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Puna to hit the campaign trail with lollies

In a desperate move to cling to power, the Prime Minister Henry Puna is heading to the Northern group to tighten his grip on the four seats currently held by the Cook Islands Party government. Puna is chartering an Air Rarotonga plane for six days from the 29 February 2016 at a cost of \$45,000 to transport his entourage on a circuit flying to Manihiki, Pukapuka then Penryhn. If he's not clocking up international travel Puna is doing domestic mileage. Additional travelling expenses will leave the Rarotonga taxpayers close to \$70,000 out of pocket.

Accompanying him will be the other three northern group MPs plus Ministry of Marine Resources' secretary Ben Ponia and one or two others. The underlying mission is to campaign for the Council elections, but the trip will be promoted as funded by the MMR for the purpose of consulting the North on the issue of the controversial purse seine fishing.

The meetings will not be consultative but rather informative resulting in signatures supporting MMR's intentions. With the Manihiki endorsement as a catalyst, the rest will submissively fall into line. The PM intends to promote the availability of \$100,000 for small grants for fishing initiatives. The respective Islands fishing clubs will be presented with a grant of \$10,000 each which is double what they have received in the past.

Those opposing government's fisheries sell out are not being considered to accompany the PM to offer their alternatives objections for consideration before they put pen to paper endorsing Ponia's agenda. Who knows what convincing and misleading promises will be made?

Not only will Puna and his team bring cash but they will also be ceremonially handing over the China donated agriculture machinery. With the lollies shared out, the people will be putty in Puna's fingers willing to happily dance to his tunes.

Agriculture machinery for the Northern Islands? Does the Ministry of Agriculture have a programme that will be boosted by the machinery?

For the first time a concerted effort to politicise the outer islands council elections is being engineered. Each of the four MPs will be choosing a mayoral candidate to stand in the 10 March 2016 elections, that person will be endorsed and supported by Puna. The current Manihiki mayor Ngamata will stand again, Willie John has earmarked Roi as his choice in Penryhn with Pukapuka and Rakahanga candidates to be chosen when their MPs are present.

With millions of dollars already spent on the northern islands, this latest round of political evangelism is to keep the punter's faith in the CIP government and convert previous sceptics. For the first time a government is keeping their promises, it all amounts to boosting their credits in the imaginary political bank. Whether or not this tax funded no expense spared excursion smells of vote buying or mass bribery it's an executed strategy to launch an early election.

The results of how effective team Puna has been will be revealed on 10 March 2016. The council elections will be a strong indicator of the Northern coalescent strategy. While the disoriented Democratic Party Opposition passively wait to see what happens the CIP are testing the political temperature for the option of an early election. In sporting terms this lolly distribution

continued next page



Henry Puna

Atiu taro fencing project

After a two months break and under the leadership of the Project Coordinator Tutai Toru. The Project funded by the Indian Government under the Overseas Development Programme for the Taro Growers of Atiu resumed on the KAKEUA BLOCK.

Prior to the Christmas and New Year breaks, the Group working on the Vaipoa Taro Block. This took two week half days work to complete (half days work only). The work involved were the standing 50 tanalised wooden posts around the BLOCK comprising of approximately two acres. The width between posts was 12m.

This was followed by the barbed wires going around the BLOCKS attached securely to posts three times (bottom, middle and top). The waratah steel posts 1.80m in height were stand between the tanalised posts at 1.5m apart.

Finally, we add the fencing wires 1 meter high tightly secured to the tanalised and waratah posts.

The work expertise provided by our Works Manager Tura Koronui was outstanding, hence the reason it took only two week half days to complete. This is a Community Work and the women folkes had their part to play providing food for workers.

On the 25th January 2016, the Group consisting of Tutai Toru, Bobby Touna and Tura Koronui was joined by Punua Tauraa and his young boy, Papa Katu and his workers in Rouruina, Itu and Mona Pora to construct the KAKEUA BLOCK in Ngatiarua.

The same work routine were followed as with the previous BLOCK. With more workers this time we completed this BLOCK in one week doing half days work only. We could have completed much earlier but the weather was so hot and more break times were



needed.

Again we were complimented by the Mamas with some good food which were acknowledged by the workers. On the final day on the KAKEUA BLOCK project the workers were treated to goat meat feed which was enjoyed by everybody.

Two of the three BLOCKS earmarked for this part of the Project were completed. We are now looking forward to the last BLOCK in ARAKI.

As coordinator for this Project, I like to take this opportunity to express a meitaki ranuinui to Erina Korohina, Indian Government Coordinator in the Cook Island for all her assistance. Malcolm Sword and his workers for their contribution to the progress of the Project so far. The Office of the Minister Nandi Glassie his CEO Tou Unuia and their staffs for their continuous support. Finally to my co-workers in Atiu for providing a unanimous support.

From page 2

is a trial pre-season hit out to set the tone for the challenges ahead.

If the government can fend off any serious challenges to their marginal right to govern and pass this year's Budget then the Opposition may as well go into hibernation. After two years the Opposition office has shown no signs of strategic deployment they are a threat to Puna's corrupt administration.

Tax payer's money is being wasted for an Opposition office that squanders resources on the self preservation of the highly paid failure specialist Eddie Drollet's organ grinding kingdom. The Demo Party falls short in an integrity audit; the tax payer's money isn't for their Party work but for an Opposition to government. While Drollet may have some self elevated use to the Demo Party he adds absolutely nothing to the objectives of the Opposition.

Drollet is the dead weight that has wrecked the political fortunes of his incompetent leader William Smiley Heather. Drollet has no pull or political intelligence

that would cover Heather's weaknesses and exemplify his strengths, Heather's vulnerability of incompetence has been left exposed because Drollet has been preoccupied with his self interests and personal agenda.

Does the \$1200 a week Drollet have a strategy to retrieve the outer islands seats lost in 2014 let alone one to take new ground? Does Drollet have a parliamentary strategy to engage at the next sitting of the House? Drollet is a dud bullet that needs to be replaced.

As critical as one can be by the nonchalant political antics and arrogance of Henry Puna, the curse of the Demos is they offer no resistance, no credible alternative, no prospect of becoming government so it's little wonder the aloof Puna does what he wants, when he wants and how he wants.

Could this trip have been done after the 10 March? Of course it could have waited but remember the underlying objective is to get a tax funded campaign trip for the CIP. Puna is an opportunist who seizes the moment.

- George Pitt



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Are we a failed Democracy?

By Norman George

Where has good governance gone? Why is the blatant disregard of the Constitution being ignored?

Where is our Queens Representative? Has our 50 year journey on the democratic highway come to an abrupt end? If you are wondering what this is all about, read on.

Under PM Henry Puna and the CIP government, there were three instances where Ministers of the Crown were under investigation. One of them was eventually charged for corruption in the Criminal Court. What cannot escape our attention is the irresponsible manner which PM pushes these critical issues aside as trivia.

Article 14(7)(b) of the Constitution provides as follows; "The Queen's Representative acting on the advice of the PM

may, by instrument under the seal of the Cook Islands –

(b) Suspend a Minister during the period of any investigation or inquiry into the conduct of that Minister...

Clear and simple – any investigation or inquiry into a Minister's conduct...It does not spell out who conducts the investigation. It is left open to the Police, FIU, the Serious Fraud Office of N.Z. or any unnamed investigative body. Why has PM Puna refused to apply the Constitution in all 3 incidents?

The prosecution of one of those Ministers clearly show that the investigation was soundly based and not a matter to be trivialised. There is no provision in the Constitution of a partial suspension, yet PM Puna created his own fictional version by a partial suspension of the Minister from that one portfolio. This is wrong, false and totally unethical.

But we watch and watch!

All the PM had to do was give advice to the QR to make the suspensions. Although article 14(a)(b) of the Constitution uses the term "may" as opposed to "must," polite language is used right through the Constitution on the basis that you do not order the Queen to do anything. You ask and the word may is put in place to give her a choice. In return, the long standing precedent is that the Queen never says "No!" These are critical matters of State not to be messed with.

We have to accept that in all of these cases, no such request was made. In the most recent example of only a week ago, the PM proudly and defiantly announced publicly that he will not give advice to suspend a Minister currently under investigation. There stands our Constitution, regal, powerful, binding yet rejected by PM Puna and his Government.

The question the public will be asking is why is the Queen's Representative behaving like frozen fish? Unmoving, unfeeling, unconcerned and looking the other way. Is this the price we pay for having a former CIP Minister appointed QR? Is he there to protect the CIP Government or to be the protector of the realm of the Cook Islands? Does this spell the end of appointing former Ministers as QR? If this is an example of such appointments, the QR might as well be the 7th Minister.

I submit that PM Puna's neglect and abuse of the Constitution is a threat to our New Zealand citizenship. In the 1972 Letter of Understanding from NZ Prime Minister Norman Kirk, he stated that as New Zealand citizens, Cook Islanders are expected to maintain the same standards and values as all New Zealanders. Is Henry Puna upholding that? Absolutely not! Henry's own low standards dominate his decisions and actions. The CIP Government's standards are closer to the failed State of Nauru and those of Commodore Bainimarama in Fiji.

Other examples of failing to live up to the standards of New Zealand citizenship include 12

days sitting of the Parliament in 2015, budgets not being allowed to be properly debated and the shelving of the Aitutaki no Sunday flights successful referendum.

Look at the spins of excuses coming from the PM'S Office. First it was a non binding referendum.

It was clear that PM Puna expected the no Sunday Flights Referendum to fail, but it did not, instead a huge majority of 60% of the people of Aitutaki want it stopped. Now we are told in a new spin that it is against the Constitution to stop the Sunday flights.

I will end this column by quoting the Preamble to the Constitution in the 1997 Amendment No.2;

"PREAMBLE
IN THE HOLY NAME OF GOD,
THE ALMIGHTY, THE EVERLOVING
AND THE EVERLASTING,

We the people of the Cook Islands, recognising the heritage of Christian principles, Cook Islands custom and the rule of law, remember to keep holy the Sabbath Day, being that day of the week which, according to a person's belief and conscience, is the Sabbath of the Lord."

Sixty percent of the population of Aitutaki wish to keep their Sunday holy, by having no Sunday flights. It is these peoples' rights that need protection and recognition, not Air Rarotonga's right to fly on Sundays. The right to worship is guaranteed by article 64(d) of the Constitution, under the heading "FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM" There is no mention of freedom to fly or do business or trade on Sundays. Do New Zealand citizens ignore and disrespect the opinion of 60% of their fellow citizens? No! Henry, you do not hold the monopoly on intelligence. Stop fooling around and get back to your senses. Grant the people of Aitutaki their no Sunday flight wishes. My position is unshakeable on this issue, I support the referendum Verdict, "No Sunday Flights!"

