget it, go buy it off the peg, make home made gravy, no way it comes from a packet, jams, preserves all bought at the supermarket. Grow fruit trees, nahh go to the supermarket and buy it. In short our home conditions developed a generation of children with resilience. Unfortunately these experiences also drove us to ensure that our children would not suffer the lives that had shaped us. In doing so I believe we set up a rod for our backs. In shielding our children from the hardships that a lot of us faced growing up we have unwittingly turned a generation of children into those unable, unfit or unwilling to face adversity. A generation that we have encouraged to be self centred, indulged, run home to mummy if something goes wrong and not take any responsibility or accountability for our actions because someone will always be there to pick us up. Clean the house, tidy up their rooms, hang out the laundry, no way mum or dad will do this. We know they get frustrated at our poor standards so they will eventually give in and do it themselves. We've all experienced this, and it is usually mum that caves in. We all know the type of children I am talking about, the 'I won't listen to you, if I don't get my own way' child, the child who's 'hand is always asking for a hand out rather than a hand up'. The child who throws a tanty if they can't get their own way. The child whose

social habits in their room or on the table while eating are socially unacceptable. We all know children like this, but more importantly we all know parents who just give in to their child's poor behaviour. Not realising that they are contributing to a social misfit who thinks only of themselves because mum and or dad won't take a consistent approach to setting their child or children right. The child who plays one parent off against the other without any compunction at all. We do not run our homes any more without one child or children thinking that they know what is best for themselves and as for discipline or punishment, what is that when it's at home? We are trying to become friends with our children when children do not need their parents to be their friends. Friends come and go, friends tell you what you want to hear, and friends can be your greatest asset or greatest liability. Parents are family, family gives you grounding, family tells you to your face, family are not PC, family use your real name, family are the last line of defence when you are in trouble, family is blood. Blood will not take any crap from you, blood gives you whakapapa, blood takes you in when no one else will, blood is thicker than water, and blood endures across time. When have you exacted some form of punishment only for your child to disregard this and you do nothing about it. When you finally do something about it, it is because you have blown your stack and lost your cool thereby becoming the very child you were trying to discipline. Children need boundaries; they need to know that there are consequences for breaking those boundaries. The child needs to understand that they have responsibilities to themselves and their family and their friends and that they will be accountable for their actions. Children do not need parents for friends, because they have friends who fit their idea of the ideal parent. Children need a whole range of coping mechanisms that they can call on and that will help them grow into mature adults and future parents and future leaders. What we have done with our children is social engineering on a vast scale because we love them and want what's best for them. We faced dangers and adversity growing up, and we don't want our children to be exposed to that sort of a life style. The upside is that a lot of us baby boomers are several steps ahead of where our parents' generation was. But in terms of our children, we are several generations behind the ball when it comes to building their resilience to those dangers and adversity we were faced with. In following this path, we have done our children a disservice, we have dithered when giving advice, we have procrastinated when we should have been more forthright. We have allowed them to dictate the relationship on their terms and we have made excuses for them which they do not need. They have friends and their peers who do this job quite well thank you very much.

Hukarere Girls College visits the island



By Norma Ngatamariki

A group of wahine from Hukarere Girls College has made Rarotonga their holiday destination, and are seemingly enjoying their stay. On Friday morning, some of the students visited Radio Cook Islands where they sang a song. They also performed an item for CITV.

The boarding school, which is situated in Napier, New Zealand, has been fundraising through various events such as galas, formal dinners and markets days in order to pay for their trip.

So far, the girls have done a whole lot of activity such as snorkelling, paddle boarding, the cross-island walk as well as attending the cultural sessions at Highland Paradise and Te Vara Nui. They also visited a number

of schools and performed items.

"It's been great, connecting with the people and getting to know our ancestry from Vaka

Takitumu," says Te Aomahia Te Koha, a student from the girl's college. "We'd like to thank Pa Motu and the kids from

Nukutere for your gracious welcome and hospitality," says Naomi Tupene, another student from the college.



