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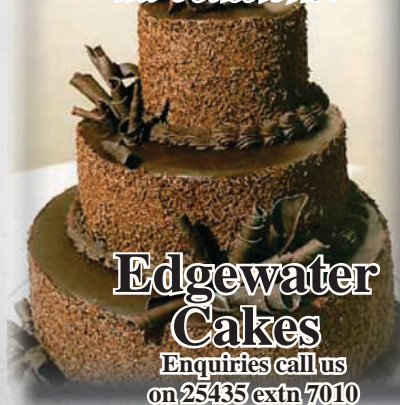
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Opposition's Tiddly Winks Leader out of depth and should resign immediately



Smiley Heather Must do the right thing and stand down.



Eddie Drollet, the Demo \$1200 a week failure specialist



Wilkie Rasmussen, condemned for critiquing the Demo Leaders

When the former Leader of the Opposition and Democratic Party Leader Wilkie Rasmussen said in his CI News column on 18 January 2016 *"Politics is not a game of tiddly winks,"* one could sense his despondence and disappointment at how far the Democratic Party opposition had regressed and had become reduced to the incompetence of the two people who dictated their direction.

The longer the political theatre is projected for public consumption, the Eddie and Smiley show brings into focus the Demos are destined to spend many more years battling a political famine. Rather than take note of Rasmussen's jolt to wake them up and out of their cone of self preservation the reaction has

been talk of giving him the boot into political oblivion.

While the Cook Islands Party government is reeling at the allegations of corruption filed against the DPM Teariki Heather and the subsequent Financial Intelligence Unit's investigation into the purchase of a bob cat and the likely hood the Prime Minister Henry Puna is obliged under the Constitution Article 14 to yellow card the DPM, if Rasmussen had his way he would be handing out red cards to Drollet and Smiley Heather.

Rasmussen rightly stated, *"In politics if you stay quiet and do not open your mouth and question issues then you have failed your mission"*

Both Drollet and Heather won't open their mouths because one, Drollet has no media engagement skills, his hostility to the media

reflects his physiological inability to be media fluid, not only that, his grasp of crucial issues is overwhelming absent. That's the answer to Rasmussen's question *"Does it use the media fully to get across its criticisms?"*

Leader Heather trembles at the thought of making public media releases for obvious reasons. At the recent Demo filing of their writ of mandamus in the High Court, Murienua MP James Beer spoke in English and Captain Tama did the Maori version, Heather was silent and totally out of his depth.

Rasmussen makes the effort to call the Demos to give attention for being the Opposition. Surely, its ultimate aim is to become the Government so it can implement policies it believes are best for the country and its inhabitants.

Bigger questions are asked of

the leaders like, *Are you making the right interventions, are you doing enough? More importantly, Will voters vote for the Demo in the 2018 elections?*

Rasmussen puts his neck on the line by making reference to the Demo leadership being incompetent, *"This is where the Demo is failing miserably..."*

Rasmussen hints there's still plenty political petrol in his tank and he will make a comeback for Penrhyn at the next general elections.

The obvious answer to Rasmussen's question, *Are you improving the Demo's credibility?* Is definitely no.

The Demo's credibility is in tatters, the Opposition office is appropriated \$202,000 of public funds for those not in government to be their political

continued next page

From page 2

opposition. This is not for political Party work, the line between the works of the Party is distinctly not a public funded item yet the bulk of the Opposition office budget is spent for that purpose.

Paid \$1,134 a week plus allowances from the Opposition's budget, Demo Party General Secretary Eddie Drollet works part time not for the Opposition office but carrying out the affairs of the Demo Party doing mostly fund raising to clear the horrendous debt after the elections and the failed legal challenges that followed.

While the Demos are throwing rocks of condemnation at the government for inappropriate expenditure they themselves need to take a long hard look at how they are short changing the taxpayers. Rasmussen is on the right track the Demo credibility is on shaky ground. The Opposition office is not the headquarters for the Democratic Party, neither is it the Office of the Leader of the Opposition.

Back in the day when Sir Geoffrey Henry was in Opposition Tupui Henry a handy sign writer of note was hand painting a new sign for the Opposition office. In a joking manner of tongue in cheek Sir Geoffrey suggested Henry edited the words to say The Office of the Leader of the Opposition, that's how the sign got painted and it has stayed the same ever since. It is time to correct that little diversion and the correct signage erected, to simply The Office of the Opposition.

When Smiley Heather was in a group while Beer held a media conference at the Justice Ministry about the writ of mandamus, it was inappropriate for him to speak because when he was a Minister in Government the very thing the Demos are taking the government to task on he is guilty of by association.

The Demo government failed to table and present to Parliament an Audit report of their over 2009/2010 budget over expenditure to the tune of \$9.6m. How hypocritical.

Smiley Heather likes to remind his peers and Party officers and supporters he is a team player. Just another pious political selfie. Let me explain.

In 2009 when Dr Terepai Maoate resigned from Cabinet and Aunty Mau and Tangata Vavia followed suit the then PM Jim

Marurai enticed Heather to join him, he broke the Demo ranks and grabbed a seat in Cabinet. After his Demo colleagues pleaded with him to stay unified, Heather jumped at his opportunity to get his face well and truly in the trough. Team player? Historically no.

Another reason why Smiley Heather should gracefully resign from being the Leader of the Opposition is his inability to be impartial and his condoning of possible corruption.

While Heather says the right things his previous actions have been a contradiction. Smiley Heather must come to the realisation being the leader of the Democratic Party is another game to being the leader of the Opposition.

In 2013 three people came to see Smiley Heather to approach his brother the Minister of ICI the DPM Teariki Heather and request him to return a newly purchased bobcat machine that is alleged to belong to the then Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning.(Now ICI)

Smiley Heather decided to do nothing about the worried people's pleading, in fact he ignored it despite knowing through other sources the request had some merit. Annoyed at Smiley Heather for his disregard of the allegation because the DPM was his brother, other Demo MPs were approached about the allegations.

Recently the bobcat allegations have resurfaced and are now the subject of a FIU investigation according to media reports. This FIU investigation has very serious ramifications for Smiley Heather. It's no good throwing rocks at the government when you live in a glass house.

Brother or not, Smiley Heather had the responsibility to bring a resolution to the bobcat allegations two years ago, this is not a game of tiddly winks its politics and its obvious Smiley's say nothing choice was an attempt to bury his brother's alleged corruption.

Smiley Heather must be held accountable for his failure to challenge his brother Teariki to do the right thing. Smiley must now do the right thing and resign from being the Leader of the Opposition and giving up the \$90,000 salary won't be easy

but it's all about the credibility of the team, something he may have learnt if he hadn't walked out of the recent Anti Corruption workshop for MPs.

Who then should be the new leader of the Opposition? There are 11 MPs opposed to government and disregarding Party politics these 11 MPs must ask who among us has the ability and capability of changing the government, like Rasmussen said, that's the objective of the Opposition.

Like it or not the Demos need the two One Cook Island MPs to become the government. The Demos must come to know by experience the first law of politics, do whatever is necessary to become the government, do WHATEVER! It's all about numbers in these circumstances.

Smiley Heather cannot take the Opposition members corporately to another level and nothing will change unless a new leader is selected. The status quo feathers the nest of a very few predominately the failure specialist Eddie Drollet

and the incompetent Smiley Heather.

The change of Opposition leader does not require a Demo Party conference, all it needs is a majority of six MPs to advise the Clerk of Parliament John Tangi in writing their consenting preference.

Don't be greedy for power and the money Smiley do the right thing so many more than Eddie Drollet and yourself will have their share of the spoils. Put the team first, no more talk about being a team player show everyone you are sincere, resign gracefully rather than be embarrassed when your own colleagues dump you. Then you and Drollet concentrate on preparing the Party for the next elections.

Credibility? Right now that is in short supply and unless the two mentioned fall on their swords the Democratic Party will fall into irreparable damage. As Rasmussen wrote, *"time is running out and the public is wondering what the heck is the Demo doing?"* *"A common statement is that they are fast asleep."* - George Pitt



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Lynch mob frenzy a dysfunctional embarrassment, calls for deportation hideous and inflammatory

There is no doubt there is a lot of submerged anger simmering in Rarotonga and this mass reaction was unleashed like a burst bubble by one mother's anger at the Court's sentence handed to an offender who had assaulted her son.

The shocking lynch mob frenzy is an embarrassing display of the state of our social maturity in our evolution as a sovereign nation. The emotional roller coaster has revealed the depth of discontent and resentment the country is now dependent on foreigners for economical survival.

Michelle Paiti has every right to be angry with the system she feels has let her down but her concerns have been high jacked and emotionally escalated and elasticised into anything and everything that can be lashed at. Even the Prime Minister Henry Puna has jumped on the wave of public incitement calling for deportation to score political points.

Everyone needs to pause and take a few deep breathes and take a reality check. The emotive adjective reporting needs to be pruned back so the facts can take their place. Without looking into one of the growing versions of why this unfortunate offence took place let's be civil and consider the facts, yes put all the emotional display of savagery aside and the racial condemnations.

I for one ask the question, if the young Cook Islander was badly beaten in an unprovoked attack as was reported in the CI News, why was Afereti Iona charged by the Police with the seemingly low grade offence of common assault?

After he was assaulted nineteen year old Tamatoa Tangimeua went to the Police Station and reported the incident at the Rehab Night Club, the time was 12.01am. Thursday 24 December 2015.

The next day at about 8am Iona was uplifted and taken to the Police station for questioning. Iona who has limited English ability was not legally represented. Iona cooperated with the investigation and was cautioned then arrested for Common Assault. Yes Common Assault, not Aggravated Assault but Common Assault.

Iona pleaded guilty when he appeared in Court and was remanded on bail for sentencing. A four page **Pre-Sentence Report** states in the **SUMMARY OF CAUSES OF OFFENDING** 1. Anger/ Frustration 2. Heavily intoxicated.

The Probation Service then advised a list of five considerations in passing sentence. They **RECOMMENDED** the following: Probation Service recommends for the defendant to come up for sentencing if call upon within a term of 6 months pursuant of section 113 of the Criminal Procedure Act 1980-81.

Another question, seeing alcohol was a contributing factor in the offence, why didn't the Court rule a condition of not entering a licensed premise or the consumption of alcohol. Why didn't the Court order the defendant to undergo an anger management program as part of the sentence?