Next Week - WHY WE NEED TO FORM GUARDIANS OF OUR N.Z.CITIZENSHIP/RELATIONSHIP.
Ka kite.

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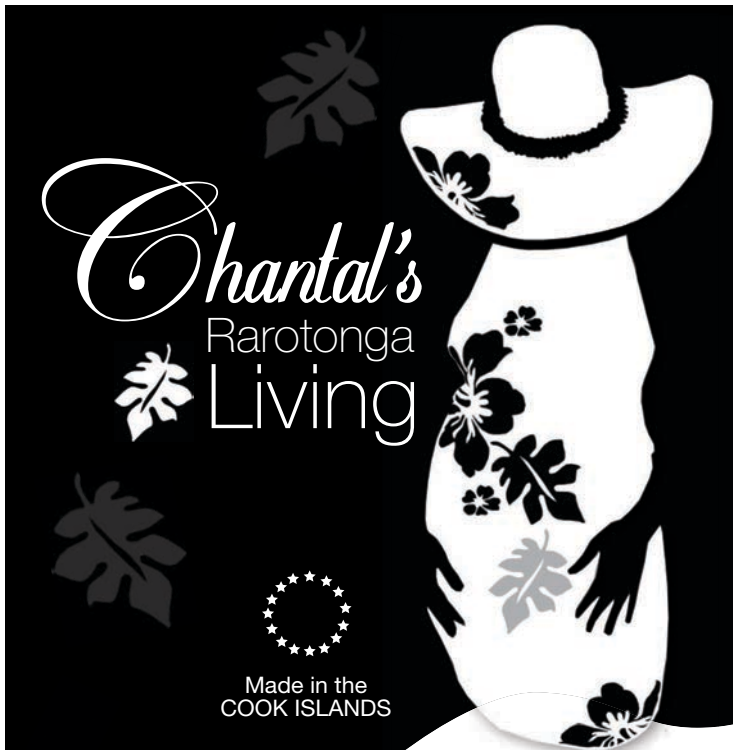
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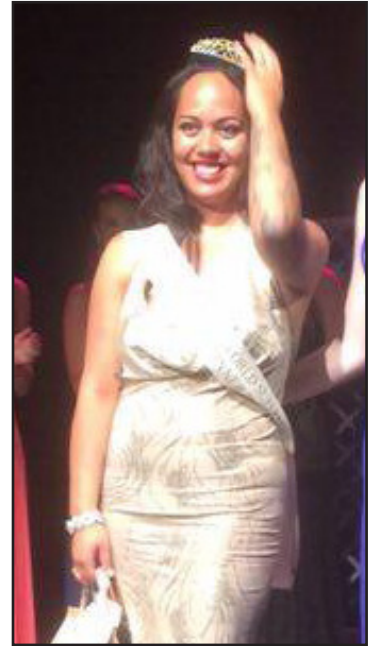
Our Frontpage model



Cook Islander wins Supermodel title

Cook Islander Ricky-Jean Marsters who is 25 years old competed in Miss Counties Supermodel 2016 on 12 February and won the title. She is now going on to the finals this year to compete for Miss World Supermodel on September 30th in New Zealand. Her family is from Palmerston Atoll. Ricky-Jean is also a mother of a 2 year old son. She is studying at university and wants to be an advocate for women's health and in particular Pacific island women.

- Tavake Mata-Marsters



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Email exchanges between PM and Officials reveal extent of government involvement in Tiare Taporo affair

In this exclusive report, the Herald brings its readers a copy of email messages between the PM and officials including former Financial Secretary Richard Neves, in which government assistance to Mike Henry in respect of securing the services of the Tiare Taporo to transport outer islanders to and from the Constitution celebrations, is discussed. Unless

otherwise clearly indicated, Richard Neves responses to the Prime Minister's comments are in italics.

Readers will note three main points that emerge;

1. The PM's disappointment with what he calls "bureaucratic red tape" hampering decision making in respect of securing the services of the Tiare

Taporo. The need for the tender process is questioned.

2. Neves discussing PSL's request for government to guarantee a \$400,000 overdraft with the BCI.

3. Mike Henry withdrawing the offer of the Tiare Taporo due partly to Richard Neves insisting on the tender process being followed.

From: Richard Neves [mailto:cifinsec@mfem.gov.ck]

Sent: Thursday, 19 April 2012 1:13 p.m.

To: Edwin Pittman; SonnyWilliams; Tiger

Cc: kimsaunders@crownlaw.gov.ck; Minister - Finance Minister

Subject: RE: FW: Some more on Constitution Shipping
Prime Minister,

I have spoken to all and sundry yesterday about this. I wanted to just fill you on some aspects, some comments below.

-----Original Message-----

From: Edwin Pittman [mailto:edwin@primeminister.gov.ck]

Sent: Thursday, 19 April 2012 9:40 AM

To: 'SonnyWilliams'; 'Tiger'

Cc: Richard Neves

Subject: FW: FW: Some more on Constitution Shipping

As directed by the PM I am forwarding his email to you

-----Original Message-----

From: hpuna@oyster.net.ck [mailto:hpuna@oyster.net.ck]

Sent: Thursday, 19 April 2012 7:55 a.m.

To: hpuna@oyster.net.ck; 'Edwin Pittman'

Subject: Re: FW: Some more on Constitution Shipping
Gentlemen

I am very disappointed to see bureaucratic red tape at its worst manifesting itself in this case. For goodness sake, why are we insisting on a tender process that is meaningless here?? Clearly this falls within the exception mentioned below. I mean how many firms are there in the Cook Islands providing domestic shipping service? Taio Shipping with its one and only small ship?? Get serious guys. It is a matter of record that Government has had to go out of the country in the recent past to source shipping services to provide transportation for our Northern Group people to participate in the Celebrations; the costs for such services are surely with MFEM. And here we are burying our heads in the sand, ignoring reality, and insisting on a process that will lead nowhere.

Prime Minister, I was speaking at length with Mike in the way he was reflecting his commentary about hurdles. I will just explain two issues first. Sonny was concerned about being able to use the services of an unlicensed operator, we had Okie agree to the granting of a provisional licence, they both would like to act within the law.

The tendering process/expression of interest is to ensure that we are getting value for money for such a significant expenditure we need to ensure that public money is spent in accountable manner, Sonny just has to seek a waiver demonstrating that he can't effectively run a tender because there are only a few takers, if any. But he has to demonstrate it, it just can't be hearsay, I think he has got somewhere now. In this case it does matter on how you get there because along the way you are accountable as to the path you have taken. So if ultimately Mike gets the gig, Sonny and MFEM need to demonstrate that we did so ultimately having the two objectives (moving people from the outer islands to Raro safely and also undertaking a fair process ensuring that we are using tax payer's money extensively).

I think everyone at the meeting yesterday morning was conscious

of trying to move this forward, although Mike has painted a picture that we were being obstructionist.

We have now lost the opportunity to source a service that promised to provide a partial option for the inward transportation of our people in time for the opening of the celebrations. I had met with Sonny, Garth and Mike Henry last Saturday morning where it was agreed that Sonny would obtain the quotation from Mike and Garth for their vessel to not only uplift Penrhyn islanders on their delivery voyage from the USA to Rarotonga, but also for the delivery of Northern Group islanders home after the celebrations. The figures quoted in discussions then were certainly most attractive and much lower than the costs charged by Samoa Shipping Corporation for the Lady Naomi last year. More importantly, with the Forum in mind, they were able to provide flexibility which Government would not be able to secure from Samoa Shipping Corp.

I spoke to Mike yesterday, he cannot meet the timelines of picking people up from Penrhyn, this is not because of the Government but because of a physical limitation on deadlines on timeliness. He may be able to deliver on the providing a return trip to the northern group but this is contingent on him leaving before the northern hemisphere hurricane season. So there is a risk here, if he is unable to deliver we may have to rely on the services of the lady naomi.

I understand that there is still a window of opportunity for Government to secure a deal for the homeward transportation of our people after the celebrations, but it is very limited. I expect you guys to pursue this opportunity with all reasonable haste and due diligence using common sense and having regard to the reality of domestic shipping in our country and to the documented history of celebrations shipping from the recent past.

I think that's what we are doing, applying a common sense approach. I think we have to take into account the issue here is the primary reason for doing this is that it may be a cheaper way to conduct our operations, the secondary reason is to assist Mike Henry with his finances, ultimately this was a private sector initiative which had inherent risk, his risk has manifested itself and now he is seeking assistance from the Government, we have tried to accommodate it in a way that minimises our risk.

He is now aiming to secure funding of the overdraft through other means, if this is achieved, then it is about the primary objective of moving people safely at a reasonable cost.

For the record, licence for the new vessel is not an issue and I do not expect that to be thrown up again as a delaying excuse.

Mike mentioned that Cabinet had approved the licence, I mentioned to him that we would have to check with Crown Law on whether Cabinet could undertake such a venture. The issue here being that if a licence was provided and that some form of tragic accident happened, where would liability lie, if the licence was granted to a vessel that had not been checked by the regulator and a licence issued on the basis of non conformity to standards then we may have a liability on our hands, sure that may be unlikely, but Crown Law and MFEM need to ensure and provide Government with

continued next page

sound advice in that regard.

I hope that helps clarify the issues as I see them, very happy to discuss it further with you and I have endeavoured to keep Mike abreast of where things are at.