New Look Tennis Products

by Tavita

A whole new outlook on tennis is due to start in 2016.

It reminds me of Mangaia.

We used to have a tennis court down in the far corner of the rugby field. It was the scene of many a great encounter. The big attraction was watching Kimi fall over or seeing Moko hit a serve into the lagoon.

In other words, it was entertainment first. Sport a long way second.

And the world has now recognized that we were dead right.

It has come to a clear conclusion about tennis.

For far too many years, it goes, the game has been widely felt to be in danger of becoming just a boring East European sort of sport - grunting, growling whackers of the ball and names that ended in an "-ic" or a "-ski".

But now, Great Britain has found the solution. It's the result of their winning the Davis Cup last month, the top team event in international tennis.

It was the first time in 79 years and they never suspected that it was so easy.

All they needed was Andy Murray to take care of the points and anyone ranked anywhere from about 127 and 749 on the international ranking lists to get on with what really matters...

The Entertainment.

It's a totally new approach.

And it's all being re-designed in Great Britain.

THE FUTURE

At the heart of the plan is a little-known Great Briton called Chris Kermode.

Mr. Kermode is the CEO of the ATP, otherwise known as the Chief Entertainment Officer of All Tennis Products.

His job is to make important decisions.

And the most important one he announced last week is to turn tennis in to an entertainment attraction rather than just another boring old sports event.

"That way," he's believed to believe. "Great Britain will hold on to the Davis Cup long after Andy Murray's retired."

He is said to be working out how improve its marketing,

find new sponsors, promote it better, use the social media more efficiently, connect better with its audiences and how to get the players whacking the ball entertainingly and where they should be whacking it.

From next year on, it's goodbye sport. Enter Roger the Dodger and Handy Andy. Maria the Screech and Raging Selena. Joko the Socko and the dreaded El Raffa.

Mr. Kermode has identified two vital stakeholders holding very big stakes - sponsors and the media.

And he is currently understood to making important decisions on some or none of the following moves....

SPONSORS

The preliminary warm-up will now last two hours. During that time, you will have the choice of six hundred and twenty eight varieties of pre-match sponsored goodies with an extra sponsored goody for those who buy the most goodies.

Then the umpire will give a special sponsored rendering of the God Save the Queen and invite everyone to join him in any other anthem requested by the sponsors.

This will be accompanied by lots and lots of sponsored ball girls doing all sorts of entertaining things.

There will be an entertaining speech by a sponsored British Davis Cup reserve on how to hit the ball out.

The latest 398th ranked Briton will give a special sponsored exhibition of hitting the ball into the net, followed by an sponsored free exhibition performance, featuring methods of missing the ball.

After that, further entertainment will be provided by free sponsored netball, curling, conkers, marbles and hopscotch, all of them highly entertaining sports invented in Great Britain.

All tournaments of note will be in London, since no one else can offer the same number of players ranked above 300 who have won the Davis Cup.

Each game will last a maximum four minutes.

At all of the tournaments, the emphasis will be on what makes Britain traditionally great.

a. Players will carry onto the court five huge extra bags full of bananas and will then proceed to entertain the fans by throwing them at each other.

b. They will wear entertaining funny clothes and drink various entertaining fluids.

c. They will wear highly entertaining multi-coloured clothes, entertainingly punch the air and snarl entertainingly at each other until the sponsors decide they need to do something more entertaining,

MEDIA

This, naturally, is perhaps the most vital move being envisaged by Mr. Kermode.

No more back page stuff. What's needed is the latest front page headlines. Tennis must be up with latest eye-catching ones.

The following are being considered for permanent inclusion on all front pages.


"Deadly Volleys Behind Post Office!"

"Mixed Doubles Gang Arrested!"

"Naked Visitor Warms Up In Front of Church!"

See?


Where Mangaia once led, the rest of the world now follows!