Facts, before being sentenced Iona began anger management counselling through the Ministry of Health who have Samoan speaking professionals in employment. Iona has accepted responsibility for his actions and has endured the judicial process. The slur there has been high level influence to minimise his sentence is malicious and provocative.

Iona does not have previous convictions for violence as claimed by many. Accusations that he has are unfounded and politically motivated by rival

sports clubs. Iona previously appeared in Court on charges for fighting in public and common assault but when the facts were clarified both charges were discharged without conviction. Iona was the complainant but because he was giving evidence in broken English and the Police mistakenly charged him.

No one condones Iona for his actions but he has apologised remorsefully to Tamatoa and his family, he has accepted his punishment and is endeavouring to turn his life around.

Iona is being accused of violent play on the sports field; Rugby and League are combatant codes, while the Fijians have introduced flair to these codes the Samoans are sought after by the Clubs because they play with physical passion as did the champion fearful Arorangi Rugby Club take no prisoners did in the eighties.

Players suffer all sorts of injuries in the Rugby codes because it's a violent sport, what happens on the field stays on the field. To start blaming the Avatiu Sports Club for what happened to Tamatoa is sheer nonsense but then when people get swept up in the lynch mob hysteria human behaviour becomes fearfully dysfunctional, take a good look at yourself you mindless, judgemental, emotional racists. Call yourselves adults how about start behaving like intelligent adults.

The shame Iona has brought upon the small close knit Samoan community is nothing compared to the embarrassing shame being dumped upon honest decent law abiding Cook Islanders. Next thing it will be a Fijian, or a offending Tongan, or an Indonesian, where will the hysterical lynch mob's thirst for blood end?

Tamatoa and Afereti who once lived harmoniously under the same roof have reconciled and moved on.

Let the judicial process take its course, if Michelle Paiti is objective to this process then she has legal means to seek a different outcome. Mob rule has no place in our democracy, heck we've just celebrated 50 years of Independence and this is what we have become?

To even suggest a person be deported for the low grade conviction of common assault is mindless trivia. Not only that, Afereti Iona is a first offender and that's an unemotional fact. Many other foreigners have been convicted and imprisoned for serious offences and not deported. Do I need to list their names and offences?

How stupid to drag Iona's employer Taoro Strickland and the Hon Minister Albert Nicholas, both prominent Cook Islands Party personalities into this shameless idiotic attack, is this a Demo ploy?

Why not drag in the importers of alcohol and the night club owners; this incident was fuelled by alcohol, throw some of the hysteria in their direction. Better still deport some of them, that's how out of control this has become.

Fortunately it is a welcomed diversion from the antics of our travel addicted PM.

Sadly for Michelle Paiti her initial concerns have become swamped by the mass hysteria of the dysfunctional lynch mob. When the dust settles and the mob retrieves their sensibility her concerns should be lawfully addressed, but most likely the mass anger for whatever their reason will have been vented, it's my hope a catharsis exorcism is the good outcome.

Seriously, if the mob wants to rectify our biggest injustice, take up the sword against domestic violence, it's a cancer in our Paradise.
- George Pitt



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Our Frontpage model



Our frontpage model this week's Herald issue 802- is 22 year old Mamia Opuu, Mamia is no stranger to our frontpage cover, after being on it during the Miss Cook Islands Pageant when she was a contestant. Mamia is in the Cook Islands Volleyball National Development squad and is currently taking a gap year, working at BCI as a teller. Check out our website www.ciherald.co.ck. and facebook page: www.facebook.com/ciherald

PM slams slurs as 'non-news': says enough is enough!

The fantastical meandering of the writing by George Pitt in the Cook Islands Herald has reached another galaxy of Star Wars' proportions. The slurs know no bounds. With no news to speak of, the Herald toes the line of innuendo and gossip just for the sake of pushing personal agendas.

The Prime Minister is yet again the target of every conceivable smear, along with anyone associated with the country's leadership, or even family. None of the Herald's slurs are based on fact. All stem from personal and individualistic bellyaches.

As the Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs, the Prime Minister has a yearly calendar of international obligations – none of which are new for a Leader. The standard travel requirements demanded of the country's leader have been in place for decades.

In addition to the country's obligations overseas, the leadership has a strong national development agenda whereby the principles of energy conversion to renewable, the sustainability of the ocean's resources, and conservation management, are widely promoted. The broad promotion of the Cook Islands in these areas has enabled domestic business expansion and new government-to-government



partnerships. The net result is new and additional financial and technical assistance to the country where none had been previously available, or attained.

The Prime Minister's overseas participation in meetings and conferences are grounded in a diplomacy that has reaped benefits, and continues to attract international attention.

There are no agendas – political or personal – to feather the Prime Minister's travel comforts, nor is there any suggestion of ridiculously-laid plans that would require extensive transparent scrutiny anyway.

In the meantime, the Cook Islands Herald remains in dire need of credible news-reporting.

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Official signing of sponsorships for 2016-2018 Cook Islands Tourism Awards



By Norma Ngatamariki

The tourism industry is in for an exciting year, as the 2016-2018 Cook Islands Tourism Awards is set to kick off in April. These awards are biennial and have two underlying objectives; to stimulate a process of continual business improvement and to recognise excellence in our tourism industry.

The official signing of sponsorship for the Awards commenced on Tuesday morning, as various partners who have taken an interest in the event gathered within the Koru Lounge. President of the

Cook Islands Tourism Council, John Webb, says that he appreciates the efforts of all the parties who contributed to the Awards. "We thank each and every one who has supported this event, as this would not have been made possible without them."

The participants of the sponsorship present at the signing, included: Gold Elite partner, Air New Zealand Cook Islands Branch Manager, David Bridge; Managing Director for the Bank of the Cook Islands (Gold Partner) Vaine Arioka; Bluesky Managing Director

Phillip Henderson; Tourism Chief Executive Halatoa Fua; Ministry of Culture Secretary Anthony Turua and Pitt Media Group Director Charles Pitt.

There are eight business categories in total which are: Hotels and Resorts Accommodation, Self-Catering Accommodation, Private Holiday Rental Accommodation, Tourism Industry Support, Tourism Attractions, Festivals and Events, Tourism Restaurants and Catering Services and Destination Wedding Planners. There are Special Awards for Environment, Culture, Internet

Marketing, Outer Islands, Customer Care and the Family Friendly Awards. For the Special Personal Awards, the entrants may be individuals or organisations and are to be nominated by a tourism industry member, operator, community group or other organisation. The Awards for this particular section is Outstanding Contribution to Tourism and Lifetime Achievement in Tourism. The applications received from the businesses will then be transferred to New Zealand, where they will be assessed and judged.



Minister Glassie in Atiu for the blessing of agriculture machinery last week

Minister of Health & Justice, MP for the constituency of Tenganangi, Areora & Ngatiarua, Nandi Glassie was in Atiu last week for the blessing and handover ceremony of the Chinese gifted agriculture machineries. Attended by leaders of the three villages representing his electorate including the Ui Ariki, the Mayor and government officials of the island, the blessing took place at the Areora meeting house on Tuesday 26th January 2016 at 9.00a.m in the morning.

The function started with an opening prayer by Tapuni Williams, Catechist of the Catholic Parish and the main service and blessing conducted by the Reverend Michael Akava of the Cook Islands Christian Church of the island.

The function was followed by a key note address by Minister Glassie who emphasized government's intention to revive the growth of agriculture in the Pa Enua. Agriculture is one of the key sectors that government would like to see each of the Pa Enua in the Southern Group islands to focus on and to ensure that the production are sustainable in the face of climate change and maintain food security in the long term.

Government has kept its promise through the gifted machinery said Minister Glassie, Atiu taro is also a well known product that is in high demand in Rarotonga and the export market and through the assistance of the donated machinery, there should not be any excuse why there is no Atiu taro stated the Minister.

Pineapples, market vegetables have also landed on the Rarotonga market in the past and the recent soil survey and workshops conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture should have given our people the hands on knowledge to expand their agriculture activity said the



Minister Nandi Glassie in Atiu

Minister.

These gifted machineries gave a sense of hope and encouragement to the interested growers, who cannot wait to get them tested out, ready for the real ploughing starting with their taro plantations.

The three villages of Tenganangi, Areora & Ngatiarua have last year elected a management committee who will manage the machinery and at the same time plan the constituency growing activities over the next 12 months or so. The management committee will be working in partnership with the Minister's Support Office to ensure that support logistics and personnel are available to operate and maintain the machinery for the long term.

The function wrapped up with a *kaikai* organised by the committee members and followed by a trial demonstration of the machineries. —Media release

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Ports Authority releases official documents relating to the Tiare Taporo

Early yesterday afternoon Ports Authority CEO Bim Tou released two official government documents relating to the vessel previously named the "Zebroid" now renamed the "Tiare Taporo" (see copy of email below).

The documents relate to the payment

of port charges and levies (2000 Directive) and licensing (2010 letter). Both these documents are reproduced below for the information of readers.

Of interest is then Transport Minister Smiley Heather's letter of 2010 which advises the license will be issued once

PSL advises that refitting of the vessel is complete and that the vessel has set sail for the Cook Islands. This appears to indicate a license will be issued before arrival. Smiley refers to the Demo government Cabinet's support.

From: Nooroa (Bim) Tou [mailto:nooroa.tou@cookislands.gov.ck]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2016 1:16 p.m.
Subject: Pacific Schooners Ltd/Tiare Taporo

Dear Editor,

Due to the recent adverse media publicity on the Tiare Taporo attached is the Ports Press Release following a review of all the relevant information submitted.

Attached also are the following:

1. Directive to Ports Authority dated 15 March 2000 exempting all Ports charges to Cook Islands licensed domestic vessels.

2. Letter dated 20 September 2010 signed by the then Minister of Shipping Services Hon William Heather noting that a license will be issued to the vessel SV Zebroid now Tiare Taporo upon delivery of the vessel to the Cook Islands.

We also confirm that we have copies of the Tiare Taporo safety certificate that is valid until 15 June 2018 plus the annual survey certificate valid until 3 June 2016.