Meitakki maati

Ed, please copy Sonny and Aukino in on this email. Kind regards,
Prime Minister

The lack of suppliers, but that would have to be proven with a public call for expressions of interest in a medium accessible to firms providing that service. Transaction Type Estimate Cost / Sale price Specific Process See Section Capital Projects Over \$30,000Tender 3.3 \$1,000 - \$29,999 Quotations 3.4 Operating Projects Over \$30,000 Tender 3.3 \$5,000 - \$29,999 Quotations 3.4 Under \$5,000 HOM Approval Asset Sales All Vehicles Other Assets over \$3,000 Tender 3.3, 3.5 Under \$3,000 Advertising, First-come, First-serve basis 3.5 2.1 Transactions requiring a contestable process. 2.1.1 If the transaction is likely to be contestable, or be subject to public interest, then a competitive process must be undertaken. 2.1.2 The process must comprise the following attributes: 2.1.2.1 Contestable 2.1.2.2 Transparent 2.1.2.3 Accountable 2.1.2.4 Arms Length 2.1.2.5 Without favouritism 2.1.3 The formal process for certain types and size of transactions is set out in Attachment 12.2 Tender Process 2.2.1 See Part D Section 3 - Public Tendering. 2.3 Quotations 2.3.1 Quotations should only be obtained from those genuinely interested in supplying the goods or service. 2.3.2 At least 3 quotes should be obtained, unless circumstances dictate that fewer quotes are obtainable. 2.3.3 Ensure the same instructions/specifications are supplied to all parties furnishing quotations. Attachment 2 is list of issues to consider when obtaining a quote. This list is indicative only as each situation is different. 2.3.4 Ensure the requirements of Section 3.2.2 above are adhered to. 2.3.5 In the case of Asset Sales, at the very least, the sale of the asset must be advertised on the staff notice board(s) for one week before the closing of the Quotes. 2.3.6 Ensure that the detail of the quotes is sufficient to be able to make valid comparisons e.g. if freight is included, make sure included as a separate line in all quotes. Mr Richard Neves Financial Secretary

From: Richard Neves

Sent: Wednesday, 18 April 2012

1:36 PM To: 'Michael Henry'; Prime Minister; Mark Brown Cc: Edwin Pittman; Garth Broadhead; Kim Saunders (kimsaunders@crownlaw.gov.ck) Subject: RE:

Constitution Shipping Dear Mike I am not sure what sort of message you are trying to convey here, but let me be clear in some of the aspects of this morning's discussion so that people are all aware of what the situation is.

The request I was provided on Friday afternoon in our discussion with the Prime Minister was essentially to see if there was a way that Government could assist your consortium extend the overdraft facility with BCI to ensure sufficient funds are available (NZD 400,000) to completing your shipping project. Your proposal was that, 1. Government provide a guarantee to BCI until the ship arrives in country this leaves the government exposed to a \$400,000 if the overdraft is not honoured, the provision of a guarantee can be provided by the Minister on the basis that it is in the public interest; 2. Pre purchase freight space at an agreed discounted rate this should undergo a process (preferably a tender) to ensure that the rates charged to government represent value for money, and then there is the uncertainty of when we would actually use that freight space; and 3. Pre purchase passenger space with the constitution celebrations in mind- as above, but with more certainty about when the passenger space would be used. At our discussion on Friday afternoon, I clearly outlined that to you and the Prime Minister that option 3 was preferable, but that Sonny would have to undertake a process of seeking EOIs to demonstrate to me that your service would indeed be value for money. I am still of the same view and expect Sonny to undertake a process which demonstrates this is the case, I was unaware on Friday that your vessel was not licensed to sail into domestic waters. There are two issues at hand, they are: 1/ The Ministry of Culture organising the passenger

logistics for transport associated with the celebrations 2/ The licence for your vessel. The discussions that were had this morning were about ensuring that we could speed the processes up so that your consortium could effectively bid for the business of government. People have explained that there is a limited market, well that may be the case but it does need to be tested and demonstrated to ensure that is indeed the case. Garth mentioned today that by going down this road it may cost Government more, I have found that when you circumvent processes which are designed to mitigate the level of risk faced by the government that in fact you end up paying more in one way or the other. I am happy to discuss this issue further, but I am not forcing you to withdraw, I am requesting that some sort of due process is followed so that we can ascertain that government is getting value for money. Cheers Mr Richard Neves Financial Secretary

From: Michael Henry [mailto:mike@tamanubeach.com]

Sent: Wednesday, 18 April 2012 11:44 AM To: Prime Minister; Mark Brown Cc: Richard Neves; Edwin Pittman; Sonny Williams; Garth Broadhead; Vaine Nooana-Arioka

Subject: Constitution Shipping

Kia Orana Sonny, As a result of the meeting this morning between yourself, Richard Neves, Garth Broadhead, and Aukino Tairea I regret to advise the following. For the second time in as many days we are forced into the position of withdrawing the offer of our ship Tiare Taporo to assist with transport for the constitution Celebrations. The Financial Secretaries insistence on a tender process additional to the process you have already undertaken means we are now outside the window of opportunity that would allow us to arrive in the country to undertake this service. There has been much work done behind the scenes on our behalf by yourself and Vaine Arioka of BCI to enable us to meet this time frame for which we are extremely grateful. Unfortunately this tender process will take time and we do not have that luxury if we are to meet the dead lines around the celebrations. Kia Manuia Mike Michael Henry Tamanu Beach Aitutaki Cook Islands Phone (682) 31810 Fax (682) 31816 Mobile (682) 55105 email mike@tamanubeach.com www.tamanubeach.com

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Cook Islands Herald Issue 805

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, MON 15 FEB 2016

Tepaki & Co's \$300million plan

Property developer, Tim Tepaki, was the guest speaker on Te Kave Korero on Monday 15th February 2016.

The private sector development being spear headed by local group Merchants of Paradise, headed by Tepaki, was the subject of the interview.

According to Tepaki the Chinese Government announced in 2014 that it would provide one billion dollars for private sector developments in the Pacific.

As a result of that announcement Tepaki and his team at Merchants of Paradise are putting together a three hundred million dollar (\$300,000,000.00) plan to develop the outer islands.

Tepaki stated that he is in charge of the development and one of his mates, Nooroa Marsters, is responsible for the operations.

"E rua e akatere nei, naku e akatere nei i te development section, e taeake noku, Nooroa Marsters, nana e akatere mai i te tua o te operations me oti mai te development".

Tepaki added that under their leadership there are seven disciplines in the project namely tourism, agriculture, fishing, air service, shipping, trade and finance.

"I raro ake i a maua, e itu ia discipline. Te mea mua, tourism, te rua, agriculture, te toru, fishing in our national waters, te a, air service, support service, te rima, shipping service, te ono, trade, import and export, te itu i reira, finance. So, ko te au discipline teia e oti ai tetai tuanga angaanga, karanga taua e, comprehensive development, comprehensive development plan.

The rest of the relevant parts of the interview in Maori are as follows:

"Te ngai e topa nei tatou ki raro, ka aere te reira tangata ka rapu mai i a ia, mea mai i tona otera, mei teia te tu ea, kua karanga oki te Pacific e, ka aere matou patu hotel ki Atiu, e 20 room. Kua karanga au ki a ratou e, kare e tupu, te tumu, kare oki e na ratou e control te pairere, ine, ko te au manamanata oki teia".

"Ko teia development i reira, e integrated development, karanga oki te papa'a e, comprehensive development so i raro ake i reira i teia toko iva, e tai ngauru ma rua, two ICs no runga i te discipline, i raro ake i reira, te au pa enua, e au manita aere rai to ratou, ko te employees o te management group ua i teia au mea, it's about 900 people, me taru mai ra oki

koe i te aronga tautai aere, te au mea ea, you're talking about a couple of thousand jobs, that's what we need".

"Kua tataua ana oki koe i te pepa a to matou Chairman, for Fred Webb ea? Mei tana rai i akamarama, 2012, atu au i teia project, oake au ki te Kavamani, kia a Mark Brown raua ko Enere, te aere ra oki raua ki PNG, December 2012, teia taku ki a raua, i, oake ua korua i teia ki te Ambassador o te Tinito i Wellington, no te mea, ti Wellington oki au i te taime i sign ai a laveta Short i te ra, 1997, te 'One China' policy. I roto i te One China policy te karanga nei e, ka tauturu te Kavamani o te Tinito, i te iti tangata o te Kuki Airani, kare ko te Kavamani o te Kuki Airani, te iti tangata o te Kuki Airani, i te kimi i te ravenga, in the areas o, social, economic and cultural development ea, ka turu ratou. Ina, teia taku i pati ai ki teia nga taeake i aere ki Wellington, ui ua ki te Tinito e, me ka finance oki ratou i teia project, e toru anere mirioni ka inangaroia. I aku rai, i toku manako, kua manako paa raua i aku e, e auouo. But, teia ra oki tei tupu ea, within a week, oki mai te pauanga".

"Aravei oki au i a Enere i ko i te Puna family reunion, aravei au karanga mai e, Bro, kua kite koe e, kua pau mai te Tinito, karanga atu au e, kare, karanga mai e, aravei i a Mark Brown. Aere au i te aravei i a Mark, akakite mai a Mark, teia te pauanga, ae, ae to the three hundred million,

government to government, ko te akakoroanga te reira, ine, mei te aid project rai oki ea, tera ra oki, manamanata te Kavamani, no te mea, e ture oki tetai, tera thirty five per cent GDP ea, kare ratou e akatikaia kia borrow i runga atu i te reira. Karanga mai ratou e, ae, kare e maranga i a matou teia toru anere, no te mea, i raro i ta matou papa ture, kare e akatikaia. So, karanga atu au i reira e, okay, te mako ua ra, ka kimi au i reira i te ravenga e, na te private sector".

Presenter, Tony Hakaoro, put it to Tepaki that they may be giving Cook Islanders in the outer islands false hopes for reason that the project is unachievable.

"Isn't there some risk here, i konei, that ta kotou company may be giving some false hopes ki to tatou iti tangata i te pa enua, e, te meitaki nei, meitaki te vaerua i muri i teia, meitaki te manakonakoanga, but really, realistically speaking, it may not be achievable and therefore you're giving them some false hopes".

Te Kave Korero thanks Tepaki for coming onto the programme and for sharing his group's vision with listeners and with the people of the Cook Islands.

Te Kave Korero wish them all the best and good luck with the project.



Artists impression of the Outer Island hotel.

Simon Laurie appointed ANZ CEO Cook Islands



Media Release, 12 February 2016

ANZ today announced Simon Laurie as ANZ CEO Cook Islands, effective immediately, reporting to ANZ CEO Pacific, Vishnu Mohan.

Mr Laurie replaces Sarah Dunn who concludes her two-year term as ANZ CEO Cook Islands this month.

Mr Laurie is transitioning from his current role as ANZ Cook Islands Chief Operating Officer (COO).

Commenting on the appointment, Mr Mohan said: "Mr Laurie brings with him a wealth of banking experience and has done an outstanding job in raising the bar in operations and providing first class support to Ms Dunn since joining ANZ almost a year ago."

Mr Laurie is the first local appointment into this senior role at ANZ in Cook Islands, in line with ANZ's policy of developing Pacific talent for senior positions.

He previously held senior relationship and operations management roles at Westpac in Cook Islands and BNZ and ANZ in New Zealand.

"I would like to welcome Mr Laurie to his new role and am confident that his

experience, proven leadership and strong relations with customers and the regulator will stand him in good stead to take our business in the Cook Islands to the next level," said Mr Mohan.

"I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Dunn for her contribution to our business in the Cook Islands," added Mr Mohan. "Ms Dunn will be moving to a senior role at ANZ in Taiwan later this month, marking a firm step forward in her career. I wish her the very best and a warm farewell from the ANZ family in Cook Islands and the Pacific."