Tiare Village

Airport Motel

Atupa






Pool Unit

Email: kiaorana@tiarevillage.co.ck

Phone: +682 23466 / +682 50755

Website: www.tiarevillage.co.ck

How God meet our needs his way *Part 2*

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

In Part 1 of this article I was talking of what God expect us to do before He could bless us according to the Bible in Philippians 4v.19 which reads "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Many want to take this promise of God and apply it to their lives while avoiding the conditions in v.14-18. When we are generous to others, God will be generous with 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." 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.

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. 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!"

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." When you give generously you become more like Christ! And

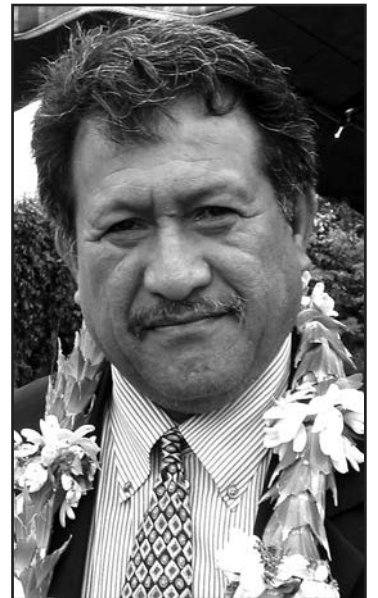
it pleases God. Jesus said, "In as much as you have done unto the least of these, my brethren, you have done it unto Me." (Matthew 25v.40). We must remember that the condition comes before the promise. The Promise of God in Philippians 4v.19 does not:

1) Include laziness. God expects you to work. This promise is not an invitation to sit with folded hands and say, "I'm just trusting the Lord to provide." He has not promised to meet your needs if you sit around and do nothing. I Thessalonians 3v.10 says that people who are unwilling to work should not be given handouts. "Let him who does not work not eat."

2) Cover all our wants. James 4v.3 reads "You ask for something and when you don't get it's because you're asking with the wrong motive. You just want to consume it on your desires." God has not guaranteed to provide us with all our luxuries. God is interested in having our needs met. If you spend all your money on some unnecessary things and your needs were not met, and you say, "God, Your promise isn't true!" That's not God's fault. It's your fault! Who knows you might blame the devil! It's not his fault either, it's your fault! What's covered in v.19 are 'All legitimate needs!' If you're a faithful giver you have every right to ask God to meet your financial needs! If you're not a faithful giver you have no right, to ask God to help you. In II Corinthians 9v.6 8 it shows us the condition (man's part) and the promise (God's blessings). "Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give whatever he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver." This is the condition (man's part). Then the promise (God's blessings) "And God is able to make ALL grace abound to

you, so that in ALL things, at ALL times, having ALL that you need, you will abound in EVERY good work." The main lesson is this: If you are a giver, God will take care of your needs. Giving guarantees God's provision. Be a Generous person, helping those in need. The happiest people are the most generous people. The most miserable people are those who are mean! God want to bless us! Be a faithful giver, and also a generous person with others and watch what God does in your life.

May you find these words encouraging in helping those in need. God bless, te Atua te arua!



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 Enua. 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 Enua. Tuku mai i ta kotou au tamanakoanga kia; Mr. John Tangi, Clerk of Parliament, Nikao, Rarotonga.

John Tangi
Clerk

Acceptance All about that Uni life

By Lucianne Vainerere

We have become self-conscious about every part of our being. If at some point we are confident, there's still a hint of doubt or 'unpretty' feeling lurking around.

We blame society for portraying beauty as thin with a hint of chemicals smeared across our faces or shapely and curvaceous. Media is full of contradictions, yet we still believe what's being televised across the globe. There's nothing wrong with wearing heaps of make-up or wearing tight dresses and shirts to compliment your figure. If that helps you feel 'pretty' then so be it. If that's how you perceive yourself then so be it. But.... do you really accept yourself that way under everything. Or maybe you prefer baggy clothes and sweatpants and colors. Either we still struggle to accept ourselves wholly.