PORTS AUTHORITY

PO Box 84, Rarotonga, Cook Islands
Phone (682) 21 921 Facsimile (682) 21 191



Press Release

Pacific Schooners Ltd SV Tiare Taporo

At the Ports Authority Board meeting held on Friday 29 January 2016; the Directors considered the matter of Ports charges that have been made to the two vessels Tiare Taporo and Lady Moana.

The Directors are satisfied that all the charges have been made in accordance with normal standing Ports Authority tariffs, and to the directives that have been made over the years to the Ports Authority.

Samuel Crocombe
Chairman
Ports Authority

Nooroa (Bim) Tou
General Manager
Ports Authority

00 15:05

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GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

Office of the

Minister of Foreign Affairs & Immigration, Marine Resources,
Agriculture, Tourism, Development Investment Board, Transport, Airport Authority,
Ports Authority, Parliamentary Services and House of Ariki.

Hon. Dr Robert Woonton

PO Box 920, Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands
Ph: (682) 21 705 Facsimile: (682) 22 520

Mr Donald Beer Jnr
Chairman
Ports Authority
RAROTONGA

Dear Sir,

re: **POLICY DIRECTION FOR PORTS AUTHORITY**

In terms of section 13 of the Ports Authority Act 1994-95, and as a matter of general policy directions, also in keeping with the practice and tradition of the previous governments, I, Hon. Dr. Robert Woonton, Minister responsible for the Ports Authority, do hereby direct the Authority to exempt every inter Cook Islands licensed trading vessels from port charges or berthage levies at any port in the Cook Islands under the jurisdictions of the Ports Authority.

This exemption applies also to any charges that have been levied but to date unpaid.

Given under my hand on this day 15th day of March 2000.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Dr. Robert Woonton
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PORTS AUTHORITY

Rec'd by Hand
15/3/00
N



GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE HON. WILLIAM HEATHER

Minister of Infrastructure & Planning, Transport, Parliamentary Services,
& House of Ariki & Koutu Nui

PO Box 3041, Nukunono, Rarotonga, COOK ISLANDS Telephone: (682) 277-97 Fax: (682) 277-99 Email: hon.william@oyster.net.ck

20th September 2010

The Directors
Pacific Schooners Limited
P O Box 59
Aitutaki
COOK ISLANDS

Kia Orana,

Re: **Domestic Shipping Licence Application : "SV Zebroid"**

I refer to your application (reference letter dated 27th August 2010) for a shipping licence to enable your company to operate the ship "SV Zebroid" for the purpose of carriage of cargo and passengers between islands of the Cook Islands.

I am pleased to inform that on support of Cabinet, I give advice that a shipping licence will be issued to the vessel "SV Zebroid" to be operated by Pacific Schooners Limited upon delivery of the vessel to the Cook Islands trade.

It is noted from your application that the "SV Zebroid" a former fishing vessel will be undergoing refitting before she comes onto the trade and that this refitting is expected to take eight months to complete. That being the case, the shipping licence will be issued once you have advised that the refitting have been completed and that the vessel has set sail for the Cook Islands.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. William Heather
MINISTER OF SHIPPING

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, WED 27 JAN 2016

Berthing charge exemptions

Ports Authority General Manager, Nooroa (Bim) Tou, and MP for Ngatangia, the Hon Tama Tuavera, were the invited guest speakers on Te Kave Korero on Wednesday 27th January 2016.

The controversial Tiare Taporo's exemption from paying berthage fees at Avatiu Harbour was the subject of the interview.

According to Tuavera, Papa Tapi Taio, owner of Taio Shipping had said that it is unfair that Tiare Taporo has been exempted from paying the fees where as he had paid \$31,000.00 in respect of his boat Lady Naomi when it was waiting for its domestic shipping licence.

"Inara, ko te pai ra ko te Tiare Taporo, mei tona tae maianga, kua karanga oki te tatou taeake, nana rai tana tuatua, na Bim, e, te tiaki nei oki teia pai, kua kite ratou ka rauka mai tana licence, no reira ratou kare e charge i teia pai. Inara, kare ake rai te licence a teia pai i rauka mai ake, e, kare rai ratou i tiatia ake i te moni no te berth anga ki roto i te Avatiu Harbour", said Tuavera.

"Te akara nei oki au, it's not fair, it's unfair ki a Papa Tapi, kua tutaki a ia e toru ngauru mai tai tauasini tara. It's also unlawful, it's unlawful that he has paid and this particular boat has not even paid a dollar".

He emphasized that it is unfair to Papa Tapi that the Tiare Taporo has not paid one cent of berthage fees.

"It's unfair ki a Papa Tapi ra e, kua tutaki a ia e toru ngauru ma tai tauasini tara, e, kare ake rai te Tiare Taporo i tutaki ake i tetai sene no to ratou berth i roto i te Avatiu Harbour. Ko teia oki te tuatua i tuatuaia mai, e, kua papu i a ratou ka rauka mai te licence a teia pai, no reira ratou kare i tiati i a ratou, inara, i teia ra, kare rai i rauka mai ake te licence".

In rebuttal Bim said in Maori that the Lady Moana had paid only \$6,693.87 in the financial year ending 30th June 2013.

"Akatano ua tatou ki runga i te Lady Moana, may be kia tatara atu au, e ia tikai a Tapi moni i tutaki i te mataiti 2013, akatano ki runga i ta matou financial year, te end of the financial year oki a te Ports, 30th June 2013, and then ka rauka rai i aku i te akakite atu. Teia te akatakatakaanga no te Lady Moana, teia te moni i tutaki ia te Lady Moana, Taio Shipping, e ono tauasini, ono anere e iva ngauru ma toru tara, e varu ngauru ma itu tene (\$6,693.87), this is up to the 30th of June 2013. Akamaara tatou, kua aere mai te pai o Tapi, tae mai ki roto i to tatou tai roto i te ra

15 o Aperira 2013, tana licence, e licence tautai, long line, commercial fishing".

He stated that for the financial year ending 30th June 2014 the Lady Moana paid only \$3,651.20 in berthage fees.

"I te mataiti 2014, 30th of June 2014, teia ta Taio Shipping no runga i te Lady Moana i tutaki ki te Ports Authority, e toru tauasini, e ono anere e rima ngauru ma tai tara, e rua ngauru tene (\$3,651.20)".

Bim said he is disappointed in the claims being made that \$31,000.00 was paid in berthage fees, it is incorrect. He added that \$32,330.00 of berthage fees was exempted in respect of the Lady Moana.

"No reira e Tony, taitaia au i teia pepa i roto i te nuti pepa, karangaia nei oki e, e toru ngauru ma tai tauasini tana i tutaki ea, ki te Ports Authority, kare teia i te mea tano, teia taku e akapapu atu nei au because no roto mai teia i ta matou records, ta matou financial records a te Ports ta te Lady Moana i tutaki".

"Ko te ngai teia e taii nei, toru ngauru ma rua tauasini, toru anere e toru ngauru tara (\$32,330.00) i wave ia, kare te Lady Moana i tutaki ana because e domestic licence oki tana ea, so they've been waved since use anga a ia i tera special inter-island shipping, since June 2013, rauka mai i tera tana permanent inter-island licence i reira i te ra 25 o Sepetema 2013, up to 30th June, kare a ia i tutaki berthage so karanga rai koe around about e toru ngauru ma rua tauasini i reira, kare a ia i tutaki berthage while sitting in port".

According to Bim the Lady Moana was brought to the Cook Islands as a long line commercial fishing vessel but Papa Tapi denies that saying he brought it into the Cook Islands as a 'private yacht'.

When asked to clarify the situation Bim said that the only exemption from paying berthage fees is given when a vessel is granted a domestic shipping licence.

"No atu rai me aere mai e private yacht, ko tai ua rai tuanga i raro i te akateretereanga a te Ports ka exempt ia, ko te domestic shipping vessels, all other vessels, aere mai e yacht, charter boats or commercial fishing, ka tutaki pouroa ratou".

When questioned as to exactly how much he paid in berthage fees Papa Tapi said he couldn't answer the question as he is not responsible for

that part of the business.

"Kare e rauka i aku tena, kare oki naku te reira potonga ngai e handle ana, na Josh ea, kare taua e handle ana i te reira ngai, sorry kare e rauka i aku i te answer i tena, kare ra oki a Josh kare i konei, he's gone home".

Bim reiterated that notwithstanding that a company may be foreign owned, so long as it obtains a domestic shipping licence, it will be exempted from paying berthage fees.

"No atu oki e, e foreigners, kite koe i te Kwai, as long e, they're granted a domestic shipping licence, ko tera te ngai kia papu tatou, me e licence teretere to ratou i roto nei i te Kuki Airani, i te outer islands, kua exempt ia ratou i te tutaki i te berthage fees".

"There was a Port Authority directive, ko te tumu oki i reira o te domestic shipping, me ka tiati oki tatou, ka kino atu i reira to tatou iti tangata i te pa enua, i te tutakianga i te mea, ka add rai taau freight i reira, me ka tutaki oki i reira te berthage, ka add rai teia aronga e service nei i te domestic licence ki runga i te costs of goods, ko te vaerua tera o te Kavamani, mei te Kavamani Demo mai e, tae mai ki teia ra".

Bim concluded that if the Ports was to charge berthing fees the costs could be passed on and it could be more expensive for the people in the outer islands to buy goods in shops hence the directive (that domestic shipping licence holders are exempted from paying berthing fees).

"Me ka tiati te Ports i te berthage, that means, ka pati te costs ki te iti tangata, that means, maata kino atu te pakau oko i roto i te toa o te iti tangata i te pa enua, ko te tumu tera".

Te Kave Korero thanks Bim Tou, Tama Tuavera and Papa Tapi Taio for coming onto the programme and answering questions.



TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, MON 1 FEB 2016

Turepu responds to criticisms

The Honourable Kiriau Turepu, Minister for Agriculture and Environmental Services, was the guest speaker on Te Kave Korero on Monday 1st February 2016.

In response to a letter to the Editor of Cook Islands News of Friday 22nd January 2016 Turepu rebutted criticisms of him as Minister for Agriculture and Environmental Services as baseless and unfounded.

In Maori he said that he had pondered responding to the letter through the Editor but realized it would be difficult as there are too many questions to respond to.