ANZ has been in the Cook Islands for over 25 years and is now established as one of the country's largest banks, providing banking services for more than 7000 corporate and retail customers and employing some 40 staff. ANZ is represented in the Cook Islands by two branches in Rarotonga and Aitutaki, 10 ATMs, two outer island agencies and an extensive EFTPOS network.

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Cook Islands Herald Issue 805

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, WED 10 FEB 2016

Aitutaki ban paua exports

A reintroduction of an old Aitutaki Island Council's by-law banning the taking of paua from Aitutaki was the subject of discussion on Te Kave Korero on Wednesday 10th February 2016.

Presenter, Tony Hakaoro, said in his introduction in Maori, that the Aitutaki Island Council recently approved to re-enforce an old by-law prohibiting anyone to take or export paua from Aitutaki to Rarotonga.

"To tatou tumu tapura, i nanai, akarongorongo atu e, i te enua Araura, kua akatinamou, kua akamana te Konitara Enuā i te by-law no te araianga i te paua auraka kia apaiia mai ki Tumutevarovaro nei.

Hakaoro stated that he had invited the Mayor of Aitutaki onto the programme but he (the Mayor) was busy and unable to attend.

"Kua pati atu au ki te Mayor (o Aitutaki) kia kake mai ki runga i te porokaramu i teia aiai, inara, manamanata te Mayor, kare a ia e tae mai. Ina, no atu ra te reira, ka uriuri manako tatou no runga i teia akanoonooanga a te Island Council o Araura.

The following is Hakaoro's views in Maori in relation to the subject matter.

"Ina, e rua ia ra tumu manako, me kare, e rua ia ra tumu tapura, ae, kare ra oki mei te mea e, ka araiia koe i te tuku mai i tetai tumu tapura takake rava. Me e tumu tapura ke atu taau, kare koe e araiia kia akari mai i te reira, kia taniuniu mai, akakite mai i te reira ki to tatou iti tangata".

"Ina, oki mai au ki runga i te tumu tapura o te paua. Kua marama ua tatou, kare ainei? Kua marama ua tatou e, i te enua Araura, i iti mai na te paua e, i toku manako te iti nei rai, kare rai i rava te tupuanga o te paua i Araura Enuā. Kua tau rai kia tukuia tetai ture mei teia, kare ainei? I toou manako, eaa toou manako?"

"I te mea oki e, te iti nei te paua, kare rai i matutu ake i te enua Araura, e mea tau rai kia tukuia tetai araianga, eaa toou manako? Me kare ra, kia akaketaketaia te turanga o te by-laws o Araura Enuā".

"I toku manako, penei kare koe e ariki, kua tau rai teia akaketaketaanga kare ainei? No te mea te vai nei to tatou iti tangata te oki mai nei i te au tuatau orote, mei Aotearoa, mei Australia, mei tetai Basileia ke atu, oki mai aravei kopu tangata, oki mai no te au akakoroanga, te oki nei tetai papake, te apai nei e tai, e rua ice cream bowl na tera reo ei, kua ki i te paua na ratou.

Ina, me paunu tatou, kua tau ainei kia akatika tatou i a ratou kia apai i te paua, me, e, ko teia tei tau i a tatou kia rave, ko teia ta te Konitara o Araura Enuā i akatinamou i teia epetoma i topa ake nei. Kua akamatutu ratou i te ture, mei teia ra, kare e akatikaia akaou i te tari mai i te paua mei Araura Enuā ki Tumutevarovaro".

"I taku ioio atuanga, i te mea oki e, te iti nei rai te paua i roto i te tai roto o Araura Enuā, e, kare katoa rai i matutu meitaki ake te tupuanga o te paua, te ariki nei au i te reira manako, te ariki nei au e, kua tau rai kia araiia te paua. Penei, kia pou tetai mataiti, rua mataiti, toru mataiti, a mataiti, kia akarakara akaou mai i reira te Konitara Enuā, me ka akatuera akaou, e aka e tai bowl ice cream naau, e paua to roto, apai mai ki Tumutevarovaro nei, e aka te reira, eaa toou manako?"

"Ina, me e manako toou no runga i teia, taniuniu mai kia koperepere tatou i te reira. Penei kare koe e ariki i te akanoonooanga, i te akatinamouanga, e te akamatutuanga i te ture a te Aitutaki Konitara, eaa oki te kino kia akari mai koe i te reira. Teia ra oki toku manako, kua tau rai, kua tau rai te reira ture. Kare e ravenga, ka akakoromaki tatou, ka akakoromaki tatou te iti tangata Araura Enuā e noo nei ki Tumutevarovaro nei. Tera ua, karanga mai tera reo e, me akaki koe i te kai i te paua, kaka i a koe ki runga i te pairere, kaka i a koe ki Aitutaki, kai ai i te paua e, iu koe i te kai i te paua, kaka akaou mai i a koe i reira ki Tumutevarovaro nei.

"Ko kotou i Aotearoa, i Australia, me akaki koe i te kai i te paua, kaka mai ki Aitutaki, kai ai koe i te paua e, iu koe i te kai, ka oki atu ai koe ki Aotearoa, me kare, ki Australia. Inara, auraka koe e apai mai i tetai paua. Fair te reira akateretereanga ki a tatou katoatoa, kare ainei? Ko ratou i Araura Enuā, kua tau rai ratou i te kai paua no te mea, te noo ra ratou ki runga i te enua, te tiaki nei i to tatou enua".

"Te akatinamouanga, me kare, te akamatutuanga i te ture enua, by-law o Araura Enuā, e, auraka tetai uatu tangata e apai mai i te paua mei Araura Enuā ki Tumutevarovaro, kua tipuia toou tikaanga".

"Tamanako ua atu au, no atu e, kare au i rauka i aku i te uiui marama ki te Mayor e tetai mema o te Konitara, no atu ra te reira, tamanako ua atu au, e, ko te vaerua i muri i teia akamatutuanga i te ture, mari ra, kia rauka i te akaruke i te paua kia tupu akaou e kia manganui te tupuanga i roto i te tai roto o Araura Enuā".

"I toku manako ka ariki mai koe, kare ainei, e, e vaerua meitaki teia i muri i te akamatutuanga

i te reire ture, kare ainei? I te mea oki, me ka akatika tatou i te au tangata katoatoa e rere nei ki Aitutaki, oki mai tari mai i tetai bowl, me kare, e rua bowl ice cream e kua ki i te paua, i te au pairere katoatoa, oh ka manga tukau, kare ainei, ka pou vave te paua? E mea tau teia tei akamatutuia e te Konitara Enuā".

"Kare au e ekoko e, tetai papake i a tatou e noo nei i Tumutevarovaro nei, kare tatou e mareka i te reira akatukeanga, me kare, i te reira akamatutuanga i te ture. Ae, ko au rai tetai i te akarongo muaanga au, ko au rai tetai kare au i mareka roa, inara, i taku ioio meitakianga, uiui marama atu ki tetai taeake i roto i te Ministry of Marine Resources, marama atu au i reira i te vaerua i muri i teia akamatutuanga. Kua tau rai i toku manako, penei ra oki, kare koe e ariki".

Te Kave Korero supports Hakaoro's views on the subject matter as expressed above.



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Tereora College Redevelopment Plan

A partnership between the Governments of New Zealand and Cook Islands



Project Release.
16 February 2016.

“TEREORA REDEVELOPMENT - GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES FORMED”

A step towards modernizing learning environments and practices in the Cook Islands was marked with the approval of a governance structure in November 2015. The structure identifies three groups responsible for ensuring the successful delivery of Stage 1 of the Tereora College Redevelopment Plan;

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Governance Group (GG) | Comprises the Infrastructure Committee and representatives of the development partner, New Zealand. The GG provides high level activity oversight and strategic direction to the PSG. |
| 2. Project Steering Group (PSG) | Comprises senior representation from relevant line ministries and agencies, and the development partner, New Zealand. The PSG provides the PMU with critical analysis and operational guidance. |
| 3. Project Management Unit (PMU) | Comprises CIIC’s Special Project Unit, which is resourced by specialist Project Managers, Architects, Designers and Technical Assistance from New Zealand. The PMU is charged with delivering the project within approved timelines and budget. |

The redevelopment plan was approved for Cabinet consideration by the PSG in January 2016. It charts developments proposed for Tereora College for the next 10 – 15 years, and will be used to inform the College’s infrastructure needs for the next 50 years.

The plan outlines the entire redevelopment of the National College, with the New Zealand-funded Stage 1 buildings as first priority. Stage 1 will house an academic research library, technology center, student support services, administration services and staff. Preliminary designs are expected to be complete by March this year. Detailed drawings will commence thereafter, followed by the tendering of the construction contract in June. Demolition works will begin in December, causing minimal disruption to regular operations within the College. Stage 1 buildings are set to be commissioned before the start of the 2018 academic year.

In early February, Cabinet agreed that the plan be presented to stakeholders and the general public. Those meetings began last week. PMU representatives met with teachers of the College, landowners, and other relevant stakeholders to inform them of the proposed redevelopment plans for the College.

The community will have an opportunity to hear more about the redevelopment plan at a public presentation set for Monday 22nd February 2016, Room 2 – Tereora College, at 5pm.
[End].

For enquiries contact:
Cook Islands Investment Corporation
Email: tc.redevelopment@cookislands.gov.ck
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TCR Project: Project Release No.2
February 16 2016

Page 1



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Cook Islands Herald Issue 805

TE KAVE KORERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, FRI 12 FEB 2016

No action on Sunday flights

The Sunday flights debate was once again the subject of talkback discussion on Te Kave Korero on Friday 12th February 2016.

In his opening remarks presenter Tony Hakaoro said in Maori that the Government had announced it will take no further action and will not change the law with respect to the referendum regarding Sunday flights.

Government's decision for status quo paves the way for Sunday flights to Aitutaki to continue despite a majority of Vaitau voters in Aitutaki voting for a stop to Sunday flights in the referendum held last year.

"I te Ruitoru ra, ae, kua akapapu mai te Kavamani, no runga i te tuatua o te rereanga pairere ki Araura Enuā, te Sunday flights, tena ta tatou i akarongo, kua akapapu mai te Kavamani e, kare a ratou akarakara akaouanga ki roto i te reira tumu manako, te reira akakoroanga, kua akaoti, kaput na tera reo ai. Kare e tuatua akaou o te rereanga o te pairere".