This year is about to end and if you're feeling a change coming and a new found attitude towards how you feel about yourself than maybe this is a good time to let all that negativity go and leave it in the past where it belongs. It's a really hard process to go through. We find it easier to accept others for who they are naturally; successes and failures, 'perfections' and mistakes, beauty's and flaws-they mean nothing to us. But since we were all made the same way. In the image of God, why is it so

hard to accept ourselves and everything we go through? A lot of people brush it off and tell us it's nothing to worry about. But they end up hurting themselves while doing it.

We subconsciously wait for someone else to come and pick us up from our deep slumber we fail to where from. We wait, and wait for someone to come and mold us again and fix all the pieces that are bent and broken. Maybe you can turn tables and be your own hero. As we get closer to the festive season, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and joyful and prosperous New Year 2016. Eat and be merry, love unconditionally, laugh till your stomach hurts and just enjoy being with your loved ones and the peace it brings being amongst people who love you back and ACCEPT you wholeheartedly for who you are despite all the things that lay between warm and cold. Be like Olaf and enjoy the summer and love warm hugs and just be HAPPY even when the sun's not shining.

Thank you to my readers for keeping up with my writing, you're all awesome-take care on the roads this season and cook look after yourselves. Te Atua, Te Aroa. "For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken". Proverbs 14:26. "In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence and his children shall have a place of refuge". Proverbs 14:26.

By Norma Ngatamariki

Hey everyone! Gosh, it's so been so long since I did my little piece in the Herald. Feel good to be getting back on that grind. I arrived on this beautiful island two weeks ago and, I must say, I was really looking forward to it. But, most of all, I wanted to get my tan on! Everybody that I've met so far keeps telling me that I look so white, it's blinding (I may be exaggerating, but that's what they sound like to me!) I wasted no time, putting on my pareu and marching outside to lounge around and absorb some of that good Raro sun. It felt so good!

I just completed my first year at the University of Auckland. I stayed in a Hall of Residence called Grafton Hall, which was a completely new and fun experience. I met some new friends, and had some pretty mean parties and formal dinners. But, of course, I'm only telling you the pretty side of things. I haven't gotten to the most important part yet. The actual university experience, where there are lecture theatres, assignments, studying and all that other...stuff. So, here's what it was like for me.

You know that feeling you get when you start a new school, and you're all nervous and tingly about it? I didn't feel that way the first time I entered a lecture. I felt overwhelmed! There were about 500 first year students all crammed inside this one lecture theatre. There was no room for feeling nervous! I think my most dominant

emotion at the time was excitement. Orientation week was loaded with all sorts of activity, where you could join a club, participate in any event and watch entertainment. All and all, it was great fun.

So for my chosen degree, which is a Bachelor of Commerce, there are seven core papers which are compulsory to take. That's Information Systems 110, Commercial Law 101, Statistics for Commerce 108, Accounting Information 191, Business Economics 191, Business Enterprise 101 and 102. You can pick General Education course for an eighth paper, so that's four papers in the first semester and four papers in the second. I only took seven (long story short, I didn't make a certain enrolment on time) but it was still a workload. If there's one thing that Uni has taught me, it's to manage my time well.

It was a concept that I struggled with. There was many a sleepless night where I had to complete assignments or study for a test. I had adopted a nocturnal lifestyle. But, if you're smart and stick to a set schedule and not deviate from it, then you'll actually have time to fit in a full, eight-hour rest. It's entirely up to you whether or not you want to go to lectures (it's not like they mark attendance and they don't care whether you turn up or not cause they still get paid). That's very dangerous, especially when you're feeling particularly lazy. So self-motivation is a key factor to have in Uni!

In a nutshell, it has been a busy, fun and crazy year.