“Ko au, kua tamata rai au ka respond au i teia mea na roto i te reta ki te Etita, te ngai ra i kino ai, e maata roa te au uianga, aka angaanga i te pau e, tai o ou pauanga i teia au tuatua, teia au uianga aere ki roto i te reta ki te Etita”.

Get Real, the letter writer wrote:

“We are told animal waste, agriculture sprays and synthetic fertilizers are also to blame for the ‘national disaster’ at Muri. Has Turepu addressed this at all? Zero, naught, nothing”

In response Turepu said that he doesn’t disagree with Get Real that agriculture has contributed to the algal problem at Muri. However, in the early 1960s, 70s and early 80s, the economy was based around agriculture and that, at the time, there was no regard for the environment. Today however, things have changed and tourism is the base of our economy, agriculture is there to support it.

“Well, Tony, no runga i teia tumu manako i raise ia mai. Kare au e patoi ana e, mei te mea e, ko te akaapaanga e, kua contribute the Agriculture activities i te, karanga au e, ki teia problem o te algal i roto i te lagoon, which is, the nutrients, it has increased i roto i te lagoon, kare au e patoi ana i te reira, but kua kite ra oki tatou e, i te mataiti 1960s, 70s, e te early 80s, pinga tikai te angaanga tanu i konei. To tatou economy was based on cash economy no te agriculture. E oti, te manure, te use of fertilizer and chemicals i te reira tuatahi, ketaketa, koia tikai. Kare e regards no te environment i tera tuatahi. So i teia tuatahi, kua tenei te au kaveinga i teia taime, kua aere mai ko te turoto ta tatou, you know, the base of our economy today. Ko te agriculture, e turu ua a ia i teia”.

Turepu added that today there are more property developments in Muri and it would be difficult for someone to suggest that these do not contribute to the issue at Muri lagoon.

“I aku, te tienianga te base o ta tatou economy ki te tourism, which i aku is a good thing, kare mei te mea e kare e contribution a te tourism also, accommodation, ki roto i teia problem i te Muri lagoon, no te mea, in the, karanga au e, i te mid 60s ki te early 70s, kare e maata na te otere i Muri, kare e maata na te are i te pae

taatai. I teia ra, choka block, e, oti, kare e rauka i tetahi tangata i te karanga mai ki aku e, kare e contribute ana teia ki te nutrients i roto i te lagoon i Muri”.

Furthermore, he said that water is stagnant at Muri and is insufficient to flush out the lagoon. He said that an area between Motutapu motu and Oneroa motu is raised, it is higher and preventing the water to flow well therefore minimizing the outward flow, thus contributing to the problem.

“Kare ko te reira ua. Tetahi, stagnant te tai i Muri, kare e rava na te flush out. Ko teia stagnant, no te mea, kua irinaki au e, i ko tikai i te motu, rotopu i te motu mua, Motutapu e Oneroa, kua maranga teia ngai o te enua ki runga, kua ki, kua kake te enua ki runga, kua teitei, which means i reira kare te tai e flow akaou na ki raro i te ava, kua aere na uta i teia taime i reira te tai, kua iti mai te ngai e aere na te tai, no reira irinaki au e, ko teia te au factors e contribute nei”.

“Taku i marama au i teia apinga e Tony, me rely koe ki te natural flush and flow o te tai, i te tama i teia taravake, you will never get it done, akakite atu au ki a koe, toku irinakianga tera. Te ravenga ua rai, kua build up teia apinga over the years, scrape it out, scrape it out, it’s the only way, scrape it, akara i reira mei te aa te tu”. Turepu said that whatever was being suggested to resolve the issue there is always an objection. “But the thing is, me karanga koe e, scrape it out, aere mai tetahi aronga, patoi mai, tapu mai, akara koe mei ta Teariki tikai i karanga a ia e, aru a ia i te Shorepac report, karanga te Shorepac report, toru ngauru mita tea tea, ko ki raro, aere ki raro i te ava. Karanga mai a Teariki e, kare, ko ua tatou e varu mita te atea, tai mita ki raro, akara tatou i reira mei te aa te tu, kare teia proposal, patoiia. Now, me kare au e rave i tetahi angaanga, what do you expect?”.

In another criticism of Turepu, Get Real wrote: “There is a huge hole in Arorangi as shown in Cook Islands News caused by mining sand. The hole is being filled with rubbish right on the seafront and right in front of our tourists as they drive by. Has Turepu actioned his environmental minions to stop, charge and fine the drivers of the T&M trucks? He has done absolutely positively nothing”.

Turepu responded that the area in question is 30 meters from the foreshore and is on private land and nothing can be done about it. Unfortunately however it is some private individuals putting their rubbish in the hole without the contractor’s knowledge.

“Ae e Tony, ko tena vaarua, i take it tei Betela tena vaarua te ngai i koia ai i Arorangi. Ko teia vaarua tei vao ake a ia i te 30 meter foreshore area, tei runga i te private land. You can’t touch anyone on private land. Te ngai ra i kino ai teia

vaarua, e au private people teia e tari nei i ta ratou tita ki raro, without the knowledge of the contractor, kare e na te contractor”.

When pointed out that the contractors have an obligation to safeguard the site Turepu said that his officers at Environmental Services have advised the “contractors to secure the place so that public will not come and dump rubbish”.

“Te tano ua ra taau, ti reira kua raveia ti reira no te mea kua aere to matou officers to te Environment kua advise i te contractors kia secure the place so that public will not come and dump rubbish but the thing is, so far te rubbish i dump ia, it has no hazardous effect ki runga i te environment”.

“But ko te tuatua ra no tena dump i Arorangi, it’s outside the 30 metre mark, so these people are protected from the foreshore area, kua check to matou staff no runga i tena apinga”.

With regards to criticism about the Chinese gifted machineries to agricultural growers Turepu said that everyone he talked to who have utilized the machineries have expressed their appreciation as the machineries being small, were able to be used in small areas.

“Teia au machine a te Tinito, pouroa te aronga tanu tei aravei au e, kua use ana ratou i teia au machine, to ratou vaerua, mataora tikai ratou no te mea, kare oki i te machine mamaata teia, machine rikiriki ua ka rauka i te operate i te au ngai rikiriki aere”.

He said that today more and more of those planting or growing taro is utilizing the machineries and is cheap to hire them.

“Te uri pai, teia ra, e maata te aronga e uri pai nei i teia ra na te machine e rave nei. E aka tauturu tikai ta teia au machine, e te mama i te charge, ti runga rai oki i te community, te oire, i te karanga e, teia ta ratou charge”.

Turepu said that if Get Real has a genuine concern he should come to his office and see him.

“Mei te mea e, e manamanata tona ki aku personally, kare e rauka i aku i te resolve i te reira problem, only he can resolve it. But the thing is, mei te mea e manamanata tona, genuine concern tona no runga i te angaanga tanu, ti reira au apinga aere, to te environment, my office is open, just make an appointment you know, and discuss the thing. I just hope e, me aere mai te EIA study ki vao, he will make a contribution, tona manakonakoanga kia tuku a ia ki roto i te EIA no te environment i Muri. Me kare a ia e tuku, then it’s just a waste of time i a ia i te raise i teia au issue aere”.

Te Kave Korero thanks the Hon Kiriau Turepu for coming onto the programme to rebut Get Real’s criticism of him in the Cook Islands News.



P O Box 40, Rarotonga, Cook Islands
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 Facsimile: (682) 28 807
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TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, FRI 29 JAN 2016

Family unveiling in Aitutaki

Te Kave Korero was off-air on Friday 29th January 2016 for reason that presenter Tony Hakaoro was in Aitutaki attending a double family unveiling.

In the absence of an article for that day Te Kave Korero brings this article from the talkback discussion held in the first hour of the programme on Monday 1st February 2016.

The talkback subject, naturally of course, was family unveiling given the presenter's trip to Aitutaki.

A summary of the discussion in Maori is as follows:

"Te oronga atu nei au i te tikaanga noou kia akairiiri mai i te manako no runga i ta tatou akonoanga patu toka, me kare, eeu toka, eeu poaki na to matou reo Araura ai, ta tatou akonoanga Maori".

"Eaa toou manako i te au tauuianga e tupu nei i teia tuatau, me e au tauuianga oki tetai?. Me kare re, eaa te au ngai meitaki, me kare ra, matutu i ta tatou akonoanga Maori no runga i te akakoroanga eeu toka, me kare ra, eeu poaki?".

"Eaa te au ngai, eaa te au tuanga i roto i ta tatou akonoanga e, e mea tau kia ngakauparau tatou? E oti ake ra, i tetai tua katoa, penei ka ui tatou ki a tatou uorai, eaa te au ngai e tukau nei ta tatou akonoanga patu, me kare akatu, me kare ra, eeu toka, eeu poaki?".

"Ae, te ui atu nei au i teia no te mea, koi oki ua mai nei au mei Araura enua i teia avatea, no teia akakoroanga katoa, e tuaine noku, e tona akaperepere, e tai o raua toka".

"Penei, tuke taku kiteanga, tuke taku ioio atuanga i tei tupu ki roto i teia ta toku kopu tangata i rave no teia akakoroanga. Penei e, tuke taau paunuanga, ioioanga, kiteanga atu i taau, i ta kotou, me kare ra, i ta to kopu tangata akanoonoanga no teia akakoroanga".

"Ae, ka mataora rava au me akarongo atu au i toou manako no runga i ta tatou akonoanga. Eaa te au tuanga i roto i ta tatou akonoanga kia rave ua atu rai tatou, e mea tau kia ngakauparau tatou? E, i tetai tua oki i reira, penei ka ui tatou, eaa te au turanga i roto i ta tatou akonoanga e, penei e mea tau kia akatanotano akaou tatou, penei e, tau i te akateretereanga, akanoonoanga, penei e te vai nei tetai au ngai tukau maata i roto i ta tatou akonoanga? Ina, e mea tau kia akari mai koe i te reira kia marama tatou".

"E tumu manako, karanga oki to matou reo

Pamate e, interesting teia, ta tatou akonoanga, e ia uki, e ia uki, tae mai ki teia ra. Penei ka ui tatou e, eaa te au ngai tukau, eaa te au ngai matutu, eaa te au ngai i tau kia akatanotano akaou tatou, eaa te au ngai, me kore, turanga i tau kia takore tatou, penei e, kia tauia kia meitaki atu?".