"Teia te aiteanga, kare e tau i ture, ka noo rai, ka vao rai i te rereanga pairere i te Sabati, kare e tamanamanata i te reira. Kua akapapu mai te Kavamani, kare e tamanamanataia te akareanga pairere i te ra Sabati".

"Teia i reira te aiteanga, ka rere ua mei ta tatou i matou i teia ono, itu mataiti e tai mai ki teia ra. Kare e tau i te aiteanga, kare e akatukeanga, kare e tienianga, ka noo rai mei teia ta tatou e kite nei i teia au ra".

Hakaoro put three questions to listeners. Firstly, did Government mislead the people of Vaitau?

"Ina, teia to tatou au uianga no runga i te tumu tapura. Te mea mua, kua pikikaa ainei te Kavamani ki te iti tangata i roto i a Vaitau, te tuanga i kianga o Vaitau? Kua tivarevare ainei te Kavamani ki te iti tangata o Vaitau?"

Secondly, given this is a significant outcome given by Government, should all Members of Parliament for Aitutaki resign? Should the Member for Vaitau, Mona Ioane, Member for Arutanga, Toa Isamaela and also Member for Amuri, Teina Bishop, resign given the Government's decision?

"I te mea oki e, e tau i te aiteanga atupaka teia na te matou reo Araura ai, teia i reira te rua o te uianga, i te mea oki e, ko te akanoonooanga teia, ko te akatinamouanga teia a te Kavamani, e mea tau ainei i toou manako, e, kua resign te au Mema Paramani o Araura Enuā? E mea tau ainei kua resign a Mona Ioane, te Mema Paramani

o Vaitau, Toa Isamaela, Mema Paramani o Arutanga e pera katoa a Teina Bishop, Mema Paramani o Amuri. E mea tau ainei kua resign ratou, i teia ta te Kavamani i akatinamou?"

Thirdly, given that the Prime Minister made his statement (regarding Sunday flights) during the Vaitau by-election campaign in February last year, would it be proper for the Member for Vaitau to resign?

"Te toru, i te mea oki e, i te karere a te Prime Minister i tuatua i teia mataiti i topa ake nei, i tuatua a ia i roto i te tuatua i kianga by-election o Vaitau, e mea tau ainei e, kua resign te Mema o Vaitau?"

One caller from Aitutaki rang and answered the first question saying yes, the Prime Minister mislead the people. He said that the Prime Minister met them at the airport in Aitutaki on a Sunday and promised them that he would do something to stop the Sunday flights. During the campaign he went on radio in Aitutaki and in Rarotonga and told listeners the same thing, that he would do something to stop Sunday flights.

"Te akakite atu nei au i te tika ki a koe, kua tivarevare te Prime Minister. Te mea mua, aravei mai a ia i a matou i runga i te airport, e ra Sabati teia, teia tana e karanga mai nei ki a matou, te akaroa a i a kotou e taku au metua vaine e taku au taeake, kare e kino, ka aere au ka kimi i tetai ravenga kia akakoreia te rereanga pairere i te ra Sabati. Tae ki te tuatua i reira o te campaign, aere a ia ki runga i te ratio FM o Aitutaki nei, autara a ia, ka apai mai a ia i te referendum ei akakore i teia rereanga pairere i te ra Sabati. Ere a ia ki runga i te ratio i Rarotonga, autara katoa a ia i teia autara, no te mea, ko au tetai i challenge ana i a ia i te reira ra i a ia e autara ra i runga i te ratio, e, ka apai rai a ia i teia ki roto i te referendum no te akakore i teia rereanga pairere".

The caller stated the Prime Minister has been misleading the people since the referendum.

"Ina, eaa i reira tei tupu? Kua oti te i kianga, kua autu te aranga i patoi e, kua rere teia pairere i te ra Sabati, kare e pairere e rere akaou. Ina, mei te reira tuatua mai tona tivarevareanga i te iti tangata e tae mai ki teia ra".

The caller added that their objection is against Sunday flights, not against an emergency flight on a Sunday. He stressed that their objection is against commercialism on Sundays, that the airline owner respects Sunday, to keep it holy.

"Ko ta matou patoi i te pairere, auraka kia rere i te ra Sabati, kare matou e patoi ana kia rere te pairere for emergency. Ko ta matou e patoi nei, no te commercialism, no te kimi moni i te ra Sabati, kia akamaara te ona pairere e, akamaara i te ra Sabati kia akatapuia".

As to the question whether Mona Ioane should resign the caller was emphatic and said yes he should.

"Te rua, no te Mema Paramani kua resign. Ko au, te ariki nei au i tera manako e, kua resign a Mona Ioane. Ko tetai tangata viivii ia i roto i teia Sunday flight e autaraia nei, no te mea, i tona tuatua i te campaign i autaraia ai teia autara e, referendum, kia akakoreia te rereanga pairere i te ra Sabati".

Another caller stated that MP Moana Ioane had told her that he had a conversation with the Prime Minister and that Sunday flights may be changed to fly at night. She continued that had it been done that way it might have been acceptable to the people.

"Te ui ra koe i te uianga, eaa oki? Ka akakite oki au i te tika, eaa atu oki? Teia taku i akarongo au, no roto mai rai i te Mema Paramani o Vaitau, kua autaratarā rau ko te Parai Minita, ka akanekeia mei te ora o te pairere ki te po. Naringa i akaokiia, penei ake e ora ngauru i te po, ei aa e takore, e akatano ra ki tetai ora, mei te taime mua rai, e tuaero oki te ora o te pairere, ko au oki tetai e rere ana na runga i taua pairere nei, oki mai au no te orote mei Nu Tireni mai, ko au tetai e rere ana na runga i taua pairere ra ki Aitutaki, kaore atu i te reka. No reira, naringa te Kavamani i akatau mai e, akatau, ei aa e takore i te pairere, penei ake e, e ora ngauru i te po, toku manako, tupu te au, tupu te au kare e manamanata, te akaroa i te iti tangata".

Another caller said 'business is done', and it's time to move forward.

"Tony, kia orana. Te karanga ra oki tera reo Pamate o tatou e, 'business is done', aere ki mua. So, no runga i te manako e tuku ra koe, kare e ravenga, kua oti te i kianga, kua oti te au mea katoatoa, aere ki mua na tetai reo ai. Thank you very much Tony".

Te Kave Korero thanks callers for their contribution to the discussion.



Successful program comes to end



Some look at the Northern Group as a source of seafood, but according to the Director of the Pearl Support Division of MMR, Dorothy Solomon, she would only recommend the export of fish from the North not paua.

“It takes a long time for the paua to get to an edible size,” says Solomon. Solomon has just been part of a program (Global Climate Change Alliance, Pacific Small Islands States) that commenced in 2012, and that allowed the Ministry of Marine Resources to conduct surveys of the resources such as rori, paua, parau and fish on four islands of the Northern Group namely Tongareva, Manihiki, Rakahanga and Pukapuka. The project also allowed them to train the fisheries officers in the Tongareva, Manihiki and Rakahanga to carry out resource management surveys. While on Pukapuka, 10 pure - the keepers of the raii, were trained to recognise what resources have increased, what haven't and to know what has to be conserved. The information gathered is used by the islands to assist them in their decision making and aids them in managing their resources sustainably. One example of this is during the Te Maeva Nui, when the people of Manihiki like to

harvest their paua. Before they do that, the fisheries officer does a count of the resource, then makes recommendations to the Island Council of what can be sustainably harvested. The Island Council then uses this information to advise the people or to set a limit on what they can extract.

The CEO's of some islands such as Tongareva are using this information for decision making. It can be used in many ways such as for requesting funds so that they can develop the resources further, or even to request MMR to carry out further work.

But this is only part of what the program was able to achieve. On Manihiki, a monitoring buoy was placed in the lagoon to measure the temperature and oxygen levels in the lagoon which helps the pearl farmers know the state of their lagoon.

The program also saw the development of the lab in Rarotonga. Previously lagoon water samples were sent to New Zealand for analysis. This project has allowed the purchase of a nutrient auto-analyser so that nutrient samples can be measured locally. The lab has also been expanded. Previously, says Solomon, the lab

was very small.

Only two islands were supposed to be part of this program but MMR have achieved four islands being Tongareva, Manihiki, Rakahanga and Pukapuka.

Palmerston was supposed to be part of the program but they ran out of funds. But this was not a problem as a previous project had already done a feasibility study on that island.

As for the Southern group, they are covered are under Ridge to Reef project, and according to Solomon studies have been completed for Mangaia, Palmerston, Aitutaki and Rarotonga.

The studies and monitoring will continue as part of MMR's operations says Solomon given that the funding is now finished.

Some climate change related projects were also funded under this program such as the rautipara tablet training for the elderly.

A workshop was held at the New Hope Conference Centre on Monday to wrap up this program and look at lessons learnt. The Global Climate Change Alliance, Pacific Small Islands States program, was funded by the EU through the Secretary of the Pacific Commission. Nine countries in the Pacific took part in this project. - *CITV News*

8 Companies keen on Solar Tender

Whether all four solar farms in Ngaputoru and Mangaia all get built at the same time, or two at a time, will depend on the proposals that get submitted following a fact finding mission undertaken by bidders last week.

Eight different companies from different parts of the world paid a visit to the islands to take in the extent of the work that was required to design a solar farm and new power supply system for each island. The visit allowed them to have a look around the sites, ask questions about the infrastructure, labour, equipment, and accommodation. The information gathered will help them to prepare a more comprehensive and competitive bid.

The bids close on the 18th of March 2016. According to Renewable Energy Development Division Director Tangi Tereapii, there have been enquiries for extension but they have made it clear that they will not extend the tender because they have a timeframe to achieve our national goal.

After closing, it will take 30 days for the evaluation committee to evaluate the bids. After that, another 10 days of negotiation will occur with the favourable bidder/s. So an announcement of the successful bidder is not expected till around the end of April or the first week of May. From that announcement, the winning bidder has 50 days to start the project. The project has an expected completion date of December 2017.

The two main areas that are evaluated is the technical design and the costs. There is a limit for the budget and the technical design has to be according to the budget.

All four islands have been packaged together so bidders must bid to do the works for all four.

The communities in Ngaputoru and Mangaia were very happy with the visit as the contractors had indicated to them that they wanted the islands input to accommodate workers,



Keen bidders look at Mangaia Energy setup

provide labour, do odd pieces such as cooking, and washing.

Under the ADB guidelines, gender is an area to be considered. So there are opportunities for women to be part of the projects.

The projects are multi-donor funded. All the solar panels have been procured under the Japanese PEC fund. This also includes 1 MegaWattHour for Aitutaki and just over 1MWh for Rarotonga. The solar panels will be preissued to the successful contractor. The solar panels which were manufactured by Mitsubishi Electrical will arrive in the next month or two, and will be stored in Rarotonga till the project starts. Currently, the REDD Office are looking for some land to store the containers of solar panels.