**ADVERTISE WITH THE
COOK ISLANDS HERALD**

Notice that whenever Elvis the great pretender gets challenged with issues his standard answer is to you have to ask my wife that question, then his other stock answer is we must not be driven by emotions and political gain, Elvis claims it is imperative policies must be based on fact based science, yet what drove him to make that irrational panicky illogical decision to pay a ransom to the land extortionists from his lazy constituency of Manihiki? On what basis did he fork out \$200,000 to help his friend Mickie Enery retrieve his 'big boys toy' junk boat Tiare Taporo from the debt collector in Canada?



On Monday Mr 500 Tupapa's George Maggie attends Parliament in his pink suit. Unable to buy pink socks to wear Maggie bought a spray can of pink paint and painted his ankles pink to match his suit. Now that's innovation and creative solution solving, the very thinking we need in Cabinet, once again One Cook Islands leads the way.



Crowing about politicians, first Demos' Sele Naper is all for the back road in Titikaveka but when the landowners kick up a stink and challenge the political abuse and lies of the government she jumps on the bandwagon and puts her name to a letter she was incapable of writing. Sele gets fed as many overseas trips by the CIP government as she wants and rarely criticises the hand that feeds her. Watch how she makes every excuse and effort not to criticise the government on issues she is the Opposition spokes person for.



Brown Makie finally let the cat out of the bag and what a stench, he biffed the Demos in the face with the news one of their election campaign members

got paid \$70,000 for marketing by the Pearl Authority without the contract going to tender, it seems the Wolfgramm pair have got themselves entangled in a PERC investigation to be tabled in parliament.



Reports coming in to Big Red are that on one outer island the Chinese machines were still sitting on the wharf until someone on Raro suggested they be moved under shelter! And yet another report from another island of a digger parked on vacant land not far from another one delivered earlier!



Question time in the House on Monday afternoon and did the Demo premier team blitz the CIP with difficult, controversial questions to set the CIP back on the ropes? Nope! The questions were not the jaw jarring Muhammad Ali like jabs or Sonny Liston concrete like blows but rather more like powder puffs. The CIP reigning champ, welterweight Henri Foonah barely raised a sweat in the ring as he easily bobbed and weaved his way around the best the Demos could throw at him. Result? Foonah by unanimous points decision by the Judges.



Best bout of the day in the House ring was for the coveted "Purse Seine

Fishing Explanation" Welterweight belt, between the CIP champ, Henry Foonah and "El Speekar." Adopting an Ali ploy, Foonah tried to floor El Speekar with a barrage of verse but El Speekar countered with strong verbals sending Foonah to the canvas and into Tuesday!



The Cook Islands must be the only nation where the title Deputy Prime Minister -DPM- means "Don't Pick Me!" Why does the PM continually overlook his DPM, Terribal Feather, and makes his Finance Minister, Brown Marks, Acting PM when he is overseas? Has the Finance Minister become his "Toy Boy?"



Oh dear chooks! Word whispered to Big Red that one of the Chinese supplied machines only operates in reverse because the mechanisms were put in back to front! Local chook asks why staff of a certain Ministry had the job of assembling machinery when they were not trained to do so!



A few weeks ago none of the major political parties wanted to give OCI so much as a \$5 maroro or a brass razoo. OCI was being trashed by so called experts. Now, suddenly and rather oddly, everyone wants to be OCI's friend, pal, mate, buddy, side kick, long lost

cousie bro! Why? Because the CIP now realize to their shock, horror, they will not have the numbers to govern when OCI wins the by-election for Bona Yu-Ah -Nee's seat when Bona is ousted after his upcoming court case. The demon Demos, languishing in another paddock, need OCI if they want to govern. How desperate are the two major players to hold the purse strings?



Why have so many Chinese machines been sent to the outer islands chooks? Because when they start rusting down in a few weeks time, they will provide the soil with much needed nutrients to boost agriculture.



What did our MPs do once they ended parliament business somewhat early after sending Christmas greetings to the netherlands? They raced off to attend their own Christmas hoolee.