"Kia orana Tony, kia orana i te aroa atupaka o te Atua i roto i teia avatea aiai nei. Te akaroa e te reka i te tumu tapura no tatou i teia aiai nei. Te ui mai ra oki koe e te tungane i taau uianga no to tatou tumu manako no teia ra no runga oki i te patu poaki ea? Ko au uorai, teia rare e patu poaki, i tetai tua e tua mataora, tetai tua e tua maromaroa, irinaki ra oki au e, ka riro te reira, karanga koe e, auraka kia takoreia tera ra, tuketuke oki te au marama ta teia tuatau tangata e kite nei i teia ra. I to tatou enua ua ai i Aitutaki, Araura Enua, e rai, e rai, e rai e te tukeke rai te au rare e raveia nei no te tuatau o te patu poaki. Kua kite ua ai au ki toku uorai tei rave matou i toku metua tane, kua riro te reira i te apai mai i te roimata no te mea, te vai nei tetai au kopu tangata, tetai au ngutuare, me kare, tetai au family, to ratou metua, kua takake, karanga koe, teia te akatauanga, me e tangata tarekareka oki a ia, ka rapu tatou te tamariki, me kaore, te family, te kopu tangata, tetai au mea i te akamaara i tona, na tatou i te akaepaepaanga oki i a ia oki i tona takakeanga i te akamaaraanga i a ia. Ko taku teia i kite mai au i teia tau nei i a tatou e ere nei i teia taime no te mea te rai i te marama o to tatou iti tangata,

o te papa'a tei apaiia mai e tatou ki teia tua i a tatou nei, te raveia nei rai i teia ra. Kare au e manako na e ka riro tetai e ei akaoki i ta tatou peu Maori no te mea tuketuke ta te reira enua tangata, me kore ra, ta te reira kopu tangata akateretereanga i runga rai i to ratou me rave ratou i ta ratou patu poaki".

"Kia orana. No runga oki i teia topic a tatou, i te patu poaki. I aku, kare au e ariki ana i teia no te mea, i te tuatau i to tatou ui tupuna, i mua atu na i te ono ngauru, rima ngauru mataiti, kare e pakau akapera no te mea kare oki e poaki i te reira tuatau. Kia tae mai ra oki ki teia tuatau marama te tangata apainaia mai teia rare poiri ki to tatou enua, no te mea, ko teia rare patu poaki, e aka akapouanga moni, te aka pou i a koe, no te mea, ka oko koe i te poaki i korei, aere mai paa te poaki mei tetai rua tauasini ka pou i a koe, me tauasini tuma, apai mai koe ki konei i reira, peru koe i reira i tetai manga, e moni ke ia ka pou. No reira au i karanga ai e, kaimoumou taime i teia rare. Naringa tatou e, ka apai atu tatou i teia patu poaki e, ka riro teia ei apai mai i tetai o te aronga i mate, a, angaringari ake, teia e one.

The discussion was evenly balanced and very interesting given the opinions expressed on the programme.

Te Kave Korero thanks callers to the programme for expressing their views and contributing to the talkback discussion.

Hail storm hits Atiu

By Norma Ngatamariki

An extraordinary phenomenon occurred last Sunday morning. The island of Atiu experienced a hailstorm between the early hours of 7:10am and 7:15am. Tutai Toru, a resident of Atiu, informed the Cook Islands Herald that the whole island experienced this event. "The hailstorm was large enough to make noises on our corrugated iron roofing." The hailstorm lasted approximately five minutes and Toru believes that this is a first for the island.

The Cook Islands Herald contacted Arona Ngari of the Meteorological Office for more details on this weather phenomenon. Hail is formed within a certain cloud called Cumulonimbus, where turbulence is caused. There is a process where a collection of moisture occurs at around 1800ft, where thunderstorm updrafts are strong enough to carry water droplets well above freezing level. In combination with rapidly moving winds, there will be a change in the state of water if the droplets are carried above 20,00ft, as the air cannot go past a certain height. At this point, the water droplets cool at an alarmingly fast rate, forming hail. Lightning storms are also a common occurrence during a hailstorm. According to Ngari, although hailstorms are extremely rare within the nation, they do occur. "I recall a hailstorm happening on Rarotonga last year, which only lasted five minutes in total," he says.

One hundred years of the “Boiler”

By Charles Pitt

On 25 December 2016 100 years will have passed since the sinking of the Union Steamship Company passenger ship SS Matai which struck the reef at the entrance to Avarua harbour and sank on 25 December 1916 during a northerly gale which sprung up suddenly. No lives were lost and it was noted as the largest vessel to be wrecked in the Cook Islands.

Luckily all passengers were ashore celebrating Christmas Eve.

The ship had arrived at Rarotonga on 24 December 1916 on one of her usual passenger/mail runs between San Francisco and Wellington and anchored off Avarua harbour.

The remains of the vessel, known to locals as the “boiler” but which is really part of the engine, can still be sighted from Trader Jacks. The ship’s propeller was retrieved by divers and sold to American interests for its copper.

The vessel, originally named the Miowera, was built at the CS Swan Hunter Yard in Wallsend on Tyne in Northumberland, England and completed in October 1892. Made of steel, it was 345 feet long and propelled by steam. It had a beam of 42 feet and draught of about 25 feet. It had a single propeller with four blades 14 feet in diameter and could travel at 15 knots.

Its steam engine was built by Wallsend Slipway & Engineering Company Ltd in Wallsend.

Prior to being taken over by the Union Steam Ship Company, the ship was in service with the NZ Shipping Company (London).

Details of the wreck come from an article, “Wreck by Reef and Hurricane” by WH Percival, a copy of which is held at the Museum in Rarotonga.

Recent investigations carried out by Graham Wigg of Triad and Ron Bird both former sea staff employees of the NZ Shipping Company has highlighted other connections with the island. Te Keu Framhein managed the Union Steam Ship Company office in Rarotonga and Charles Pitt of Pitt Media Group worked for the Union Steam Ship Company in Auckland and later P&O (NZ) Ltd who took over the NZ Shipping Company’s operation in NZ.



The boiler

Commissions coming into sight

The Te Mato Vai project is about to take another major step forward with a contract signed to provide materials, which will allow the existing water intakes to be connected to the new ring mains, which will then feed water to consumers around Rarotonga.

Daryl Rairi – the Deputy Project Manager for the Te Mato Vai project management unit – says a contract to supply the required materials was signed last week with local company PTS Plumbing for just over NZ\$220,000 excluding VAT.

A tender will shortly be called to install the new materials so that when the materials arrive it will be put in place and will allow the new water ring mains to be commissioned.

Daryl Rairi says moving ahead with commissioning stage one of Te Mato Vai – before the completion of stage two will provide water security for water consumers; and when stage two – upgrading the water intakes is completed – it will be a relatively simple matter to switch water from the refurbished intakes into the ring mains.

Daryl also says that even though the main around the back road in Titikaveka has not yet been joined up, the project team has a contingency plan to cover that, and that will not affect the delivery of water through the new system.

PTS has up to 12-weeks to supply the materials, and installation should begin immediately.

Confused by Racqueteering

By David Lewis

You'll have to excuse me a bit. I've spent the last week trying to sort out the latest crooked reports about the crookery going on in sport.

It's very confusing.

Consequently, I am very confused.

In fact, I'm incredibly confused, not to say utterly amazingly confused.

The news that tennis is now crooked comes on top of the news that athletics is extremely crooked.

It is very confusing for watchers.

It comes even more confusing after the recent meeting of the International Federation for Crooked Sports (IFCS) which revealed that football is extremely crooked as well

It can also be added to long-standing crooked sports such as boxing, Aussie Football, rugby league, snooker and uphill snowboarding as very incredibly, amazingly crooked.

Hence all the confusion.

And, if that wasn't enough, there's been a week of even more new crooked news.

A Sri Lankan coach is accused of fixing a match against the West Indies.

And, if that wasn't cooed enough, the captain of the rugby union Dragons has been accused

of biting something somewhere on somebody else in the match against Castres.

Also, further turning all the confusion into utter bewilderment, are reports that a Saracens winger has been cited for eye contact.

And, finally, a Glasgow flanker could face a lengthy ban for grabbing a Northampton opposite number's testicles.

So, with all the crookedness going on in sport, to say nothing of the all the something-biting, eye-contacting and testicle-tugging, no wonder I am very confused.

Where does it end?

RUSSIANS

The only thing I have worked out so far is that it definitely appears involve two lots of people.

Russians and Englishmen.

It all goes back to 1954 when an Englishman ran a mile in four minutes.

It was said to be the most amazing achievement in the history of running a mile in four minutes.

No less than at least three other Englishmen were close behind him.

"Aren't we utterly amazing," Sir Winston Churchill, an Englishman, cried. "From now on we'll host everything."

"No, you are not in the least bit

amazing," stated Lord Stalin, a Russian man. "We have a woman who can throw the hammer well over half a mile."

"And what's more," he added. "We shall host the 2018 World Cup of Football."

"No you won't," said Churchill.

The extent of the corruption and crookedness which ensued became so amazing that it has now been revealed that the Sri Lankan coach mentioned above was in fact a Russian.

Or maybe an Englishman.

I'm no longer surprised.

Everything crooked that's taking place seems to involve a Russian being crooked. Or an Englishmen being even crookeder. Or Russians and Englishmen out-crookeding each other.

Take the latest tennis news.

No action was taken in 2008 authorities when 28 players, including Gram Slam winners, were suspected of being crooked.

Some are still playing at Grand Slam tournaments, including this week's Australian Open.

Most of them were Russian or sounded Russian. No action was taken because they were Russian. Or looked Russian. Or pretended to be Russia, and being Russian they knew that there was a very secret plot somewhere going on.

Any that weren't were sort of English or looked like Englishmen.

On top of that, the authorities who spotted them were definitely English. Or looked like English. Or spoke in English or pretended they were English.

And being English, they suspected that somebody was working British Horseracing Authority, an organisation run by Russians, or maybe Sepp Blatter.

It aroused the suspicion of Lord Coe, a leading Englishman.

He immediately accused Vladimir Putin, a leading Russian, of working with Sicilian bookmakers to persuade a Russian midfield striker to kick the discus out of court deliberately so as to make a zillion roubles from a well-known Siberian mixed doubles bookie.