Other funding has been received from the EU for Mitiaro, Mauke and Mangaia. And the balance of funds have been acquired from the ADB. The ADB funds are a grant/loan and are part of Government's borrowings. This ADB portion is the only portion that we will eventually have to pay back.

Tereapii believes that this multi-donor arrangement will be a success despite each donor having their own requirements, guidelines and procurement system.

Opportunities will also be available to local companies to be part of this project as well. There are two phases. There is a turnkey phase for the electrical component. The second

phase to be tendered will be the civil works, and this is where national competitive bidding is encouraged. It will give local companies the opportunity to participate in the bidding. Government have made it a priority for local companies to be given opportunities to be part of projects.

Currently, three of the four islands are running on 24 hour power. Only Mitiaro is currently rationing it's power as it is low on fuel. But prior to that Mitiaro was running 18 hours a day of power.

The islands will get systems that are similar to the Northern Group that will have two systems, a solar system and back up diesel generator. Only Mitiaro and Mauke require new generators, as Atiu and Mangaia already have newer generators already designed to work with solar. The generators are only for standby purposes. Mitiaro will get about a 100KiloWatt hour solar farm, for Mauke over 200KWh, for Atiu 400KWh and Mangaia over 420KWh solar farm built under this project.

The land where these solar farms are being housed are being finalised.

As for the Northern Group, a team will go over next month to conduct an annual review and to check the quality of the system. The REDD office is able to monitor those systems from Rarotonga. Everything is running well, and the only time when the generators were used in the North was over Xmas when there were some days with no sun. - CITV News

Tanga'eo in the spotlight

Birdwatching is a multi-million dollar industry and can provide economic opportunities for an island like Mangaia. Mangaia is currently the home of the Tanga'eo or Mangaian Kingfisher, and it is the only place in the world where you can find this bird.

Four members of the Te Ipukarea Society which is also the BirdLife partner in the Cook Islands were recently in Mangaia to make a short documentary about the Tanga'eo.

According to Liam Kokaua of Te Ipukarea Society, there's not really a lot of concerns for the Tanga'eo, the numbers still look good. Alanna Smith adds that the birds are surprisingly easy to find.

"We were able to go to the schools, to talk with the school children to see what they knew of the bird and it was awesome to see that each of the kids were able to describe the bird to me, they were able to tell me what they ate, what they sounded like. So that was really cool to hear that the kids at a young age 7 to 17 years old were all able to tell me a bit about this endemic bird to Mangaia, said Smith."

Smith says that she was also able to chat with Alan Tuara who shared information about the conservation work they had been doing since early 2000, as well as, the Tanga'eo rangers.

"So now that we've got all our filming done, I'm looking forward to going back to



Alanna Smith, and Liam Kokaua of TIS being interviewed by Mangaia TV about the TIS documentary on the Tanga'eo (pictured below).



Rarotonga to edit this little documentary. We hope to share this documentary with the people of Mangaia itself, give it to Anthony (Whyte) and his team to put it on TV along with spreading it to the rest of the Cook Islands so everyone can know about the Mangaia Kingfisher, and all of

the rest of the world which we hope to do as well. Maybe putting it on You Tube so that everyone out there can know about this special bird here in Mangaia."

Te Ipukarea Society also held talks with the island about the Marae Moana and zoning plans. - CITV News

US\$3.7 Million worth of Solar Panels on their way

The Renewable Energy Development Division's Tangi Tereapii and Ngateina Rani were recently in Japan to conduct the quality assurance sign off for the solar panels which will be installed in the Southern Group islands commencing from about June.

The pair were able to view the panels being manufactured at the Mitsubishi Electric plant. They were then able to inspect the packaging and loading of the solar panels into the containers to ensure they were secure, and met quality standards as per the contract.

The solar panels are being sponsored by the Japanese Government under the PEC (Pacific Environment Community) fund which is worth about

US\$3.7million.

A total of 13,784 panels are currently enroute to the Cook Islands and will arrive here about the first week of April.

Two shipments have been sent. The first left Japan on the 11th of Feb consisting of 18x20foot containers.

The second shipment leaves Japan on the 18th of February, and consists of another 20x20foot containers and 8 x 40foot containers.

The REDD is currently looking for good secure land to temporarily house about 46-47 containers of solar panels. If you have some suitable land then contact Romani Katoa at the renewable energy office. - CITV News

Palmerston Island Opening of Community TV service



Bluesky Team at Palmerston Island Bluesky Station – left to right Eric Herman from Rarotonga, Rima Herman from Mangaia and William Marsters Palmerston at opening of TV service to Palmerston Island. Standing on new TV antenna pole base.

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At 5.00pm Monday 15 February Palmerston Island Community TV Service was officially opened by the Mayor Mr Bob Marsters. He thanked Bluesky, the MP for Palmerston Hon Albert Nicholas and his office for their assistance in making this possible whereby the people of Palmerston can watch TV in the comforts of their homes. CITV programmes will be able to be transmitted as well as Sky Pacific programmes. The Blue Sky father /son team of Rima and Eric Herman arrived last Monday 8th February and they have been busy assembling, fitting and erecting the antenna poles and TV transmitters with the assistance of the Palmerston Bluesky technician William Marsters with his brother helpers and men from the community and Administration Infrastructure staff. Now Palmerston is a little closer to Rarotonga and the world now able to watch local and TVNZOne News and other programmes. After the blessing by the Rev Ina Moetaua the island made their way to the water catchment for a farewell kaikai for the Bluesky team and the Ministry of Health team of Dental Officer Alfonso Vaevae and Public Health Inspector Roger Nehemiah. Both teams will be returning to Rarotonga on the 'Lady Moana' this week. This past week has been a very busy week for Palmerston where all the residents had dental checkups and work done, and the island sprayed for mosquito outbreaks and public health checks/inspections carried out and water quality checks made of drinking water tanks. At the kaikai the Mayor thanked the Health team for the work they have done and expressed the gratitude of the people for the quick response by the Ministry of Health to the request of the people on Palmerston for urgent dental work and mosquito control.

Meitaki korereka
Arthur Frederick Neale

ON SALE FROM 15-22 FEB 16 FOR TRAVEL RAR TO AKL FROM 02 MAR - 30 JUN 16
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: Prices correct as at 15 Feb 16. AIRFARE TRAVEL PERIOD: 02 Mar - 30 Jun 16 RAR to AKL. CLOSE OUTS: RAR/AKL 23-30 April 16. Not available on A320/767 services. DEAL ENDS: 22 Feb 16. Fares include local departure Tax. The above fares include a non-refundable service fee of \$20 per one-way journey for bookings made through our Travelcentre. Travel Agent service fees may apply. Customers who purchase fares using Airpoints Dollars will be required to pay in cash the government and airport charges. These fares do not accrue Airpoints Dollars and are not eligible for upgrades and or companion tickets. Return airport and government costs will vary. Seats are limited and may not be available on all flights. CANCELLATION/CHANGE FEES: General terms & conditions, special fare terms and conditions and Airpoints terms and conditions apply. See your Air New Zealand representative for full details. AIR1604

Appreciating God's goodness

Encouragement Column

With Senior Pastor John Tangi

By Senior Pastor John Tangi

For this article I want to acknowledge God's goodness on us as individuals, as a family, as a community, and as a Nation. In I Chronicles 16v.7-36 is a Psalm of Praise and Thanksgiving which the children of Israel sang to God for His goodness and kindness. We as a people in this Nation should do the same. An attitude of thankfulness comes when God is in our lives. There are 5 very important areas in our Thanksgiving to God that I want us to focus on.

I. WHAT WE SHOULD SEEK

v.11 reads (Amplified Bible) "Seek the Lord and His strength, yearn for and seek His face and to be in His presence continually!" This verse is indicating to us of the 3 areas that we should seek.

(a) First, we are to SEEK THE LORD! Seek Him for Salvation. Jesus said in John 3v.16 "whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life". Isaiah 55v.6 read "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near."

(b) Secondly, we are to SEEK HIS STRENGTH! I thank God for the strength given to each one of us to do His work. Philippians 4v.13 says "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me".

(c) Thirdly, we SEEK HIS PRESENCE. When we seek Jesus Christ and receive Him as our Lord and Saviour we will experience the freedom to express Praise and Thanksgiving.

II. WHAT WE SHOULD SING.

v.9 & v.23 says "Sing to Him, sing Psalms to Him, talk of all His wondrous works...Sing to the Lord all the earth, Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day". We are to sing praises for all the good things God did for us! In this nation we should sing songs that would exalt and glorify God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

III. WHAT WE SHOULD GIVE.

v.8, v.28 & v.29 says "...give thanks to the Lord...give to the Lord glory and strength...give to the Lord the glory due to His name..." This simply means that the best 'thanks' we can give to the Lord is to live a life totally Trusting God. Daniel 11v32 (New American Standard Bible) says "...the people who know their God will display strength and take action." Jesus said in Matthew 5v16 'for us to let our light so shine before men that they might see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven'

IV. WHAT WE SHOULD REMEMBER.

v.12 & 15 read "Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgements of His mouth. Remember His covenant forever, the word which He commanded, for a thousand generations." David reminded the children of Israel of 3 areas they should remember to Praise & to Thank God for:

(a) Thank God for the marvelous works He did through us in helping others. Proverbs 19v.17 reads "He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord. And He will pay back what he has given." Proverbs 28v.27 reads "He who gives to the poor will not lack..." Truly these are things worth Praising & Thanking God for.

(b) The Words of God that have been imparted to us through preaching, through the TV Programs and the Radio, and of course our daily reading of the Bible, all of these help sustain us throughout life.

(c) The faithfulness that God has shown us, that He will never leave us nor forsake us. The same God King David and the children of Israel were Praising and Thanking, it's the same God we're Praising and Thanking today. His faithfulness is everlasting. He is the same

yesterday, today, and forever.

V. WHAT WE SHOULD SPEAK. v.9 & 24 says that we are to speak out all His wondrous works.. and.. declare His Glory among all peoples. The Israelites were confessing, they were speaking about the good works God did in their lives. We too should do the same. Talk to others about the great work God did in your life, in your family, in the community, and in this nation, and what it is like to have a new life in Christ! The Apostle Paul said in II Corinthians 5v17 "old things have past away, behold all things have become new!"

May these words encourage you to live a life of thankfulness to God through Jesus Christ. God bless!