Figure this out chooks, we celebrate self government on 4 August each year but it should be 16 December because that is the date the UN Committee of 24 after a statement by Premier Albert, declared the Cook Islands self governing. Among the nations abstaining from voting were the UK, USA, Australia and France. Nations which did not want their territories copying the Cooks. Russia abstained because the USA did. NZ sent its formal delegation on 10 September 1965. It was delayed from 10 June because the new government changed the Constitution to enable Papa Albert to qualify to stand for election. The qualifying period had been changed from 3 months to 3 years to prevent Papa Albert from being elected. But Margaret Story stood then stepped down after the Constitution was amended. Papa Albert won the by-election.



FAT CATS

Number

2, Cabinet is worried about all the machinery sitting on Outer Island Wharves!

Build sheds around them?

Mozzie

HARD
TOO HARD
IMPOSSIBLE

COCONUT ROUNDTABLE

Rumour has it Government is worried that the Chinese machines have been left on Outer Islands wharves going rusty!

Use them or push them into the harbour!

Chinese FADS!



VACANCIES



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 Jobs

The Cook Island's premier Jobs Website
www.cookislandsjobs.com

This week's top vacancies from Cook Islands Jobs

Ikurangi Ltd, Housekeeper/Gardener, Rarotonga
BodyFuel Cafe- Sushi Chef, Rarotonga
Kelly Pick- Home-based Nanny, Rarotonga

For these roles and more, please visit www.cookislandsjobs.com

PUBLIC NOTICE



**Cook Islands
General Transport Ltd**

Wishing you all

**A Merry Christmas & Happy New year
from COOK ISLANDS GENERAL TRANSPORT LTD**

Statutory Holiday business hours

Wednesday	23/12/15	8.00am to 3pm
Thursday	24/12/15	8.00am to 12pm
Friday	25/12/15	CLOSED
Saturday	26/12/15	Closed
Monday	28 / 12/15	Closed
Tuesday	29/12/15	8.00am to 4pm

Wednesday	30/12/15	8.00am to 4pm
Thursday	31/12/15	8.00am to 3pm
Friday	01/01/16	Closed
Saturday	02/01/16	Closed
Monday	04/01/16	Closed

Resume normal hours Tuesday 5th January 2016

For emergencies call:

Jessie 55 242 or Clerk 56480

Building Pacific capacities to promote and facilitate marine scientific research

14 December 2015

Busan, Korea- Marine science and marine scientific research play a critical role in the sustainable development of the oceans, seas and their resources.

This is consistently recognised by the United Nations General Assembly in its annual resolutions on oceans and the law of the sea, the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and by the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway adopted in 2014.

Marine scientific research is also at the core of the '2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' and the Sustainable Development Goal 14a officially adopted by the General Assembly in September 2015.

To address this, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (DOALOS) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (IOC-UNESCO), in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC) European Union supported Deep Sea Minerals Project and the Korea Maritime Institute (KMI), recently organised a first of its kind training workshop for Pacific Small Island Developing States government officials and scientists in Busan, Republic of Korea.

Participants from 13 Pacific Island states attended the training course which covered the legal, technical and scientific aspects related to the conduct of marine scientific research under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in particular with regards to the rights and obligations of coastal and researching states. Participants included government officials and scientists from both coastal and researching states.

"This training course is very significant as it enhances my skills and capacity to help my country embark on developing its marine scientific research policy and other relevant policies in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. I've identified gaps in our legislations dealing with marine scientific research, hence this training is supportive for improving and strengthening of such areas for the benefit of Vanuatu citizens," Vanuatu's Maritime and Ocean Affairs Division Desk Officer, Mr Roel Tari, said after the training.

Pacific leaders have identified the need to strengthen national capacities in marine scientific research, recognising the benefits that could be derived from investing more in this field as a means to increase scientific knowledge of the marine environment and support national and regional economic growth in marine sectors, such as shipping and offshore energy, as well as in security and defence.

It also creates enabling conditions for pioneering new and more sustainable routes for exploitation and technological development such as bioprospecting or deep seabed mining.