Upon hearing of this, Vladimir Putin immediately accused Lord Coe of being in the pay of Michel Platini or Bepp Splatter in order to win enough votes to host the 2031 World Artistic Trampoline Champs.

As I said, it's thoroughly confusing and very, very hard on the late night brain of the average sports watcher. In fact, I can only come to one conclusion.

It needs Lord Coe to be firmly in charge.

Or possibly Vladimir Putin.

Scotland or Miss Cook Islands

By David Lewis

In last year's Rugby World Cup, four Northern Hemisphere teams failed to make it through the quarter finals and the other two didn't get out of the pool stages.

So, this weekend, when they all start playing each other again, it's hard to take them seriously.

But I'll have a go....

"This weekend it's the start of the 6 Nations Rugby Union Championship 2016."

Again...

"This weekend is the start of the 6 Nations Rugby Union Championship 2016."

See the problem?

No normal sports watcher's going to want to read on.

They're far more likely to turn over a page and search for a

picture of Miss Cook Islands... either of them.

"Corr," they'll go. "I'd rather watch her than the 6 Nations Rugby Union Championship 2016."

What it all means is that you've really got your work cut out getting anyone interested in the 6 Nations Rugby Union Championship 2016.

Basically, you have to prevent the main part of the watcher's brain functioning.

That's the part that automatically recommends either Miss Cook Islands as much more worth watching than an all-male pack of useless Northern Hemisphere rugby players with cauliflower ears.

In others words, you have to dispose of annoying things called

"facts".

It's not much good noting, as a BBC lady commentator did, after checking her monitor, that this is the greatest rugby competition in the world.

She's lying.

I repeat. It's a Northern Hemisphere competition between four teams that failed to make the semi-final of the last World Cup and two more that didn't even make it beyond the pool stage.

And that's a very awkward fact to deal with.

But it has to be done.

After all, there's a limit to the number of times the bloke on the camera can cut to the shot of the bloke by the far left hand goal post who's waving his arms like a lunatic with the not-bad

looking blonde alongside him.

Sooner or later, the average watcher is going to note that the blonde alongside the guy waving his arms like a lunatic is nowhere near as good to look at as either of the Miss Cook Islands. There's only one thing to do.

You, too, have to lie.

As follows:

There is, in spite of all evidence to the contrary, lots to talk about in the 6 Nations Rugby Union Championship 2016.

POINT ONE

National Anthems.

These are always a feature of the 6 Nations Rugby Union Championship and they will be again in 2016.

This is in spite of considerable talk about teams either trying a

continued bottom of next page

ANZ launches Mega Campaign



By Norma Ngatamariki

On Monday morning, the Cook Islands branch of the ANZ Bank officially launched their second mega campaign with a Toyota Hilux 2016 up for grabs. The promotion, emceed by GDub, was held opposite the Banana Court and is aimed at strengthening the bank's relationship with its existing

customer base and to encourage potential customers to invest with them. The promotion has eight other branches participating within the Pacific region which are: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Timor Leste. Head of Retail at ANZ Cook Islands, Lorraine Von Hoff, says that

there are numerous ways of entering the promotion. "It can be as easy as paying your bills online, depositing money within your account or creating an account with our bank." The promotion is scheduled to end on the 31st of August. If you would like more information on the Terms and Conditions, please contact 21750.

from page 16

new one or banning the players from hugging each other and trying to look excited while singing the old one.

POINT TWO

There are lots of new coaches who have been paid to make four teams much better, thus enabling at least one of them to get through the quarter finals in 2019 and two others to get out of the pool stages.

You can mention in passing that Italy hopes that this doesn't happen because that could stop

them winning a game.

POINT THREE

You can then move on to talking about Scotland.

They are in what appears to be the top game on offer.

It is the one in which they are due to play England at home and they are firm favourites to win for the first time since 2008.

You can note that this is what the new English coach from Australia says and he should know because he got Japan to beat South Africa in the recent

World Cup finals in which...

I'll say it again:

You can remind yourself that the Northern Hemisphere teams failed to get out of the quarter finals and two of them didn't make it beyond the pool stage.

Or, you can just note that, like all Australian coaches, he's lying.

You can then add that the new English captain says that the Southern Hemisphere "set the benchmark" for the Northern Hemisphere.

By this he means that that the Southern Hemisphere beat them

silly.

POINT FOUR

Now, turning to the actual game:

You can focus on the 6ft 9 inch Scottish second row who's been working hard in training to get himself up to 6' 10" and the bloke in one of the other rows who's got the biggest beard in modern rugby.

Or, you can wait till the national anthems are over.

Then turn to a channel with Miss Cook Islands.

Any one of them!

Boxing comes alive after long lay off



Wilkie Rasmussen - President Cook Islands Boxing

By Charles Pitt

Boxers and boxing fans will be pleased to know that the Cook Islands Boxing Association has announced plans to stage a "Fight Night" on Thursday 25 February, the venue to be confirmed.

At its Executive Committee meeting held last Friday, it was decided to stage a Fight Night and to feature around 12 bouts on the card including three "Celebrity" bouts between local identities who will be familiar to the general public.

Following the passing away of boxing icon Navy Epati, boxing's former Senior Vice President, the sport of boxing went into a long period of inactivity due mainly to changes in the rules governing the sport internationally. The Cook Islands Amateur Boxing Association as it was known then was required by the World governing body based in Switzerland, IABA, the International Boxing Association, to amend its Constitution in order to accommodate some 60 pages of new rules.

This was a long process but was finally completed last year. The sport is now governed locally by the Cook Islands Boxing Association which is affiliated to Oceania Boxing and IABA.

The new Constitution has been

seen and acknowledged by IABA and boxing has been reborn.

Following an AGM last year, the following were elected to the Committee;

President-Wilkie Rasmussen
Vice President-Tupou Faireka
Secretary-Paul Allsworth
Treasurer-Richard Pokoina
Members-Phillip Strickland,
Charles Pitt, Teava Matapo,
Graeme

Coaches-Senior and Junior to be confirmed.

The Committee acknowledges and commends the many young boxers who have diligently kept up with their training in the absence of events and the trainers involved. These boxers now need fights to test and develop their skills.

Boxers will also be needed to trial for upcoming international and regional events like the Commonwealth Games, Oceania Champs, Pacific Games and Pacific Mini-Games.

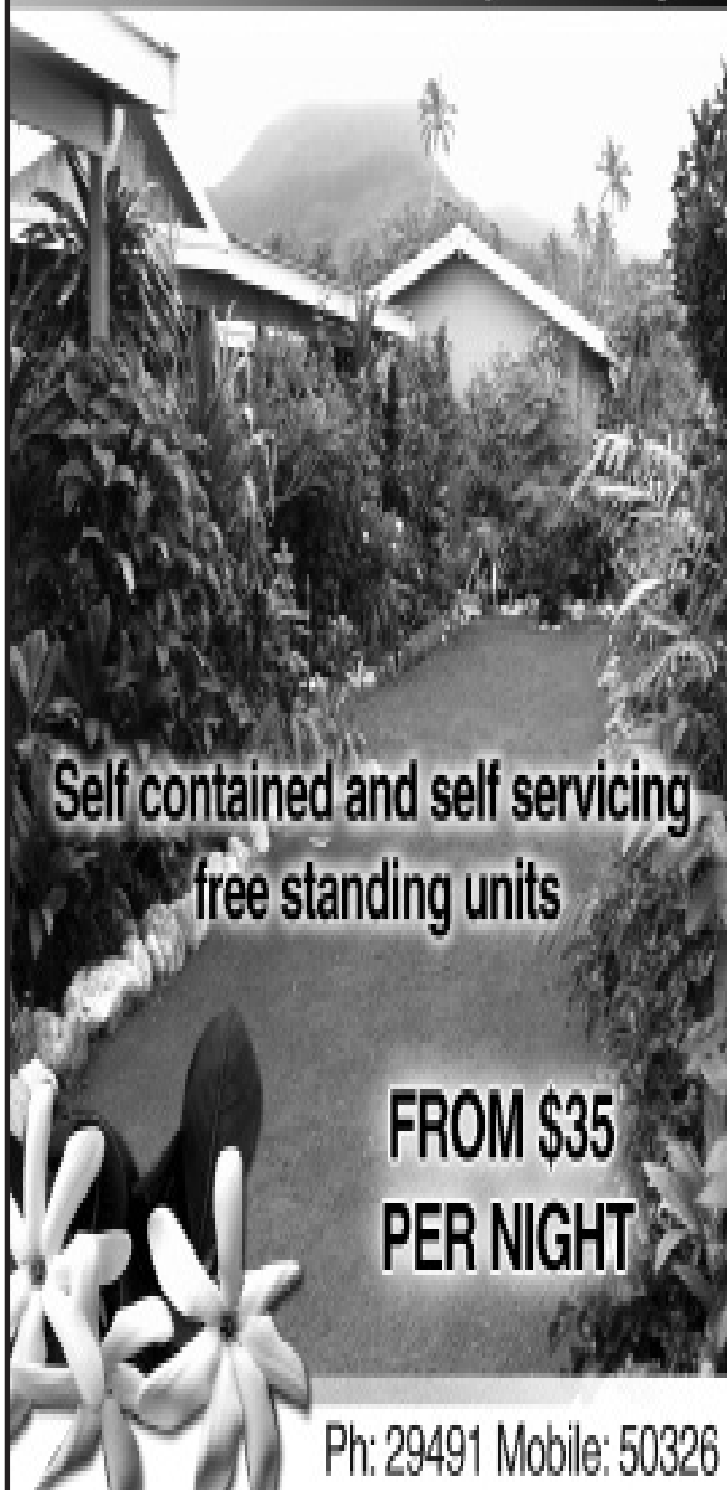
The Fight Night on the 25th will be a low key start to the boxing calendar with \$5 admission for adults and \$2 for children.

Two venues are being considered and a further announcement confirming the venue will be made.

The Committee also wishes to thank Trish Barton and CISNOC for acting as gate keepers during boxing's recess.