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 aiai. 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"**

Thrashed or Merely Stunned

By David Lewis

I have always known I was living in the twentieth century. I was quite happy to accept it. It was a darned good century on the whole.

OK, it may have had its ups and downs and occasionally came up with a new fangled-bomb or two. But it also featured 50c tins of recycled corned beef.

In fact, I used to be quite proud to call myself a twentieth century sort of bloke.

Now, however, I find I got it all wrong. I find that I am really a nineteenth century sort of bloke heading into the fifteenth century.

I discovered this when I came across a headline last weekend. It apparently referred to the 6-Nations rugby tournament currently taking place up in the Northern Hemisphere.

"French Stun Irish."

"My word," I gasped. I was extremely worried as I have several Irish mates and the thought of them being stunned by a pack of Frenchmen down a Parisian back alley disturbed me.

What's got into these French, I wondered, to go around stunning honest Irish and depriving them of consciousness and coordination.

"You don't understand," said my good mate Chong who works on the local paper.

He's very twenty-first century see. He's a "copy-writer" which ought to mean that he copies things down and writes them but it doesn't.

"'Stun' is an SEO headline. It's very twenty-first century", he stated.

I then took a thirteenth century approach.

"What's that?" I cautiously enquired.

"It stands for Search Engine Optimisation," he explained with the kind of weary sigh he reserves for ancient thirteenth century people, commonly known as "idiots".

He continued in the same tone.

"It is the process of getting traffic from the free organic editorial natural search result of search engines."

Rather bewildered, I

counted the number of nouns I understood in the "process".

I came up with "traffic".

Then I went to the number of verbs I recognised and came up with one, "is".

I gave up on the adjectives.

"Let me try again," said Chong even wearily more than usual.

I most gratefully thanked him for his time and promised to take immediate steps to get myself up to date. Or at least in the seventeenth century.

This is what he came up with.

"Get this into your long outdated head," he began. "It's a HEADLINE!"

STUN

As such, it apparently has consequently no connection whatsoever with meaning. It's not about actually "stunning".

It's basically all about size and space.

Hence "stun".

Four letters, one syllable, easy to pronounce, sounds good and, above all, takes up no more than seven millimetres of space.

By comparison, "The National team of France defeated their counterparts from Ireland 10-9" doesn't work.

It's got far too many words with far too much meaning, sounds far too technical and takes up a ridiculous amount of space.

If you tried it, the traffic would de-optimize and the net result would be a totally inorganic editorial and a call to the nearest garage to search for a brand new engine. And that would certainly not be free.

ALTERNATIVES

There is apparently no alternative to the search engine. It has to be optimised.

Chong knows this because copy-editors are well aware that that search engines, though very twenty first century in concept, do have one major problem.

They have no brains.

Apparently efforts have been made to interest them in different varieties of "stun" such as "un-stun", "de-stun" and "re-stun" but the machine has rejected them all as over-complex and requiring too much imagination on behalf of the reader.

It offered "thrash" as an option

but warned that although it had only one letter more than "stun" and was frequently used in headlines, it was open to question by "readers".

Chong further explained that "readers" was a sixteenth century concept and had no place in a modern newspaper.

CONCLUSION

Evidence seems to add weight to his explanation. This season's sports headlines have optimized roughly 10,986 "stuns" to replace my own non-organic process of getting traffic.

The most frequently "stunners" are France.

They have been on the receiving end of regular "stuns"

for being nothing like the old France and for their clumsy, useless way of playing.

Last Saturday, however, they retaliated by their "stunning" of Ireland who were totally "de-stunned" and in no way seem of capable re-stunning England whom they take on next.

So, thanks to Chong and his SEO, I now feel thoroughly twenty-first century and right up to date.

He has promised to lend me the machine so that I can stay that way and, in the next round, I'll always press the button on the SEO and get a properly optimized stunner.

"Scotland Eats Octopuses!"



streams has killed the Natural life that once thrived for our kids to play in, our crops from its waters and the food source of Tuna and Koura in abundance. Now we have stream beds of rocks. The Te Miki Vai 'Master "Baiting" Plan' was signed off in April 2014. The name of the plan speaks the 'truth'. It has now hit rock bottom just like the stream beds. Economic, Environmental and Health benefits should read Ripped-Off, Broken and Stress benefits. In other words 'ROBS' benefits to the people.



This so called Water Project is it compensating the Landowners? Chooks we have seen that the Renewable Energy project landowners will now be compensated almost \$2 million dollars. WTP? Just heard a whisper the Government are so generous they are to give half a cent per 100,000 litres for Raro water. WTP? That means all Landowners in Raro will collect about \$180 per year. WTPPP? Just like the purse-seining petition!



What's happening to the Muri Lagoon? When Government don't talk about it yup they are hoping to fly overseas, sweep it under the carpet or blame the past Government. Here is a thought. Try to use the big vacuums that harvest the 'Chinese Nodules' first in the Muri Lagoon. Mate if that don't work what do you think will happen to the 'Chinese Nodules' at the bottom of the ocean at 6000ft. The Nodules project will be full of 'Noodles'.



We see there are calls for the abolishment and review of Demo-'gate'. Yes that's right! They are all holding titles and using Government Funds to do nothing. Actually you could use the 'Orongo' centre gate in Aitutaki. Water and Purse 'gate'. Even the Appropriation Bill 'gate'. This is the New Zealand definition of the Appropriation Bill. "This Bill annually seeks parliamentary authorisation of the individual appropriations contained in The Estimates of Appropriations..." When queried under the Official Information Act 2008 the response was "Return to sender".....When the tune should be "A little less conversation a little more ACTION"

Patrons at local gig house where they Boggey the night away have been surprised to see a new addition to the groovy band pumping the notes and vocals to an appreciative audience, on the base has been the Country's up and coming politician Minita of Sports Albert Nicholas giving Boggey a hand up. It case folk don't know the history that music talent is in his DNA and that's how he met the popular and talented one woman band Kathy B.



Our unpopular 78 vote PM Elvis Pretender has once again back flipped and exposed his hypocrisy, while he continually belittles his critics for being emotionally charged he says issues have to be looked into very carefully without rushing and decisions must be based on scientific facts. Well what happened with his rushed panicked decision to deport a first offender for common assault? Where was the careful consideration of all the known facts? Puna's instruction to send the Samoan rugby super star was based on an emotional tidal wave fuelled by inflammatory gibberish. Stop preaching one thing and doing the opposition Elvis or else it will be return to sender.



Lunch time eaters at the Islander Hotel last Friday that were sitting not far from the Demo Leader Smelly Heta hear him agonisingly pouring his heart out to his Uncle Norm. He was heard to say the Heta tribe had a meeting and he was chastised for signing a letter to Elvis calling for his bobcat brother the DPM to be suspended, he defended himself by saying its Jimmy

Larger's fault. He blurted out to those at his table if anything happened to his corrupt brother he was going to resign in protest. According to the eves droppers the Demo Dumbo was claiming he was being blamed for Drolley's incompetence and two years of static go nowhere performance. He said a lot more but it sounded very emotional and sensitive, best left to others to tell. Talk about a leaking sieve so much for keeping the meeting details confidential.



While the disorientated Demos make a big deal ranting and raving about the corrupt CIP government being secretive and lacking in good governance practices like transparency, whenever the deluded Demos have their meetings there is time wasted stressing secrecy and not talking to their media enemy the Pitbull, there is certainly no practising of transparency by the Demos, so stop throwing rocks at the government. After the big Demo huddle last Friday why was the leader for some reason very distraught, blabbing within an hour after their meeting at the Islander Hotel and who updated the



former leader Rassie the same day? And who rang Aitutaki and blabbed to OCI Leader Bishop? And how come some influential CIP were updated with 24 hours? That's why the Demo ship is sinking, too many holes in it.

Radio NZ reports that "A spokesperson for the prime minister's office said there had been no discussion on the issue for some time and no one was in any frame of mind to resurrect it." The reason why there has been no discussion on the controversial Sunday flights issue is because of Elvis Pretender's say nothing do nothing method of dealing with the hard questions. In the past this ploy may have frustrated people causing them to just give up but there is a different breed today that aren't gullible easy beats.



While a few of his Muri friends have resettled in Aussie sweating it out in the hot out back mining towns it seems Mona Mato is likely to skip the Deputy High Com job offer in Wellington for a juicy posting in the air conditioned plush Sydney Office of the Pacific Trade Investment which is a similar job to what he doing at

the NZPTI.



Look at the current Government Budget. What a mockery of economic freedoms and rights to all our people. Rarotonga followed by Aitutaki is the financial engine room of our fragile economy. Now why is it that more than \$46 million is to be spent on the Outer Island renewable energy program? It is due to our 78 vote PM dream of Renewable Energy by 2020. This is what happens when you have bean-counters and pen pushers flicking the controls. Makes you wonder who has all the power?



Atiu is now on the map to have an economic boom compliments of the tax payer. Manihiki has with all its renewable energy, travel perks compliment of Elvis, and 'Pearl Harbour'. With all the millions invested you would at least expect to see a five star resort and International Airport. The reality is the Island is depopulating and the Lagoon is polluted. Is investing millions more the answer? We all know what happened when the Americans were complacent and failed to react at 'Pearl Harbour'.



Te Miki Vai project is stagnant. The smell of repulsive re-vomiting by the SS Daily on all its economic, environmental benefits is repulsive and should be reported to the Human Rights and World Environmental Courts. The near \$10 million dollars wasted on the so called 'ex-perts'. The real term is 'ex-tortionists'! The Government signed the deal back in 2012. They want you all to pay for water and the damming of the

FAT CATS

Number

2, Cabinet are to fly north on a climate change related mission!

To Kiribas?



Mozzie

COCONUT ROUNDTABLE

Rumour has it Government is to charter a flight to Kiribas to look at their plans to raise their islands higher!

An artificial mountain for Manihiki?

A new tourist attraction for skiers!



Concern over dead fish in Fiji and Vanuatu

16 February 2016

Suva, Fiji/Port Vila, Vanuatu – Recent reports have emerged of dead fish strewn along the heels of observations in Vanuatu of hundreds of dead fish and invertebrates floating near Pango Village on Efate, at Emten Lagoon in Port Vila and Aneityum Island.

Fish kills can occur as a result of a number of factors, ranging from a release of toxic chemicals to low concentrations of dissolved oxygen in the water.

For now, the Pacific Community (SPC) is reinforcing government warnings and urging people in affected areas to refrain from consuming the dead

fish which may be harmful to human health.

While there is currently no local-level data from which to attribute a specific cause, satellite data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) indicate temperatures of the waters surrounding Fiji and Vanuatu have been hotter than average since late January 2016.