Increasing scientific knowledge and developing research capacity are also critical for ensuring the protection and preservation of the marine environment.

The week-long workshop included representatives from Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The training teams included regional and international experts in their respective fields drawn from DOALOS, IOC-UNESCO, SPC, the University of the South Pacific and research institutes.

The workshop concluded on 11 December.

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

FROM:

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. Those who download the tender document from the website must register their interest with the REDD's office in writing (email sufficient).

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

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, Tutakimoo, Teotue.
9	Thur. 17.12.15	Maraerenga, Tupapa, Pue, Kiiiki, Ooa



FINAL TUTAKA FOR 2015 AND PART OF THE VAKA PRIDE ACTIVITIES



FESTIVE SEASON TRADING HOURS

Te Aponga Uira will close for the Christmas and New Year holidays from **1pm Thursday 24th December 2015** and will re-open for normal operations at **8am on Wednesday 6th January 2016**.

Customers seeking new power connections or connection of approved solar installations before Christmas will need to have completed administration work (application, inspections, etc) by 4.30pm **Monday 21st December 2015**.

During the holidays, the following services will be available:

1. **24 hour** fault services remain available **7 days** a week throughout the festive period; call **25 257** for this service.
2. Receipting of electricity **payments only** on your accounts will be available at the Tutakimoo Office on the **29th, 30th and 31st December 2015** and **5th January 2016** between the hours of **9am and 12 noon**.

"Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year"

Harmon cleared of wrong doing allegations



Lee Harmon, exonerated of malicious allegations

Earlier this year in the month of June, Lee Harmon was accused on the front page of the Cook Islands News for mistreating a former employee.

In the article it was stated that Harmon treated his imported Fijian Indian plantation worker Ashwindra Prasad like a slave and was accused of luring the employee on false promises. Prasad had been terminated for failing to meet his contractual obligations then sought reprisal through his friend Rashneel Kumar a Fijian Indian journalist who together with Cook Islands News, despite Harmon denying the allegations published a one sided malicious and defamatory story on the front page once Prasad had left the country.

Kumar assisted Prasad in making a formal complaint to the Police that included assault. Police have since exonerated Harmon and had Prasad still be here Police were considering charging him with a malicious complaint that wasted limited resources.

The very next day, Cook Islands News published another story to say that FIFA grants to CIFA were under investigation and whether there is any falsification of documents.

Kumar is now the CI News sports reporter who covers CIFA news but back in June as a recent arrival he was stupidly waging a one man kamikazi campaign against the Cook Islands most influential sports administrator stated without qualification, *"It's clear and simple. CIFA is in serious trouble and its leadership is to blame."*

When letters to the media began rebutting Kumar and his fabricated comments he justified his reporting by stating *"only telling the truth."*

It is now confirmed the Cook Islands News only wrote the story as a smear campaign against Mr. Harmon and CIFA officials in retaliation to CIFA for refusing to continue with the CI News owner's insistence published soccer content has to be paid for. No other code was subjected to this editorial demand.

In the future Cook Islands News should gather factual evidence first before writing negative things about people for something they didn't do.

Attached is the full apology by Cook Islands News for both articles printed on the second page of the newspaper on Tuesday 15 December 2015.

- George Pitt

Apology

ON 27 June 2015 the Cook Islands News published an article implying that Swiss authorities were conducting an investigation of grants made to the Cook Islands Football Association. Swiss authorities are reported to be conducting a worldwide investigation into grants, however the Cook Islands News does not have information suggesting that grants made by FIFA to CIFA are specifically the subject of an investigation. The Cook Islands News withdraws any inference to the contrary and apologises to CIFA and its officials.

On 26 June, the Cook Islands News also published an article that referred to allegations made against Mr Lee Harmon by a former employee. The Cook Islands News has recently been informed by the Police that the investigation failed to gather sufficient evidence and the Police will not be taking the matter any further.

■ Cameron Scott