Mount View Lodges O'oa

Accommodation to suit your budget



Self contained and self servicing
free standing units

FROM \$35
PER NIGHT

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How to live with integrity

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

There are people around us who are always watching how we behave, to see what kind of people we are especially when we claim to be Christians or believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Whether we like it or not they are watching us. In 1 Peter 2v.12 it reads "People who do not believe are living all around you. Live such good lives that they will see the good things you do and will give glory to God." They watch to see if what we say we believe matches what we do. People watch to see if we have integrity - meaning Honesty, Truthfulness, Reliability - this is the life of a Christian.

Peter says that there are 3 things that test our INTEGRITY and people are going to watch how we respond to these things:

- (1) TEMPTATION,
- (2) AUTHORITY,
- (3) SUFFERING.

How we respond to these 3 things will determine whether we are good witnesses for God or not, whether we have positive influence on others or not, and whether we have integrity or not. The main Bible reading for this Article of Encouragement is in 1 Peter 2v.11-25.

In this passage Peter is saying, in living with INTEGRITY we need to do 3 things:

- 1) Stay away from TEMPTATION;
 - 2) Show respect for those in AUTHORITY and;
 - 3) Seek God in our SUFFERING.
- 1). STAY AWAY FROM TEMPTATION

Peter is saying if you don't want to get stung, stay away from the bees. If you don't want to get burned, stay away from the fire. When we live around people who repeatedly take the Lord's name in vain, pretty soon we start saying, "That doesn't bother me." It should bother us because Jesus' name is taken in vain. If you watch enough sex and violence movies on television and DVD's

and says "It just doesn't bother me." Peter is saying that you're slowly giving in. If you don't mind watching other people do it, eventually you're going to end up doing it. v.16 in our reading says "Live as free men, but don't use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God." As Born Again Christians we are free. We can't lose our salvation. But we shouldn't use that as an excuse to sin. Because integrity demands that we don't do what is not right in the sight of God. John 8v.36 reads "Whom the Son sets free, is free indeed." We are free and we will not lose our salvation. In v.15 of our reading in 1 Peter 2 it reads "It is God's will that your good lives silence those who foolishly condemn the Gospel without knowing what it can do for them, having never experienced its power." God's will for our life is that we live with integrity, that our life matches what we say we believe. It is God's will that we are to be an advocate for the Lord Jesus Christ, in our workplace, at school and where ever we are. We are the only Bible some people will ever read. In other words they observe how we behave.

II. SUBMIT TO THOSE IN AUTHORITY FOR THE LORD'S SAKE

Our integrity is tested on how we respond to authority -- people in government, people in law enforcement, our boss, spiritual authorities like Pastors, any authority figure in our lives. v.14 in our reading reads "For the Lord's sake yield to the people who have authority in this world: the king, who is the highest authority, and the leaders who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right." Peter is saying that a mark of a believer is to submit to those in authority. Submission is not a sign of weakness it is a sign of self control in accordance to the Word of God. Those in

authority are ordained by God. God allows Government in order to establish order, to set up laws. Even bad government, we are to respect them. Why? Because it says, "For the Lord's sake." You don't respect them because they deserve it. You respect them because the Lord has allowed them to serve you in that way. Peter is saying that "If you call yourself a Christian, you represent Christ

v.14 reads "Make the Master proud of you by being good citizens. Respect the authorities, whatever their level; they are God's emissaries for keeping order." Does that mean Tax Laws? Unfortunately it does! Traffic Laws? Of course! Show respect for authority! For the Lord's



sake! v.17 reads "Show respect for everyone. Love Christians everywhere. Fear God and honor the government." Peter is saying 3 things here that reveal if we are genuine believers or not.

I will continue with Part 2 of this Article of Encouragement next week. May you have a God blessed week. Te Atua te aroa.

PUBLIC NOTICE



FAMILY LAW BILL – EXTENSION DATE OF INVITATION FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

The Public is hereby advised that in order to solicit the views of our people in the outer islands regarding the Family Law Bill an extension date is necessary to facilitate this. Public Submissions will now close on Thursday 31st March 2016, 4.00 p.m. Written submissions are to be addressed to the Clerk of Parliament, P.O.Box 13, Parliament Building, Nikao. Those who wish to make oral submissions are invited to make known their intentions to the Clerk of Parliament on telephone 26500 or email john.tangi@cookislands.gov.ck Copy of the Bill with Explanatory Note are available on the following website <http://www.pmooffice.gov.ck/> Otherwise a hard copy can be obtained from Parliament at \$10."

Te akakite iatu nei ki te katoatoa e note ravenga i te kimi atu i te manako o to tatou iti'tangata i te Pa Enuva i tai mai no runga i te Ture Tamanako note Kopu'tangata, te akatere'ia atu nei te tuatau note akaari manako kite Paraparau ra 31 o Mati 2016 i te ora 4 i te aia. Ko tetai uatu tangata tei anoano i te tuku mai i to kotou manako no teia, kia tata mai ki te Karaka o te Paramani Clerk of Parliament, P.O.Box 13, Parliament Building, Nikao. Me kua anoano koe i te aravei e te tuatua i toou manako kite Kumiti kia akakite katoa mai kite Karaka i runga i te tereponi 26500 me kore kote rorouira john.tangi@cookislands.gov.ck . Ka rauka mai teia Ture Tamanako ki runga i te roro'uira a te katoatoa <http://www.pmooffice.gov.ck/> me kore kia tiki mai i teia no ko i te Paramani e \$10.

John Tangi
Clerk"

Adoni Rairoa wears Black

The Cook Islands Martial Arts Academy (CIMAA) 2015 Awards in December 2015 were celebrated with the inclusion of the Black Belt Award presented by the Minister for Sport, Hon Albert Nicholas to the recipient, student Adoni Rairoa.

The Minister's presence was significant as his late father, Peto Nicholas (Black Belt Instructor) was a close friend of CIMAA founder Shihan Dan Turua, both taking up Karate in the 1970s.

Adoni also received the much decorated "CIMAA Student of the Year" Trophy for the second year running, sponsored by Mike and Henry Tavioni back in 2001.

Asked why he took up martial arts, Adoni said, "I joined in 2005 cuz my mate Kish Porio and bro Teau were already in the Academy, noting the discipline of the members, played a major part in my decision. But this is only the beginning, I feel truly blessed and humbled, I will try my very best to be a good ambassador for my family, community, club and country."

The 14 year old has trained diligently for the past ten years and just recently took up lawn bowls, already excelling in it,

representing the Cooks on a number of occasions.

"Adoni with his God gifted talent must also ensure that his school grades are on a par with his hobbies, balance is the key to success," added his instructor.

Proud parents, Tokoa (Ting) and Mere Rairoa, together with the supporters, sponsors and Minister Nicholas congratulated the CIMMA students for their achievements.

Special mention must also be made to the sponsor and organizer of the event, Okirua and Maru Apera, for their dedication and commitment.

Thank you to Jay and Natasha Areora for the beautiful and yummy cake, not forgetting the staff/management of Fish Bite Café.

CIMMA Programme: Shotokan Karate-Judo-Combat Jiu Jitsu-Kali Shogun Dojo opens-15 February 2016

Mondays and Thursdays.
Little Dragons (Juniors)
4pm-5pm

Coloured Belts

4pm-6pm

Shihan Dan Turua p h
20831 mb 73575.

Shogun Media



Adoni and Minister Albert Nicholas



Adoni and his mother Mere Rairoa

Complaints coming from Aitutaki that they could not watch last week end's Wellington Rugby Seven's broadcast has nothing to do with Cook Islands TV who are disappointed that after paying for the broadcast rights for the whole Country the Aitutaki viewer missed out. The reason their TV screens were blank was and is because the Aitutaki Power Supply had cut off their electricity, Finger in every pie the CIP government favourite Mikie Enery the TV operator hasn't paid the bill after promising so many times to do so. Blame the right culprit Aitutaki viewers; don't believe him when he says CITV are not screening the tournament. While we are at it Mikie have you paid the Fijian yet?



In MFEM Act it requires the Minita of Cash to address at the next sitting of Parliament issues of loans and deals that are to be added into the budget. Does this ever happen and what would be said about the Tiare Taporo? Like anything when it comes to laws and the will of the people. It is a 'Titanic' struggle to satisfy all the people's demands. Maybe Brownie should re-read the part about "public money" the hard earned taxpayers dollars that are funding the 'political sideshow' we are seeing.



This week on the Te Kave Korero with the minister of Agriculture Hon Member Kiriau Turepoo about the Lagoon situation in Muri. "We are awaiting the EIA report; otherwise we could be taken to court if we break the law". What about TMV and compensation to Landowners, or the Tiare Taporo sign off or the theft of money from the Grey Power accounts without a high court injunction? Seems so appropriate for Cabinet Ministers to use these get out of jail free cards like; "We are awaiting the report, we will refer

to PERCA, we will review and correct if it goes wrong". Seems pointless having laws and reports costing our tax payers millions yet they don't follow them.



When we ask for reports like an EIA report TMV can have one sorted in no time at all. Inside it seems to talk about anything other than the Environment and just says "Go Ahead". Now why is the Muri Lagoon any different? Now we wait and wait and when the heavy rains arrive we will see what the 'waiting game' will unleash? In the past the entire beach front in Muri was full of pigs and horses and yet the fish in the lagoon was abundant. The only commercial activity was the sailing club. Today we blame the pigs and the tide and the planters. Mr 'RIMU' in the Lagoon is now thriving and all we can do is wait for an EIA report. When will we just apply commonsense? In the 2 years what has been the major developments in that area. One new hotel, couple of upgraded tourist properties and the new Septic tank upgrades. Isn't this animal cruelty to blame the PIGS? Pay millions for experts who make things worse, and now it has turned to 'tiopu' who is held to account?



Over the last 5 years over \$1.5



million paid to an expat who raised the bar to our borrowing levels up to \$150 million. No report on how we pay it back and steal thousands from the Grey Power Accounts. The new kid on the block does he get paid maybe 75% of that value? Surely 50%? The only financial explanation can be "ECONOMIC RACISM." Pay the foreigners, from the public monies account an arm and a leg yet give our locals "peanuts!" Truly a monkey business economic forecast wouldn't you say?



Listeners to the lively radio talk back show on Tuesday were highly surprised when the JP who presided in the most recent Court case involving a Samoan national facing an assault charge, rang up and made comments. The Chief JP may have something to say about this.