“This information is deeply concerning as warm water holds less dissolved oxygen than cooler water and once the level of dissolved oxygen drops below a critical threshold, fish and invertebrates can effectively suffocate,” the Director of SPC’s Fisheries and Marine

Continued bottom of page 24

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE GENERATOR DELIVERY

Te Aponga Uira wishes to advise the public that it will transporting its generators from the Avatiu Wharf to the Avatiu Valley Power Station, between Monday the 15th and Thursday 18th February 2016.

The route to be taken will be around the Avatiu roundabout along the Avatiu road to the back road intersection and then along the Avatiu Valley road.

There will be heavy machinery involved. It is not possible to determine the actual timing but the work will take place anytime between 8am and 4pm.

The public is thereby asked to keep an eye out and take extra care when driving along this route.

Management, Te Aponga Uira”

VACANCY



Carpenters & Labourers
Phone 23 415 or 55320
James Atera

VACANCIES



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.



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:**

- Landscaping Manager (Aitutaki)
- Executive Chef (Aitutaki)
- Executive Sous Chef (Aitutaki)
- Chefs de Partie (Rarotonga & Aitutaki)
- Kitchen Steward (Rarotonga)
- Resort Attendants (Rarotonga & Aitutaki)
- Wait & Bar Staff
- Housekeeping Staff

At **Pacific Resort Hotel Group**, we are currently recruiting for:

- Central Reservations Agent

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

**ADVERTISE WITH THE
COOK ISLANDS HERALD**

PUBLIC NOTICE



**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 1
ISLAND GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2016**

PURSUANT to the Island Government Act 2012-13 and the Island Government (Electoral) Regulations, 1, **TAGGY TANGIMETUA**, Chief Electoral Officer, **HEREBY CONFIRM** the following dates and times for the election of representatives of the Island Government, Mayors and Council Members:

1. The date for the election as appointed by the Prime Minister is **10 March 2016**.
2. The Main Roll shall close on the **15 February 2016 at 4.00pm**.
3. The Supplementary Roll shall close on 29 February 2016 at 4.00pm.
4. Nominations of candidates will close on **25 February 2016 at 12 noon and** shall be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer on each of the islands.

DATED at Rarotonga this 8th day of February 2016.

Taggy Tangimetua

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

TENDER



INVITATION FOR BIDS:

Solar Photovoltaic plants under Cook Islands Renewable Energy Sector Project (COO46453-002) Phase 1 (Atiu, Mangaia, Mauke and Mitiaro)

The Office of Prime Minister, Government of Cook Islands invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the design, construction, installation, completion and commission of renewable energy facilities as shown below:

- Part 1 – Atiu hybrid renewable energy system, comprising solar plant, powerhouse with battery energy storage system (BESS), integrated with existing diesel generators for backup power supply and connected to the grid
- Part 2 – Mangaia hybrid renewable energy system, comprising solar plant, powerhouse with battery energy storage system (BESS), integrated with existing diesel generators for backup power supply and connected to the grid
- Part 3 – Mauke hybrid renewable energy system, comprising solar plant, powerhouse with battery energy storage system (BESS) and diesel generators for backup power supply, fully integrated and connected to the grid
- Part 4 – Mitiaro hybrid renewable energy system, comprising solar plant, powerhouse with battery energy storage system (BESS) and diesel generators for backup power supply, fully integrated and connected to the grid

To obtain further information, prospective bidders should go to www.procurement.gov.ck (reference 151625). For queries and to obtain an electronic copy of the bidding documents, please contact Tangi Tereapii on 29300 or e-mail, tangi.tereapii@cookislands.gov.ck.

The deadline for submissions is 18 March 2016, 12:00 midday. Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Late bids will be rejected.

TENDER



**Office of the Prime Minister
Renewable Energy Development Division
Are seeking
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO LEASE LAND**

The Renewable Energy Development Division (REDD), Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), has secured funding from the Pacific Environment Community (PEC) for the supply and packaged delivery to Rarotonga, Cook Islands of Japanese-made solar modules. These will subsequently be installed on the islands: Mangaia, Mauke, Mitiaro, Atiu, Aitutaki and Rarotonga. The shipment of panels will include 39 x 20foot containers and 8 x 40foot containers.

The Government is looking for a secure property to store these containers until they are used on Rarotonga or shipped to the southern group islands. It is expected that they will not be required until May or June 2017 therefore the Government will enter into an agreement to lease the land for not more than 24months.

In the first instance please request an application form from:

Romani Katoa romani.katoa@cookislands.gov.ck

Project Manager

Renewable Energy Development Division

Office of the Prime Minister

If you are able to meet the criteria as provided in the application form, please complete the form.

Expressions of Interest must be in writing on the application form provided and should be addressed to:

Romani Katoa romani.katoa@cookislands.gov.ck

PEC Panel Storage

Office of the Prime Minister

Closing date: 26 February 2016

Closing time: 3pm

VACANCIES



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

**DIRECTOR - COOK ISLANDS
TERTIARY TRAINING INSTITUTE**

The Ministry of Education seeks an innovative education professional with significant tertiary experience and sound quality assurance knowledge to lead the Institute through a period of consolidation.

Previous applications may apply by an expression of interest. Applications close on Friday 19th February 2016. Application 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

The highly intriguing and interesting case of Moana Ioane MP

By Put it in the Too Hard Basket

The Police are taking an unbelievably extraordinary lengthy time to charge Aitutaki MP and former Minister Moana Ioane with bribery. Why?

To recap, following the last general election in 2014, Ioane was found guilty of bribery under the Electoral Act by the Court of Appeal.

After an inexplicably lengthy period of time, the Chief Justice finally had to sit up and take action. He compelled the Secretary for Justice to refer the matter to Police for investigation as required under legislation.

The Police, perhaps somewhat uncomfortably, commenced a slothfully paced criminal investigation under the Crimes Act.

Well over a year has now passed and Police, (a snail moves faster) without public explanation, are yet to bring any case before the High Court. The passing of each month brings the Police painfully close to a world record for making a decision. While there has been no public announcement, there is a hint of some progress. It is

believed Police have referred the matter to Crown Law who incidentally, are also incredibly slow.

At this point, readers should be aware of a technical difference in the applying the Electoral Act and the Crimes Act.

A local lawyer explained to the Herald, over a Johnny Walker Blue Label scotch one balmy evening, that under the Electoral Act, the Court makes a finding on the basis of "Balance of Probabilities" while under the Crimes Act the Court makes a finding on the basis of "Beyond all Reasonable Doubt."

What must unsettle Ioane (he's a lawyer) is that if he was to be charged and brought before the High Court, found guilty, then mount an appeal, the Court of Appeal is likely to comprise the same Judges who found him guilty of bribery under the Electoral Act. That would be like rounding a bend in your sedan and finding a logging truck on the same side of the road as you are.

Given the state of the parties in parliament, it suits the PM's

position for Ioane's case to drag out certainly beyond July 2016, the reason being the PM must call parliament before the end of July 2016 in order to pass a Budget.

At present the numbers are; CIP 13, the opposition 11.

As Albert Nicholas will abstain from voting due to the anti-party hopping law, the CIP will actually have 12 and the opposition 11.

If Ioane is charged by Police and the case heard prior to July 2016, and Ioane is found guilty, his seat will be declared vacant and a by-election held.

The state of the parties will be CIP 11, opposition 11, one seat vacant-by election pending, Nicholas abstains from voting.

This will put PM Puna in a very awkward position.

The PM could seek the support of the two One Cook Islands MPs or delay the budget until the outcome of the by-election. However, there is no guarantee the CIP will win the by-election due to two factors;

1. The PM's failure to act on the outcome of the Sunday Flights referendum, and;
2. The PM's failure to re-

instate Ioane to Cabinet.

Admittedly, the PM resisted re-instating Ioane to Cabinet due to the bribery matter being unresolved.

The PM also has to be mindful of the outcome of another court case. That involving One Cook Islands Leader Teina Bishop whose corruption hearing commences in the High Court on 11 July 2016. However, no decision is likely from the Court prior to the end of July and there would be a possible appeal to consider.

What options are open to the PM?

The only sensible option would be to call an early general election.

Just as a hurricane is welcomed every five years or so to sweep the island clean of accumulated debris, an early general election may restore some clarity and finality to the political landscape.

And, just as the eye of a hurricane is a calm spot in which to sit, Ioane is sitting in a calm spot while all hell rages around him, category 5 level.

This is the highly intriguing and interesting case of Moana Ioane!

Concern over dead fish in Fiji and Vanuatu

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Aquaculture Division, Moses Amos, explained.

"This is especially an issue in shallow water habitats which can rapidly heat up and lose dissolved oxygen, and at night-time, algae respire, removing oxygen from the surrounding water," Mr Amos said.

Fisheries scientists from SPC are in Fiji this week to work with the Ministry of Fisheries and Forests on developing a National Fisheries Policy and will also lend assistance with investigating the cause of the recent fish kill along the Coral Coast.

Fish kills, such as those being observed in Fiji and Vanuatu, are not a new phenomenon. In 2011, a large fish kill occurred

in the Marovo Lagoon, in the Western Province of Solomon Islands, with low dissolved oxygen resulting from a die-off of a harmful algae bloom the likely cause.

Events like these underscore not only the importance of inshore fisheries resources in human affairs, but also the fragility of the reef habitats that support these resources, Mr Amos said.

In addition to the fish kills, a number of coral bleaching events have been reported in the region in the past few weeks, including on the Coral Coast of Fiji.

Coral bleaching occurs when high water temperatures cause a symbiotic relationship breakdown between the coral polyp and a tiny algae

that dwells inside it (called zooxanthellae). Under normal conditions, this relationship is mutually beneficial; the algae provides food for the coral through photosynthesis while the coral provides shelter for the algae. When bleaching occurs, corals may be unable to obtain enough food, and can effectively starve to death.

Widespread coral bleaching was observed on Northern Hemisphere coral reefs over the 2015 summer, triggered by the strong El Niño conditions currently in effect. This prompted NOAA to declare the 'third global coral bleaching event', following the two previous mass bleaching events in 1998 and 2002 that devastated many coral reefs around the world.

In 2015, NOAA predicted widespread bleaching in the Pacific Islands region over the 2015-2016 summer as El Niño conditions continue to intensify.

SPC's analysis of the future impacts of climate change on fisheries show that reef environments will become even more fragile over the next 100 years, due both to human-induced climate change and to environmental degradation from human population pressure in coastal locations.

SPC has developed a New Song for coastal fisheries that calls for renewed emphasis upon effective management of coastal fisheries, to help maintain them in the face of increased fragility along the Pacific's reef environments.