Did government get the Te Mato Vai project process back to front chooks? Twice now, members of the public have spotted the Hospital's Ambulance at the Maggie Water Station in Tupapa, filling up bottles with drinking water! Is there no water up at the Hospital?



Also recently erected at the Maggie Water Station in Tupapa is a "Cross" for the spiritually inclined to engage

in prayer while filling up their water bottles with drinking water. Or are we talking blessed holy water?



Whisper chooks is the Koutu Nui have approached the ICI Minister Heretic Feather moaning about the Chamber of Commerce's plan to save Muri Lagoon. Seems the Chamber have several strategies, bulldozing is not one of them, and have the Minister's blessing to proceed. It appears the Minister's Office now wants to know how the Koutu Nui proposes to deal with the problem other than by talking about it.



Crikey chooks, a near maritime miss reported by bystanders down at Avatiu harbour. Seems the Tiare Taporo was coming in alongside and the Kapitarn misjudged the distance to the wharf. If it had not been for the quick action on the part of others, the rear of the vessel would have collided with the wharf. Did the bystanders not know this was a vessel whose hull has three sheets of steel and once had a close encounter with an ice berg?



Oh dear chooks! Check out the birthday bash pics of passengers aboard the vessel SS Daily on its Monday voyage-a 60 something cruise. Captain's log of the onboard tipples is revealing. Such sharp, crisp, coloured, ultra close —up pics of passengers hoeing into the shipboard Chardonnay were too close- the pics expose every facial crease, wrinkle, chinny chin chin and greyness. Photographers aboard the super liner SS Herald know that when you photograph women at a function, you stand back a bit so the end result looks good not clinical. The only person to really stand out in a class on her own was the Eggel woman.

FAT CATS

Number 2, Cabinet want a multi purpose over the reef pipe line, built to lower costs to consumers.

Of beer?



Mozzie

COCONUT ROUNDTABLE

Rumour has it Government wants a multi purpose pipe line over the reef to lower cost on a wide range of products!

Cheaper cooking oil!

Cheaper toothpaste!



TENDER



**REQUEST FOR TENDER
HAMILTON MEDICAL T1 TRANSPORT
VENTILATOR**

Tenders are requested for the supply of a Hamilton Medical T1 Transport Ventilator for the Rarotonga Hospital as specified in the Request for Tender document.

Tenders shall be submitted either:

Completed Hard copy - packaged and labeled "CONFIDENTIAL" and have the following information clearly shown on the outside:

Procurement of Medical Equipment 2015/2016 No.2
Cook Islands Ministry of Health
P O Box 109,
Avarua,
COOK ISLANDS
OR

Softcopy: Emailing the tender bid as a pdf file to tenders@cookislands.gov.ck with the subject line "Procurement of Medical Equipment 2015/2016 No.2". The receipt time on the inbox will be used as the receipt time for the purposes of ensuring a tender is within the time limits.

The Tender Box is located at the Funding and Planning Office of the Ministry of Health in Tupapa (or submitted electronically to the email address detailed above)

Tender/Offer Closing Time

Request for tenders will close on the 15th February 2016 at 4.00pm.

The Request for Tender documents and Hamilton Medical T1 Transport Ventilator specifications can be obtained from the Funding & Planning office of the Ministry of Health in Tupapa or on the Ministry of Health website www.health.gov.ck. Prospective tenderers can also contact Ms Vaine Ngatokorua on ph 29664, fax 23109 or email: vaine.ngatokorua@cookislands.gov.ck

VACANCIES

Looking for experienced Income Auditors & Purchasing Officers.
Ph: 25800 or email hr@rarotongan.co.ck



**Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR)
FISHERIES OFFICER-MANIHIKI**

Applications are invited for the position of Fisheries Officer based at MMR Manihiki Marine Station. Duties involve:

- 1) Provide support to the Pearl Industry
- 2) Carry out water quality and inshore marine resource monitoring.
- 3) Support the Station Manager with implementation of the Manihiki Pearl Farm Management Plan and Code of Practice.
- 4) Undertake data collection of local fish catches.
- 5) Support development of community programs, conservation and management of marine resources.
- 6) Support Station Manager with training programs.

This is a permanent position. A full job description and further information is available from MMR. Please contact Uirangi Bishop Ph28730, or email u.bishop@mmr.gov.ck. Provide a CV with the completed application, addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of Marine Resources, P.O Box 85, Tutakimoa, email: rar@mmr.gov.ck

Applications close on Friday 26th February 2016.

PUBLIC NOTICE



WAITANGI DAY

Come celebrate with a hangi meal
and Kiwi movies at the RSA this

Saturday 6th February from 4pm.

The Aotearoa Centre is pre-selling hangi meals - \$12.50 - available from 5pm; there will also be a sausage sizzle; the movies are free!

To order your hangi meal please phone or text Henry Wichman on 55 790 or Derek Fox on 50 917 before 4pm on Friday.

Kia ora

AOTEAROA SOCIETY RAROTONGA

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Marquees, tables, chairs
PH: 23 787 or 78 103

TENDER



Business Trade Investment Board
Cook Islands

TENDER OF GREEN HUTT

Tenders are sort for the sale of a green hut on an 'as is where is' basis

For viewing / inspections contact

Agnes Parker Teiti on 24296 for appointments.

Highest or any offer not necessarily accepted. Send written tender with in a sealed envelope marked Green Hutt Tender, Business Trade Investment Board, Private Bag Avarua.

Tenders close on the 5th February 2016, 4pm.

VACANCIES



SITUATIONS VACANT

The following positions are available with one of the Cook Islands most progressive and successful resorts. If you are friendly, customer focused, reliable, honest and willing to learn new skills, we are seeking suitable applicants for the following positions:

- Operations Manager
- Housekeeping Attendants
- Laundry Attendants
- Restaurant Supervisor
- Restaurant Service staff
- Kitchen Assistants
- Chefs – all levels
- Grounds & maintenance persons
- Guest Services staff
- Administrative staff
- Spa Therapist

Please contact Humana Resources on : 25125 Email your CV to : accounts@muribeachresort.com or drop your CV to the Administration office at Nautilus Resort.

VACANCIES



COOK ISLANDS
Ministry of Education
Maraurau o te Pae Api'i

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION VACANCIES

Applications are invited from qualified and experienced administrators and education professions for the following positions:

Director of Finance and Management

The Director of Finance role leads all financial and asset management work for the Ministry, including all schools. The role is very dynamic and requires someone who has a strong accounting background who can think strategically. Experience with project management an advantage as is the ability to work across all levels of financing from the school tuck shop to national budgets.

Asset management includes oversight of DRM for the Ministry and multi-agency liaison with reference to infrastructure and assets. Policy development for financial management and an excellent knowledge of government financial management guidelines are an expectation. The positions leads a great team of people and is part of the wider Ministry structure based in Nikao.

Exciting Opportunities for Experienced Teachers

We invite experienced, innovative education professionals to support us in providing quality learning opportunities to young Cook Islanders. The following positions are based at the Ministry and travel to schools in the Pa Enua would be an expectation.

1. Careers Curriculum Advisor

To develop Careers Education resources for Years 7-10 and support implementation with teachers in schools.

2. Learning and Teaching Advisors (2 positions)

Experienced passionate educators with the ability to share ideas and build capacity in diversifying classroom practice. Applications welcome across the curriculum however we have a current special interest in ICT Integration, The Arts and Social Science. Please share your other curriculum and programme strengths with us.

School Support and Administration Staff

1. Office Administrator: Tereora College

Applicants must have experience in managing finances and good communication skills

2. Teacher Aide (Special Needs): Arorangi School

Applications close on **Friday 12th February 2016**. Application are available from the Ministry or at: www.education.gov.ck Please submit application, cover letter, CV and references to:

Director HRM Division

Ministry of education

P. O. Box 97

Rarotonga

Cook Islands

Ph (682) 29357, Fax (682) 28357 or email: vacancy@education.gov.ck

Tiare Village

*Airport Motel
Atupa*



Email: kiaorana@tiarevillage.co.ck
Phone: +682 23466 / +682 50755
Website: www.tiarevillage.co.ck



PM endorses National Airline



In order to satisfy Prime Minister Puna's urgent need for a National Airline, a start has been made by converting the PSL run vessel Tiare Taporo into a corporate jet. The vessel's engine and all heavy gear have been removed. Wings have been fitted

along with jet engines. The vessel's sails have been retained so that once up in the jet stream, the engines can be switched off and the sails used to save fuel. In the event of an emergency the plane can land at sea. The conversion is reputed to have cost

\$3 million for parts and \$9 million on consultancy fees. The consultants were PSL and the government funded the project by switching the \$12 million subsidy from Air NZ to PSL.

Zika virus monitoring continues in Pacific

28 January 2016

Noumea, New Caledonia - The Pacific Community (SPC), in collaboration with the World Health Organisation, has this week sent an update on the Zika virus infection to public health ministries and health professionals in the Pacific Islands region.

SPC closely monitors the Zika situation regionally and internationally, along with other diseases, such as dengue and chikungunya.

"We provide an ongoing service to the region's public health professionals whereby

we maintain a map of epidemic and emerging disease alerts for regional health security purposes," the acting Deputy Director of SPC's Public Health Division, Dr Salanieta Saketa, said.

"According to the information available to us, no Pacific countries have reported confirmed cases of the Zika virus infection so far this year, but further investigation is under way to ascertain circulation of the virus in a number of Pacific Island countries and territories."

Zika virus infection can only be confirmed by a laboratory diagnosis, and the Pacific Islands

overall have very limited capacity for Zika testing.

"We're working closely with our partners from the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network to overcome this challenge and facilitate access of all countries to the few laboratories who can perform the testing," Dr Saketa said.

Part of SPC's update concerned the latest findings on the possible association between Zika virus infection in pregnancy and congenital central nervous system malformations, including microcephaly.

While this is not proof that Zika virus has caused these

malformations, a possible association cannot be ruled out given the evidence available.

"In view of the latest findings, we provided countries with a number of recommendations. For example, we recommend all travellers, particularly pregnant women, who are visiting known affected areas to take extra precautionary measures to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes," Dr Saketa said.

The map of epidemic and emerging disease alerts in the Pacific is updated in real-time and is available at: www.spc.int/phd/epidemics